AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION®
THE HOME FOR ACADEMIC NEUROLOGY

CLINICAL TRIALS COURSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
8:00 AM – 3:45 PM PDT
SAN DIEGO, CA

The ANA Clinical Trials Course is designed to further the career development of academic neurologists and neuroscientists interested in conducting clinical research.

Compared to fields such as oncology and cardiology, the clinical neurosciences often lack well established pathways for providing this kind of training for emerging clinician-scientists. This day-long course will engage academic neurologists and neuroscientists in an analysis of the clinical development and testing of therapies for neurological diseases.

Most participants will not have yet developed long-term clinical research programs or funding, but they will have intentions to work in this area. Throughout the course, strategies for career development will be interwoven with the didactic material, and the day will include time for networking with other participants and speakers.

This course was developed through the collaborative efforts of the ANA Clinical Trials Course Subcommittee, chaired by Ludy Shih, MD, MMSc, FANA. We gratefully acknowledge the subcommittee members for their contributions to the development and planning of this course.

Course Schedule

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM
Introduction
Speaker: Ludy Shih, MD, MMSc, FANA | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM
Producing Neurologic Therapies: Present and Future
Speaker: Walter Koroshetz, MD, FANA | Dana Foundation

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Intro to Clinical Study Design
Speaker: Christopher Coffey, PhD | University of Iowa

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
How to Conduct Translational Neurology in Academia
Speaker: Sean Savitz, MD | UTHealth Houston

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Break

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Development of Targeted Therapies for Parkinson's Disease
Speaker: Dimitri Krainc, MD, PhD, FANA | Northwestern University

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Break

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
How to Get (and Stay) Funded
Speaker: Justin McArthur, MBBS, MPH, FAAN, FANA | Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM
New Approaches to Clinical Trials
Speaker: Jordan Elm, PhD | Medical University of South Carolina

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Starting and Developing a Successful Career as a Clinical Trialist
Speaker: Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc, FAAN, FANA | NYU Langone Health

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Accelerating Clinical Research with Internet Recruitment and Direct to Participant Trials
Speaker: Caroline Tanner, MD, PhD, FANA | University of California, San Francisco

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM Break

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM
Using the CTSA System Effectively
Speaker: Anthony Kim, MD, MAS | University of California, San Francisco

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM
The Role of Industry in Clinical Trials
Speaker: Ludy Shih, MD, MMSc, FANA | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

3:45 PM Adjourn

Meet Our Speakers

Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc, FANA
NYU Langone Health

Dr. Jinsy Andrews is the director of the ALS Center and medical director of clinical trials in the Department of Neurology at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. She is currently the elected co-chair of the Network of Excellence for ALS (NEALS), an international ALS clinical trial consortium of >150 international specialty centers, an appointed Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology (FAAN), and a Fellow of the American Neurological Association (FANA).

Christopher Coffey, PhD
University of Iowa

Dr. Christopher Coffey is a professor of biostatistics and director of the Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center (CTSDMC) at the University of Iowa College of Public Health. He received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999 and has over 25 years of experience providing data management and statistical support to large randomized clinical trials. He is currently the principal investigator of the Data Coordinating Center for the NIH-funded Network of Excellence in Neuroscience Clinical Trials (NeuroNEXT) and the Statistics Core for the Michael J. Fox Foundation-funded Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) and Path to Prevention (P2P) platform trial. Dr. Coffey has served as the primary statistician for numerous multi-site clinical trials and biomarker studies across neurological sciences. Dr. Coffey is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, Society for Clinical Trials, and American Academy of Neurology, and serves on several data and safety monitoring boards. His research interests lie in novel trial designs, particularly the use of adaptive designs.

Jordan Elm, PhD
Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. Jordan Elm is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the Medical University of South Carolina and contact PI of the NINDS StrokeNet National Data Management Center (NDMC), a network established to facilitate multisite clinical trials for stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. She is a statistician for MOST, ASPIRE (Anticoagulation in ICH Survivors), FASTEST (FVIIa for Acute hemorrhagic Stroke Administered at Earliest Time), and SISTER trials. She is PI for the StrokeNet Thrombectomy Endovascular Platform (STEP) trial, the first platform trial for stroke in the US.

Anthony Kim, MD, MAS
University of California, San Francisco

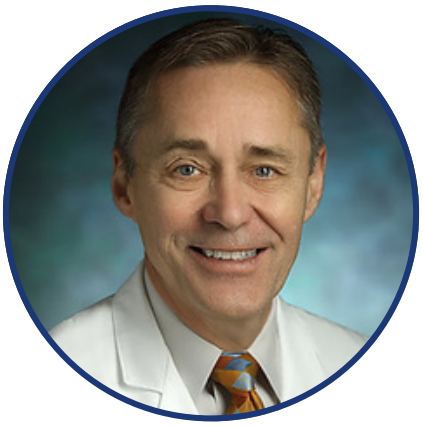
Dr. Anthony Kim is a Professor of Clinical Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) where he is the Erich Fried Endowed Professor of Vascular Neuroscience. He leads quality improvement and clinical innovation efforts as medical director of the UCSF Comprehensive Stroke Center and directs the Consultation Services program at the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute which provides biostatistics and study design consultations for investigators across the campus. His research is focused on addressing key challenges in the development, evaluation, dissemination, and implementation of interventions to reduce the burden of cerebrovascular disease.

Walter Koroshetz, MD, FANA
Dana Foundation

Dr. Walter Koroshetz is the Senior Advisor at the Dana Foundation where he will help guide the Foundation's science funding partnerships and trainee programming. Formerly, Dr. Koroshetz served as the Director of NINDS from 2015 to 2026. He joined NINDS in 2007 as the Deputy Director. Prior to joining NIH, Dr. Koroshetz trained in internal medicine and neurology and completed a fellowship in neurobiology. He was involved in clinical research and care of persons with Huntington's disease and other movement disorders, stroke and neurointensive care. He was Vice Chair of Massachusetts General Neurology Department and directed residency training from 1990 to 2007.

Dimitri Krainc, MD, PhD, FANA
Northwestern University

Dr. Dimitri Krainc is the Ward Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Director of the Feinberg Neuroscience Institute at Northwestern. Previously, Dr. Krainc spent two decades at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he completed his research and clinical training and served on faculty. His research group has uncovered key mechanisms of neurodegeneration that have led to the development of targeted therapies. Dr. Krainc received the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award, Outstanding Investigator award from NIH, and was elected to the Association of American Physicians, National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors. He currenly serves as the President of the American Neurological Association.



Justin McArthur, MBBS, MPH, FAAN, FANA
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

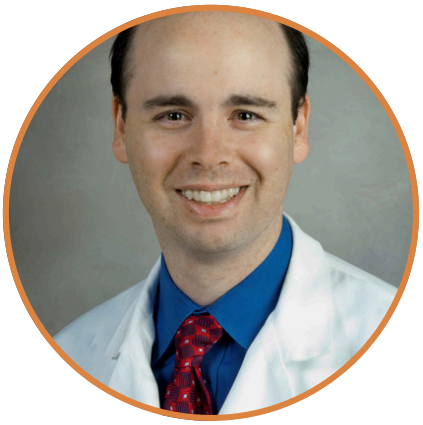
Dr. Justin McArthur is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in studying the natural history, development and treatment of HIV infection, multiple sclerosis and other neurological infections and immune-mediated neurological disorders. He developed a technique to use cutaneous nerves to study sensory neuropathies, including those associated with chemotherapy, HIV and diabetes, which has been incorporated into clinical practice on a world-wide basis. He is the founding director of the Johns Hopkins/National Institute of Mental Health Research Center for Novel Therapeutics of HIV-associated Cognitive Disorders. Dr. McArthur is the current Director of the Johns Hopkins Department of Neurology and holds the John W. Griffin Professorship in neurology. He is a Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology, Medicine and Pathology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Neurologist-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Sean I. Savitz, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Dr. Sean I. Savitz is a professor of neurology and physical medicine and rehabilitation, the Frank M. Yatsu Chair and director of the Institute for Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston (UTHealth-Houston). He is also an adjunct professor in the McWilliams School of Bioinformatics and the School of Public Health at UTHealth-Houston. He graduated from Harvard College, received his MD from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed neurology residency training and a cerebrovascular/stroke fellowship at the Harvard Medical School Neurology Training Program.

As director of the UTHealth Institute for Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease, with over 40 participating faculty, the Institute's mission is to develop novel treatments, biomarkers and health care delivery models for patients with stroke, cerebrovascular disease, dementia and neurodegenerative disease. The Institute provides research and educational programs in brain health and prevention of dementia, especially since disease of the small arteries in the brain is a major cause of cognitive impairment and dementia worldwide. Dr. Savitz's research focuses on brain health, recovery after brain injury, neurorehabilitation and the application of biologics such as stem cells as innovative treatments for neurological disorders. He directs the rehabilitation program in the World Stroke Organization. He has been funded by grants from the National Institute of Health, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the American Heart Association, and is an author of over 350 publications in the biomedical literature.

Dr. Savitz sees patients at UT Physicians for neurological disorders, stroke and dementia prevention. He has 10 years' experience leading advanced stroke centers of care. He is highly committed to medical education, directing training programs in brain health and cerebrovascular disease, has mentored dozens of junior faculty from multiple countries and has won several teaching awards.



Ludy Shih, MD, MMSc, FANA
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Dr. Ludy Shih received her MD from the University of California Los Angeles and completed internship, neurology residency, and movement disorders fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), with a master's in clinical investigation through the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Clinical Investigator Training Program. She is a clinical investigator in Parkinson's disease (PD) and essential tremor and worked at Biogen and Vertex Pharmaceuticals, designing global phase 1/2 clinical studies for PD and genetic neurologic diseases. She is Associate Editor at Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology and President and Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the American Society of Experimental Neurotherapeutics.

Caroline Tanner, MD, PhD, FANA
University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Caroline Tanner specializes in movement disorders. Her research includes descriptive epidemiology, environmental and genetic determinants, biomarkers, early detection, nonmotor features and clinical trials. She is co-PI of the home-based TOPAZ fracture prevention study for people with neurodegenerative parkinsonism and the hybrid Micro-PD trial to reduce off periods in people with Parkinson's disease. She is a member of the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative leadership team and PI of PPMI Online, FOUND-PPMI and the online Fox Insight study. She has been fortunate to mentor talented students from many countries, who themselves are now leading researchers and educators worldwide.

AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION®
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Mission

Advancing science, education, and careers to improve neurologic health for all.

Vision

A world without neurological disease.