

The Center for Medical Education and Research at
Cape Fear Valley Health

Neuroscience Institute

As the leading provider of healthcare for southeastern North Carolina, Cape Fear Valley Health is recognized for its exceptional, high-quality medical care in a wide range of specialties ranging from cancer services to cardiology, from neonatology to orthopedics and more.

As we continue our strategic growth to address physician shortages and improve health outcomes for our region, one of our primary goals is make the finest quality healthcare available right here, so that our patients don't have to travel far from home to get the care they need.

One area where the physician shortage is most keenly felt is in Neuroscience services. Across the country, providers struggle to recruit and hire neurologists—and the problem shows no sign of abating. As the baby boomer generation ages, more neurologists and neurosurgeons are approaching retirement, while at the same time, the incidence of neurological needs continues to rise. Estimates show that demand for neurologists in 2025 will exceed supply by 19%.

To become a center for excellence in Neurology and Neurosurgery, to attract and retain high caliber medical professionals, we must create a competitive advantage.

“Facilities matter. Our beautiful, new, state-of-the-art Neuroscience Institute will help us to attract top-notch neurologists and neurosurgeons from around the country to come and be a part of Cape Fear Valley Health.”

– Mike Nagowski, CEO,
Cape Fear Valley Health System



“Our community needs and deserves a state-of-the-art home for neuroscience. We have amazing physicians who are phenomenal at ensuring exceptional neuroscience care for our community. As a physician, and as someone with a brother who suffered a life-threatening traumatic brain injury, and parents who lived with dementia, I know first-hand the importance of this specialty. I am proud to honor them by making a donation to ensure the continued success of our program.”

– Dr. Roxie Wells, President,
Hoke Hospital, Cape Fear Valley Health

What is Cape Fear Valley Health’s competitive advantage? We’ve got two...

1. The establishment of Cape Fear Valley Health as a teaching hospital. The creation of our Medical Residency Program in 2017 addresses physician shortages, not just by bringing hundreds of resident physicians into our communities, but by offering top notch practicing physicians an opportunity to share their knowledge through teaching. We have already seen an increase in our ability to recruit high-caliber physicians as a result of becoming a teaching hospital.
2. The construction of a new Neuroscience Institute within the Center for Medical Education and Research. Facilities matter, and this new state-of-the-art home for Neuroscience at Cape Fear Valley Health will attract the talent we need and the services our communities deserve.

Why Does Neuroscience Matter?

The practice of neurology includes care of the brain, spine and nervous system. Neurologists and neurosurgeons provide diagnoses and treatment for a wide range of medical conditions from aneurysms to epilepsy, from Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s to spinal cord injuries. Neurologists and neurosurgeons collaborate with oncologists, emergency department staff and other specialists across the hospital as part of the care team to treat patients with brain tumors, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

The Need

From 2016 to 2018, Cape Fear Valley Health saw a 15% increase in Neurology and Neurosurgery patient visits and the trend continues to tick upward. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, the number of age-related neurological needs alone will skyrocket in the next two to three decades.



Our current Neuroscience department transfers out more patients than we treat, not because our neurologists and neurosurgeons are lacking in experience or expertise – far from it – but simply because we do not have enough of them to provide 24/7 coverage in the department.

The Solution

Located on the fifth floor of the Center for Medical Education and Research and just steps away from our Diagnostic Center, the Neuroscience Institute will provide a warm, welcoming environment for the healing and comfort of our patients and their families. This local, regional center of excellence will provide a full range of diagnosis, treatment, education, and research of neurological symptoms or disorders.

The Neuroscience Institute will serve the five-county region of Cumberland, Hoke, Bladen, Harnett and Sampson – providing 24/7 coverage to deliver care quickly when time is of the essence, and diminishing the need for our friends and neighbors to have to go elsewhere for care.

What Are Some of the Disorders and Illnesses that Neurologists and Neurosurgeons Treat?

- Stroke
- Aneurysm
- Brain tumor
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Spinal cord injury
- Epilepsy
- Alzheimer’s and related dementias
- ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease)
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson’s
- Sleep disorders
- Migraine
- Neuroinfection

How do Neurosurgeons and Emergency Department Staff Work Together?

Certain medical situations requiring the attention of a neurologist or neurosurgeon become apparent only as a result of a catastrophic event, such as stroke, aneurysm or traumatic brain injury. Our neurologists and neurosurgeons are part of the care team that assesses and responds to patients while they’re in our Emergency Department. Cape Fear Valley Health’s ability to provide 24/7 coverage in neuroscience is essential to ensuring that our patients get the care they need, as soon as they need it.

How Does Having 24/7 Staffing in Neuroscience Help Us Keep Patients at CFVH?

Here’s an example to illustrate: John Smith is brought into our Emergency Department after having been in a car accident. Mr. Smith has suffered multiple broken bones and serious, but not life-threatening, internal injuries. All of these are well within the capabilities of Cape Fear Valley’s medical staff. However, Mr. Smith also has a small amount of bleeding on his brain, and there isn’t a neurosurgeon available. Even though it’s unlikely that this small amount of bleeding will require surgery or any extraordinary intervention, Mr. Smith must be transferred to another hospital. With a larger team of neurosurgeons on staff, Mr. Smith could receive all the care he needs, right here at Cape Fear Valley.

**The Neuroscience Institute ...
one more way that Cape Fear Valley Health is
CARING for the FUTURE.**

“Just as Fayetteville is growing, we plan to grow and expand with the town and the whole area. We’re not going to have to send patients up the road anymore; we’ll be taking care of them here. ”

– Dr. Charles Haworth, Neurosurgeon, Cape Fear Valley Health System

We invite you to join your fellow community members in CARING for the FUTURE.

For more information about how you can support the Neuroscience Institute, contact Major Gifts Officer, Jamie Powell, at jpowell2@capefearvalley.com or 910-615-1285.



cfvfoundation.org