

Travis Ottele, CNIM, R. EEG T.

Professor of Neurodiagnostic Technology | Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring Expert
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EXPERT PROFILE

Intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring (IONM) specialist with over a decade of hands-on clinical experience, approximately 3,000 monitored surgical procedures, and an established academic career as full-time faculty and Program Director of Neurodiagnostic Technology educating the next generation of neurodiagnostic professionals in evidence-based practice. CNIM- and EEG-certified with extensive operating room experience spanning trauma centers, academic medical centers, and pediatric hospitals. Proven ability to analyze complex IONM data, evaluate clinical decision-making and compliance with accepted IONM standards of care, and communicate technical findings clearly and persuasively in written reports and deposition testimony.

Available to serve as a testifying or consulting expert witness for plaintiff or defense in matters involving IONM standards of care, surgical neurophysiology, and applied neurodiagnostic methodology. Extensive experience reviewing medical records, operative reports, anesthesia records, neurophysiological data, and related clinical documentation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Clinical neurophysiology, applied neuroanatomy, and electrophysiologic principles underlying intraoperative monitoring
- IONM standards of care, documentation, clinical decision-making, and communication in cases involving alleged deficiencies in IONM
- Surgical anatomy, intraoperative workflow, and neurologic structures at risk during complex surgical procedures
- Integration of neurophysiologic findings with surgical technique, anesthetic management, and patient physiology to support real-time intraoperative clinical decision-making
- Differentiation of technical, anesthetic, physiologic, and surgically significant causes of intraoperative neurophysiologic changes
- Acquisition, interpretation, and troubleshooting of multimodality intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring, including motor evoked potentials (MEPs), somatosensory evoked potentials (SSEPs), brainstem auditory evoked potentials (BAEPs), visual evoked potentials (VEPs), pedicle screw stimulation (PSS), electromyography (EMG), and electroencephalography (EEG)
- Intraoperative alert criteria, communication protocols, and interdisciplinary coordination among the surgical, anesthesia, and neurophysiology teams
- Review and interpretation of raw IONM data, waveforms, and complete case documentation, including operative reports, anesthesia records, and perioperative communication logs
- Neurodiagnostic technology education, professional credentialing, and quality assurance

CASE TYPES

- Spine surgery — cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral, tethered spinal cord, and intramedullary procedures
- Cranial surgery — craniotomy, intracranial tumor resection, brain mapping, direct cortical stimulation, brainstem, and cranial nerve monitoring procedures
- Neurovascular surgery — carotid endarterectomy and aneurysm repair procedures
- Neurological deficit claims following surgery where IONM data is in evidence
- Corporate liability involving IONM providers, staffing agencies, and contracted monitoring services
- Alleged failure to recognize, communicate, or appropriately respond to significant IONM changes in a timely manner
- Substandard monitoring methodology or improper electrode placement
- Documentation and chain-of-custody issues with IONM data

LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

Consulting & Testifying Expert — Spine Surgery Malpractice Defense (Case Concluded)

Retained by defense counsel to review hundreds of pages of medical records, operative reports, anesthesia documentation, raw IONM data, and third-party software screenshots, as well as thousands of pages of depositions from all parties involved. Identified critical evidence in the raw neuromonitoring data that had been overlooked by the opposing expert witness. Provided deposition testimony. The claims against the defense client were subsequently voluntarily dismissed.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of Neurodiagnostic Technology / Program Director

[Bellevue College] – [2018 – Present]

Teach core didactic, laboratory, and clinical simulation courses in electroencephalography (EEG), evoked potentials (EP), nerve conduction studies (NCS), and intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring (IONM) within Bellevue College's accredited Neurodiagnostic Technology program. Lead curriculum development, oversee clinical education and competency assessment, and prepare students for professional practice in the neurodiagnostic field.

Chief Surgical Neurophysiologist

[Periphery Neurophysiology, Start-up] – [2021 – 2022]

Recruited via executive search for this leadership role based on clinical expertise and professional reputation. Oversaw surgical neurophysiology operations and quality standards and provided expertise in pediatric intraoperative neuromonitoring at Seattle Children's Hospital. Collaborated with executive leadership to develop the company's policies and procedures manual, authoring key sections to standardize clinical practice, promote patient safety, and strengthen quality assurance.

Senior IONM Specialist / CNIM Technologist – Multiple Institutions

[2015 – 2025]

Decade of clinical practice across a Level I Trauma Center, a major academic hospital system, and private practices. Provided intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring for the full spectrum of procedures – from routine single-level spine cases to complex 12+ hour cranial and spinal surgeries requiring advanced neurophysiological expertise and real-time surgical collaboration.

EEG and EP Technologist – Multiple Institutions

[2014 – 2015]

Performed electroencephalography and evoked potentials studies in both outpatient and inpatient settings in variety of facilities ranging from academic medical centers to regional clinicals. Prepared preliminary reports for neurologist interpretation.

CREDENTIALS & EDUCATION

- **CNIM** – Certified Neurophysiologic Intraoperative Monitoring (American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists)
- **R. EEG T.** – Registered Electroencephalographic Technologist (American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists)
- **Bachelor**, Behavioral Neuroscience – Western Washington University
- **Associate**, Neurodiagnostic Technology – Bellevue College
- **Member**, ASNM (American Society of Neurophysiologic Monitoring)
- **Member**, ASET (American Society of Electroencephalographic Technicians)
- **Member**, WSET (Washington Chapter of ASET)