

Fellowship FAQs

Subspecialty field: Headache

What accreditation is available for fellowships (ACGME, UCNS, other) in this subspecialty field? UCNS

Is board certification available in this subspecialty? If so, through which agency (ABPN, UCNS, other)? UCNS

Does completion of this fellowship typically expand the scope of the subspecialist's hospital credentials (added credentials for performing procedures, interpreting studies, etc)?

Negative

Is completion of a fellowship typically necessary in order to achieve a subspecialty-focused practice in an academic practice or a large neurology group practice?

Fellowships is desirable if the physician is interested in an academic career, but it is not mandatory. On the other hand, the UCNS is more likely than not to ask that all the faculty members in a headache program are certified in headache medicine. So, if the physician is going to participate in fellowship training, then the answer is yes, UCNS certification is a must. If the physician is going to teach, but there are no fellows, then certification is not mandatory.

What type of cases do you see? All types of headache, facial pain and even neck pain.

What is the typical minimum duration of a fellowship in this field? Can it be completed on a part-time basis? The fellowship is one year long, but an extra year of research can be added if the fellow so desires and if there are funds to support her

How are fellowship positions obtained- match or hospital based? How far in advance should inquiries be sent to the program to ensure a candidate's consideration? Are there prerequisites beyond completion of a Neurology residency? Fellows are usually interviewed one year prior to the start of the academic year. There are no other requirements beyond completion of an ACGME-accredited program in Neurology or Neurology with Special Qualifications in Child Neurology

What are the principal clinical exposures and clinical responsibilities that would be common to fellowships in this discipline? The fellow will spend most of her time in the out-patient clinic.

Do faculty from outside Neurology typically participate in training? From which other specialties? Neuro-radiology, anesthesiology, psychiatry.

Please provide a brief overview of the rotations a typical fellowship involves. Are there rotations required by accrediting bodies? As mentioned two questions above

In your opinion, what are important qualities to look for in selecting a fellowship program in this field? Large volume of patients is the most important quality, also clinical trials exposure, and an in-patient unit if available, for refractory cases.

What are the most important words of advice you have for a neurology resident considering a fellowship in the subspecialty field? Apply early and apply to several programs. Funds are scarce and will go to the first person who applies.

Is there a professional society specific to this subspecialty? Website: American Headache society (AHS), American Academy of Neurology (AAN)

Recommended web based resources for further information and searching for fellowship positions: The AAN is the best source. Potential candidates should attend the AAN meetings and the AHS meetings and speak personally with academic headache specialists about getting a fellowship position.