Dr. Brian Willis hosts Louisiana Neurosurgical Society Meeting

The Louisiana Neurosurgical Society hosted the 37th Annual Meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana at the Shreveport Convention Center. Dr. Brian Willis, Professor and Neurosurgeon at LSUHSC – Shreveport, serves as the President of the Louisiana Neurosurgical Society. The meeting participants included approximately 40 neurosurgeons from Louisiana. Dr. Brian Willis and Dr. Bharat Guthikonda, LANS Scientific Moderator, hosted a two-day conference in which several Neurosurgery faculty and residents from LSUHSC - Shreveport, LSUHSC - New Orleans, and Tulane-Ochsner attended the Neuroendoscopy Course and the Scientific Meeting.

Two sixth year residents of the Department of Neurosurgery received research awards. Benjamin Brown, MD, won the 2012 John Jackson Resident Award for his presentation, “CT Angiography: Reliable Tool for Predicting Anterior Communicating Artery Aneurysm Inflow Dominance.” This honor is awarded to the best clinical research article submitted for presentation at the conference. Rishi Wadhwa, MD, won the 2012 Dr. Dean Echols Award for best laboratory and research for his presentation, “Revision of Suboptimally Placed Lumbar Pedicle Screws Decreased Pullout Strength and Alters Biomedical Stability: A Pilot Cadaveric Study.”

Featured Speakers included Dr. Alex Valadka and Dr. Douglas Brockmeyer. Dr. Valadka is a practicing Neurosurgeon, as well as CEO of the Seton Brain and Spine Institute in Austin, Texas. His presentations were titled, “Current Management of Traumatic Brain Injury,” and “Washington Committee Update.” Dr. Brockmeyer is a Professor of Neurosurgery, Residency Program Director, and Marion L. Walker Endowed Chair of Neurosurgery at the Primary Children’s Medical Center at the University of Utah Medical Center. His presentations were titled, “Current Concepts in Pediatric Neurosurgery,” and “Climbing Mount Everest.” Other presentations were made by faculty and staff of the Department of Neurosurgery from LSUHSC- Shreveport, including Dr. Anthony Sin, Dr. Prashant Chittiboina, Dr. David Connor, Dr. Cedric Shorter, and Dr. Osama Ahmed.

Dr. David Cavanaugh of the Spine Institute of Louisiana honored members that have passed away in the last year. Dr. George Derry Beach and Dr. Fraser Edmund Landreneau were among those mentioned.

Dr. Brian Willis will host the next Louisiana Neurosurgical Society Annual Meeting, held on January 11-12, 2013, in New Orleans.

Department Helps in Passing Louisiana Youth Concussion Law

Dr. Anil Nanda, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport, in conjunction with Senator Sherri Cheek (R-Shreveport), the NFL, the New Orleans Saints, and the Concussion Coalition, helped to pass SB 189, known as the Louisiana Youth Concussion Act.

On June 28th, 2011, Governor Bobby Jindal signed the bill into law, making Louisiana’s youth safer in the sports arena. This law will require schools, clubs, and other organizations that sponsor youth athletics to provide the athletes and their parents with information about concussions and the potential long-term effects of playing after a head injury. Coaches and other officials are now required to undergo annual training in identifying concussion symptoms. Coaches must remove any athlete from practice or a game if a concussion is suspected.

On September 6, 2011 Dr. Nanda and fourth year LSU medical student, Robert Smith, traveled to Baton Rouge for a ceremonial bill signing with Governor Jindal. Louisiana has now been added to the almost two dozen states that have passed a youth concussion act.
Message from the Chairman

After a blistering summer and what seems to be a mild winter, we are grateful for a wonderful 2011. As a department, we passed the 3,000 case mark, an accomplishment for which we are very grateful to the entire department. Six years ago, the department passed 2,000 cases, and over that period of time, we have increased volume by over 50%. Over 3,000 cases makes us the busiest neurosurgical service in the state of Louisiana. We are profoundly grateful and moved by the trust of so many of our referring doctors, nurses, and patients.

As a department, we were saddened by the loss of Dr. John McDonald, emeritus chancellor and legendary surgeon, who initially helped the launching of the division and department of neurosurgery. He will be deeply missed.

Once again, if you have any questions, needs, comments or criticism, kindly feel free to call me and let me know if there are any problems in terms of patient care or satisfaction. Our goal now is to move toward outcome research and patient satisfaction so that we can put our complication rates and infection rates on the web to introduce a level of transparency that will hold us all more accountable. Here is wishing all of you a great 2012.

Sincerely,

Anil Nanda, MD, FACS
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery

Department Recent Publications

Dr. Anil Nanda, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at LSU Health Sciences Center and 2011 President of SUN, organized the Society of University Neurosurgeons 45th Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece; Istanbul, and Izmir, Turkey, June 21-27, 2011. The theme of the meeting was Intercontinental Neurosurgery.

Dr. Anil Nanda presented on “Neurosurgical Aristeia and Peak Performance” in Athens. In Istanbul, he gave a presidential address titled “Gallipoli: Intercontinental Leadership through the Prism of Ataturk, Churchill, and Gandhi.” In the presidential address, Dr. Nanda discussed different facets of leadership as they apply to prominent figures in history. Important historical landmarks, such as World War I and the Turkish War of Independence, were brought together with a selection of neurosurgical cases to further illustrate this unique perspective. The talk was well received by the audience and covered by the Turkish Press and Cumhuriyet Newspaper.

Among other notable historic sites the group traveled to the Temple of Poseidon and the Acropolis in Athens, the Ciragan Palace, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque and Basilica Cistern in Turkey, as well as the Hagia Sophia, Archeological Museum, and Grand Covered Bazaar. Attendees were taken on a dinner cruise on the Bosphorus along the Istanbul shoreline.

Those in attendance included Shreveport Neurosurgeons Dr. Donald Smith and Dr. Anthony Sin. Other notable guests included Simeon Gallagher, OFMCap who delivered a presentation to SUN members in Athens, Istanbul, and Ephesus. There were over 120 internationally recognized neurosurgeons in attendance from multiple locations, including Sydney, Australia; Malaga, Spain; Recife, Brazil; and Matsumoto, Japan. They gathered to review clinical cases, describe trends in neurosurgery, and identify program innovations from experts around the world.

The Hellenic Neurosurgical Society hosted SUN members for the one-day meeting in Athens. Yucel Kanpolat, MD, President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences, hosted the SUN guests in Istanbul, Izmir, and Ephesus.

Dr. Nanda’s Presidential Address was so well received that he was invited to return to Turkey in November of 2011 to speak on the anniversary of Atatürk’s death at Ankara University.

Chancellor John C. McDonald was instrumental in nurturing and developing the department of neurosurgery from its inception, during his 32 year tenure at LSUHSC-S. The neurosurgery department was part of the department of surgery as a division and after 5 years became its own department.

Dr. McDonald had been a major force for the institution in the state, the community and our department. He passed away at 81 years of age. A memorial service was held at LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport on January 5, 2012.
Cerebrovascular disease takes an enormous medical and financial toll on the United States each year. Every year, it is estimated that 795,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke in the United States. Approximately 610,000 of these are first attacks. The estimated direct medical cost of stroke for 2007 was $25.2 billion. While medical and open surgical therapies have been the mainstay of treatment for years, the use of endovascular techniques is growing. Endovascular therapies avoid the incision of traditional surgery, and instead treat a given disease through a catheter placed inside the diseased blood vessel.

Endovascular treatment of carotid stenosis in the neck has been the focus of many recent multicenter international studies. These studies have shown similar risk rates with open surgical endarterectomy and endovascular angioplasty and stenting. While there is debate on what should be the “gold standard” for treating cervical atherosclerotic disease, angioplasty with stenting has clearly emerged as a safe and viable alternative to those patients not able to undergo traditional surgery.

While the focus historically has been treating atherosclerotic disease in the neck, advances in imaging techniques have allowed physicians to more frequently identify atherosclerotic disease of the intracranial vessels. The mainstay of treatment for this disease is medical therapy with diet control and various medications. However, in cases refractory to our best medical care, the FDA has approved newly developed stents for use in the delicate vasculature of the brain.

Endovascular treatments for atherosclerotic disease are generally done in the outpatient setting. Patients arrive on the morning of the procedure and are monitored for one night in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at LSU hospital. Patients are most often discharged the following day. Candidates for these procedures must be symptomatic from their lesion and meet predefined criteria as to the extent of their vessel narrowing. In both the cervical and intracranial varieties, patients must have failed medical management or have disease so critical that it is not safe to continue without intervention. In the case of atherosclerotic disease in the neck, patients referred for stenting are usually not candidates for open surgery due to chronic medical illness, previous surgery to the neck, anatomical issues, or history of neck radiation.

University Neurosurgery is pleased to announce a rapidly growing practice in delivering these treatments. Dr. Hugo Cuellar joined our staff in early 2010 as our Neurointerventionalist. Since that time, he has placed over thirty extra and intracranial stents over the last year and a half. This puts University Neurosurgery at the forefront of our region for this growing field. Dr. Cuellar is also active in the research of cervical and intracranial atherosclerotic disease and has published several papers on the subject, adding to the growing evidence in support of these treatments.

Cerebrovascular disease is a leading cause of morbidity and death in the United States, and particularly in our region. We are happy to offer these cutting-edge services to North Louisiana and beyond to help combat this debilitating disease.
A 76 year-old female, presented with complaints of visual loss in the left eye and decreased vision in the right eye, associated with headaches. On examination she was conscious, alert, and oriented. A complete left eye visual loss and restricted peripheral vision on the right side was noted. No other deficits were found. She was a chronic smoker, had a history of migraines and multiple surgeries like tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, D&C, hysterectomy, and cataract removal.

The ophthalmologist work up revealed a large parasellar mass, and she was then referred to us. A four vessel angiogram revealed a giant ophthalmic artery aneurysm measuring approximately 26.9 x 21.1 x 20.3 mm, with a neck of 7.2 mm. (Fig 1 and 3) with atherosclerotic ICA.

Stenting/coiling was difficult. In view of age, bypass using saphenous vein was considered. She underwent a left pterional craniotomy with zygomatic osteotomy and cervical carotid exposure. An anterior clinoidectomy was done and a large paraophthalmic aneurysm was found. Proximal control was taken by clamping the cervical internal carotid artery, and a temporary clip was placed just proximal to the aneurysm. A combined technique of orthogonal dome first tandem clipping with straight clips and neck obliteration with curved clip was used. A total of five clips were used, four straight and one curved, thus a bypass was avoided (Fig 4). Intra-op angiogram and ICG showed patent ICA with filling of both the middle cerebral and the anterior cerebral artery. The post-op angiogram showed complete obliteration of the aneurysm (Fig 2, 4) with a patent ophthalmic artery. Post-operatively, she had hemiparesis, a third nerve palsy, and altered sensorium, which later improved. At the last follow-up in April 2011 she was fully ambulatory, independent with resolved hemiparesis and third nerve palsy.
Department News:

2011 New Residents:

Christopher Storey, MD, PhD and Richard Menger, MD

Awards:

Dr. Anil Nanda receives the Junior Achievement Award, along with Dr. Phillip Rozeman and Mr. H.E. “Bud” Storer. Each year Junior Achievement of North Louisiana celebrates business role models in the community. A dinner in honor of this year’s Laureates was held Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at the Shreveport Country Club where Dr. Nanda recognized the whole department.

Dr. Anil Nanda and Mr. H.E. “Bud” Storer

2012 Upcoming Visiting Professors:

March 14 Richard Ellenbogen, MD
April 4 Chris Shaffrey, MD
April 27 Levy Honored Speaker
Kim Burchiel, MD, FACS
August 8 Gene Barnett, MD
A concussion is a brief change in mental status lasting less than 30 minutes from a forceful motion of the head. A concussion is often referred to as a mild traumatic brain injury. This can be a result of hitting another player, the ground, or being hit by sports equipment (ie: baseball or hockey puck.) Your child can get hit in the head or the body and sustain a concussion. The majority of the time, they will not lose consciousness or “black out.” However, after the initial impact, your child may exhibit the following signs or symptoms of a concussion: headache, nausea or vomiting, confusion, difficulty remembering or paying attention, balance problems or dizziness, feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy, bothered by light or noise, double or blurry vision, slowed reaction times, or sleep problems.

Concussions are common in young athletes and occur in almost 9% of all high school athletes. If you suspect your child has a concussion, remove them immediately from the game or practice. Let them rest and recover from the brain injury. This includes physical rest and cognitive rest. Therefore, they may need to stay home from school. Do not let them play video or computer games that require excessive attention and concentration. They should rest until their symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours. New legislation passed this year in Louisiana requires all athletes from 7-18 years of age who sustain a concussion in sports to be medically cleared by a physician or licensed trainer who specializes in concussions before being able to return to play. Most children will have resolution of their symptoms within 24-48 hours of the injury. Tylenol or Advil can be used for headache or pain management.

Other ways to protect your children from concussion: Educate your children on signs and symptoms of concussion. Let them know it is OK to report to their coach or parent if they think they have a concussion. It is better to sit out one game than an entire season. Make sure they have properly fitting protective gear (helmets, pads) that is not worn or damaged. Coaches should teach children the techniques and rules of the game for safe play and hits. Encourage good sportsmanship and safe play.
University Neurosurgery Upcoming Event:

Mary Louise and Ben Levy, Jr. Conference
Visiting Professorship in Neurosurgery
Friday, April 27, 2012, 10 a.m.
LSUHSC-S Main Auditorium Room 1-400
Kim J. Burchiel, MD, FACS
Professor and Chairman of Neurological Surgery
Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon

Department of Neurosurgery Faculty:

Anil Nanda, MD, FACS
Professor and Chairman

Donald R. Smith, MD
Clinical Professor

Brian K. Willis, MD, FACS
Professor

Bharat Guthikonda, MD
Assistant Professor

Anthony Sin, MD
Assistant Professor

Christina Notarianni, MD
Assistant Professor

Hugo Cuellar, MD
Assistant Professor

Please visit universityneurosurgery.com for more information on upcoming events.