

AALN

LEADERSHIP MINUTE

Episode 63

THE ALTERNATE MEDICAL LICENSURE PATHWAY TO PRACTICING NEUROLOGY

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HOST

**SHREYAS
GANGADHARA, MD**

University of Mississippi
Medical Center



SPEAKER

**RAJEEV
IYER, MBBS, MD**

University of Pennsylvania

PATHWAYS TO BECOME A NEUROLOGIST IN THE USA

1. Residency

- As of 2025 NRMP match, there were 159 programs offering 932 positions
- Most common and well path to be board certified

2. Fellowship

- An international medical graduate enters fellowship training in neurology
- Could be accredited or non accredited
- Hired as an attending
- Requisites (recognized medical training & residency)

PATHWAYS TO BECOME A NEUROLOGIST IN THE USA

3. Direct Attending

- Requisite training
- Eminent & Outstanding
- With or without USMLE (based on student & hospital bandwidth)
- Full license or some state specific licenses
- Appropriate visa like the H1B or O1

4. State Based Laws

- Provisional license to a full license
- Unclear pathway for specialists
- Gets a full license based on practice experience in the USA



BOARD CERTIFICATION BY AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY & NEUROLOGY, INC. (ABPN)

1. Residency – Board Certification
2. A Pilot Alternate Pathway to ABPN Certification Eligibility
 - Residency outside US & Canada
 - Future academic potential
 - Certification on primary specialties
 - Psychiatry
 - Neurology
 - Pediatric Neurology
 - Subspecialty certification possible

PILOT ALTERNATE PATHWAY TO ABPN CERTIFICATION

- Exams available from 2026 through 2032 for eligible candidates

Requirements

- 4 years Neurology residency outside USA (or 3 years international residency + one year US fellowship)
- Full unrestricted license
- ECFMG Certification
- 4 Years of continuous faculty appointment
- Must have faculty appointment



*We'd love to hear your thoughts.
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Presented by the Association of Academic Leaders of Neurology (AALN) in collaboration with the Media Engagement Committee

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