

Innovations in Neurology & Neurosurgery



*Rady Children's - A comprehensive system
focused solely on children.*



PEOPLE

Dr. Konersman leads neuromuscular clinic



Chamindra Konersman, M.D., directs the Multidisciplinary Neuromuscular Clinic at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. She is also an adult neuromuscular specialist at UC San Diego Health and an associate professor of neurosciences at UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Dr. Konersman's expertise is in the evaluation of undiagnosed neuromuscular disorders, with a special interest in genetic myopathies, muscular dystrophies, myasthenic syndromes and neuropathies. She spends most of her time combining clinical, pathological, electrodiagnostic and genetic information to solve complex neuromuscular cases. Her research interests are congenital myopathies and congenital muscular dystrophies. She is working on providing more genotypic-phenotypic tools to arrive at a genetic diagnosis and offer potential treatment options to patients.

Dr. Konersman mentors neurology residents and medical students in her clinic and has been recognized for her teaching with numerous accolades. These include the neurosciences teacher of the year award at UC San Diego for the past three years and the Whitehill prize for excellence in teaching of clinical medicine and surgery at UC San Diego in 2016.

After earning her medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine, she completed her neurology residency at the University of California, Los Angeles, followed by a fellowship at UCLA in neuromuscular medicine in adult and pediatric neuromuscular disease.



RECOGNITION

Programs achieve top 15 ranking in
national survey

Rady Children's Neurology and Neurosurgery programs have been ranked as the 14th best in the nation for 2017-18 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In its survey of "Best Children's Hospitals," U.S. News ranked 50 pediatric centers for serious neurological problems. Survival following complex surgery, surgical complications and infection prevention, along with other data collected from a detailed clinical survey of children's hospitals, produced 85 percent of each hospital's score. The other 15 percent reflects nominations from pediatric specialists and subspecialists who responded to surveys in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and recommended the hospital for serious cases in their specialty.

The programs scored "excellent" on the following measurements:

- Ability to prevent infections throughout hospital (success in minimizing infections through hand hygiene, vaccination and other proven measures)
- Nurse staffing (average hospital-wide number of R.N.s over 24 hours relative to the average number of daily inpatients)
- Clinical support services offered (such as surgical ICU, rapid-response team and pediatric pain management program)
- Advanced technologies available (such as PET or PET/CT scanner, 3-Tesla MRI and amplitude-integrated encephalography)
- Specialized clinics and programs available (such as programs for craniofacial surgery, movement disorders and spina bifida)
- Has full-time subspecialists available (such as pediatric neurologists and neurosurgeons)
- Commitment to best practices (such as regular mortality and morbidity conferences and neuropsychological evaluation before and after surgery for malignant brain tumors)
- Commitment to quality improvement (such as collecting and analyzing data to improve quality of care)
- Adoption of health information technology (use of electronic medical records and computerized physician order entry to improve patient safety and care)
- Commitment to clinical research (active participation in clinical trials and bench-to-bedside research)
- Help for families (such as through a family resource center, family support specialists and pediatric psychologists)
- Enlists families in structuring care (such as through a parent advisory committee that meets frequently)

For the past seven years, the programs have ranked among the nation's best.



INNOVATIONS



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Children's
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San Diego



innovation
belongs in every moment



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Pediatric neurogeneticist wins national award

Joseph Gleeson, M.D., a member of the Division of Neurology at Rady Children's Hospital and the director of neurodevelopmental genetics and endowed chair at [Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine](#), is the first recipient of the Constance Lieber Prize for Innovation in Developmental Neuroscience.



The award recognizes transformative contributions in developmental neuroscience leading to new treatments by an investigator under 55 years of age. It was established by the Lieber Institute for Brain Development (LIBD), an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The award includes a \$100,000 cash prize.

"Dr. Gleeson is a highly regarded and accomplished developmental neuroscientist," says LIBD director and CEO Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D. "His latest work to uncover the molecular origins of developmental behavior disorders made him a unanimous choice for the inaugural recipient of this prize."

At the Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine, Dr. Gleeson is building a program in neurogenetics that seeks to understand the genetic basis of diseases such as epilepsy, autism and mental disability to develop new treatments. His pioneering work is supported by a \$2.5 million endowment for neuroscience provided by the Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary.

"I am absolutely thrilled and humbled to receive the Constance Lieber Prize for Innovation in Developmental Neuroscience," Dr. Gleeson says. "My hope is that someday children and families with brain disorders can benefit from the work we're doing in what I call 'assembly neuroscience,' that is, how the human brain is assembled, and to which I feel honored to have contributed."

In addition to his leadership role at Rady Children's, Dr. Gleeson is also a professor of neuroscience and pediatrics at the UC San Diego School of Medicine, adjunct professor with The Rockefeller University and investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institution.

The Lieber Institute for Brain Development established the new prize to honor Connie Lieber, one of the institute's founders, for her leadership in the area of mental health research and her prescient insights about the central role of brain development in psychiatric illness.

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