

Michael T. Lawton, MD

President and CEO
Professor and Chair, Neurosurgery
Chief, Neurovascular Surgery



Michael T. Lawton, MD, is the President and CEO of Barrow Neurological Institute, Robert F. Spetzler Endowed Chair for Neurosciences, and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Dr. Lawton's neurosurgical expertise includes cerebrovascular disorders and skull base tumors. He has experience in treating more than 5,400 brain aneurysms; 1,300 arteriovenous malformations (AVMs); and 1,400 cavernous malformations, including more than 500 in the brainstem and other highly delicate areas of the brain. He is the recipient of the prestigious Cushing Award for Technical Excellence and Innovation in Neurosurgery from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Dr. Lawton received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland and an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He completed his neurosurgery residency at Barrow, where he also completed a fellowship in cerebrovascular and skull base surgery.

After joining the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco, he later completed a fellowship in endovascular surgery there.

Dr. Lawton's research studies the formation, underlying genetics, and rupture of brain AVMs and aneurysms as part of the Barrow Aneurysm and AVM Research Center. His work has been recognized with the Ralph Dacey Medal for Outstanding Cerebrovascular Research from the Joint Cerebrovascular Section of the AANS and Congress of Neurological Surgeons. He has published more than 1,000 peer-reviewed articles; eight textbooks, of which four are single-author; and more than 120 book chapters. He has established himself as an influencer in neurosurgery through innovative educational media, including his Seven Series of operative videos, Barrow Neurosurgery Base Camp, and Clippology webinars. He is board certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery.