

ABDULLAH AL SAWAF, MD

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION:

SIU Medicine
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 07/2016-
07/2017 Fellowship in Epilepsy– University of Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
- 05/12-16,
2015 Participated in the J. Kiffin Penry Residents Epilepsy Program- Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 07/2013-
07/2016 Neurology residency – University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, KY.
- 07/2012-
07/2013 Internship internal medicine – University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, KY.
- 07/2011-
06/2012 Fellow in Epilepsy and Clinical Neurophysiology– University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH.
- 05/2011 –
06/2011 Observer in the Department of Epilepsy/Neurology, assisted in reading continuous EEG studies for both adult and pediatrics- University Hospitals Case Medical Center & Rainbow Babies Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, OH.
- 02/2011 –
04/2011 Participated in 8-week EEG\Epilepsy Intensive Course under the supervision of Drs. Hans Lüders and Michael Devereaux– University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH.
- 11/2010 -
02/2011 Clinical observer rotated on general neurology wards and outpatient autonomic nervous system laboratory- University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH.
- 06/2010 –
09/2010 Postgraduate clerkship in Neurology- KFSH University Hospital, Qassim, KSA
- 05/2009 –
05/2010 Clinical observer on neurology wards- University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI.

- 05/2009 – 05/2010 Research assistant in hNSC transplantation in rodent stroke model. I worked with Dr Mathew Jensen- University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI.
- 02/2009 – 05/2009 Postgraduate clerkship in internal medicine- KFSH University Hospital, Qassim, KSA.
- 09/2008 – 12/2008 Clinical observer in the Emergency Department- Almouasah University Hospital, Damascus, Syria.
- 09/2002 – 06/2008 Medical school: University of Jordan School of Medicine, Amman, Jordan.

CERTIFICATION

- 09/2016 American Board in Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) board certified.
- 08/2016 Patient Safety in the Epilepsy Monitoring Units (EMU Caring) sponsored by the American Epilepsy Society and the National Epilepsy Centers.
- 05/2016-05/2018 Basic Life Support Certification– by the AHA
- 04/2016-04/2018 Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Certification– by the AHA
- 06/2012-07/2016 National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale Certification
- 01/2015 Patient Safety in the Epilepsy Monitoring Units (EMU Caring) sponsored by the American Epilepsy Society and the National Epilepsy Centers.
- 08/2009 Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certified.
- 12/2008 Passed the National Qualification Exam for Medical Practitioners; Ministry of Health, Damascus, Syria.
- 06/2008 Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)- University of Jordan School of Medicine, Amman, Jordan.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 8/2017 - present Assistant Professor of Neurology at SIU HealthCare, Springfield, IL

LICENSURE

- 03/2017 - present Illinois medical license; full regular. Status: active
- 06/2016 - present Kentucky medical license; full regular. Status: active

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

a. National Abstracts:

- **Al Sawaf A**; Long H; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of Providers' Practice and Awareness of Cefepime Neurotoxicity in Patients Undergoing Continuous Video-EEG Monitoring for Mental Status Change: A Single Institution Quality Improvement Project. Accepted for poster presentation at the *American Epilepsy Society (AES) Meeting, Dec 1-6, 2016*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Elkins K; Lee J: Assessment of hospital readmissions in stroke patient population from the Stroke Center at the University of Kentucky: as a quality measure. Accepted for poster presentation at the *American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.
- Callow M; Hatton H; Arnold D; **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Impact of EEG laboratory resources and timeliness of initiation of continuous video-EEG monitoring: a single institution experience. Accepted for poster presentation at the *American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.
- Callow M; Mitchell J; **Al Sawaf A**; Fee D; Bensalem-Owen M: Ictal Appearing Discharges Terminated with Sensory Stimulations. Accepted for poster presentation at the *American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.
- Callow M; Mitchell J; **Al Sawaf A**; Fee D; Bensalem-Owen M: Ictal Appearing Discharges Terminated with Sensory Stimulations. Accepted for poster presentation at the *American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) Annual Meeting, February 2015*.

b. Poster Presentations:

- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of Providers' Practice and Awareness of Cefepime Neurotoxicity in Patients Undergoing Continuous Video-EEG Monitoring for Mental Status Change: A Single Institution Experience. Presented at *the UK Department of Neurology 5th Annual International Epilepsy Symposium; 06/04-06/06/2016*
- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of Providers' Practice and Awareness of Cefepime Neurotoxicity in Patients Undergoing Continuous Video-EEG Monitoring for Mental Status Change: A Single Institution Experience. Presented at *the Department of Neurology Research Day; May 2016*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Elkins K; Lee J: Assessment of hospital readmissions in stroke patient population from the Stroke Center at the University of Kentucky: as a quality measure. Presented at the *American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.
- Callow M; Hatton H; Arnold D; **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Impact of EEG laboratory resources and timeliness of initiation of continuous video-EEG monitoring: a single institution experience. Presented at *the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.
- Callow M; Mitchell J; **Al Sawaf A**; Fee D; Bensalem-Owen M: Ictal Appearing Discharges Terminated with Sensory Stimulations. Presented at *the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 2015*.

- Callow M; Mitchell J; **Al Sawaf A**; Fee D; Bensalem-Owen M: Ictal Appearing Discharges Terminated with Sensory Stimulations. Accepted for poster presentation at the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) Annual Meeting & Courses, which will be held February 3-8, 2015.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of 30-day Readmission for the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at the University of Kentucky. Presented at *the Department of Neurology Resident Research day, May 2014*.

c. Publications:

- Murphy R; **Al Sawaf A**; Rose D; Goldstein L; Smith C: "Two See or Not Two See" - Is It Really Double Vision? *Accepted for publication in J.Neurology, May 2017*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Berger JR: Longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis suspected for isolated Neuro-Behçet: A Diagnostic Conundrum. *J. MS & related disorders. Sep 2015 Vol4, Issue 5, Pages 395-399*.
- Jensen MB; Yan H; Krishnaney-Davison R; **Al Sawaf A**; Zhang SC: Survival and differentiation of transplanted neural stem cells derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells in a rat stroke model. *Journal of stroke and cerebrovascular diseases: the official journal of National Stroke Association. 2013; 22 (4): 304-8*.
- Jensen MB; Han DY; **Al Sawaf A**; Krishnaney-Davison R: Behavioral Outcome Measures Used for Human Neural Stem Cell Transplantation in Rat Stroke Models. *Neurology international. 2011; 3 (2): e10*.
- Jensen MB; **Al Sawaf A**; Zhang SC: A Systemic Review of Human Neural Stem Cell Transplantation in Animal Stroke Models. *European Neurological Journal 2011; 000:(000). Month 2011*
- Shyam R; **Al Sawaf A**; Lhatoo S: Mesial Temporal Lobe Epilepsy from a Surgical Prospective and Outcomes. *3/2012- 5/2012, work in progress*.

d. Quality Improvement Projects:

- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of Providers' Practice and Awareness of Cefepime Neurotoxicity in Patients Undergoing Continuous Video-EEG Monitoring for Mental Status Change: A Single Institution Experience. *Accepted for poster presentation at the University of Kentucky House Staff QIPS Poster Forum; 06/08/2016*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of Providers' Practice and Awareness of Cefepime Neurotoxicity in Patients Undergoing Continuous Video-EEG Monitoring for Mental Status Change: A Single Institution Experience. *Accepted for poster presentation at the Department of Neurology Research Day, University of Kentucky Health Care; 05/01/2016*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: Assessment of 30-day Readmission for the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at the University of Kentucky. Presented at *Resident Research day, University of Kentucky Health Care; 05/2014*.
- **Al Sawaf A**; Bensalem-Owen M: 30 day readmissions incurred from EMU admissions, and the factors that may increase risk for such readmissions 2012-2014. The project is conducted by the Quality Subcommittee of the AES; PI: Gabriel Martz. *In progress*.

- **Al Sawaf A**; Elkins K; Lee J: Assessment of Readmission Rates for Stroke Patients at the University of Kentucky. Accepted for poster presentation at the Resident QIPS Poster Forum at the University of Kentucky Health Care; December 11th, 2014.

e. Principal Investigator:

- A retrospective, and prospective cohort “Change in VNS efficacy with addition of responsive stimulation based on ictal tachycardia”, supervised by Dr. Bassel Abou-Khalil (co-investigator), IRB#170168.

f. Sub-investigator:

- Protocol N01199: An open-label, multicenter, follow-up trial to evaluate the long-term safety and efficacy of brivaracetam used as adjunctive treatment at a flexible dose up to a maximum of 100 mg/day in subjects aged 16 years or older suffering from epilepsy.
NCT00175916, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: UCB Biosciences
- Protocol #P261-401: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of the Safety and Efficacy of Intranasal Midazolam (USL261) in the Outpatient Treatment of Subjects with Seizure Clusters
NCT01390220, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: Upsher Smith Laboratories
- Protocol #P261-402: An Open-Label Safety Study of USL261 in the Outpatient Treatment of Subjects with Seizure Clusters
NCT01529034, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: Upsher Smith Laboratories
- Protocol N01379: An Open-Label, Multicenter, Follow-up Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Brivaracetam Used as Adjunctive Treatment in Subjects Aged 16 Years or Older with Partial Onset Seizures
NCT01339559, PI: Haas, Sponsor: UCB Biosciences
- Protocol YKP3089C017: A Multicenter, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Dose-Response Trial of YKP3089 as Adjunctive Therapy in Subjects with Partial Onset Seizures with Optional Open-Label Extension
NCT01866111, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: SK Life Science
- Protocol YKP3089C021: An Open Label, Multicenter, Safety and Pharmacokinetic Study of YKP3089 as Adjunctive Therapy in Subjects with Partial Onset Seizures
NCT02535091, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: SK Life Science
- High Performance Seizure Monitoring and Alert System
PI: Haas, Sponsor: Optima Neuroscience
- RNS® System Post-Approval Study in Epilepsy.
NCT02403843, PI: Haas, Sponsor: NeuroPace
- Protocol B7431005: A Double Blind, Randomized, Cross-Over Study Examining Efficacy of PF-06372865 In a Photosensitivity Epilepsy Study Using Lorazepam as a Positive Control.
NCT02564029, PI: Abou-Khalil, Sponsor: Pfizer

g. Book Chapters and Authorship:

- **Al Sawaf A;** Kapoor S; co-authored chapter: Anoxic Brain Injury. In: Fred F. Ferri MD FACP. Ferris Clinical Advisor 2017.
- **Al Sawaf A;** authored an article title: "Beyond the hammer is a reflex!"; in the neurology residents' quarterly newspaper- "*The Hammer*"; Dec 2015.
- **Al Sawaf A;** Kapoor S; co-authored chapter: Anoxic Brain Injury. In: Fred F. Ferri MD FACP. Ferris Clinical Advisor 2015.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

a. Professional Meetings

- 12/2016 Attended the AES 2016 Annual Meeting, December 2-6, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.
- 10/2016 Attended the 4th Biennial and Clinical Neurophysiology Conference, held Oct 14-15 at the University of Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
- 6/2016 Attended the 5th Annual International Epilepsy Symposium, held June 3-4 at the Albert B. Chandler Hospital, University of Kentucky Health Care, Lexington, KY.
- 04/2016 Attended Practical Update for Neurology & Neurosurgery, held April 29th at the Albert B. Chandler Hospital, University of Kentucky Health Care, Lexington, KY.
- 02/2016 Attended the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) 2016 Annual Meeting & Courses, held February 10-14, 2016 at Orlando, FL.
- 12/2015 Attended the 19th North American Neuromodulation Society (NANS) meeting, Las Vegas, NV.
- 11/2015 Attended the Markesbery Symposium on Aging & Dementia held on Fri, November 20, 2015 at the Albert B. Chandler Hospital, University of Kentucky Health Care, Lexington, KY.
- 04/2015 Presented posters at the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 67th Annual Meeting, April 18-25, 2015, Washington, DC.

b. Courses and Workshops

- 3/28/2017 Attended the NeuroPace RNS SimpleStart Training held during at Vanderbilt Medical Center, Tuesday, March 28, 2017.
- 12/1-
12/2/2016 Participated in the Fellows Program at the AES 2016 meeting.
- 12/10/2015 Attended the NANS 2015 Neuromodulation Cadaver Course for Advance Implantable Therapies: A Hands- On Cadaver Course, held at the Oquendo Center, Las Vegas, NV.

- 05/2015 Nominated to attend the J. Kiffin Penry Residents' Epilepsy Program of *Wake Forest University*, Winston-Salem, NC.
- 11/2013 Attended Focus on Movement Disorders conference; held at the *University of Vanderbilt Medical Center*, Nashville, TN
- 02/2011 – 04/2011 Participated in the EEG/Epilepsy Intensive Course, run at the *University Hospitals Case Medical Center*, Cleveland, OH.
- 01/2011-03/2011 Attended intensive course in Biostatistics - 20 credit hours, *CWR University*

c. Teaching:

- Pediatric and Neonatal EEG; as part of Clinical Neurophysiology Program Series, VUMC. 1/10/2017
- Neuromodulation in Epilepsy, a topic I presented in Neurology Grandrounds. UKMC. 05/10/2016
- Approach to Patient with Dizziness. *Presented as part of intern & medical student lecture curriculum. UKMC, 03/21/2016*
- Presented on the Clinical Neuropathology Conference; presented a case of *Rhinocerebral Mucormycosis*. UKMC. 03/17/2016
- Mentored medical students sessions to perform neurology physical examination simulated on normal human subjects, UKMC. 2015/2016
- Presented on Journal Club Conference; discussed article: *Vincent Alvarez et al: Second-line status epilepticus treatment: Comparison of phenytoin, valproate, and levetiracetam. Epilepsia, 52(7):1292–1296, 2011. UKMC. 03/04/2016*
- Presented at Neurology Grandrounds at the University of Kentucky; "*Bilateral monocular diplopia; is it real?*", UKMC. 09/2015
- Acute Transverse Myelitis in Pediatric Age Group. *Presented at the pediatric neurology weekly conference, UKMC. 01/2015*
- Localizing signs in Epilepsy. *Presented at the Epilepsy/EEG monthly conference, UKMC. 10/2014*
- Approach to Patient with Dizziness. *Presented as part of intern & medical student lecture curriculum, UKMC. 2013-2016*
- Adult Neurological Emergencies. *Presented as part of intern & medical student lecture curriculum, UKMC. 05/2014*
- Electrocardiographic and oximetric changes during partial complex and generalized seizures. *Presented during journal club at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Department of Epilepsy. 11/2011*
- EEG Changes in Migraineurs. *Presented during journal club at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Department of Epilepsy. 07/2011*

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE AND HONORS

- 07/2015-
7/2016 Adult neurology Chief Resident.
- 07/2014-
6/2015 Chief resident-assistant for academic matters
- 07/2012-
7/2016 Neurology Resident Representative for Class 2016
- 2002 Award of Academic Excellence at 12th grade; awarded by the Ministry of Education for the top ten students nationwide.
- 1996- 2002 Memorial Shields of Excellence was granted by my schools yearly for six consecutive years for exceptional academic and extracurricular performance.
- 1999- 2000 Honorary Boy Scout Award; granted both years by the Ministry of Education for successful leadership.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 06/2016-
present Member in the American Epilepsy Society (AES)
- 02/2016-
present Member in the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS)
- 12/2015-
present Member in the American Medical Association (AMA)
- 05/2015-
present Alumnus in the J. Kiffin Penry Epilepsy Mini-fellow Network
- 02/2015-
present Member in the Commonwealth Neurological Society
- 01/2014-
present Member in the American Academy of Neurology (AAN)
- 10/2015-
10/2016 Member in the North America Neuromodulation Society (NANS)
- 07/2013-
7/2016 Central Kentucky Epilepsy Support Network – University of Kentucky Medical Center
- 07/2012-
7/2016 Lexington Medical Society
- 07/2012-
12/2013 Junior Intern, American Academy of Neurology (AAN)

- 09/2004 – 06/2008 Volunteered in the Blood Bank Friends Club. I helped to organize campaigns for blood donation.
- 09/2002 – 06/2008 Volunteered in Arab & Foreign Students Club that organizes cultural exhibitions meant to encourage cultural education.

LANGUAGES

- English; fluent in written and spoken language.
- Arabic; native language.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- Karate (black belt). Other sports: swimming, table tennis, biking, and hiking.
- Computer programming and networking.
- Arabic Calligraphy.
- Specialty oriental cooking.