

Letter from the Neurosurgery Department Chairman

I am pleased to announce that the inaugural Lee Happel Lectureship in Neurophysiology will be held on April 9, 2010 at the LSUHSC School of Medicine, New Orleans. This lectureship has been established in recognition of Dr. Happel's 39 years of service and training to those training in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Neurology.

Lee Happel began his career in medical education at the LSU Health Sciences Center in 1971. His initial appointment was in the Department of Neurology, where he quickly became an integral member of that department. It was evident early on that Lee excelled in the art of teaching, and his role as an educator became increasingly central to the medical school's neuroscience didactics. On the clinical front, Lee's aptitude with electronics and early computers made him a unique asset to the university's electrophysiology practice. His joint appointment in physiology came after it was clear that his teaching capacity in this emerging field of medical technology field was equally vital to the school's academic mission.

With the advent of digital computing, Lee had the truly unique opportunity to participate in the development of modern clinical neurodiagnostics. His work in the development of evoked potentials for pediatric patients helped Children's Hospital of New Orleans to become a nationally recognized institution for neurophysiology. With increasing practice, it became clear to Lee that the diagnostic capabilities of electrophysiology had potential in the realm of surgery, a completely uncharted field.

Developing the first of several intra-operative electrodes prototypes in his garage, Lee's pioneering techniques were formative in the modern practice of intra-operative neurologic monitoring. As a member of the LSUHSC Neurosurgery Department, Lee was a founding member of the American Society for Neurologic Monitoring. Despite retiring from LSU, his intra-operative monitoring service remains quite active, and, true to his roots, Lee remains passionate about medical education as evidenced by his continued residency supervision. To this day he actively participates in the education of our Neurosurgery residents and provides state of the art neurophysiological intra-operative monitoring.

To allow this event to become a yearly lectureship, we ask for your support. Please consider a donation to the Lee Happel Lectureship. Donations can be made payable to the LSU Medical Alumni Association (re: Happel Lectureship) and mailed to Frank Culicchia, MD; LSUHSC-Neurosurgery Department; 2020 Gravier Street, Room 324, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Sincerely,

Frank Culicchia, MD
Chairman