Dr. Roberto Alejandro Cruz MD, Dr. Sunil Rathore MD, Dr. Alexander Ramos MD, Dr. Nicole Villemarette-Pittman PhD, and Dr. Brian Copeland MD presented QI poster on topic “One-on-One Case Simulation Workshop of Neurological Emergencies for First-Year Neurology Residents.” Dr. Rathore shared that their project was aimed to train incoming neurology residents on treatment of neurological emergencies such as ischemic stroke and status epilepticus through simulated cases. Outcomes were based on comfort level for the incoming neurology resident on treating such clinical cases before and after the training. They aim to continue to provide this simulated training to our next group of incoming neurology residents and continue to monitor the effectiveness of this program.
Dr. Brittany Brand Poinson MD and Dr. Daniella Miller presented the QI poster on topic “Continued Improvement in Management for Convulsive Status Epilepticus through Education to Pediatric residents.” Their team developed a consensus guideline algorithm on management for convulsive status epilepticus which served to educate pediatric residents. By their delivery of this educational tool to physicians in training at Children’s Hospital, they were able to improve knowledge of pediatric residents taking care of patients with seizures. This intervention is anticipated to help the residents in training prevent the advancement of prolonged seizures to status in pediatric patients with seizure disorders.
Dr. Jessica Baity MD and Dr. Vaniolky Losada Leon MD worked on a quality improvement project “Neurology Intern Overnight Bootcamp.” The goal of their project is to better prepare in-coming neurology interns to take call on their own and to improve the quality of the neurology service provided. They will provide orientation to interns along with a “on hands call” experience with the supervision of an upper level resident. The interns look forward to this experience.
Dr. David Chachkhiani MD, Dr. Ebony McKinnies MD, Dr. Michael Soliman MD and Dr. Nicole Villemarette-Pittman PhD presented the QI poster on topic “Acute Stroke Management Data Analysis at University Medical Center in New Orleans.” Dr. Chachkhiani shared that their project allowed for them to analyze acute stroke management data including door-to-CT and door-to-needle times. Through this project, they are in the process of identifying reasons for delays and aim to develop appropriate solutions for corrective solutions. They plan to continue working to improve quality of care at University Medical Center in New Orleans, which is a comprehensive stroke center.
Dr. Gabriella Tuttrup MD and Dr. Maria Xiang MD presented the QI poster “Does a Written Seizure Action Plan Increase Patient’s Understanding of Epilepsy Management?” They targeted the problem that seizure management can be a complicated process for parents and families with children who have epilepsy. Recalling seizure first aid, knowing about seizure precautions and what constitutes a proper ED visit or clinic phone call if not understood and executed properly by families or care takers of these children can lead to increased seizures and poorer outcomes. Their team has put together a written seizure action plan which includes medication regimen, first aid instructions and seizure precautions to be provided to families (parents, siblings, caretakers) with children who have epilepsy. They are in the process of determining whether this will lead to overall improved outcomes in seizure management and reduced ER visits.
Dr. Miguel Molina MD, PhD and Dr. Nicole Villemarette-Pittman PhD presented a QI poster on the subject “Reduction of Inpatient Exposure to Opiates and Other Medications with Abuse Potential.” Their team wanted to help create a balanced approach when addressing pain management in patients i.e. by addressing pain in a patient but also reducing patient exposure to medications with abuse potential. Based on their initial recording and observation, they have noted that PRN prescription pain and sedative medications are frequently dispensed during night shift and by on call residents who are less familiar with the patient. They have designed a study to evaluate whether limitations on pain medication changes by team and time of day will result in reduced patient exposure to medications with abuse potential.
Dr. Jonathan K Jones MD, Dr. Rana Abusoufeh MD and Dr. Harry Gould III MD presented the QI poster “Pain Referrals to LSUHSC General Neurology Clinic at UMC New Orleans for a 30-Day Period.” Their group aimed to identify the need for a multispecialty pain clinic based on the number of pain referrals. They identified that the combined number of patients referred for pain, headache, or neuropathy represented almost fifty percent. This identifies “pain” as a significant burden in our society and supports the need for a multispecialty pain clinic.
AND THE WINNERS OF THE QI FORUM WERE LSU NEUROLOGY PGY-3 TEAM!!
Out in the world, Resident Achievement:

This year, LSU Neurology was one of the three teams selected out of all (yes! ALL) the Neurology and Child Neurology ACGME programs in the country to be part of the Neurology in Training Clinical Elective (NITCE) fellowship training program.
Aditi Varma-Doyle MD represented LSU Neurology as her application, mentored by Dr. Brian Copeland, was selected by the American Academy of Neurology.

As part of the NITCE fellowship, the first step for Aditi was to receive training at Harvard at their Bioethics Course. She relates that this was a great experience, where professionals from the fields of medicine, law and philosophy came together and discussed cases of ethical significance that we can come across in the care of patients. Subjects ranged from Physician Assisted Suicide, withdrawal of care, representing wishes of patients with dementia and lectures recounting transgender rights, brain death, and organ donation were delivered in the big halls on their campus.

Aditi says “I soaked in all this information with much eagerness. I believe that we need a forum to discuss these issues. As part of my fellowship, I will be studying assessment of capacity in ALS patients with pseudo bulbar affect, an affective disorder which makes patients laugh and cry inappropriately. I hypothesize that this inappropriate behavior pattern may create bias in the physician and care giver’s mind that these patients are incompetent to make decisions regarding their care. I am also going to advocate that we have monthly classes to discuss ethical dilemmas that arise in patient care and participate in endeavors to fight for patient's rights wherever needed. Join me!”

Journal Club!
In the “summer is here” month of June, we did receive some showers of enlightenment, with cool and refreshing Journal Club. This month’s topic was on Deep Brain Stimulation and its Programming presented and coordinated by our program director Dr. Brian Copeland MD and also by Medtronic representatives Jerry White and Michael Guichard. It was held at Two Tony’s restaurant in New Orleans, which served a delightful course of cuisine. So, over wining, dining and interacting with our fellows and also resident friends from Tulane, we learned about anatomical coordinates, stimulation parameters and other basics of DBS programming. It was a great learning experience.
Thanks to Ashley, Jessica and Alex for providing pics. Jessica & Brittany for abstracts, Sunil & David for their summaries.

Journal created by Aditi Vian Varma-Doyle MD, Final Edits by Ashley Bonura, Nicole Villemarette-Pittman PhD, Brian Copeland MD