

### SUMMER 2015

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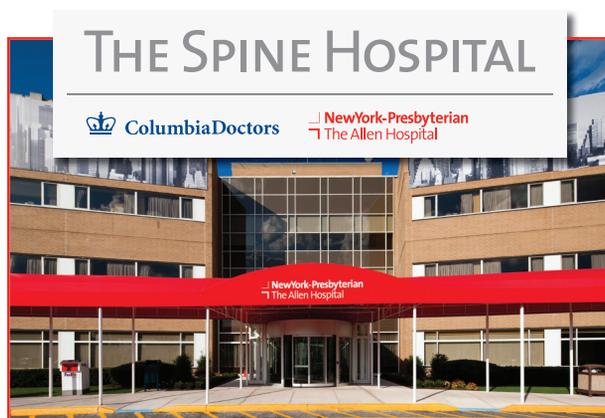
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## NewYork-Presbyterian and ColumbiaDoctors Establish New Spine Hospital at NewYork-Presbyterian/The Allen Hospital

A team of world-leading spine experts has been recruited to revolutionize spine care in New York. NewYork-Presbyterian and ColumbiaDoctors are proud to announce the appointment of renowned spinal surgeons Lawrence G. Lenke, MD, K. Daniel Riew, MD, and Ronald A. Lehman, Jr., MD, who join current adult spine surgeons Charla R. Fischer, MD, Yongjung (Jay) Kim, MD, and Mark Weidenbaum, MD. Drs. Lenke and Lehman will also contribute to the pediatric spine team of Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH, Chief of Pediatric Spine and Scoliosis Surgery, David P. Roye, Jr., MD, Joshua E. Hyman, MD, and Benjamin D. Roye, MD, MPH, operating at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

"With our expanded team of established pediatric and adult spine surgeons, we have created a comprehensive spine health initiative, including The Spine Hospital at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen," says William N. Levine, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon-in-Chief of NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia. "Drs. Lenke, Riew, and Lehman are wonderful additions to the spinal care team. Our patients will benefit greatly from their ability to treat a wide array of spinal issues, including some of the rarest and most difficult-to-treat conditions in the world."

Drs. Lenke, Riew, and Lehman, who join NewYork-Presbyterian from Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, take a multidisciplinary approach to spine care that incorporates both surgical and non-surgical options. In addition to their excellent clinical reputation, the three physicians have conducted groundbreaking research that has led to numerous advances in the field of spinal surgery.



#### Dr. Lawrence G. Lenke Surgeon-in-Chief, The Spine Hospital

Dr. Lawrence G. Lenke, one of the premier spinal deformity surgeons in the world, specializes in complex reconstructive surgery in children and adults for conditions such as scoliosis, kyphosis, flatback syndrome, and other major spinal imbalances. Dr. Lenke will serve as Surgeon-in-Chief of The Spine Hospital at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen, and Director of Spinal Deformity Surgery in the Spine Division, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia.

Dr. Lenke developed the classification system for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, which is now

referred to as the Lenke Classification System for Scoliosis. In 2013, he was honored with the North American Spine Society's Leon Wiltse Award for excellence in leadership and/or clinical research in spine care.

Dr. Lenke's prolific academic career includes more than 360 published peer-reviewed manuscripts, five textbooks on spinal surgery, and more than 125 textbook chapters. He is a past president of the Scoliosis Research Society, the oldest and most prestigious spine society in the world. As a reflection of his preeminent surgical skills, Dr. Lenke has hosted more than 700 spinal surgeons from around the globe to observe his surgeries in the past 15 years.

*(continued on page 2)*



## NewYork-Presbyterian and ColumbiaDoctors Establish New Spine Hospital *(continued from page 1)*



**“We will focus our care on patients with spine disorders, not just from the surgeon’s perspective, but also from the whole healthcare team’s perspective. There will be no patient that we cannot help in some way, from those with the most common problems to the most complex.”**

**— Dr. Lawrence G. Lenke**

After receiving his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Lenke completed an internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine. While at Washington University, he also completed fellowship training in pediatric and adult orthopedic spine surgery.

In coming to NewYork-Presbyterian with his colleagues, Dr. Lenke reflects on the strengths of their team and what they hope to accomplish in their new positions. “We all have subspecialty expertise in various forms of spinal surgery,” says Dr. Lenke, who was previously Chief of Spinal Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. “Among the three of us we can cover the entire gamut of spinal surgery. We’ve also known each other for quite some time. I met Dr. Riew for the first time in 1994, and Dr. Lehman was one of our fellows at Washington University some 10 years ago. We have a long history together and a mutual respect for each other.”

When describing the discipline of spinal surgery, Dr. Lenke likens it to a blend of orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery. “What really attracted me to NewYork-Presbyterian was the emphasis here on giving the best patient care and the opportunity for us to do something very unique within our discipline,” continues Dr. Lenke. “The new program will have a combined and collaborative surgical approach that includes both orthopedic and neurosurgical spine surgeons looking at spine disease from both an operative and nonoperative perspective. The key is that we are all spine surgeons. There is a tremendous amount of overlap and cross-fertilization in our specific specialties. It all works well when we’re working together.”

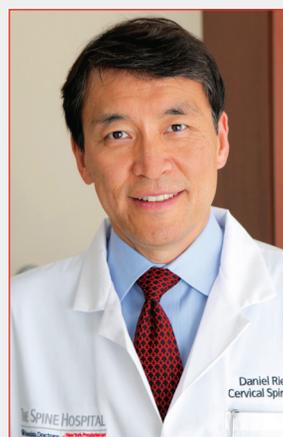
### **Dr. K. Daniel Riew** **Director, Cervical Spine Surgery**

A distinguished cervical spine surgeon, Dr. K. Daniel Riew focuses exclusively on operative treatment of the cervical spine, a rarity among spine surgeons. Dr. Riew, who will serve as Director of Cervical Spine Surgery in the Spine Division, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, and an attending surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen, performs 250 to 300 cervical spine operations each year ranging from minimally invasive microsurgical outpatient procedures to the most complex

“chin-on-chest” and “ear-on-shoulder” deformities. “There aren’t many people who specialize only in cervical spine disorders,” notes Dr. Riew. “I don’t think anyone in the United States, for the last 10 years or so, has done the number of cervical spine cases that I’ve done in any given year. The numbers are such that it allows me to have the experience of having seen a lot of pathologies. When it comes to surgery, it is the volume that drives success. The more of anything you do, the more proficient you become.”

Dr. Riew views this new venture as an exciting opportunity to establish a hospital devoted solely to the operative and non-operative care of patients with spinal disorders. “Our program will include physical medicine, pain management specialists, and ultimately we hope to engage chiropractors, acupuncturists, and psychologists who will be dedicated to treating patients with spine disease. I believe that non-traditional types of medical management certainly have their role. I’ve been treating patients for 20 years and I’ve seen many people helped by chiropractic treatment and acupuncture,” says Dr. Riew.

In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Riew has lectured internationally on cervical spine surgery, contributing to improvements in the treatment of spinal disorders around the world. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and more than 70 chapters and other manuscripts. He has also served as President of the Cervical Spine Research Society.



**“Our goals are to give the best care that we can possibly give to patients with a spinal pathology; to promote and perform research to advance spinal care; and, finally, to teach the next generation of academic spine surgeons so that they can continue this work going forward.”**

**— Dr. K. Daniel Riew**

“My research focus is on the clinical treatment of cervical spine disorders, including artificial disc replacement and the use of motion preservation technologies that cervical arthroplasty requires,” says Dr. Riew. “I utilize a lot of the new biomaterials. We can do much more than what was done even 10 years ago in terms of motion preservation.”

Dr. Riew received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University Medical School and completed residencies in internal medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and in orthopedic surgery at George Washington University Medical Center. He also completed a fellowship in orthopedic spine surgery under the training of world-renowned cervical spine surgeon Henry H. Bohlman, MD, at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland.

## Dr. Ronald A. Lehman, Jr. Director, Degenerative and Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

Dr. Ronald A. Lehman, Jr., will serve as Director of Degenerative and Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery in the Spine Division, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, and an attending surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen. Dr. Lehman specializes in surgery for pediatric and adult spinal deformities, as well as myelopathy, radiculopathy, spinal tumors, and cancers of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. He offers particular expertise in minimally invasive surgical applications for the cervical and lumbar spine, as well as cervical spine arthroplasty.



**“This is an opportunity to be able to globalize spine care – not just in terms of geography, but globalization in terms of taking care of the patient – in the greatest city in the country, if not the world. Very few places can do this at such a comprehensive and high level.”**

— Dr. Ronald A. Lehman, Jr.

“We will be able to perform any operation on the spine, from the most complex conditions to the most straightforward, which can also be debilitating,” says Dr. Lehman. “From my perspective, when patients have great outcomes everyone wins – the patients and families, the doctors, and the healthcare system. This is an opportunity to be able to globalize spine care – not just in terms of geography, but globalization in terms of taking care of the patient – in the greatest city in the country, if not the world. Very few places can do this at such a comprehensive and high level.”

After graduating from West Point, Dr. Lehman received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He completed his residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and fellowship training in adult and pediatric spine surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Lehman has published more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and currently serves as program chair of the Scoliosis Research Society and program co-chair of the Cervical Spine Research Society and Lumbar Spine Research Society. He is the recipient of several Department of Defense research grants totaling more than \$10 million. Prior to joining the faculty at Washington University, Dr. Lehman served as a lieutenant colonel in the Army. He was the Chief of the Adult and Pediatric Spine Service at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, as well as a consultant to the White House.

### Comprehensive and Expedited Spine Care for Patients

The new spine initiative incorporates a specialized multidisciplinary team, with orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, neurologists, radiologists, rehabilitation medicine and pain management specialists, physical and occupational therapists, highly advanced intensivists, and hospitalists who will work together to provide a comprehensive approach to diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical care.

“There will be no patient that we cannot help in some way, from those with the more common problems to patients with complex and challenging spine disorders,” says Dr. Lenke. “Treatment plans will be developed from the perspective of the entire healthcare team – the anesthesiologist who takes care of the patient before and during surgery, the nurses and physical therapists who help the patient begin the recovery process, and the physiatrists whose particular expertise and significant experience in nonoperative spine care will benefit all of our patients.”

The ability to address all of a patient’s needs in one location, drawing on multiple specialties, is key to the new program. “Everything will be dedicated to taking care of the patient on the same day, for example, pre-operative evaluation, imaging, or pain management,” adds Dr. Lehman. “We don’t want patients to have to come back to the hospital three or four times, even on an outpatient basis, whether they need surgery or not. Our goal is to make the experience efficient for the patient, as well as for ourselves. I think ultimately that is going to speak volumes for how well our patients do.”

The spine care program will have three state-of-the-art operating rooms solely dedicated to spine surgery, with additional general operating and procedure room space available for less complex spine surgeries and procedures. “The new ORs will be equipped with the latest intraoperative navigation technologies, while The Spine Hospital at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen will feature EOS® imaging capabilities that allow us to see the entire skeleton from the skull down to the feet,” says Dr. Lenke. “When we operate on one part of the spine, especially in spine reconstruction, there is an effect on many other parts of the skeleton, including the neck, pelvis, and the hip and knee joints. This technology allows us to visualize the spine before and after and quantify exactly what those changes are and how they correlate with patient outcomes.”

EOS® imaging technology is also available at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, where Pediatric Spine and Scoliosis Surgery is led by Dr. Michael Vitale. Dr. Vitale specializes in nonoperative and operative treatment of complex pediatric spinal problems, with a special interest in treatment for early onset scoliosis.

“Our goals are to give the best care that we can possibly give to patients with a spinal pathology; to promote and perform research to advance spinal care; and, finally, to teach the next generation of academic spine surgeons so that they can continue this work going forward,” says Dr. Riew.

“We are thrilled to welcome these extraordinary surgeons who have made transformative contributions to the field of spinal care and surgery,” says Steven J. Corwin, MD, CEO of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. “As we expand the scope of our orthopedics program to include a new, comprehensive spine hospital in upper Manhattan, their ability to deliver state-of-the-art, patient-centered spine care of the highest quality will build on our strong foundation. They will be an invaluable resource to patients regionally, nationally, and beyond.”

#### For Patient Referrals and More Information

Please contact us via phone or email to refer a patient to The Spine Hospital at NewYork-Presbyterian/Allen or to request more information about the spine program.

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