

Why Neurology?

Entrusting one's health problems to a physician is a big deal – especially when both parties are new to one another. Going to an office for an initial appointment can be very unnerving for the patient, with several questions flying across his or her mind. “Will this physician be patient and listen to me? Will he or she understand my problem?” And above all, “can I place my life in his hands?”

The three physicians at Forsyth Comprehensive Neurology could not be more different yet bound by the common thread of personal experience, all three take these questions, and their commitment, to heart.

Olukayode “Kay” Onasanya, MD

Dr. “Kay” was born in Nigeria, in a small town about an hour from the nearest city. At age seven, he contracted severe pneumonia and nearly died. “I had been unconscious for four days,” says Dr. Kay. “Others with the same illness were dying” he says, “but against all odds, I survived.” Dr. Kay remembers “I woke up to see a man in a white coat attending to me. He was the Doctor. He was respected. And he saved my life. To me, he was like an Angel and I wanted to be just like him.” It was that moment, waking up in the ward, which turned his life to medicine.

Yet another personal experience led Dr. Kay to study neurology. While in medical school, he travelled home for a weekend with his family. “My grandfather was living with us. He had just recently lost his wife. We were about to have dinner, and he went into the bathroom. We waited, but he never came out.” As it turns out, Dr. Kay’s grandfather had fallen and hit his head. He was unable to get up. The community hospital would not take him due to the seriousness of the injury. He suffered immensely during the next few hours, dying later that night in the home. It was determined later that a stroke had caused the fall. Dr. Kay says “at that time, there were less than ten Neurologists in the whole country. CT scans and MRI’s were only known in books.” He had been having trouble deciding upon a discipline, but he says “that incident made up my mind. I would become a Neurologist.”



Howard Kraft, MD

Dr. Kraft is the medical director for Forsyth Comprehensive Neurology. Originally from Baltimore, he has lived in Winston-Salem for several years. An avid runner with three active children, he and his wife enjoy the amenities of this area.

Like his physician partners, Dr. Kraft values medicine

as a field where a real difference can be made. “Early on” he says, “I knew I wanted to pursue a career where I could help improve people’s lives.” This led to undergraduate and graduate studies in Psychology.

Medical school however, was not an original goal.

“While completing my master’s degree in counseling at Georgia State, I became aware that helping people through counseling alone did not excite the passion that I felt when first exposed to neuroscience as an undergraduate student.” Dr. Kraft credits a close friend from graduate school who encouraged him to pursue medicine. It is a shift he has never regretted. “After completing my master’s and premedical courses, I entered the Medical College of Georgia” says Dr. Kraft. “Nothing piqued my interest like neurosciences and neuroanatomy. And as a private clinician, I continue to maintain a strong interest in all of neurology and have never forgotten the reasons I chose to help people through this area of practice.”

Forsyth Comprehensive Neurology

Nigeria, the mid-west, and the eastern seaboard. These are three very different perspectives and three very different histories, but a common thread remains. All three of these physicians have a personal commitment to helping others, and all believe fully in providing care with compassion.

Brandon Chandos, MD

Dr. Brandon Chandos grew up in Chicago. In high school he found a natural aptitude and joy in science. He began college as a general science major, but later shifted to psychology. “I became fascinated by the diversity of personalities and a person’s ability to learn. I decided I wanted to know more about how the mind and the brain worked.” He completed his undergraduate degree at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, studying experimental psychology and neuroscience.

He went on to attend Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, where he became interested in sleep medicine – in particular the physiological effects of sleep deprivation. “I was surprised to learn the extent of how disrupted sleep can impact one’s well-being. It can affect everything from mood to hormone levels. I’m sure anyone who has raised children or done shift work can relate to this.”

Dr. Chandos went on to continue his research, studying and working in hospitals in Seattle, St. Louis and Baltimore before landing in Winston-Salem. “I really enjoyed the opportunity to train at several different hospitals and to work with such a wide variety of patients.” Here, Dr. Chandos established Forsyth Sleep Health, and cares for patients with a variety of sleep issues.