NewYork-Presbyterian
Och Spine Hospital

# Adult & Pediatric
# Comprehensive Spine Fellowship



**Department of Orthopedic Surgery**
**Department of Neurological Surgery**
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

**Department of Neurological Surgery**
Weill Cornell Medicine

**Recruitment Interviews 2026**

Weill Cornell Medicine | NewYork-Presbyterian | COLUMBIA

# **Welcome** to Och Spine

The Departments of Orthopedic Surgery and Neurological Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Department of Neurological Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, have earned reputations among the leading academic departments in the nation. Our rich tradition in both surgical disciplines dates back to 1866 and 1909, respectively, when the New York Orthopaedic Dispensary and Neurological Institute of New York were founded. Created through the partnership of world-renowned spine specialists from two leading medical schools, NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine is a preeminent center for quality patient care, research, and education.

The training of residents and fellows is one of our most important missions—and we are very proud that many of today's leading spine surgeons throughout the United States and abroad have trained here at NYP Och Spine. The excellence of our training programs reflects the dedication of our faculty members, who combine their commitment to educating future leaders in the field of orthopedic and neurological surgery and their recognized expertise as clinicians and scientists. Residents receive an enormous advantage by being trained in one of the nation's leading academic medical centers--Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), which is routinely ranked as a top five hospital in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* and continues to be recognized as one of the best hospitals in New York City.

Our one-year spine fellowship program, which participates with the North American Spine Society and the San Francisco Matching Program, has a total of four fellows—who spend most of their time within the NYP Och Spine Hospital at NYP Allen Hospital and Och Spine at NewYork-Presbyterian/The Spiral. Each quarter, one fellow rotates to NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

The fellowship is designed to provide surgeons with a comprehensive training in the treatment of all spinal diseases and conditions of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine: both degenerative and deformity; trauma and tumor; pediatric and adult. Those completing the fellowship will be adept at performing every type of surgical case from complex scoliosis and kyphosis corrections with three-column osteotomies, to cervical, lumbar degenerative and minimally invasive surgery (MIS).

We invite you to learn more about our outstanding fellowship program and we encourage you to ask questions and discuss the program with our current fellows.

We look forward to meeting and interviewing you today!



**Ronald A. Lehman, Jr., MD**

*Tenured Professor of Orthopedic Surgery (in Neurological Surgery)*

*Co-Director, Och Spine Allen/NYP*

*Spine Medical Director, Och Spine for Allen Operations & Standardization*

*Division Chief, Spine Surgery*

*Director, Complex Pediatric & Adult Spine Fellowship*



**K. Daniel Riew, MD**

*Professor of Orthopedic Surgery*

*Co-Director, Adult & Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship*

*Weill Cornell Medicine*



**Lawrence G. Lenke, MD**

*Professor of Orthopedic Surgery*

*Chief, Division of Spinal Surgery*

*Director, Spinal Deformity Surgery*

*Co-Director, Adult & Pediatric Comprehensive Spinal Surgery Fellowship*

*Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital*

# **Fellowship Program** Overview



What sets us apart from other programs is our commitment to treating each patient as a person. We take a personalized approach to problem solving, diagnosing and treating each patient's spinal issue. While our volume is high, our patients feel like they are the only one. Columbia Orthopedics and Neurosurgery at the Daniel & Jane Och Spine Hospital at NYP Allen and Och Spine at NYP/The Spiral, as well as Weill Cornell Neurological Surgery, are proud to have such a dedicated team.

Our program is unique in that fellows train with spine surgeons from both the departments of orthopedic and neurological surgery. The overall case-load profile is 40% deformity, 55% degenerative (cervical and lumbar), and 5% tumor/fracture. Cervical cases make up 40% of patients, while 60% are thoracic/lumbar in nature, with a minimally invasive (MIS) exposure for many pathologies as well. Age distribution equates to 90% adult and 10% pediatric.

The attendings are covered by four fellows, one chief/senior resident and multiple physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs). Spine PAs provide 24/7 care coverage on the patient floors.

## Fellows' Responsibilities

The fellows are responsible for covering the cases being performed in the operating room and seeing patients in the office with the attendings. The department includes seven renowned research centers and clinical and basic science research projects are numerous with the ability to participate in prospective outcomes studies, biomechanics and basic science projects. The fellows are encouraged to participate and obliged to complete at least two projects/papers. The educational process for the fellows includes a core curriculum of lectures, teaching case conferences and journal clubs. Formal teaching conferences for the fellows are held weekly on a variety of didactic topics, case presentations and interactive discussions and complex deformity conference.

## Goals and Objectives Overview

Over the course of one year, fellows will learn the art and science of spine surgery. The primary objective is to teach fellows to become skilled, competent, caring, and tecÚically proficient physicians and surgeons. These goals are attained through a carefully created educational program, becoming proficient in the physical examination and diagnosis of patients, and progressively increasing responsibility and autonomy in the non-operative and operative management of patients.

# **Fellowship** Goals and Objectives

- Gain proficiency in the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of adult and pediatric patients with various spinal disorders with emphasis on maximal restoration of function and preservation of further disability.
- Gain confidence and competency in performing spine and neurologic history and physical examination and formulating and executing a treatment plan for patients in outpatient, inpatient and consultation settings.
- Develop a proficiency of tecÚical skills in the operating room in the surgical management of spinal disorders and demonstrate increasing autonomy from one year to the next. At the conclusion of the fellowship, the fellow will be expected to be able to practice spinal surgery competently and independently.
- Develop leadership skills needed to lead a multidisciplinary team of allied health care workers including health care extenders, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, nurse practitioners and nutritionists, and to understand their role and contribution to patient care.
- Become proficient in writing prescriptions for therapeutic exercises, modalities, prostheses, orthoses, and durable medical equipment.
- Develop interpersonal skills needed to effectively engage patients and family members to enhance communication and education.
- Develop competency in management of the spinal inpatients including administration, quality improvement and leadership through the use of effective verbal and written communication skills.
- Gain experience and proficiency in direct supervision and teaching of fellow residents and medical students.
- Master the skills needed to independently research scholarly sources for the purposes of presenting the topic to be of educational value to other medical staff and to enhance patient care.
- Develop a sense of personal responsibility to patients and a commitment to providing excellent clinical care with proper and ethical professional behavior.
- Provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health as it is related to the field of spinal surgery.
- Acquire medical knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, cognitive sciences and demonstrate the competent application of this knowledge to patient care.
- Demonstrate practice-based learning and improvement that involves investigation and evaluation of patient care, appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence and improvements in patient care.
- Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
- Demonstrate professionalism as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.
- Demonstrate system-based practice, as manifested by actions that demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value.
- To fully participate in clinical research project(s), working with our established team of research assistants, ability to create an IRB protocol, generate viable hypotheses and methodology, perform data collection and analysis and abstract preparation for major spine society submission and manuscript preparation for peer-review journal submission.

# **Spinal Surgery** at Columbia, Cornell, and NYP

In 1911, Columbia professor and orthopedic surgeon Russell A. Hibbs, MD, performed the first spinal fusion surgery for paralytic scoliosis. Since then, the spine experts at Columbia Orthopedics and Neurosurgery have continued to develop and apply innovative therapies backed by the latest clinical and basic science research to treat and heal disorders of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. The expansion of the NYP Och Spine program to include world-renowned colleagues in neurological spine surgery from Weill Cornell Medical College brings an even greater depth of knowledge and experience to the fellowship training experience.



*Russell A. Hibbs, MD*

Our world class physicians specialize in surgical and non-surgical treatment of spinal deformities, acute injuries, and degenerative conditions of the spine. Using the most sophisticated diagnostic tools, in-depth clinical experience backed by the latest research, and advanced surgical techniques, our specialists create personalized treatment plans for patients suffering from all manner of spine conditions—from the routine, to complex spinal reconstruction.

## NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital

The Columbia spine team is based at the NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospitals—the first of which opened in 2023 at NYP Allen Hospital and joined in January 2025 by NYP Och Spine/The Spiral. These facilities are among the most advanced centers for spine care in the world, featuring dedicated operating rooms purpose-built for spinal surgery, the latest intra-operative navigation technologies, robotically assisted surgery, state-of-the-art diagnostic testing equipment, and an in-patient nursing unit specifically designed for the care and treatment of spine patients. The dedicated clinical teams at the NYP Och Spine Hospital have a singular focus on providing the best spine care in the world for our patients.



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Och Spine Hospital

# Conference Schedule

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| Monday | 6:00 am | **Spine Case Conference:** Held at the NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital or via Zoom. |
| Tuesday | 6:00 am | **Spine Teaching Conference:** Weekly fellow/resident education series (including lectures from guest speakers, case studies, and journal club). |
| Wednesday | 6:00 am | **Och Spine Research Meeting** |
| Thursday: | 7:00 am | **Orthopedic Surgery Grand Rounds:** Weekly lectures from nationally and internationally renowned guests speakers, as well as case studies. Held at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. |

# **Faculty** Orthopedic Spine



## Lawrence G. Lenke, MD

*Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University Irving Medical Center*
*Chief, Division of Spinal Surgery; Director, Spinal Deformity Surgery*
*Co-Director, Adult and Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship*
*Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital*



## Ronald A. Lehman, Jr., MD

*Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Tenure, Columbia University Irving Medical Center*
*Chief, Spine Surgery*
*Chief, Reconstructive, Robotic, & Minimally Invasive Surgery*
*Director, Adult and Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship*



## K. Daniel Riew, MD

*Professor of Orthopedic Surgery*
*Director, Cervical Spine Surgery*
*Co-Director, Adult & Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship*
*Weill Cornell Medicine*

# **Faculty** Orthopedic Spine



## Zeeshan M. Sardar, MD

*Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*
*Assistant Attending Physician, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*



## Joseph M. Lombardi, MD

*Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University Irving Medical Center*
*Assistant Attending Physician, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*



## Eduardo C. Beauchamp, MD

*Assistant Professor Orthopedic Surgery*
*Columbia University Medical Center*
*New York-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital*
*New York-Presbyterian Westchester*
*NYP The One*

# **Faculty** Neurological Spine



## Paul C. McCormick, MD, MPH, FAANS

*Herbert & Linda Gallen Professor of Neurological Surgery,*
*Columbia University Medical Center*

*Director, The Spine Hospital at the Neurological Institute of New York*



## Dean Chou, MD

*Professor of Neurological Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Chief of the Spine Division*

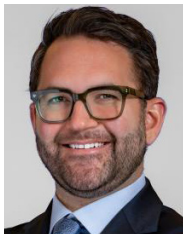
*Vice Chair of Neurosurgery*



## Christopher E. Mandigo, MD, FAANS

*Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Assistant Attending Physician, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*



## Justin A. Neira, MD

*Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery*



## Andrew K Chan, MD

*Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Co-Director of Minimally Invasive Scoliosis Surgery*

*Director of Neurosurgical Spine Research*



## Peter D. Angevine, MD, MPH

*Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Associate Attending Physician, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*

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Department of Orthopedic Surgery

**Division of Neurological Spine Surgery**
Department of Neurological Surgery

**NewYork-Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital**
5141 Broadway, 3 Field West
New York, NY 10034

212.305.5100
orthosrg@cumc.columbia.edu
**nyp.org/spinehospital**