
Neurology Expert Witness #2202

Publications and presentations available upon request.
Contact Dora, dmancias@expertwitnessdoctors.com.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
Texas A&M University	Double BS	1992-1997	Biochemistry and Genetics
University of New South Wales, Australia		1996	Population Genetics
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	MD	1997-2001	Medicine
University of Pennsylvania, Department of Medicine	Intern	2001-2002	Medicine
University of Pennsylvania, Department of Neurology	Resident	2002-2005	Neurology
University of Iowa, Department of Neurology	Fellow Associate	2005-2006	Epilepsy and Neurophysiology
University of California, San Francisco	Clinical Instructor	2006-2007	Epilepsy
University of California, San Francisco San Francisco VA Medical Center	Assistant Professor	2007-2015	Epilepsy
University of California San Francisco San Francisco VA Medical Center	Associate Professor	2015-2019	Epilepsy
	Full Professor	2020	
American Medical Informatics Association 10X10 Informatics Certification	Informatics	2012	Clinical Informatics

A. Personal Statement

My career mission is to develop, validate, and implement digital companion tools, self-management programs and health monitoring platforms to better treat, educate, and empower patients who have been diagnosed with epilepsy and other chronic neurologic conditions. I have spent the past 15 years in clinical practice treating epilepsy and general neurology patients at UCSF and the San Francisco VA Medical Center and have served as the national PI on several studies examining the utility of digital health tools for patients with epilepsy. Recently, I became the Chief Medical Officer (part-time) of an innovative startup company (Nile Ai) exploring the potential for a next-generation electronic diary system in epilepsy.

I previously completed formal training in digital health study design and implementation through the UCSF Clinical Training and Sciences Institute (2007), the national VA Clinical Studies Program (2010), and the NINDS Summer Clinical Trials Course (2011). This led to the development, implementation, and publishing of an investigator-initiated multi-center trial on digital methods for self-management in a cohort of Veterans with epilepsy (the POEM study, 2015). We followed this study with a peer specialist support study in the VA population, which was completed in 2020.

From a leadership perspective, I currently serve as the Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Clinical Informatics at the SF VAMC. Additionally, I was previously the National Clinical Director for the Office of Connected Care based in the VHA Central Office in Washington DC (2016-2020); through this role, I directed the development of patient-facing digital health technologies for the Veteran patient community.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1994 - 1994: Research Associate, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
1995 - 1995: Research Associate, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas
1996 - 1997: Visiting Research Fellow, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
1994 - 1997: Research Undergraduate Fellow, Department of Biochemistry, Texas A&M University
2001 - 2002: Internship, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
2002 - 2005: Neurology Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
2005 - 2006: Epilepsy and Neurophysiology Fellowship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
2006 - 2007: Clinical Instructor, Epilepsy Division, University of California San Francisco
2007 - present: Professor, Epilepsy Division, University of California San Francisco
2007 - 2011: Staff Neurologist (Onsite and Telemedicine), California Dept of Corrections
2009 - present: Professor, Epilepsy and Neurology, SF Veterans Affairs Medical Center
2012 - 2016: National Clinical Director, Patient-Facing Technologies, VHA Health Informatics Initiative
2016 - 2020: National Clinical Lead, Office of Connected Care, VHA, Washington DC
2020 - present: Chief Medical Officer, Nile Ai
2020 - present: Clinical Advisor for NextSense Inc. and Neura Health Inc.

Professional Memberships

1998 - 2001: Member, American Medical Student Association
2001 - present: Member, American Academy of Neurology
2001 - 2005: Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Society
2005 - 2006: Secretary, Graduate Medical Education Committee, University of Iowa
2004 – present: American Epilepsy Society
2006 – present: Association of California Neurologists
2006 – present: American Clinical Neurophysiology Society
2007 – present: Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California
2011 – present: American Medical Informatics Association

Service to Professional Organizations

2005-present Epilepsy Section Member, AAN
2005-2012 Ethics Section Member, AAN
2006-2016 Public Policy Section Member, AAN
2007-present Policy Advisory Board, Epilepsy Foundation N. California
2007-2016 AAN Advocacy Advisory Board
2007-2016 AAN Neurology on the Hill Delegate (Washington DC annual event)
2009-2020 Editor-in-Chief, AAN News (1-2 hours/week)
2009-2016 AAN Editors-in-Chief Committee
2009-2016 AAN Government Relations Committee, Vice-Chair
2010-2012 ACN Director for Northern California Region
2010-2011 AAN Advocacy Task Force Committee
2012-2014 AAN NeuroLearn Course (Distance Learning Committee, 1-2 hours/week)
2016-present Epilepsy Foundation Connectors Project

2018-present Editor of Wearables and Devices Section, Epilepsy.com
2016-present Editor-in-Chief, Digital Health, SAGE Publishing (3-4 hours/month)

Service to Academic Institutions (UCSF and SFVAMC)

2006-2013 Advisor, PISCES (Parnassus Integrated Student Clinical Experiences) Medical Student Neurology Clerkship
2006-present Instructor, Brain-Mind-Behavior Course (annual participation)
2006-2011 Dept. of Neurology Morbidity & Mortality Committee
2009-2010 Epilepsy Center Website Design, Faculty Leader
2009-2010 UCSF Academy of Medical Educators Teaching Observation Program
2010-present SF VA Epilepsy Center of Excellence Fellowship Director
2010-2011 National VA Innovations Initiative Advisory Panel
2010-present SF VA Clinical Informatics Committee
2010-present UC Berkeley Bioengineering Capstone Mentoring Program (4 Cohorts)
2011-present UCSF mHealth Faculty Committee, VA Liaison
2011 VA Innovations Initiative Selection Committee, West Wireless Health
2011-2013 West Wireless Health Institute Advisory Council
2011-present UCSF CHR Review Committee, Parnassus Panel (2-4 hours/week)
2011-2013 NIH/NINDS Electronic Seizure Diaries Advisory Board
2012-present UCSF RAP Digital Health Research Review Committee, vice-chair
2012-2016 UCSF Digital Leadership committee (CTSI)
2013 Patient-Generated Data Expert Panel, ONC for Health Information Technology
2013 National VHA Field-Based Health Informatics Leadership Council
2013-present UC Berkeley Bio-design Immersion Experience Course, faculty

Honors/Awards

1992 President's Scholarship Award, Texas A&M University (12 awarded)
1993 TAMU Sophomore Scholar Award, (6 awarded)
1994 James Earl Rudder Normandy Scholarship for Study Abroad, Caen, France
1994 TAMU Corps of Cadets Most Outstanding Cadet Designation, twice awarded
1995 Barry M. Goldwater National Congressional Scholar
1996 Phi Kappa Phi National Scholar Fellowship for Senior Thesis
1996 University Undergraduate Research Fellow, TAMU
1996 Former Students Thesis Honors Award, TAMU
1997 Outstanding Student in College of Life Sciences, TAMU
1997 Beckman Award for Undergraduate Research, TAMU, (One awarded)
1997 National Rhodes Scholar Semi-finalist, nominated through TAMU
2005 Zeritsky Award for Resident Research, University of Pennsylvania
2005 Dreifuss Award for Epilepsy Research, National Epifellows Foundation
2006 American Academy of Neurology Foundation Clinical Research Award
2006 American Academy of Neurology Palatucci Leadership Forum Advocate
2007 American Academy of Neurology Palatucci Leadership Forum Advisor
2010 National VA Cooperative Studies Program Clinical Trials Course (competitive)
2011 NINDS-NIH Summer Clinical Trials Course (competitive)
2012 VA Office of Specialty Care Transformation Leadership Nominee

Invited Presentations:

- “Social Media in Healthcare”, National VEHU Conference, VHA. Orlando, August 2012
- “A Patient-Facing Application for Medication Management”, VHA E-Connected Showcase, Washington, February 2013
- “The VHA and Social Media: Lessons from the POEM Study”, Doctors 2.0 Conference, June 2013
- “The POEM Study: An Online Management Platform for Veterans with Epilepsy”, Bronx VA Neurology Grand Rounds, October 2013
- “The POEM Study: An Online Management Platform for Veterans with Epilepsy”, NYU Epilepsy Center, October 2013
- “Engaging Patients, Elevating Care”, Connected Health Symposium panelist, Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard University, October 2013
- “The POEM Study: An Online Management Platform for Veterans with Epilepsy”, San Antonio VA HSR&D Research Seminar, November 2013
- “The POEM Study: An Online Management Platform for Veterans with Epilepsy”, Houston VA Epilepsy Center of Excellence, November 2013
- “The POEM Study: Final Results and Implications for Integrated Health Systems”, Doctors 2.0 Conference, Paris, France, June 2014
- “Epilepsy Management for the PCP”, Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, Dameron Hospital, 2014
- “Improving the Role of Patients: VA Open Notes Experience”, Health Technology Forum Innovation Conference, 2015
- “Advances in Epilepsy Management”, California Neurological Society Annual Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, 2015
- “Advances in Epilepsy Management”, Hawaii Neurological Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, 2015
- “Mobile Health: The Power of Wearables, Sensors, and Apps to Transform Clinical Trials”, New York Academy of Sciences, New York, NY, 2015
- “The Right Info at the Right Time = The Right Outcome”, Informed Health Conference, 2016
- “New Therapies in Epilepsy”, Epilepsy Foundation Pipeline Research Conference, San Francisco 2016
- “New Approaches to Biosensing and Biomarkers for the Management of Neurological Disease”, American Academy of Neurology Annual meeting, Vancouver BC, 2016
- “Use of a Digital Self-Management Platform for Improving Access in Epilepsy Patients”, American Academy of Neurology Annual meeting, Vancouver BC, 2016
- “Digital Healthcare Revolution: Future of Chronic Illness Management”, Consumer Tech Association Annual Meeting, San Diego CA, 2016
- “Updates and Advances in Epilepsy”, California Neurological Society Annual Meeting, Santa Barbara CA, 2016
- “Emerging Biosensor Applications for Neurology”, Course Director, American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting, Boston MA, 2017
- “Biosensing in Neurologic Disease”, AAN Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2019, Course Director
- “Replacing Trying with Knowing in Epilepsy Care”, Antiepileptic Drug and Device Meeting, Philadelphia PA 2021

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

National Epifellows Foundation Award, 2005-2006 (completed)

Title: “Fear and Disgust Processing in Patients with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy”

Role: Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Investigate emotion processing deficits in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy

\$20,000 direct, year 1

American Academy of Neurology Foundation Clinical Research Award, 2006-2008 (completed)

Title: "Emotion Processing in Patients with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy"

Role: Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Investigate emotion processing deficits in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy
\$130,000 direct, years 1-2

UCSF Research Evaluation and Allocation Committee Award, 2007-2009 (completed)

Title: "Emotion Processing in Patients with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy"

Role: Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Assess psychophysical responses to emotional stimuli in epilepsy patients
\$14,000 direct, year 1

Epilepsy Foundation Veterans Outreach Award, 2011 (completed)

Role: Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Produce and disseminate epilepsy educational series for providers within the VA community-based clinic network in Northern California
\$10,000 direct, year 1

Policy for Optimized Epilepsy Management, Investigator-Initiated Study, 2013, year 1 (completed)

Role: National Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Design, build, and test an online digital health platform for self-management solutions for Veterans with epilepsy. National multi-site study of outcomes in epilepsy
\$1,600,000 direct, year 1 (sponsored by UCB Inc.; administered through NCIRE)

Policy for Optimized Epilepsy Management, Investigator-Initiated Study, 2014, year 2 (completed)

Role: National Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Design, build, and test an online digital health platform for self-management solutions for Veterans with epilepsy. National multi-site study of outcomes in epilepsy
\$1,300,000 direct, year 2 (sponsored by UCB Inc.; administered through NCIRE)

Policy for Optimized Epilepsy Management, Investigator-Initiated Study, 2015, year 3 (completed)

Role: National Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Design, build, and test an online digital health platform for self-management solutions for Veterans with epilepsy. National multi-site study of outcomes in epilepsy
\$350,000 direct, year 3 (sponsored by UCB Inc.; administered through NCIRE)

Predictability of Smartphone Videos in an Outpatient Epilepsy Clinic, 2015-2019 (completed)

Role: Collaborator

Project Goals: Multi-site pilot study investigating accuracy of smartphone videos to differentiate epileptic v vs. nonepileptic seizures

Mayo Clinic internal funding (coordinating site) under PI Tatum

Facilitating Appropriate Analgesic Prescription in Hemodialysis Patients, 2015-2017 (completed)

Role: Informatics Advisor (for study PI Ishida)

Project Goals: NIH K23 award for research investigating appropriate use of analgesic prescriptions in VA patients undergoing hemodialysis

NIH K23 grant under PI Ishida

Patient-Aligned Healthcare Team Health Advocate, Scribe, and Dragon Medical Demonstration Project, 2016-2018 (completed)

Role: Informatics Advisor (for study PI Ippolito)

Project Goals: SFVAMC demonstration project exploring use of different communication tools for documenting outpatient clinical care.

VHA Demonstration project funding under PI Ippolito

Evaluation of an Epilepsy Peer Support Program in US Veterans: A Pilot Study, 2018-2020 (completed)

Role: National Principal Investigator

Project Goals: Multi-site VA study examining the effectiveness of a virtual peer navigator platform for Veterans with epilepsy

\$250,000 direct, years 1-2 (sponsored by UCB Inc.; administered through NCIRE)