2026 Annual Spetzler Microneurosurgery Course Barrow Neurological Institute

Barrow Neurological Institute

Microneurosurgery of the Skull Base: Fundamentals, Approaches, Anatomy & Techniques

Jan. 8-9, 2026

Phoenix, Arizona

For more information:
BarrowNeuro.org/SkullBase2026

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Course Description

The Barrow Neurological Institute Division of Neurological Surgery announces the Spetzler Microneurosurgery Course, with course director, Michael T. Lawton and special guest, Robert F. Spetzler. BNI Neurosurgery Faculty, along with invited guest faculty, will lead a didactic-practical course in neurosurgical approaches and anatomy combined with clinical correlation of cerebrovascular and brain tumor management of the anterior regions of the cranium and skull base. This course is designed for neurosurgery residents and fellows and will address surgical anatomy, surgical approaches and strategies, and clinical review. It is a full two-day course designed with intense instruction and discussion for 32 participants. Didactic instruction will feature 3D and digital video microanatomy, recorded surgery, and correlated discussion for cerebrovascular and tumor pathology. The clinical information will be used to make the practical anatomical dissection practice come alive. Exquisitely preserved cadaver tissue with vascular injection will provide the platform for lengthy dissection periods led by a master at the head station with other faculty mentors. Each station will have state-of-the-art instrumentation and microscopes.

Objectives

- Become intimately familiar with microneurosurgical anatomy for anterior region cranial and skull base surgical approaches
- Learn appropriate visualization, technique, and approaches for neurosurgery at the skull base
- Correlate clinical pathological information with the corresponding anatomic region
- Combine anatomy and pathology information into decision-making for surgical approach selection
- Explore discuss, and learn options from experienced neurosurgical faculty for surgical treatment of pathology at the anterior region skull base;
- Practice surgical approaches utilizing image guidance assistance with applied knowledge from didactic and discussion sessions on preserved-injected cadaver specimens

Barrow Neurosurgery Research Laboratory
Marian Rochelle Neuroscience Research Center Building

Mark C. Preul, MD
Director of the Neurosurgery Research Laboratory

The course will take place at the Neurosurgery Research Laboratory of the Barrow Neurological Institute Department of Neurosurgery, which is a world-class education, training, and research facility with a specialization in neurosurgical anatomy. The facility is well known for exquisite cadaver tissue specimens and features independent surgical stations fully equipped with operating microscopes, suction, irrigation, standard head frames, microsurgical and power instrumentation, 3D surgical projection, high definition flat screens, and fully trained attendant staff.

General Information

Course Location

Loyal and Edith Davis Neurosurgery Research Laboratory, Barrow Neurological Institute
St. Joseph's Hospital, 350 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Laboratory Contact Information:

Neurosurgery Research Department: (602) 406-3268
Main: (602) 406-3000
Fax: (602) 406-4153
Email: William.Bichard@DignityHealth.org

Approved Accommodations:

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Phoenix Downtown North
10 East Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 222-1111
Three blocks from the lab/walking distance
No hotel shuttle service

Hampton Inn Phoenix-Midtown-Downtown Area
160 West Catalina Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602) 200-0990
Across the street from the lab/walking distance
No hotel shuttle service

Fairfield Inn and Suits Phoenix (Marriott)
2520 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 716-9900
0.6 miles from the lab
Hotel shuttle runs between 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Wyndham Garden Phoenix I Ramada Phoenix
Second Avenue and Osborne Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013
WyndhamHotels.com
(602) 604-4900 Wyndham Garden
(602) 595-4444 Ramada Phoenix

Taxi Contacts:

AAA Yellow Cab: (602) 252-5252
Discount Cab: (602) 200-2000
Execucar: (800) 410-4444

Dinner:

A special course dinner is planned for Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026 at 7 p.m. Participants, vendors and faculty are welcome to enjoy this special evening at no additional cost. **Transportation is offered only from the listed hotels.**

Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026

7 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	***Breakfast*** | *Marley Lobby*
7:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m.	***Welcome*** | *Goldman Auditorium*
	Pterional/Orbitozygomatic Approach
7:45 a.m.-8:15 a.m.	Anatomy of Anterolateral Skull Base | *Zabramski*
8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Technique: Pterional Craniotomy | *K. Almefty*
8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	Orbitozygomatic Approach | *David*
9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Lab Dissection
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	***Lunch*** | *Marley Lobby*
	Cavernous Sinus
12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Anatomy of Clinoids & Superior Cavernous Sinus | *Benet*
1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Technique: Transcavernous Approach | *David*
1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	Clinical Applications | *Lawton*
2:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Lab Dissection

Schedule

Friday, Jan. 9, 2026

6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	***Breakfast*** | *Marley Lobby*
	Middle Cranial Fossa
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Operative Nuances | *Spetzler* | Goldman Auditorium
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Kawase Approach | *David*
9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Lab Dissection
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	***Lunch*** | *Sonntag Pavilion*
	Far Lateral
12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Anatomy of CP Angle | *Benet*
1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Far Lateral Approach | *David*
1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	Clinical Applications | *Lawton*
2:15 p.m.-5 p.m.	Lab Dissection
5 p.m.	***Wrap-up***

Course Faculty

Distinguised Senior Faculty

Robert F. Spetzler, MD
Emeritus President & CEO
Emeritus Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery
Barrow Neurological Institute

Course Director

Michael T. Lawton, MD
President & CEO
Professor & Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery
Robert F. Spetzler Endowed Chair in Neurosciences
Chief, Division of Neurovascular Surgery
Barrow Neurological Institute

Lab Director

Mark C. Preul, MD
Newsome Family Endowed Chair of Neurosurgery Research
Director, Neurosurgery Research Division of Neurological Surgery
Barrow Neurological Institute

Course Coordinator

William D. Bichard
Clinical Coordinator
Barrow Neurological Institute

Invited Faculty

Carlos David, MD
University North Carolina
Chapel Hill School of Medicine
Division Chief, Cerebrovascular &
Skull Base Surgery
Vice Chair of Education, Clinical Skills Lab
Residency Program Director
Professor

Faculty

Joseph M. Zabramski, MD
Neurosurgery
Assistant Professor
Barrow Neurological Institute

Kaith Almefty, MD
Neurosurgery
Assistant Professor
Barrow Neurological Institute

Arnau Benet, MD
Resident
Barrow Neurological Institute

For more information, email CME@BarrowNeuro.org or call (602) 406-3067.

Registration Form

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Residents: $300

REGISTER NOW

BarrowNeuro.org/SkullBase2026

For more information, please contact the Barrow Continuing Medical Education Office at CME@BarrowNeuro.org or (602) 406-3067.

Refunds:

To ensure adequate spaces and planning for the course, no refunds are given for canceled registrations.

Barrow Neurological Institute | Dignity Health. St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

350 W. Thomas Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 685
Phoenix, Arizona

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