Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder in which sustained muscle contractions cause abnormal postures or movements. The movements, twisting, and/or pulling sensations are involuntary and may cause pain. Dystonia can affect a single body region (neck, limb, face) or the entire body. In addition to medication treatment, our clinic offers botulinum toxin (Botox) injections and deep brain stimulation (DBS) for eligible patients.

Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a degenerative brain disorder, which causes slowness of movement, tremor, rigidity, and impaired balance. In PD, specific chemical-producing brain cells are lost which decrease one’s ability to coordinate movements. To treat these symptoms we use medications and deep brain stimulation (DBS) for eligible patients.
About The Bachmann-Strauss Center of Excellence at the UCSF Surgical Movement Disorders (SMD) Center

The UCSF Surgical Movement Disorders (SMD) center is a well-established, internationally recognized program. It is one of the busiest deep brain stimulation implanting centers on the West Coast, with a wide referral base.

The mission of our center is to provide state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary care to patients with movement disorders, particularly dystonia and Parkinson’s disease. A variety of services are offered that include neurological evaluations, medication treatment, and disease management. We offer botulinum toxin injections, neurosurgical procedures including deep brain stimulation (DBS), and DBS programming.

The medical staff includes neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, radiologists, and nurses who have specialized training in movement disorders and the problems associated with these conditions. Our goal is to provide individualized, comprehensive care.

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson’s Disease Center of Excellence at the UCSF SMD center also has an active clinical research and basic science research program aimed at further understanding the pathophysiology and genetics of movement disorders, the use of gene therapy in Parkinson’s disease, and identification of structural and functional brain changes in movement disorders. We study the development of novel DBS implantation techniques and the evaluation of patient outcomes after DBS treatment.

Center of Excellence Faculty and Staff:

Neurologists:
- Jill L. Ostrem, MD
- William J. Marks, Jr., MD
- Caroline Tanner, MD, PhD
- Nicholas B. Galifianakis, MD, MPH
- Marta San Luciano, MD, MS
- Maya Katz, MD
- James Maas, MD, PhD
- Robert White, MD, PhD

Neurosurgeons:
- Philip A. Starr, MD, PhD
- Paul S. Larson, MD
- Edward F. Chang, MD

Neuropsychologist
- Caroline Racine Belkoura, PhD

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- Monica Volz, FNP, MSN
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