

# UCSF Medical Center

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## Sam Pleasure, Ph.D., M.D.

### Neurologist and epilepsy specialist

Dr. Samuel J. Pleasure is a neurologist and neuroscientist specializing in the care of epilepsy patients. In his research, he studies how early brain development is disturbed leading to structural brain lesions that cause epilepsy in many patients. He has published numerous scientific papers in this area and serves as an ad hoc reviewer for many scientific journals. Pleasure earned his medical degree and doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania. At UCSF, he completed a residency in neurology and served as chief resident for one year, followed by a research fellowship in neuroscience. Pleasure joined the faculty at UCSF as assistant professor in residence and the Robert and Elinor Aird Endowed Chair of Neurology in 2000. He is a member of the American Neurological Association, the American Academy of Neurology, American Epilepsy Society, Society for Neuroscience, Society for Developmental Biology and Cajal Club. He is a John Merck Scholar in the Biology of Developmental Disabilities in Children and is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

### Clinics

#### [Multiple Sclerosis Center](#)

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Hours: Monday to Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Conditions & Treatments

- [Epilepsy](#)

### More about Sam Pleasure

#### Education

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine 1993

#### Residencies

UCSF Medical Center, Neurology 1997

### Selected Research and Publications

1. [Bonney S, Harrison-Uy S, Mishra S, MacPherson AM, Choe Y, Li D, Jaminet SC, Fruttiger M, Pleasure SJ, Siegenthaler JA. Diverse Functions of Retinoic Acid in Brain Vascular Development. J Neurosci. 2016 Jul 20; 36\(29\):7786-801.](#)
2. [Cocas LA, Fernandez G, Barch M, Doll J, Zamora Diaz I, Pleasure SJ. Cell Type-Specific Circuit Mapping Reveals the Presynaptic Connectivity of Developing Cortical Circuits. J Neurosci. 2016 Mar 16; 36\(11\):3378-90.](#)
3. [Choe Y, Pleasure SJ, Mira H. Control of Adult Neurogenesis by Short-Range Morphogenic-Signaling Molecules. Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol. 2015; 8\(3\).](#)
4. [Choe Y, Huynh T, Pleasure SJ. Epithelial cells supply Sonic Hedgehog to the perinatal dentate gyrus via transport by platelets. Elife. 2015; 4.](#)
5. [Yabut OR, Fernandez G, Huynh T, Yoon K, Pleasure SJ. Suppressor of Fused Is Critical for Maintenance of Neuronal Progenitor Identity during Corticogenesis. Cell Rep. 2015 Sep 29; 12\(12\):2021-34.](#)
6. [Yabut O, Pleasure SJ, Yoon K. A Notch above Sonic Hedgehog. Dev Cell. 2015 May 26; 33\(4\):371-2.](#)
7. [Choe Y, Huynh T, Pleasure SJ. Migration of oligodendrocyte progenitor cells is controlled by transforming growth factor family proteins](#)

- during corticogenesis. *J Neurosci*. 2014 Nov 5; 34(45):14973-83.
8. Berberoglu MA, Dong Z, Li G, Zheng J, Trejo Martinez Ldel C, Peng J, Wagle M, Reichholz B, Petritsch C, Li H, Pleasure SJ, Guo S. Heterogeneously expressed *fezf2* patterns gradient Notch activity in balancing the quiescence, proliferation, and differentiation of adult neural stem cells. *J Neurosci*. 2014 Oct 15; 34(42):13911-23.
  9. Orosco LA, Ross AP, Cates SL, Scott SE, Wu D, Sohn J, Pleasure D, Pleasure SJ, Adamopoulos IE, Zarbalis KS. Loss of *Wdfy3* in mice alters cerebral cortical neurogenesis reflecting aspects of the autism pathology. *Nat Commun*. 2014; 5:4692.
  10. Cocas L, Pleasure SJ. Wrong place, wrong time: ectopic progenitors cause cortical heterotopias. *Nat Neurosci*. 2014 Jul; 17(7):894-5.
  11. Yabut O, Pleasure SJ. The quintessence of quiescence. *Neuron*. 2014 May 7; 82(3):501-3.
  12. Choe Y, Zarbalis KS, Pleasure SJ. Neural crest-derived mesenchymal cells require Wnt signaling for their development and drive invagination of the telencephalic midline. *PLoS One*. 2014; 9(2):e86025.
  13. Yang S, Edman LC, Sánchez-Alcaiz JA, Fritz N, Bonilla S, Hecht J, Uhlén P, Pleasure SJ, Villaescusa JC, Marín O, Arenas E. *Cxcl12/Cxcr4* signaling controls the migration and process orientation of A9-A10 dopaminergic neurons. *Development*. 2013 Nov; 140(22):4554-64.
  14. Li G, Pleasure SJ. The development of hippocampal cellular assemblies. *Wiley Interdiscip Rev Dev Biol*. 2014 Mar-Apr; 3(2):165-77.
  15. Berger JR, Choi D, Kaminski HJ, Gordon MF, Hurko O, D'Cruz O, Pleasure SJ, Feldman EL. Importance and hurdles to drug discovery for neurological disease. *Ann Neurol*. 2013 Sep; 74(3):441-6.
  16. Ross AP, Mansilla MA, Choe Y, Helminski S, Sturm R, Maute RL, May SR, Hozvasz KK, Wójcicki P, Mostowska A, Davidson B, Adamopoulos IE, Pleasure SJ, Murray JC, Zarbalis KS. A mutation in mouse *Pak1ip1* causes orofacial clefting while human *PAK1IP1* maps to 6p24 translocation breaking points associated with orofacial clefting. *PLoS One*. 2013; 8(7):e69333.
  17. Siegenthaler JA, Choe Y, Patterson KP, Hsieh I, Li D, Jaminet SC, Daneman R, Kume T, Huang EJ, Pleasure SJ. *Foxc1* is required by pericytes during fetal brain angiogenesis. *Biol Open*. 2013 Jul 15; 2(7):647-59.
  18. Li G, Fang L, Fernández G, Pleasure SJ. The ventral hippocampus is the embryonic origin for adult neural stem cells in the dentate gyrus. *Neuron*. 2013 May 22; 78(4):658-72.
  19. Choe Y, Kozlova A, Graf D, Pleasure SJ. Bone morphogenic protein signaling is a major determinant of dentate development. *J Neurosci*. 2013 Apr 17; 33(16):6766-75.
  20. Harrison-Uy SJ, Siegenthaler JA, Faedo A, Rubenstein JL, Pleasure SJ. CoupTFI interacts with retinoic acid signaling during cortical development. *PLoS One*. 2013; 8(3):e58219.

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