Epilepsy is one of the most common serious neurological disorders affecting 1% of the population by age 20 and 3% of the population by age 75. The mainstay treatment of epilepsy is anticonvulsant medications, possibly for a person’s entire life. About 30% of people, however, continue to have seizures despite anticonvulsant treatment and become medically intractable. Among this group of patients, some may benefit from surgical treatments of epilepsy. University Neurosurgery is the only provider of epilepsy surgery in the Ark-La-Tex, and our team is ready to help.

Assistant Professor and Director of Epilepsy Surgery Dr. Hai Sun joined University Neurosurgery’s faculty in September 2015 to expand epilepsy treatment within our practice and throughout the state and region. Born in China, Dr. Sun came to the U.S. in 1994 and enrolled at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. He then went on to obtain a combined MD-PhD degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. His PhD is in biomedical engineering, and his PhD research sparked his interest in neurosurgery. He completed his neurosurgery residency at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon. He then completed fellowship training in Epilepsy Surgery at University of Washington in Seattle and in Skull Base and Cerebrovascular Surgery at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to epilepsy surgery, Dr. Sun also treats patients with cerebrovascular disorders, carotid stenosis, brain tumors, and spinal disorders.

Epilepsy surgery can help provide a lifestyle will less medication for many and a seizure-free lifestyle for some.
Greetings from University Neurosurgery and LSU Health Shreveport. Our team is proud to expand our services for our patients with the addition of Dr. Hai Sun to our faculty. He performed the first epilepsy surgery in recent history at LSU Health Shreveport this year, and I am thrilled to see the impact he will make in the state and region.

We’re delighted to have matched three new residents on Match Day. Racheal Wolfson from the University of Miami, Jared Brougham from Oakland University, and Devon LeFever from the University of Toledo, will officially join our team in July.

I am happy with the success of our Levy conference in April and our Woodard Symposium in September. For Levy, Dr. William T. Couldwell, a nationally recognized neurosurgeon from the University of Utah, visited and educated our faculty, residents and medical students on the ever-developing field of skull base surgery. Woodard brought together three neurosurgeons, representing Europe and Asia, allowing LSU Health Shreveport to serve as a global intersection in education.

With these additions and updates, we continue to provide neurosurgical care to the entire state and the Ark-La-Tex region. If you have any questions, kindly feel free to call me. Thank you.

Anil Nanda, MD, MPH, FACS

Recent Publications

University Neurosurgery hosted the fourth-annual Woodard Symposium Sept. 25, 2015 at LSU Health Shreveport. Three international neurosurgeons delivered updates in neurosurgery, representing two continents.

Dr. Andreas Raabe, Chairman and Professor of Neurosurgery at Inselpital University of Bern in Switzerland, discussed “Game Changers in Surgery of Motor Elloquent Gliomas.” Dr. Ugur Türe, Chairman and Professor of Neurosurgery at Yeditepe University School of Medicine in Turkey, presented “The Paramedian Supracerebellar-Transventricular Selective Amygdalohippocampectomy.” Dr. Eka J. Wahjoeparamono, Chairman and Professor of Neurosurgery at Siloam Hospitals in Indonesia, lectured on “Surgery of Brainstem Cavernous Angioma.”

The Woodard Symposium is made possible by the Scotty and Larene Woodard Woodard Professorship. Seven years ago, an aneurysm threatened Larene Woodard’s life. A coiling operation at LSU Health Shreveport kept the aneurysm from bursting. Thanks to the Woodards, the physicians and staff at LSU Health Shreveport, as well as community members and other health professionals, have access to visiting lecturers’ knowledge and expertise.

University Neurosurgery Resident Publishes Op/Ed in The Wall Street Journal

Dr. Richard Menger, PGY-5 resident for the Department of Neurosurgery, wrote an opinion/editorial, “Getting Military Surgeons the Practice They Need to Stay Sharp” for the Wall Street Journal. The piece was published March 11.

Read Dr. Menger’s article here: http://www.wsj.com/articles/getting-military-surgeons-the-practice-they-need-to-stay-sharp-1457737653

Dr. Menger is completing the research component of his residency at Harvard, exploring healthcare economics and the military healthcare system. This piece stemmed from his work in policy analysis. Dr. Menger is also a lieutenant in the United States Navy (Reserve) Medical Corps.

This publication marks Dr. Menger’s second Wall Street Journal piece. His letter to the editor, “Don’t Treat Doctors Like Exchangeable Commodities,” was published in 2013.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

The neurosurgery department at LSU Health Shreveport has seen several events worth celebrating throughout the past several months.

Professor and Chairman Dr. Anil Nanda was honored as the William Henry Hudson Lecturer at the Southern Neurosurgical Society Annual Meeting March 2-5 in San Antonio, Texas. The award is the highest honor the society bestows and honors a nationally-recognized neurosurgeon. He spoke on “Skull Base Surgery: Why the Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk.”

Associate Professor and Residency Program Director Dr. Christina Notarianni was promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Marc Manix, PGY-6 resident, is engaged to Leah Romero. They will marry this summer.

Associate Professor Dr. Hugo Cuellar-Saenz earned his Ph.D. degree in neuroscience from the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Chairman and Professor Dr. Anil Nanda lectured at the IX International Congress of Neurosurgery meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras Jan. 21-23, 2016.

Associate Professor and Residency Program Director Dr. Christian Notarianni spoke on “Double Keystone (‘Butterfly Flaps’) for the Closure of Myelomeningocele” at the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons Annual Meeting Jan. 31-Feb. 5, 2016 in Palm Beach, Aruba.

Professor and Chairman Dr. Anil Nanda was invited as a visiting professor to the University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland, Barrow Neurological Institute and the University of Wisconsin.

Assistant Professor and Director of Epilepsy Surgery Dr. Hai Sun earned his certification in Gamma Knife radiosurgery. He can now treat patients with this minimally-invasive procedure.

Dr. Elizabeth Wild, PGY-3 resident, is engaged to Michael Mumaugh.

University Neurosurgery’s multidisciplinary team is pleased to serve you and your patients in the following locations:

LSU Health Shreveport (ACC)
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103
p: 318.813.2482, f: 318.813.1556

Willis-Knighton Pierremont
Medical Arts Building
1811 E. Bert Kouns, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71115
p: 318.795-2638, f: 318.675.6861

Gamma Knife Radiosurgery
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103
p: 318.675.6195, f: 318.675.8944

NeuroInterventional Surgery
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103
p: 318.675.6195, f: 318.675.8944

Administrative Main Office

University Neurosurgery
LSUHSC - Shreveport, Dept. of Neurosurgery
1501 Kings Highway, PO Box 33932
Shreveport, LA 71130-3932
p: 318.675.6404, f: 318.675.6867

UniversityNeurosurgery.com
University Neurosurgery hosted the 13th Annual Mary Louise and Ben Levy Visiting Professorship in Neurosurgery April 8, 2016. University of Utah Professor and Chairman Dr. William T. Couldwell lectured on the “Evolution of Skull Base Surgery.” Approximately 150 guests were in attendance, including physicians, nurses and medical students.

Dr. Couldwell has contributed to over 350 peer-reviewed publications. His clinical interests include surgical management of skull base tumors, neuro-oncology, pituitary tumors and cerebrovascular neurosurgery.

The Levy lecture recognizes graduation for the Department of Neurosurgery’s residents. Dr. Shihao Zhang and Dr. Osama Ahmed were honored at the annual Levy reception and Dr. and Mrs. Nanda’s home. Dr. Zhang and Dr. Ahmed will complete their seven-year-long training in June.

The annual lecture is made possible by the Mary Louise and Ben Levy, Jr. Visiting Professorship, which the Levys established in 2004. The conference works to honor the memory of the couple by offering an educational opportunity for the Shreveport community.

University Neurosurgery Professor Earns Subspecialty Certification

Associate Professor Dr. Hugo Cuellar was recently granted subspecialty certification in neuroendovascular surgery by the Society of Neurological Surgeons and the Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training.

Neuroendovascular surgery uses minimally invasive catheter-based technology, radiological imaging and clinical expertise to diagnose and treat vascular diseases of the central nervous system, as well as other disorders of the head, neck and spine and their vascular supply.

Dr. Cuellar specializes in neuroendovascular procedures, as he has trained in radiology, neuroradiology and interventional radiology.

Earning subspecialty certification means that University Neurosurgery is on track to eventually begin a neuroendovascular surgery fellowship program. University Neurosurgery currently offers a skull base surgery fellowship.

For more information on the types of procedures Dr. Cuellar performs, visit his website: vascularneuro.com.
A 45-year-old male, on evaluaion of his seizure disorder, was found to have a left frontal arteriovenous malformation (AVM) of size 3.5 x 3.1 cm (Figure 1A). A diagnostic angiogram showed feeders from pericallosal and callosomarginal branches of left anterior cerebral artery (ACA) (Figure 1B&C) and superficial drainage to superior sagittal sinus (Figure 1D&E) (Spetzler Martin Grade 2). After discussing various treatment options, the patient was taken for surgery. Under frameless stereotactic guidance, a left frontal craniotomy was performed. The AVM was seen near to falx, on the medial edge of hemisphere with large draining veins (Figure 1F). Meticulous dissection was performed under microscope, initially anteriorly. Feeders from ACA were identified and clipped. Then, circumferential dissection was done to isolate the nidus with preservation of the draining veins, and the nidus was excised. However, brisk oozing from the bed raised the suspicion of residual lesion (Figure 2A). Intra-operative arteriogram showed a small residual AVM on the lateral aspect of the cavity (Figure 2B&C). It was subsequently excised successfully (Figure 2D) and was confirmed on post-operative angiogram (Figure 2E&F). The patient had an uneventful post-operative course and was discharged in stable condition.

The ultimate aim of AVM surgery is complete excision of the lesion to abolish the risk of bleeding. Intra-operative subtraction angiogram is a useful adjunct to document complete obliteration. In addition, it is helpful in localizing small AVMs, en-passage vessels and delineation of the AVM during emergency surgery for hematoma evacuation without preoperative angiography.1 Recently, fluorescent angiography with indocyanine green has shown comparable results and sometimes is preferred for its non-invasive value.2 However, the downside is it can identify lesions only in the area that are exposed in surgical field and is not useful in deep seated lesions. Intra-operative angiogram is a valuable tool to ensure complete excision and thereby avoids risk of rebleeding from residual lesion and subsequent need of retreatment. A high false negative rate mandates a post-operative angiogram to document complete excision.

References:
SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual Woodard Symposium: An International Colloquium in Neurosurgery

September 22, 2016
LSU Health Shreveport

Associate Professor Dr. Christina Notarianni and PGY-4 resident Dr. Rimal Hanif operate. Dr. Notarianni serves as Residency Program Director, developing education opportunities for University Neurosurgery residents.

For a complete list of treatment conditions, please visit our website or speak with our clinical staff.

CONDITIONS TREATED

AVM
Aneurysm
Brain Tumor
Cervical Stenosis
Degenerative Disc
Epilepsy
Herniated Disc
Scoliosis
Spinal Stenosis
Spine Trauma
Traumatic Brain Injury
Trigeminal Neuralgia

5th Annual Woodard Symposium: An International Colloquium in Neurosurgery

September 22, 2016
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