About us

Everything under one roof
The Department of Neurology evaluates and treats patients with disorders of the central and peripheral nervous system, neuromuscular transmission and muscles. We provide integrated care by offering an interdisciplinary-treatment chain from emergency care to rehabilitation for our patients.

Competent and patient-focused
We treat patients with the utmost care based on our outstanding specialist knowledge in the field of neurology. Our work is based on a comprehensive patient-centered approach across medical dimensions, including mental and psychosocial aspects.

Comprehensive & highly specialised
The department offers high-quality treatment ranging from basic neurological care to highly specialised medicine. The Department of Neurology is nationally and internationally recognised for its highly specialised medical care, including:
- its recertified Stroke Centre
- the Centre for Movement Disorders (including deep brain stimulation)
- the Sleep-Wake-Epilepsy Centre (including assessments prior to epilepsy surgery).

Interdisciplinary
The Department of Neurology in Bern is Switzerland’s largest neurology clinic. Its proficiency is enhanced through close integration of care within the University Neurocentre, which is one of the three strategic cornerstones of the Insel Gruppe and the Medical Faculty.

Strong in teaching and research
We promote high-quality treatment of our patients with ground breaking research and training. The Department of Neurology provides a unique platform for physiological, translational, clinical and technical research, and is Switzerland’s largest specialist training centre for Physicians in Neurology.

Current news
Internationally acclaimed neurologist and MS specialist Prof. Andrew Chan took over medical management of the University Outpatient Neurocentre (Ambulantes Neurozentrum, ANZ) and the Neurology Polyclinic in February 2016.
In September 2016, the Inselspital Department of Neurology opened a University Neurorehabilitation unit with 20 beds in Spital Riggisberg to supplement the current rehabilitation unit in the Anna-Seiler-Haus on the Inselspital site. The number of beds will increase to a total of 36 in summer 2017. In early 2017, the rehabilitation unit in the Anna-Seiler-Haus was supplemented with an early rehabilitation unit (8 beds). The specialist field Psychosomatic Medicine under the management of Dr. med. Niklaus Egloff has now been integrated into the Department of Neurology in organisational terms. There is a new specialism of neuropsychosomatic medicine.
In 2016, the Stroke Centre was recertified with extremely good results in accordance with the guidelines of the Swiss Neurological Society (SNG).

Department Management (last updated: May 2017)

From left to right: R. Müri, A. Chan, C.L. Bassetti, R. Wyss, M. Himmelrich.

- Prof. Dr. med. Claudio L. Bassetti, Chairman and Head
- Prof. Dr. med. Andrew Chan, Deputy Head and Physician-in-Chief, Head of University Outpatient Neurocentre and Neurology Polyclinic
- Mechthild Himmelrich, Department Manager
- Prof. Dr. med. René Müri, Medical Head of Department, University Neurorehabilitation
- Rosmarie Wyss, Head of Nursing
Key figures 2015-2016 development: strong growth

As in previous years, the Neurology Department treated more patients in 2016, while the average length of stay decreased once more. In the field of highly specialised medicine, epilepsy surgery assessments and stroke, treatments increased again in 2016.

**Patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change in %, rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency neurology patients</td>
<td>5,554</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of initial outpatient appointments</td>
<td>14,542</td>
<td>15,120</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of discharged inpatients*</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>2,324</td>
<td>+23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of nursing days*</td>
<td>10,051</td>
<td>12,149</td>
<td>+21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of stay in days*</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case mix index (CMI)*/**</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Neurorehabilitation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change in %, rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cases</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>+43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of nursing days</td>
<td>6,153</td>
<td>8,910</td>
<td>+44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* without Neurorehabilitation

** CMI reflects the degree of severity/complexity of cases

**Beds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute ward</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke Unit (Hirnschlagzentrum)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Acute Neurorehabilitation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Neurorehabilitation Riggisberg*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of beds</strong></td>
<td>87</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* from September 2016

**Highly specialised medicine 2014-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of operations</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep brain stimulation</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pre-epilepsy surgery assessments</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of stroke patients (Hirnschlagpatienten)</td>
<td>4,463</td>
<td>4,463</td>
<td>4,463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of full-time equivalent positions as of 31.12., rounded</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main research interests: approaches and methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal system neurophysiology (ZEN)</td>
<td>Professors Adamantidis, Bassetti</td>
<td>Sleep-wake mechanisms/disorders and epilepsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human system neurophysiology (human laboratories)</td>
<td>Professors Bassetti, Chan, Müri, Schindler, Z’Graggen, Rössler, Mathis</td>
<td>Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical neurology (NCTU)</td>
<td>Professors Chan, Arnold, Fischer, PD Schüpbach</td>
<td>Multiple sclerosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Movement disorders / Motor disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Neurorehabilitation / Cognitive and behavioural neurology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With more than 50 employed residents, the Department of Neurology is Switzerland's largest neurology training centre. It offers comprehensive neurological training with a variety of different fellowships and part-time scientific positions. In 2016, Prof. Dr. med. Andrew Chan took over management of the Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Research Group.

Neuropsychosomatic research was also strengthened by the appointment of PD Dr. med. Selma Aybek.

Prof. Dr. Antoine Adamantidis received an ERC Consolidator Grant for his “All-optical deconstruction of thalamic control of sleep-wake states” project.

In 2016 there were 12 ongoing projects supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (total amount for 2016: about 1.25 million CHF) in the Department of Neurology, including the four-year interdisciplinary multi-million CHF project “Early Sleep Apnea Treatment in Stroke: A Randomized, Rater-Blinding, Clinical Trial of Adaptive Servo-Ventilation” (main applicant: Prof. Claudio L. Bassetti).

The Department of Neurology published a total of 161 papers in 2016, including 121 original works.

2016 publications: a selection

- Direct Mechanical Intervention Versus Combined Intravenous and Mechanical Intervention in Large Artery Anterior Circulation Stroke: A Matched-Pairs Analysis. Broeg-Morvay, A; Mordasini, P; Bernasconi, C; Buhlmann, M; Pult, F; Arnold, M; Schroth, G; Jung, S; Mattle, HP; Gralla, J; Fischer, U (2016) in: Stroke, 47(4), p. 1037-1044.
- Eye Gaze Behavior at Turn Transition: How Aphasic Patients Process Speakers' Turns during Video Observation. Preisig, BC; Eggenberger, N; Zito, G; Vanbellingen, T; Schumacher, R; Hopfner, S; Gutbrod, K; Nyffeler, T; Cazzoli, D; Annoni, JM; Bohlhalter, S; Muri, RM (2016) in: J Cogn Neurosci, 28(10), p. 1613-1624.
- Ictal time-irreversible intracranial EEG signals as markers of the epileptogenic zone. Schindler, K; Rummel, C; Andrzejak, RG; Goodfellow, M; Zubler, F; Abela, E; Wiest, R; Pollo, C; Steimer, A; Gast, H (2016) in: Clin Neurophysiol, 127(9), p. 3051-3058.


Advanced training

The Department of Neurology offers a high-quality and balanced advanced training programme for established neurologists, GPs and hospital doctors. Current overview: www.neuro-bern.ch
How to contact us

Patients can be referred to us at any time between 08.00 - 17.00 h (with the exception of emergencies, which are accepted at any time).
Physicians can also refer their patients on-line or using an electronic form on www.neuro-bern.ch.

**Emergencies (contact with physician)**
(including stroke)  
Tel. 031 632 17 02

**General enquirries**
Department of Neurology
Inselspital, 3010 Bern  
Tel. 031 632 70 00  
Fax 031 632 03 21  
neurozentrum@insel.ch

**Executive Secretary's Office**
Tel. 031 632 30 66  
Fax 031 632 96 79  
neurologie.direktion@insel.ch

**Outpatient Neurology**
Patient registration  
Department of Neurology
Inselspital, 3010 Bern  
Tel. 031 632 70 00  
Fax 031 632 03 21  
neurozentrum@insel.ch

**Neurorehabilitation**
Patient registration  
University Acute Neurorehabilitation Inselspital  
3010 Bern  
Tel. 031 632 30 86  
Fax 031 632 97 70  
sekretariat-nreh@insel.ch

**Contact with physician**
Tel. 031 632 21 11  
(Request Physician on Duty for Neurorehabilitation)

**Psychosomatic Medicine**
Patient registration  
Specialist field of Psychosomatic Medicine  
C.L. Lory-Haus  
Inselspital  
3010 Bern  
Tel. 031 632 21 11  
(Request Physician on Duty for Psychosomatic Medicine)  
Fax 031 632 05 39  
psychosomatik@insel.ch

**Sleep-Wake-Epilepsy Centre**
Patient registration  
University Sleep-Wake Epilepsy Centre  
Inselspital  
3010 Bern  
Tel. +41 31 632 30 54  
(Request Physician on Duty)  
Fax +41 31 632 94 48  
eeg@insel.ch  
schlafmedizin@insel.ch