We are committed to providing the very best residency experience for physicians pursuing clinical, academic and research careers in Neurological Surgery. Our residents become leaders in highly specialized fields of neurosurgery. Through hands-on clinical and simulation training, mentored and independent research, and opportunities to publish and present findings on the national stage, our residents take what they’ve learned here and truly advance the science for all of us. This partnership between faculty and residents has resulted in some of the highest resident satisfaction rankings. Come see why our residents choose Vanderbilt.

Reid Thompson, MD
Chairman of Neurological Surgery

Message From The Chairman

OR Time
We typically run six to eight ORs at the main Vanderbilt University Hospital, with an additional angio suite, two more at the Children’s Hospital, one at the VA and up to four in our community practices – totaling 12-14 first starts.

Nationally-Recognized Faculty
In the past eight years, we’ve tripled our faculty and case volume. Our residents are mentored by renowned leaders in the field.
Lola Chambless, M.D., has developed the clinical outcome program for the Vanderbilt Brain Tumor Center and participates in a number of projects that have received national recognition evaluating the impact of metabolic disorders on brain cancer. She is also president-elect of the Tennessee Neurosurgical Society.

Jay Wellons, III, M.D., Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery, is Co-Director of the Hydrocephalus Research Network.

Peter Konrad, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded a grant on deep brain stimulation, as well as a three-year DOD grant on intraspinal microstimulation, the first in human trial.

J Mocco, M.D., M.S., is the Principal Investigator of the only ongoing U.S. randomized controlled study for acute stroke thrombectomy. He also is national/international PI for two other prospective aneurysm trials, and is the site PI for 11 other neurovascular clinical trials on aneurysm and stroke.

Joseph S. Cheng, M.D., M.S., is the past Chairperson of the AANS/CNS Joint Section of Spine and Peripheral Nerves, Director of AANS Coding & Reimbursement Education, and Ex-Officio on the AANS Board of Directors. He serves as Chairperson for the Medical Practices Committee of the CSNS and Scientific Program Co-Chair for NASS. He has been a prior president of the Tennessee Neurosurgical Society.

Learn More About Our Program Online
www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/neurologicalsurgery

Contact Us
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Vanderbilt offers an unusually broad clinical experience provided by a university hospital, and a typical Veterans Administration Hospital practice. With active research opportunities, the superb clinical and intellectual climate allows each individual resident to become skillful in patient care, to develop surgical prowess, and to achieve academic excellence.

One of the many strengths of this program is that it is designed with sufficient flexibility to accentuate the particular talents and interests of the individual residents, in order to help them reach their fullest potential as practicing neurosurgeons.

We increased our resident complement in 2010 to three residents per year, and our program is accredited by the ACGME/Neurosurgery RRC until 2021.

Our residents train at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and the Veteran Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System – all on the Vanderbilt campus. Our seven-year program includes two years of sub-specialization in any of our six specialty areas.

Program Directors’ Corner

“We are delighted to be at the helm of a program committed to leading the nation in resident education. At Vanderbilt, we aren’t merely training doctors to treat neurological conditions; we’re training doctors to change the way we treat these conditions. Our focus is to truly advance the field, through published research, collaboration with industry peers at national meetings, and mentored clinical training.”

- Oran Aaronson, MD, MMHC
  - oran.aaronson@vanderbilt.edu
- J Mocco, MD, MS
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- Lola Chambless, MD
  - lola.chambless@vanderbilt.edu

Program Excellence

6 Specialty Areas:

- Spine
- Functional
- Neuro-Oncology
- Cerebrovascular and Endovascular
- Pediatrics
- Community Practice

Field-Advancing Research

Our multidisciplinary program enables residents to pursue highly specialized research interests and carry out independent projects in a mentored environment. As a result, our residents routinely publish their work in leading journals, present their findings annually at association conferences, and land prestigious awards and appointments.

Jonathan Forbes

- Senior Neurosurgical Society Modules Award for Best Presentation, 2011
- AANS Synthes Craniofacial Award for Research in Neurotrauma, 2011, AANS Annual Meeting
- Selected as The Council of State Neurosurgical Societies’ Socioeconomic Fellow, 2012-2013

Scott Parker

- Augustus McCravey Award, Southern Neurosurgical Society Annual Meeting, 2012
- Best Clinical Abstract Award, 10th Annual International Neuro-Oncology Update Meeting, 2012
- The Mayfield Clinical Science Award, AANS/CNS Joint Section of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, 2012

Nashville, Tennessee

3rd Hottest U.S. City (Forbes)

Best Music Scene

for its “historical music venues, celebrity residents and record stores”

- Rolling Stone

SPORTS

Titans Football, Predators Hockey, Sounds Baseball, Vandy Sports

Exquisite Culinary Options

Nashville has a variety of dining destinations for everyone’s palate - including The Catbird Seat - recently named one of the “10 Best New Restaurants in America” by GQ Magazine.

Education

Vanderbilt offers an unusually broad clinical experience provided by a university hospital, and a typical Veterans Administration Hospital practice. With active research opportunities, the superb clinical and intellectual climate allows each individual resident to become skillful in patient care, to develop surgical prowess, and to achieve academic excellence.

One of the many strengths of this program is that it is designed with sufficient flexibility to accentuate the particular talents and interests of the individual residents, in order to help them reach their fullest potential as practicing neurosurgeons.

Our Specialty Centers

Our expertise in sub-specialties in neurosurgery has led to the creation of several regional centers:

- Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Neurosurgery Community Practices at Williamson County and Maury Regional Medical Centers
- Vanderbilt Spine Center
- Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center, a joint venture between Orthopaedics and Neurosurgery
- Pediatric Neurovascular Center, a joint program with Pediatric Stroke and Neurosurgery
- Vanderbilt Clinical Neuroscience Institute