



# NEUROLOGY

## ASSOCIATES, P.A.

ESTABLISHED 1985

Offices located in  
Hickory,  
Taylorsville,  
and Denver, NC

[www.noggindocs.com](http://www.noggindocs.com)

# NOGGIN NEWS

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## U.S. House of Representative Member Virginia Foxx Visits Neurology Associates



On May 7, 2015, U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx visited Neurology Associates for lunch and met with the physicians and staff of the practice as well as other area physicians.

Congresswoman Foxx is the U.S. Representative for North Carolina's 5th congressional district, which encompasses much of the northwestern portion of the state and a portion of Winston-Salem. She currently is Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Rules and a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee where she is chairman of its Higher Education Subcommittee.

Discussion at lunch included topics relating to local, state and national health care issues.

*Front row left to right: Connie Maloney, Front Office Manager, Jessica Cain, PA-C, Rep. Virginia Foxx, Roger Austin, PA-C, Amanda Huffman, Office Manager.  
Back row left to right: David Skaff, Practice Administrator, Tiffany Wightman, PA-C, Robert Yapundich, MD (Neurology Associates), Dale Menard, MD (Neurology Associates), Caroll Koscheski, MD (Gastroenterology Associates).*

Dr. Yapundich (right) recently met North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory



# The Critical Role of Neurologists in Our Health Care System

## What is a neurologist?

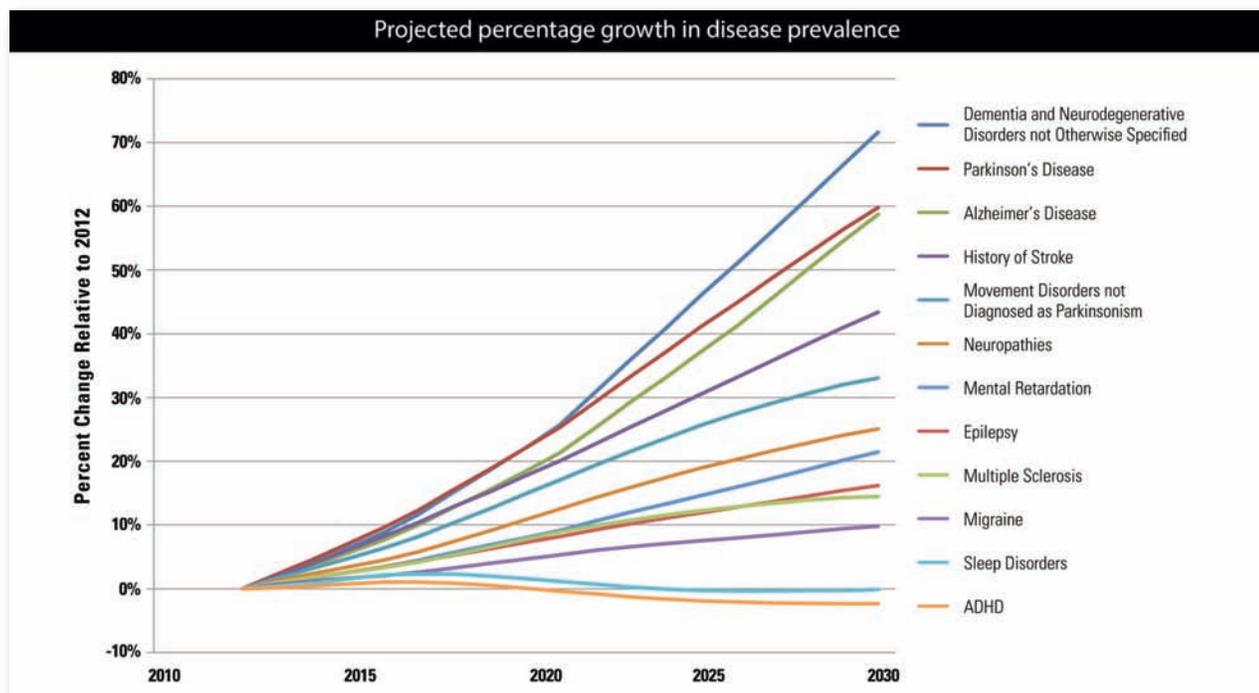
A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system. Neurologists are often confused with neurosurgeons, who perform brain surgery. Almost all neurologic conditions can be treated, but few are curable or preventable. Most require highly skilled long-term management to maximize the quality of life of patients and their families.

## What is the practice of neurology?

Neurologists have specialized training to evaluate patient symptoms, diagnose neurologic conditions, and recommend or provide treatments to cure, delay, or minimize the progression of the disease whenever possible. This type of care is known as “cognitive care”, in contrast to care focused on procedures.

The following charts provide an overview of conditions and patients neurologists treat and the increasing demand for neurological services in the future.

Neurologic conditions treated by neurologists	Number of people affected in the United States
Stroke	Every year, about 795,000 Americans have a stroke. Every 4 minutes, someone dies of stroke, the fourth leading cause of death.
Alzheimer's disease	Over 5 million Americans. The sixth leading cause of death. The number of people with Alzheimer's disease is expected to nearly triple by 2050.
Migraine/headache	14.2 percent of US adults reported severe headache or migraine in the last 3 months.
Epilepsy	About 2.3 millions Americans. 150,000 new cases diagnosed each year. 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lives.
Traumatic brain injury (TBI)	Approximately 1.7 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury annually.
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	About 1.5 million Americans. 1 in 68 children has been identified with an autism spectrum disorder. 20 to 30 percent of children with autism develop epilepsy by the time they are adults.
Parkinson's disease	At least 500,000 Americans.
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Approximately 400,000 Americans.
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	4 people out of every 100,000.





Neurology Associates once again participated in the Annual City of Hickory Health Fair. For the fourth year in a row the practice has provided screening and health information to more than 400 City of Hickory employees who attend this health fair.

Pictured are Markese Powell, R.NCS.T and Jenna Downing, R. EEGT who manned the Neurology Associates' booth providing Carpal Tunnel screening and blood pressure check to attendees.



## “You Passed With Flying Colors”

Recently OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) made an unexpected and random visit to Neurology Associates to perform an on-site inspection. After reviewing all practice operation manuals, policies and procedures and safety criteria the inspectors claimed that the practice passed “With Flying Colors”.

This successful inspection is directly due to the importance the practice gives to patient care and employee safety.

## Employees of the Month

Neurology Associates recognizes the importance of our employees and their dedication to our patients, medical providers and co-workers. Employees of the practice vote on an Employee of the Month (EOM).



**Debi Lail,**  
Insurance Billing  
Associate



**Kim Sparks,**  
Billing  
Supervisor



**Julie Xiong,**  
Medical Office  
Assistant

# People with Depression May Be More Likely to Develop Parkinson's Disease

People with depression may be more likely to develop Parkinson's disease, according to a large study published in the May 20, 2015, online issue of *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

"We saw this link between depression and Parkinson's disease during time span of more than two decades, so depression may be a very early symptom of Parkinson's disease or a risk factor for the disease," said study author Peter Nordström, PhD, at Umeå University in Umeå, Sweden.

The researchers also examined siblings, and found no link between one sibling having depression and the other having Parkinson's disease. "This finding gives us more evidence that these two diseases are linked," said Nordström. "If the diseases were independent of each other but caused by the same genetic or early environmental factors, then we would expect to see the two diseases group together in siblings, but that didn't happen."

People with more serious cases of depression were also more likely to develop Parkinson's disease. People who had been hospitalized for depression five or more times were 40 percent more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than people who had been hospitalized for depression only one time. People who had been hospitalized for depression were also 3.5 times more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than people who had been treated for depression as outpatients.

To learn more about depression and Parkinson's disease, please visit [www.aan.com/patients](http://www.aan.com/patients).

## Living with MS?

Other people like you who are being treated for their MS with a disease-modifying therapy have volunteered to join a program to better understand the long-term safety of these treatments.

You may qualify to participate in this voluntary research study if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65
- Have been diagnosed with relapsing MS
- Have recently started taking a disease-modifying therapy

Talk to your doctor to learn how you can participate or for more information call:

Anna Hopkins  
Certified Clinical Research Coordinator  
**828-485-2488**  
[www.passagestudy.com](http://www.passagestudy.com)

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## Neurology Associates' Neuroimaging Center

Neurology Associates schedules patients for MRI procedures every Monday in our mobile MRI unit located on the ground level of our Hickory office at 1985 Tate Boulevard.

All MRI scans performed at Neurology Associates are read by Dr. Catherine Weymann, Board-Certified Neurologist and Medical Director of Neuroimaging.



### Patient Tip:

- Do you have an appointment scheduled? If so, you can complete your paperwork at home by visiting our web-site ([www.noggindocs.com](http://www.noggindocs.com)). This can actually cut down on your waiting time and make your appointment go much faster. Website forms are in both English and Spanish.

### Questions or comments?

- Please feel free to contact us at 828-328-5500.



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Neurology Associates, P.A. specializes in adult and pediatric neurological conditions, including sleep disorders, headaches, seizures, dementia, stroke, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, dizziness, nerve disorders, and much more.