Welcome to the Weill Cornell Brain and Spine Center, a world-class provider of treatment for the full spectrum of neurological disease. We provide state-of-the-art care for adults and children with diseases of the brain and spine, and we offer a wide range of services. For patients who need surgery, there are many advanced, minimally invasive options available.

The Brain and Spine Center leads in the utilization of high-tech computerized diagnostic and treatment tools, from stereotactic radiosurgery using a linear accelerator to the use of three-dimensional visualization in the operating room. What was once a world of highly intrusive surgery has evolved into a high-tech environment of small incisions, tiny catheters, and minimally invasive endoscopes. The department also serves as a premier training center for neurosurgeons of the future and has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in research.

To ensure that every patient receives the compassion and dignity they deserve, and to achieve the most successful outcomes, we take a team approach that involves neurosurgeons, neurologists, neuroradiologists, anesthesiologists, nursing staff, patient care coordinators, and social workers. Our overall goals include minimizing pain, shortening hospital stays, and optimizing your recovering. Our neuroscientists are also making extraordinary breakthroughs in research that offer new hope in treating the most challenging neurological diseases of our time. For further information, please visit weillcornellbrainandspine.org.

If you ever have questions about your treatment, please call your physician’s office (there is a directory enclosed for your convenience). We are always happy to answer your questions and make sure we’re doing our best for you.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Stieg, Ph.D., M.D.
Professor & Chairman
Weill Cornell Department of Neurological Surgery
Neurosurgeon-in-Chief,
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
The Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center is one of the country’s premier providers of minimally invasive surgery of the brain and spine for both adults and children. But we are so much more than a surgical center: We focus on the whole patient, offering services that don’t simply treat disease, but enhance brain and spine health. We treat patients from around the world for the full spectrum of neurological disease, from brain and spine tumors, stroke, aneurysms, and epilepsy to Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders, with pre- and post-treatment services that optimize recovery and enhance quality of life.

With a world-class facility at the forefront of emerging technology, the Brain and Spine Center offers the latest in high-tech computerized diagnostic tools and treatment approaches, including stereotactic radiosurgery (often called the GammaKnife), endoscopic surgery, and three-dimensional visualization right in the operating room. Many of our patients have been featured in news stories that document the success of minimal access surgery; recent examples include spinal surgery to prevent paralysis and giant-sized brain tumors removed through the nasal cavity.

Our neurosurgeons are also researchers who are actively pursuing new frontiers of medicine in the laboratory and bringing their results to the bedside to improve patient outcomes. Recent advancements include the first use of focused ultrasound for treatment of essential tremor; the successful isolation of human stem cells from the human brain, both normal and brain tumor-derived; computer mapping of the brain to cure epilepsy surgically; a cure for eye cancer using tiny catheters; and a cutting-edge approach in pediatric brain surgery to treat hydrocephalus without shunts, sparing children from unnecessary infections. Clinical trials are underway for stroke, aneurysms, spinal fusion, metastatic spine tumors, and rare and inoperable pediatric brain tumors. On the horizon: deep brain stimulation for depression and a biological alternative to mechanical spinal disk replacement.

Our faculty members are also educators who teach medical students, residents, fellows, and physicians, both nationally and abroad. They design and present specialized training courses in skull base surgery, endonasal surgery, leading-edge pediatric surgery, and minimally invasive approaches to spine surgery.

Great new vistas exist for the treatment of neurological diseases of the brain and spine, and the future is happening now, right here at the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center. You are in the very best of hands here.

weillcornellbrainandspine.org
Neurological Surgery Residents

Whitney Parker, MD, PhD
PGY-7

Justin Schwarz, MD
PGY-7

Benjamin Hartley, MD
PGY-6

Evan Bander, MD
PGY-5

Alexander D. Ramos, MD, PhD
PGY-5

Joseph Carnevale, MD
PGY-4

Jacob Goldberg, MD
PGY-4

Gary Kocharian, MD
PGY-3

Maricruz Rivera, MD, PhD
PGY-3

Andrew Garton, MD
PGY-2

Alexandra Giantini Larsen, MD
PGY-2

Rafael Uribe-Cardenas, MD
PGY-2

Umberto Tosi
PGY-1

Graham Winston
PGY-1
Clinical Practitioners

Kristin Strybing
Chief Nurse Practitioner
MSN, FNP-BC

Gilbert Barjon
MSN, FNP-C, RN-BC

Janessa Brown
RN

Edward Butler
ANP-BC

Rebecca Cramer
FNP-BC

Molly Cullinan
BSN, RN

Alina Fahy
MSN, FNP-BC

Ana Forman
MSN, FNP-BC

Boris Levandovskyi
MSN, ANP-BC, CCRN

Toni Lowe
MSN, FNP-C

Shilpa Nilavarath
MSN, AGNP-C

Sherlie Pierre
RN

Nicole Reilly
MSN, AGACNP-BC

Please see reverse for additional staff >
Clinical Practitioners

- Kimberly Salvaggio
  MSN, FNP-BC

- Bernadetta Swieca
  MSN, FNP-C

- Lynsey Woodruff
  RN

- Michelle Buontempo
  Craniofacial Program Coordinator
  MSN, RN, CCRN, CPNP

- Ericka Deadwyler-Gourgue
  Chiari CARE Program Coordinator
  MSN, AGPCNP-BC

- Beth A. Higgins
  Senior Physician Assistant
  BSc, PA-C

- Allison Basham
  MSHSPA, PA-C

- Carlos A. Castro
  MMSc, PA-C

- Chloe Holland
  MSHSPA, PA-C

- Rachel Lowrie
  MS, PA-C

- Julia Rich
  PA-C

- Emily Wolpiuk
  MPAS, PA-C

Special Programs

Hospital Staff

- Suzan Wollard
  Chief Physician Assistant
  MMSc, PA-C

- Lynda Schultze
  MPAS, PA-C

- Bernadetta Swieca
  MSN, FNP-C

- Synda Schultze
  MPAS, PA-C

Please see reverse for additional staff >
Cerebrovascular Surgery
Aneurysms, AVMs, Carotid Occlusive Disease
Dr. Philip E. Stieg 212-746-4684
Dr. Jared Knopman 212-746-5149

Brain Tumor Surgery
Benign and malignant tumors in adults and children
Dr. Philip E. Stieg 212-746-4684
Dr. Rohan Ramakrishna 212-746-1996
Dr. Theodore Schwartz 212-746-5620
Dr. Babacar Cisse 646-962-3389
Dr. Mark Souweidane 212-746-2363 (pediatric)
Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield 212-746-2363 (pediatric)
Dr. Caitlin Hoffman 212-746-2363 (pediatric)

Epilepsy Surgery
Curative and palliative surgical approaches to epilepsy
Dr. Theodore H. Schwartz 212-746-5620
Dr. Caitlin Hoffman 212-746-2363 (pediatric)

Interventional Neuroradiology
Minimally invasive image-guided diagnosis and treatment
Dr. Y. Pierre Gobin 212-746-4998
Dr. Athos Patsalides 212-746-2821
Dr. Jared Knopman 212-746-5149

Movement Disorders
Parkinson's Disease, Essential Tremor, Spasticity, Dystonia
Dr. Michael Kaplitt 212-746-4966

Neuro-oncology
Comprehensive treatment options for cancers of the brain and spine
Dr. Howard Fine 212-746-2596
Dr. Susan Pannullo 212-746-2438
Dr. Rajiv Magge 646-962-2185
Dr. Babacar Cisse 646-962-3389
Dr. Rohan Ramakrishna 212-746-1996

Neuropsychology
Testing, Imaging, Psychotherapy, and Cognitive Remediation
Kenneth Perrine, PhD 212-746-2197
Amanda Sacks, PhD 212-746-3356
Jessica Spat-Lemus, PhD 646-962-3336 (pediatric)

Pediatric Neurosurgery
Treatment of the full spectrum of CNS conditions in children
Dr. Mark Souweidane 212-746-2363
Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield 212-746-2363
Dr. Caitlin Hoffman 212-746-2363

Pituitary Tumors/Neuroendocrinology
Endoscopic approaches to anterior skull base surgery
Dr. Theodore H. Schwartz 212-746-5620
Dr. Rohan Ramakrishna 212-746-1996
Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield 212-746-2363 (pediatric)
Dr. Georgiana Dobri 646-962-3556 (neuroendocrinology)

Spinal Surgery
Comprehensive care for spine conditions and injuries
Dr. Roger Härtl 212-746-2152
Dr. Eric Elowitz 212-746-2870
Dr. Kai-Ming Fu 212-746-2260
Dr. Ali Bajj 212-746-1164
Dr. Michael Virk 646-962-3388

Stereotactic Radiosurgery
Noninvasive treatments for brain tumors and other conditions
Dr. Susan Pannullo 212-746-2438
Dr. Rohan Ramakrishna 212-746-1996

VISIT US ONLINE: weillcornellbrainandspine.org
Please see reverse for additional locations >
We are proud to be a part of NewYork-Presbyterian, which has been ranked as the #1 hospital in New York for nearly two decades. In addition to our main campus on the Upper East Side, we now offer our world-class neurosurgical services in Lower Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn. Patients come from around the globe for our experience and skill—now you can visit us close to home.

**NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan**  
Dr. Samuel Kim 646-962-5115

**NewYork-Presbyterian Queens**  
Dr. Jaime Nieto 718-670-1837  
Dr. Ning Lin 718-670-1837  
Dr. Srikanth Boddu 718-303-3739  
Dr. Rupa Gopalan Juthani 718-670-1837

**NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist**  
Dr. Martin Zonenshayn 718-246-8660  
Dr. Michael Ayad 718-780-3070  
Dr. George Selas 718-780-3000
At the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center, our health care team provides compassionate care for the whole patient—and that doesn’t end when you’re discharged from the hospital. We know you’ve been through a lot, and we’re here to help if you need us.

Many patients get back to their lives quickly after surgery. Others need some support after the procedure, which is also quite normal. If you have any questions about your recovery or how you’re feeling, please don’t hesitate to call your Weill Cornell surgeon’s office to speak with the doctor, nurse, or nurse practitioner about your experience. We can answer your questions, ease any anxiety you may be feeling, and make suggestions about how to feel better.

If you need physical therapy or other services to help you after your surgery, your Weill Cornell surgeon will be happy to refer you to one of our experts. Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian offer a full range of physical, occupational, and speech therapy options to help with your recovery.

Some patients find that they have cognitive changes or emotional reactions after their surgery. That’s completely normal as well—after all, you’ve just had a pretty challenging physical and emotional experience. We understand, and we can help.

Dr. Amanda Sacks-Zimmerman specializes in post-surgical cognitive remediation and emotional recovery for those patients who don’t feel quite like themselves after the surgery. Please call Dr. Sacks-Zimmerman’s office at 212-746-3356 to make an appointment for a consultation if you have any cognitive or emotional symptoms related to your condition or your surgery.

Dr. Jessica Spat-Lemus specializes in the neuropsychological testing and evaluation of children with neurological disorders, and provides cognitive remediation services to people of all ages when needed. Please call Dr. Spat-Lemus’s office at 646-962-3336 to make an appointment for a consultation.

For more information about your condition, your surgery, or the services of the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center, please visit our web site at weillcornellbrainandspine.org.
Why Don’t I Feel Like Myself?

The brain is an amazing organ. Although in one sense it is “just” an organ (like the heart, kidneys, or lungs), in another sense it’s so much more. Unlike other organs, your brain is deeply connected with your sense of who you are. Those many electrical impulses that fire along your neural pathways do more than just keep your body going. They also create your sense of self.

When your brain develops a disorder, suffers an injury, or undergoes surgery, that sense of self can be affected in many ways. You may have an emotional reaction to what you’ve just been through, which is normal. Some feelings may be neurological in origin if your surgery was near parts of the brain that control emotion. You may notice subtle (or not so subtle) changes in your memory, attention span, or language and word retrieval. This is also normal—after all, those processes are all controlled by the brain, which has just been through a difficult time. The good news is that emotional, cognitive, and language challenges can be addressed as you recover, or even long after.

The neuropsychologists at the Weill Cornell Medicine Brain and Spine Center want to help you complete your recovery, which is why we offer evaluation and testing along with the remediation services you may need to help you regain your sense of self.

Dr. Kenneth Perrine and Dr. Jessica Spat-Lemus offer neuropsychological evaluations, including pre- and post-surgical assessments. Please call Dr. Perrine at 212-746-2197 or Dr. Spat-Lemus at 646-962-3336 to request a consultation.

Dr. Amanda Sacks-Zimmerman and Dr. Spat-Lemus provide individual and group cognitive remediation for patients who are experiencing neurocognitive difficulties (including attention, executive functioning, and memory). Dr. Sacks also offers Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for patients experiencing affective distress (anxiety and depression). Call Dr. Sacks-Zimmerman's office at 212-746-3356 to make an appointment for a consultation or to inquire about group sessions.