
VCU Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship Faculty



SEAN MCAVOY, MD
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, SPINAL CORD INJURY
MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF PM&R, VCU
STAFF PHYSICIAN, CENTRAL VIRGINIA VA HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine

Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

Fellowship: Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

Dr. McAvoy is an Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System and a Staff Physician in the Spinal Cord Injury Department at the McGuire VA Medical Center. Dr. McAvoy received his Medical Degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine; he completed his PM&R Residency at VCU Health and Spinal Cord Injury Fellowship at the combined VCU Health/McGuire VAMC SCI Fellowship. Dr. McAvoy remained on faculty to focus on clinical, academic, and research pursuits. Areas of research interest include spasticity management and the use of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation in the spinal cord injury population.

Department of PM&R



LANCE L. GOETZ, MD
ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, SPINAL CORD
INJURY MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP
CLINICAL PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PM&R

Medical School: University of Iowa College of Medicine

Residency: University of Michigan Hospitals

Fellowship: VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Dr. Goetz has over 25 years' experience in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine. He has collaborated with investigators within and outside VA for the past 21 years. His research roles have included principal and co-principal investigator, site investigator, coinvestigator, and spinal cord injury (SCI) medicine consultant. He has over 100 peer-reviewed publications, textbook chapters, poster presentations, and other works representing a wide variety of areas related to rehabilitation and medical complications of persons with SCI, including research related to pressure ulcers, neurogenic bladder and bowel, vocational rehabilitation and others. He has served on several national committees and advisory panels, including the AAPM&R Program Planning Committee and the American Paraplegia Society Board of Directors. He was awarded the American Paraplegia Society Excellence Award in 2017. He is married with twin teenage boys. A cool fact about Dr. Goetz is that in 1997 (May), he did a tandem skydive from 10,000 feet with a guy named Vasily Mladinov from Moldova.



ELISABETH ACKER, DO
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, RICHMOND VA MEDICAL
CENTER
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PM&R,
VCU

Dr. Acker is an Attending Physician at the Richmond VA Medical Center and Assistant Professor in VCU's Department of PM&R. Dr. Acker hails from Michigan and completed her medical education at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, followed by PM&R residency at the University of Michigan. Desiring exposure to the whole spectrum of SCI at a new academic institution and at a VA hub for SCI, Dr. Acker pursued SCI fellowship at VCU Health/Richmond VAMC's program. She had the opportunity to stay on as an Attending Physician at the Richmond VAMC, enjoying her opportunities to teach both fellows and residents about SCI Medicine. Dr. Acker enjoys the continuity of care that she is afforded at the Richmond VAMC. She is section editor and chapter author of two different SCI board review textbooks published by Elsevier and Springer. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and retired racing greyhound; traveling to and hiking the US National Parks; and running.



WILLIAM CARTER, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PM&R,
VCU
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, COMPLEX CARE AND SPINAL
CORD INJURY, SHELTERING ARMS INSTITUTE

William Carter is a clinically active academic physiatrist fellowship trained in spinal cord injury rehabilitation, working at Virginia Commonwealth University. He currently manages the spinal cord injury consult service, inpatient general rehabilitation, and is director of the complex care program at Retreat hospital. Attended University of Connecticut for medical school. Matriculated at Georgia Tech for his undergraduate degree. He continues to be involved in CDMRP grant funded research as a site principal investigator on Skeletal Muscle Hypertrophy and Cardio-metabolic Benefits After Spinal Cord Injury. His area of interest is oncology rehabilitation. Thinks, "What does the fox say?" Is a musical masterpiece.



TEODORO CASTILLO, MD
ASSOCIATE CHIEF SPINAL CORD INJURY & DISORDERS,
CENTRAL VIRGINIA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.
OUTPATIENT SECTION CHIEF, SPINAL CORD INJURY &
DISORDERS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: VA SCI TELEHEALTH HUB AND
SPOKES NETWORK AND SCI HOME CARE PROGRAM

Clinical Training:

Medical School: University of the East Ramon Magsaysay
Memorial Medical Center, Manila, Philippines

Residency: New York Medical College, PM&R, Valhalla, New York

Fellowship: University of Texas – Baylor College of Medicine,
Physical medicine and Rehabilitation Alliance, The Institute for
Rehabilitation and Research, Houston Texas, Spinal Cord Injury
Rehabilitation

Clinical Interests: SCI Telehealth



RAJ CHAGGAR, MD
ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF
PM&R, VCU HEALTH
DIRECTOR, SPINAL CORD INJURY, SHELTERING ARMS
INSTITUTE

Clinical Training:

VCU Health for medical school, PM&R residency, SCI fellowship

Raj Chaggar is an academic SCI physiatrist with interest in medical informatics. He runs the inpatient, outpatient, and consult services for spinal cord injury medicine at VCU. He is involved in various research studies, academic texts, and community health initiatives for those with spinal cord injuries. In his free time Dr. Chaggar enjoys 3D printing and spending time with his three miniature dachshunds.



TIMOTHY D. LAVIS, MD
CHIEF, SPINAL CORD INJURY AND DISORDERS,
CENTRAL VIRGINIA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Timothy D. Lavis M.D. served in the United States Air Force from 1989-1993. Following discharge, he completed his undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of North Texas, in Denton, Texas. He completed his medical school degree at University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School. He went on to internship in internal medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, then residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation in Denver, Colorado at The University of Colorado. From there he completed a fellowship in spinal cord injury medicine at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He served as Medical Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, North Carolina prior to moving to Richmond, Virginia in 2008 where he is currently Chief of the Spinal Cord injury and Disorders Department at Central Virginia VA Health Care System.



WILLIAM MCKINLEY, MD
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND
REHABILITATION
DIRECTOR OF SPINAL CORD INJURY MEDICINE AT
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL
CENTER
SITE DIRECTOR, SAI SCI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. McKinley is Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and Director of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System. He has served as Project Director for the VCU SCI Regional Model System of Care (a grant supported by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research). He is also Director of the PM&R Residency Training Program at VCU and board certified in PM&R, Electrodiagnostic Medicine and Spinal Cord Medicine. Dr. McKinley completed his residency training in PM&R in 1989 at VCU and remained on faculty to focus on clinical, academic and research pursuits. He has been involved nationally with key SCI organizations, committees, clinical practice guidelines, presentations to numerous regional and national conferences and has published extensively within his expertise of spinal cord injury.



EUGENIO MONASTERIO, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PM&R, VCU
CHAIR, DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC REHABILITATION VCU

Clinical Training:

Medical School: Ponce School of Medicine

Residency: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Fellowship: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Clinical Interests: Pediatric PM&R, EMG, Spasticity



OLIVIER ROLIN, MD, PHD
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF PM&R, VCU

Clinical Training:

Medical School: Penn State College of Medicine

Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University, PM&R

Dr. Rolin is an Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System. Dr. Rolin practices pediatric rehabilitation with a special interest in early development and gait and mobility. He supports the inpatient consult services for pediatric patients and patients with spinal cord injuries. Research interests include the use of stochastic resonance and other haptic feedback to support proprioception and facilitate movement. He is also interested in the role of the sensory system in supporting balance and coordination in developmental disorders.



JEFFREY TUBBS, MD
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF PM&R, VCU
SECTION CHIEF, INPATIENT SPINAL CORD INJURY
AND DISORDERS, RICHMOND CVVHCS

Clinical Training:

Medical School: Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University, PM&R

Fellowship: VCU/Hunter Holmes McGuire Richmond CVVHCS, SCI
Medicine

Clinical Interests: SCI, powered Exoskeletons

Interesting Fact: Kicker for the University of Illinois football
team
