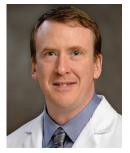
# SPINAL DISORDERS SYMPOSIUM

hosted by UF Health Neurosurgery – Orlando Health

An Update for Primary Care Physicians and Allied Health Professionals

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**



## Joshua Billingsley, MD

Dr. Billingsley earned an undergraduate degree in microbiology/immunology and a master's degree in biology and molecular endocrinology at Idaho

State University. After receiving his medical degree in neurosurgery at Oregon Health and Sciences University, Dr. Billingsley completed his neurosurgery residency at Rush University in Chicago. He completed the first year of a fellowship in cerebrovascular/endovascular surgery with Dr. Demetrius Lopes at Rush, and his final year with Dr. Brian Hoh at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Dr. Billingsley has published in numerous medical journals, including Journal of Neurosurgery, Skull Base Journal and Biophysical Journal. Dr. Billingsley's research has included investigating molecular pathways involved in spinal cord injury at the Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center. Other research interests have included evaluating the safety and efficacy of placing a flow diverter in a cerebral artery to treat a large aneurysm that failed treatment with a previous stent and coil construct.

Dr. Billingsley is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. He has earned the Southern Neurosurgical Society Basic Science Research Award, and has received an AGSBS Research Grant.



## Reordan O. DeJesus, MD

Reordan De Jesus is a clinical assistant professor of neuroradiology from UF Health. He completed his neuroradiology fellowship at Duke University with CT guided Spine

Interventional procedures under the training of Dr. Linda Grey. He also completed a second fellowship year in head and neck radiology at UF Health. He currently interprets all aspects of neuroradiology and his expertise involves all aspects of neuroadiology imaging, image guided biopsies of the head, neck and spine regions as well as CT guided pain management and dynamic CT guided blood patches. He has collaborated in research and teaching with all departments involved with his expertise.





Perry Dhaliwal, MD

Dr. Dhaliwal received his undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary in Canada and his medical degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He completed

a six-year residency in neurosurgery at the University of Calgary, and was named a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada in 2012. He completed a combined orthopedic/neurosurgical spine fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Dhaliwal holds a Master in Public Health from John Hopkins University in Baltimore.

His publications and contributions to medical journalists include a chapter on isthmic spondylolisthesis in a new textbook on spine surgery and articles on management of postoperative pain with intrathecal morphine after lumbar spinal fusion, intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging and neuronavigation for transoral approaches to upper cervical pathology, and rapid magnetic resonance imaging-guided reduction of craniovertebral junction deformities.

Dr. Dhaliwal is an expert in minimally invasive spine surgery, complex spine surgery, and general adult neurosurgery.



Kyle M. Fargen, MD

Dr. Fargen attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for his undergraduate education where he graduated summa cum laude and was a four-year letter winner and

two-time NCAA Academic All-American in men's soccer. Dr. Fargen received his medical degree and Master of Public Health in epidemiology from the Tulane University School of Medicine and School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2008. He was awarded the 2008 Isadore Dyer Memorial Prize for the highest academic standing among 155 graduating medical students. He was also a recipient of the Tulane 34 Award, a university-wide award honoring leadership, service and academic excellence.

While at the University of Florida, Dr. Fargen served as a Council of State Neurological Societies Socioeconomic Fellow during 2012-2013. He received the University of Florida Neurological Surgery High Board Score Awards in 2009 and 2011, as well as the Congress of Neurological Surgeons Julius Goodman Resident Award in 2011 and the Sam Hassenbusch Young Neurosurgeon Award in 2012. Dr. Fargen's primary research interests include acute ischemic stroke treatment, management of cerebral aneurysms, physician duty hour regulations and the role of simulation in resident education. He is completing an Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology fellowship while at the University of Florida under the training of Dr. Brian Hoh, Dr. Spiros Blackburn and Dr. J. Mocco.

Dr. Fargen is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the American Medical Association and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.



Jacques N. Farkas, MD, FAANS, FACS

Dr. Farkas graduated with honors from the University of Illinois in Urbana, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. He attended medical

school at Rush Medical College in Chicago. After obtaining his medical degree, he completed his residency in general surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago and then a neurosurgical residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill.

Dr. Farkas is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery, and is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He is an Associate Professor in the College of Medicine in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Florida. Dr. Farkas is past president of the Florida Neurosurgical Society and has been a delegate and alternate delegate to the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. He has been appointed to the executive committees of Palms West Hospital and JFK Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. and has served as the chief of neurosurgery at JFK Medical Center and St Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach.

Dr. Farkas serves as the division chief of UF Health Neurosurgery – Orlando Health.



#### William A. Friedman, MD

Dr. Friedman attended The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and received the Maurice B. Rusoff Award for

excellence in medicine before graduating summa cum laude in 1976.

In 1976, Dr. Friedman moved to Gainesville to complete a surgical internship and a neurosurgical residency at UF. During residency training he did neurophysiology research as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow. After residency, he joined the faculty of the department of neurosurgery as an assistant professor. He received an NIH Teacher Investigator Award from 1982 to 1987, which funded further research into the neurophysiology of spinal cord injuries. He became chairman of the department of neurosurgery in 1999. Dr. Friedman is past president of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the Florida Neurosurgical Society and the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society. He is on the editorial board of Neurosurgery and the Journal of Stereotactic Surgery.

Dr. Friedman is the director of the Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy at UF and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Florida Center for Brain Tumor Research. Dr. Friedman has received numerous grants in support of research efforts. To date, he has brought in over \$20 million in grants, equipment and endowments for professorships. Dr. Friedman was awarded the Edward Shedd Wells Professorship, Albert Einstein Professorship and the A.L. Rhoton Jr., MD, Chairman's Professorship of Neurological Surgery on behalf of the UF College of Medicine.



Daniel J. Hoh, MD

Dr. Hoh is an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the University of Florida. He was awarded a bachelor's degree in psychology from Stanford University and a doctor of medicine

degree from Columbia University. Hoh completed his internship and residency training in neurological surgery at the University of Southern California. During residency, he also completed a neurotrauma and spinal cord injury fellowship at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. After residency he completed both neurosurgery and orthopaedic spine fellowships with Edward Benzel, MD, chairman of the department of neurosurgery, and Robert McLain, MD, orthopaedic surgeon, at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital.

His primary research interest is the investigation of novel treatment strategies for spinal cord injury, including spinal cord regeneration as well as neurologic rehabilitation. Hoh also has served as a member of the editorial board for noted scientific neurosurgical journals, as well as committees for national neurosurgical organizations. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Congress of Neurologic Surgeons, the AANS/CNS Joint Section of the Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves and the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care.

Hoh provides care to patients with all neurosurgical conditions; however, his primary focus is minimally invasive and complex spine surgery. He specializes in applying innovative surgical techniques and novel technologies for the treatment of spinal disorders affecting the cranio-cervical junction, cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.



R. Patrick Jacob, MD

Dr. Jacob attended Fordham College in Bronx, New York and graduated with a BS in psychology in 1979. Jacob earned his medical degree at the University of Florida in 1983.

He was a surgical intern from 1983 to 1984 and completed his neurosurgical residency training at UF in 1989. He was board certified in neurosurgery in 1992 and became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1993. Jacob was in private practice in nearby Ocala, Fla., for several years and returned to join the UF faculty in 1992. Currently, he is the Chief of Neurological Surgery at the Gainesville Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Dr. Jacob has served on numerous local, state and national medical organizations including serving as past president of the Florida Neurosurgical Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Neurosurgical Surgeons. He is a current member of the Council of State Neurological Societies and is the CNS representative to the American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jacob was appointed as chief of the Neurosurgical Service at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in June of 2014. He has trained with leading orthopaedic surgeons around the United States and has brought his expertise to the UF Department of Neurosurgery. The UF spine team performs a full range of surgical procedures, from decompression and complex reconstructive surgery to minimally invasive outpatient procedures. They also have extensive experience in treating complex spinal disorders and adult spinal deformities. The program's unique approach blends the latest neurosurgical procedures coupled with advanced orthopaedic techniques and equipment.



Gregory A. Murad, MD

Gregory A. Murad, MD, received his BS degree in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University in 1997 and his medical degree in May of 2001 from the University of Vermont College of

Medicine, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. In 2001, he began his neurosurgical training at the University of Florida.

In 2004, he spent a year as a Clinical Fellow at the N.I.H./ NINDS studying investigational treatment for brain tumors under the guidance of Dr. Ed Oldfield.

Dr. Murad was honored as the recipient of the highest resident board score award in 2006, the resident research award in 2006, and the Charles P. Chuck Shank award in 2007. Dr. Murad completed his residency in June 2007 and joined the faculty as a clinical lecturer.



#### David W. Pincus, MD, PhD

Dr. Pincus is the Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the University of Florida. After graduating from Yale College with a BS degree in biology, Dr. Pincus obtained MD and PhD

degrees from Cornell University. His PhD thesis work focused on the development of precursor cells (stem cells) in the nervous system. He then pursued a neurosurgical residency at the Neurological Institute of New York at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. During his residency training he continued his work with neuronal precursor cells, now with human brain samples, and received the Congress of Neurological Surgeons' Resident Award in 1996.

After completing his chief residency at Columbia, Dr. Pincus served as a pediatric neurosurgical fellow at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. He then accepted a position as an attending at Children's where he remained for one year prior to being asked to join the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Florida. As the primary pediatric neurosurgeon at the University of Florida, Dr. Pincus takes care of all neurosurgical problems in children.

Dr. Pincus is board certified by both the American Board of Neurological Surgeons and the American Board of Pediatric Neurosurgeons and is a member of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons.