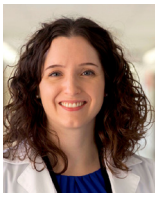
2019 SCHUMANN FELLOW: HILLARY WILLIAMS, M.D.

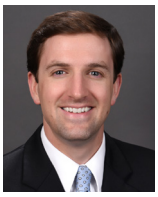
Dr. Williams has interests in Functional Movement Disorders, hoping to investigate multidisciplinary approaches to treatment in this patient population. She has a passion for teaching and hopes to empower patients through education and community outreach, as well as foster interest in Neurology among budding medical students.

PREVIOUS SCHUMANN FELLOWS



Marissa Dean, M.D.

Dr. Dean is fascinated by the impact of genetics on movement disorders. She is currently involved in several clinical research trials for patients with Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and the hereditary ataxias. She is also interested in the impact of race and ancestry on the development of Parkinson's Disease, and is currently investigating this potential association at UAB.



Jason Crowell, M.D.

Dr. Crowell is interested in how neurologists can become better advocates for patients with neurodegenerative disorders. As part of an advocacy leadership course through the American Academy of Neurology, his initial project is to create evidence-based exercise courses for patients with Parkinson's disease. More broadly, he aims to improve the communication between physicians and their state and federal governments, as policies regarding drug pricing, health insurance, and telemedicine increasingly impact our ability to care for patients.

Ben McCullough, M.D.

Dr. McCullough is from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine where he conducted research on Nephrotic Syndrome in infants studying a large family's genetics where clinical evaluation showed visual impairment and ataxia, a movement disorder. His work at UAB is focused on deep brain stimulation and Botox injections for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and related movement disorders.

Sarah Perez, M.D.

Dr. Perez joined UAB from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. She currently works with the Memory Disorders and Behavior Neurology Division in multiple clinical trials for potentially disease modifying therapies for Alzheimer's disease, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, and Cortical Basal Degeneration. Dr. Perez is involved in several clinical trials for Parkinson's disease and related movement disorders.

Becky Anprasertporn, M.D.

Dr. Anprasertporn focuses on deep brain stimulation and botox treatments for movement disorders patients. She has been recognized for her patient care capabilities and dedication to academic medicine.

Neda Hidarilak, M.D.

Dr. Hidarilak has conducted research examining the effectiveness of Botox injections on migraines, tension and cluster headaches and explored physical therapy strategies as potential tools to reduce disabilities in Parkinson's disease patients.

Karen Eskow Jaunarajs, Ph.D.

Dr. Juanarajs is studying the causes and effects of inflammation in the brain. She conducts her research in Dr. David Standaert's lab and has gained knowledge about how brain inflammation is related to neurological diseases. Through these findings, research labs within our department have advanced their findings in LRRK2 and Alpha-synuclein which both bring promising advancements in treatment developments.

Jeri Williams, M.D.

Dr. Williams' research and clinical interests are in the areas of dystonia as well as Parkinson's disease and Parkinson's Plus Syndromes, especially Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. She currently has a movement disorders private practice in Bakersfield, California.

Amy Amara, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Amara is focused on sleep dysfunction in patients with Parkinson's disease. She is currently conducting a study evaluating the effects of deep brain stimulation on sleep in patients with Parkinson's disease. She also has an interest in the link between REM sleep Behavior Disorder and neurodegenerative diseases. Additionally, Dr. Amara is very involved in the evaluation and treatment of patients with movement disorders and sleep disorders and in the education of students and residents.

Ryan Walsh, M.D., Ph.D.

While at UAB, Dr. Walsh developed an MRI-based analysis of structural and functional brain networks underlying cognitive dysfunction in Parkinson's disease. He joined the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in 2011 as inaugural Director of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Program and developed several new programs, such as the development of clinical trial and investigator initiated research in Parkinson's disease.

Rohit Dhall, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Dr. Dhall works with the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center in Sunnyvale, California, after previously working with the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. His focus has been on DBS patient evaluation and surgery, studying underlying factors and treatment response in Parkinson's disease, and training the next generation of Parkinson's disease researchers and Movement Disorders Specialists.

Harrison Walker, M.D.

Dr. Walker investigates how deep brain stimulation (DBS) works using a multimodal approach that integrates electrophysiology, neuroimaging, and behavioral measurement in patients with movement disorders. DBS has proved to be more effective than medical therapy for the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease, dystonia, and essential tremor, yet its therapeutic mechanism is unknown. Through understanding how the therapeutic mechanism of DBS relates to clinical outcomes, we can improve patient care and treatment options for those with certain neurological diseases.

Anne-Marie Wills, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Wills specializes in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's Disease and ALS. Her research focuses on environmental risk factors and determinants of neurodegenerative disease progression, including nutrition, caffeine, and pesticides.

Penny Hallett, Ph.D.

Dr. Hallett's research interests focus on the regulation of synapses, protein regulatory pathways, and neuroimmune interactions in neurodegenerative diseases with a focus on Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. She also studies neurorestorative treatment paradigms for Parkinson's disease.