The Department is home to the only Level IV Epilepsy Center in the state of Iowa. It was founded by Richard Fincham and joined by Dorothy Schottelius in 1976. Fincham and Schottelius were national leaders in the use of serum concentrations of anti-seizure medication in clinical practice.
Mark Granner, shown here with Ellen Paul, joined the faculty in 1993 and ran the Iowa Comprehensive Epilepsy Program with Drs. Fincham and Schottelius. A surgical epilepsy program was started in partnership with Drs. John Van Gilder and Matthew Howard of Neurosurgery. Approximately 25 surgical procedures directed at improving seizure control are now performed annually.
The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center includes an adult Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) and a Pediatric EMU that allow characterization of seizures during video-EEG monitoring.
The epilepsy program includes a major research effort to understand the cause of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy patients (SUDEP), the leading cause of death in refractory epilepsy patients, and ways to prevent it. Funded by the NIH Center for SUDEP Research (CSR) it includes investigators from Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Pulmonary Medicine.
The UI Sleep Laboratory was founded in 1983 by Drs. Quentin Dickins and Thoru Yamada. Since 1990 it has thrived under the leadership of Dr. Mark Eric Dyken, with expert help from Chris Glenn.

Row 1: Sherry Flansburg, Julie Jones, Chris Glenn, Thoru Yamada
Row 2: Robin Sturgeon, Zong-Ying Ren, Peter Seaba, Mark Eric Dyken