

# LSU Health NEW ORLEANS

## Department of Neurosurgery

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[www.medschool.lsuhscc.edu/neurosurgery](http://www.medschool.lsuhscc.edu/neurosurgery)



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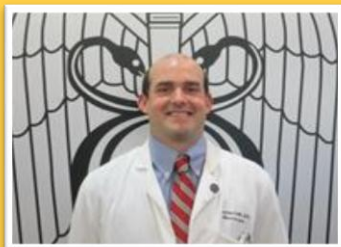
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### Graduate Spotlight:



#### Durga Sure, MD

Dr. Sure completed his residency training in June 2015. He is currently completing a Spine Fellowship at the University of Virginia.



#### Jerome Volk, III, MD

Dr. Volk also finished his residency training in June and is currently completing a Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship at Northwestern University.

## University Medical Center Opens!

University Medical Center (UMC) recently opened its doors on August 1, 2015 near the LSUHSC-New Orleans campus. The 424-bed, trauma-1 hospital, features the most advanced technology available and serves as a major training facility for graduate medical education.

- Over 2,000 full-time employees
- 600 physicians
- 19 operating rooms
- 5-story Ambulatory Care Building with 276 exam rooms
- 56 emergency department exam rooms
- 9 rapid treatment rooms in the Emergency Department
- 5 trauma rooms
- 9 acute treatment rooms



## 2015 Alumni Reception

Celebratory drinks were in order as past LSU Neurosurgery graduates gathered in the Crescent View Room of the Ritz Carlton for this year's Alumni Reception honoring Dr. Peter J. Jannetta. Dr. Jannetta completed his training at the University of Pennsylvania in General Surgery and UCLA for Neurological Surgery and came to New Orleans in April of 1967 as the first head of the Division of Neurosurgery.

Dr. Frank Culicchia recognized Dr. Jannetta for his dedication and service to the department with a portrait unveiling.

The reception followed The Congress of Neurological Surgeons annual meeting that was also held in New Orleans. During the reception, alumni had the opportunity to catch up with one another and meet with current residents in the program to discuss research projects and future career plans and opportunities.



# Kelsey Bradley Favrot Memorial 5K Run/Walk

On January 8th, 2008, Kelsey Favrot was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor known as Gliomatosis Cerebri. During the next 20 months, Kelsey underwent surgery, radiation and chemotherapy with courage, hope and grace. Unfortunately, she had to receive treatment out of town because none of the hospitals in New Orleans had a physician whose primary focus was neuro-oncology. The distance was a hardship for Kelsey, her family and friends, who would have preferred she remain in New Orleans for care so they could be at her side.

Throughout her treatment, Kelsey expressed concern for those brain cancer patients unable to travel out of state, whether constrained by their illness or financial considerations. With characteristic determination, Kelsey began to explore ways to assist those who would face a brain cancer diagnosis in the future. Kelsey succumbed to brain cancer in August 2009.

An inaugural race was held on October 4th, 2015 in memory of Kelsey. Over 600 runners and walkers came out to support and help raise over \$50,000, which will go toward establishing a Brain Tumor Center at LSU Neurosurgery to support the treatment of brain cancer patients in New Orleans.

This was Kelsey's wish and no doubt she was looking down and smiling upon all of you who are helping to make her vision a reality. We are one step closer to fulfilling her wish of ensuring that brain cancer patients receive the quality care they need without having to travel out of state.

## Resident Spotlight:



**Andrew Conger, MD**  
Chief Resident

Dr. Conger will be graduating our residency program in June 2016 and will begin a Skull Base Fellowship at John Wayne Cancer Institute and Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California.

## Why I chose

### Neurosurgery ...



**Kevin Morrow, MD**  
PGY-1 Neurosurgery Intern

"At the end of my third year of medical school I did a rotation with neurosurgery because I wanted to see what a brain looked like. Within two weeks I knew I wanted to specialize in Neurosurgery. The families of the patients were so appreciative and I really felt that I had helped them."

## Giving Opportunities:

**Join The Foundation for the LSU Health Sciences Center**  
The foundation of philanthropic support at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

**Memorial Gifts** - Donations to the LSU Department of Neurosurgery in the name of a loved one or friend furthers our work against brain tumors. We will send an acknowledgement to the family or individuals you designate. Please be sure to include the full mailing address of the individual who should receive our note of appreciation.

**Matching Gifts** - Many employers will match any charitable contributions made by their employees.

**Gift of Stock** - How to make a gift of stock.

**Establish an Endowment** - Make a gift that keeps on giving in your name.

**Consider a Planned Gift** - Remember LSU Department of Neurosurgery in your will, trust, or other plan for the future.

**In-kind Gifts** - Donations of tangible personal property or equipment.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee Happel Lectureship

Lee Happel, PhD has devoted over 40 years of service to those training in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Neurology. Dr. Happel remains passionate about medical education as evidenced by his continued residency supervision. To honor Dr. Happel and all of his contributions, an annual lectureship has been established in his name.

Each year, an expert in the field of Neurophysiology is invited as a Visiting Professor to the LSU Health Sciences Center to present a lecture providing the faculty, residents and research staff cutting edge information in the field of Neurophysiology.

This year Jayaraman Rao, MD, Professor Emeritus, Neurology and Neurosciences Active- Professor of Clinical Neurology was the honored professor. Dr. Rao presented a lecture entitled, "Advances in Neurosurgical procedures for Neuropsychiatric disorders." In addition, Dr. Rao had meetings and case discussions with the Neurosurgery residents.

## Why I chose LSUHSC...

**Jessica Shields, MD, PhD**  
PGY-1 Neurosurgery Intern

"After doing my away rotations, I quickly realized that the early operative experience I would get at LSU was truly unique and would ultimately make me a better neurosurgeon. I also found that at LSU the residents take care of each other, which is something that was extremely important to me in choosing a place to train."





## Resident Research:

Cervical Myelopathy: Use of Neurophysiology to Evaluate Corticospinal Efficacy Pre- and Post-operatively  
Investigators: **Jessica Shields, MD, PhD, Andrew Conger, MD; Clifford Crutcher, MD**

Diagnostic Biomarkers for Sports-related Concussion  
Investigator: **Anthony DiGiorgio, DO**

Emergent MRI of the Spine in the Emergency Department and Effective Resource Utilization  
Investigators: **Lindsay Lasseigne, MD; Anthony DiGiorgio, DO**

Endoscopic Assisted Evacuation of Chronic Subdural Hematomas  
Investigator: **Kevin Morrow, MD**

Intracerebral Hemorrhage and Anticoagulants: a Comparison of Novel vs. Traditional Blood-thinners  
Investigator: **Silvia Gesheva, MD**

Penetrating Wound Incidence Trends  
Investigator: **Clifford Crutcher, MD**

Repeat Head CT Scan for Acute Subdural Hematoma in Mild and Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury  
Investigator: **Clifford Crutcher, MD**

Subclassification and Management of Thoracolumbar Spine Injuries by TLICS Assessment  
Investigators: **Clifford Crutcher, MD; Jonas Miller, MS (student)**

Socioeconomics and Demographics Relating to Secondary Pediatric Infections in Southeastern Louisiana  
Investigator: **M. Daniel Eggart, MD**

The Effect of the Use of Near-Infrared (NIR) Device on Time-to-OR in Head Injury  
Investigator: **Anthony DiGiorgio, DO**

The Use of the Penumbra Aspiration Catheter System for Distal Embolic Protection During Distal Vertebral Artery Stenting  
Investigators: **Silvia Gesheva, MD**

Utilization of NIR Device to Monitor Aneurysmal Re-hemorrhage or Vasospasm  
Investigator: **Anthony DiGiorgio, DO**

Utility of Bispectral Index (BIS) Monitoring in Traumatic Brain Injury Patients Requiring Third Tier Intracranial Pressure Therapy

Investigators: **M. Daniel Eggart, MD; Clifford Crutcher, MD**

## Faculty Research:

Antihypertensive Treatment of Acute Cerebral Hemorrhage (ATACH-II)  
Principal Investigator: **Jason Wilson, MD**

Efficacy of Riluzole in Surgical Treatment for Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy (CSM-Protect)  
Principal Investigator: **Jason Wilson, MD**

Genetic Regulatory Mechanisms in Growth and Invasiveness of Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM)  
Principal investigators: **Walter J. Lukiw, MS, PhD and Frank Culicchia, MD**

## Recent Publications:

Wilk A, Wyczzechowska D, Zapata A, Dean M, **Culicchia F**, Reiss K. *Mol Cell Biol.* 2015; 35(1): 182-98.

Clement C, Hill JM, Dua P, **Culicchia F**, Lukiw WJ. Analysis of RNA from Alzheimer's Disease Post-mortem Brain Tissues. *Mol Neurobiol.* 2015 [Epub ahead of print]

Grabacka M, Waligorski P, Zapata A, Blake DA, **Culicchia F**, Reiss K. Fenofibrate subcellular distribution as a rationale for the intracranial delivery through biodegradable carrier. *J Physiol Pharmacol.* 2015; 66(2): 233-47.

**Crutcher CL, Fannin ES, Wilson JD.** Racial Disparities in Cranial Gunshot Wounds: Intent and Survival. *J. Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 11/2015; DOI: 10.1007/s40615-015-0187-7

Gener MA, **Conger AR**, Van Gompel J, Ariairi MS, Jentoft M, Meyer FB, et al. Clinical, Pathological, and Surgical Outcomes for Adult Pineoblastomas. *World Neurosurg.* 2015; 84(6): 1816-24.

**Gesheva SI, Hastings LH, Wilson JD.** The Use of Aspiration Catheter Systems for Embolic Protection During Intracranial Vertebral Artery Angioplasty and Stenting. *Intervent Neurol:* Accepted for publication: 12/7/2015.

**Eggart MD, Greene C, Fannin ES, Roberts O.** A 14-Year Review of Socioeconomics and Sociodemographics Relating to Intracerebral Abscess, Subdural Empyema, and Epidural Abscess in Southeastern Louisiana. *Neurosurgery:* Accepted for publication: 12/18/2015.

# UPCOMING Events

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peripheral Nerve Dissection Course – The Kline Legacy

January 30 – 31, 2016

- Upcoming Visiting Professors at UMC
  - Dr. Robert Grossman
  - Dr. Russell Lonser

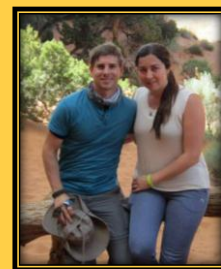
For more information on upcoming events

Contact Jenn Bordelon  
504-568-6123 or jrbord7@lsuhsc.edu

We're Engaged!



Clifford Crutcher, MD (PGY-3) & Jacqueline Lea



Silvia Gesheva, MD (PGY-5) & George Baxter

JUST Married



Dr. & Mrs. Jayme Trahan (2014 Graduate)

# LSUHSC Department of Neurosurgery

2016 Newsletter



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Happy  
New Year  
Year