



Heather J. Fullerton, M.D., M.A.S.

Training: After graduating from Baylor College of Medicine in 1996, she came to UCSF for her pediatrics residency and child neurology fellowship, and then joined the Child Neurology faculty in July, 2002. Having developed an interest in neurovascular disease during her neurology training, she chose to complete a vascular neurology fellowship between 2002 and 2003. She also completed a two-year Masters in Clinical Research at UCSF in 2005.

Department and Position: She is a pediatric vascular neurologist at UCSF with both a clinical research program and specialty clinic devoted to neurovascular diseases in children.

Career Profile: She began doing epidemiological research in the field of childhood stroke, working with Dr. Clay Johnston, an adult stroke epidemiologist, and has published extensively. Areas of interest include pediatric arterial dissections, ethnic and gender disparities in childhood stroke risk, stroke rates in children with sickle cell disease, hemorrhagic stroke risk in children with arteriovenous malformations, neurodevelopmental outcome in children with vein of Galen malformations, and congenital vascular abnormalities in children with PHACE syndrome (a syndrome with facial hemangiomas, cardiac abnormalities, and cerebrovascular anomalies). She has a monthly Pediatric Neurovascular clinic in which she sees children with a variety of cerebrovascular diseases. She has an on-going childhood stroke cohort study utilizing the population of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program. The objectives of her current studies include determining rates and predictors of recurrent childhood stroke, analyzing the association between childhood infections (such as varicella) and ischemic stroke, measuring health-related quality of life after a childhood stroke, and studying the utilization of a strategy for primary stroke prevention in children with sickle cell disease.

