



James Boyd, MD is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at The University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont. As a third year medical student, he spent a one month elective with Dr. Alan Goodridge in the movement disorders clinic at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. Following his Neurology residency, he remained at the University of Vermont to complete a combined movement disorders and clinical neurophysiology fellowship, under the supervision of Drs. Robert Hamill and Keith Nagle.

He joined the University of Vermont Neurology faculty in 2005, where he helped develop a Parkinson's Disease and dystonia clinical trials program. After a short time in clinical practice, he recognized that impulsive behavior is a common source of disability among PD, HD, and various other motor control disorders. He was fortunate to identify investigators within the Department of Psychiatry at his institution, with interest and expertise in quantifying and pharmacologically reducing impulsivity. Subsequently, he applied and was awarded the PSG/PDF mentored clinical research award in 2010. His project is entitled **“Nicotine in the treatment of impulsivity in Parkinson's Disease : A Pilot study.”** Dr. Boyd and his mentors plan to test the hypothesis that nicotine therapy will reduce impulsive and compulsive behaviors associated with impulse control disorders in Parkinson's Disease. They will utilize a double-blind cross over study of transdermal nicotine versus placebo over 12 weeks. Beyond the hopeful acquisition of positive pilot data, the MCRA will allow him to develop his skills as an independent investigator and become familiar with the techniques of quantification of impulsivity, while developing a transdisciplinary research relationship that can be applied to other movement disorders in the future.