



UW Medicine

ORTHOPAEDICS  
AND SPORTS MEDICINE

2022-2023

Spine Fellowship



# University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center

## Department of Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

### Spine Service

#### About Our Service

We have the privilege of working with a staff of dedicated Spine Service ARNP's and PA's on the floor and in our clinics. We have a total of 3 Orthopaedic and 1 Neurosurgical Spine residents on service, as well as 1 Rehabilitation Medicine fellow. Our case range throughout the year is widespread and can be roughly divided as follows: Trauma 30%, degenerative disorders 30%, deformities 25%, and neoplasia/infection 15%. The distribution between cervical and thoraco-lumbar pathology is approximately 50-50. The overall spine case load within our teaching hospitals exceeds 1,500 surgical procedures annually. With the daily exposure to residents and medical students, we place great emphasis on teaching, teamwork and collegiality.

#### Mission

To train spine surgeons who will become respected leaders, based on their character and their clinical, research and educational efforts. We aim to do so by graduating well-rounded inquisitive, ethically minded and highly knowledgeable spine surgeons, who are capable of providing state of the art spine surgery covering the entire spectrum of spinal disorders, while advancing the standard of spinal care.



2019 - 2020 Spine Group, from left: Dr. Carlo Bellabarba, Dr. Haitao Zhou, Dr. Theodore Wagner, Dr. David Gendelberg, Dr. Viral Patel, Dr. Jon Kark (ACE), Dr. Derrick Foge (ACE), Dr. Kim Driftmier (ACE), Dr. Richard Bransford

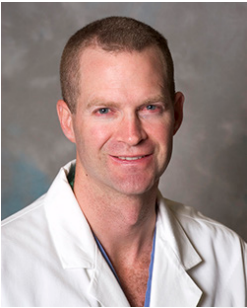
#### Program Information

The UW Spine Post-Residency Training program was established in 1987 by Paul Anderson. To date, we have trained over 60 spine surgeons, with roughly one-third of graduates entering an academically affiliated practice. The other two-thirds are well-respected leaders in their regions all across the globe.

Our program is unique in that we provide care for a quarter of the land mass of the USA, spanning Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. These services are provided by the only Level-One Trauma Center and genuine academic tertiary care facilities. Our program is interdisciplinary and combines 3 Orthopaedic Post-Residency Spine Clinical Instructors (ACEs) with 2 Neurosurgical fellows. This arrangement provides exposure to the widest possible range of spinal pathology with respect to the nature and location of spinal disorders, and their treatment options. We offer mentoring and assistance with attaining career and employment objectives.

# Fellowship Faculty

## Program Director: Richard Bransford, MD



Professor of Orthopaedics & Neurosurgery, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Director of University of Washington Spine Education & Research  
Director of Harborview Medical Center Spine Quality Improvement  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: His favorite aspect of patient care is surgery, but he thinks that it is of the utmost importance that patients have an adequate understanding of their issues, expected outcome and prognosis.

Research & Clinical Interests: Spinal Disorders and Trauma Surgery, general orthopedic surgery, third-world orthopedic disorders and education of third-world physicians.

## Carlo Bellabarba, MD



Professor of Orthopaedics & Neurosurgery, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Chief of Orthopaedics, Harborview Medical Center  
Hansjoerg Wyss Endowed Chair, Department of Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: Treats each patient as if he or she were a family member, and uses the full extent of his research and clinical experience to tailor a treatment program to each patient's unique clinical situation.

Research & Clinical Interests: Surgical treatment of the full range and complexity of spine conditions throughout the spine, from the upper cervical spine to the sacrum, including spine trauma; degenerative spine conditions such as stenosis and disc pathology; spine deformity such as scoliosis, kyphosis and spondylolisthesis; spine infections; spine tumors; and minimally invasive spine surgery and motion-sparing treatments.

## Randall Chesnut, MD, FCCM, FACS



Professor of Neurosurgery & Orthopaedics, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Director of Neurosurgical Spine and Neurotrauma Services, Harborview Medical Center  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: Strives to create active partnerships with his patients to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Research & Clinical Interests: Clinical interests include brain and spinal injuries including sports-related injuries. Research interests include improvement of care for traumatic brain and spine injuries, investigation of outcomes in trauma care systems in developing countries in Latin America, and target therapy in the management of traumatic brain injury.

## David Gendelberg, MD



Acting Instructor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Washington Medical School of Medicine  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: Treat my patients as if they were my family. I believe that speaking and getting to know my patients is of the utmost importance since every patient is different and their care should be tailored to their individual needs. Furthermore, making the patient an active participant in their care leads to the best outcomes.

Research & Clinical Interests: Clinical research in spine trauma; spine deformity, degenerative spine conditions, herniated discs, spinal cord injury, and healthcare policy

# Fellowship Faculty (cont'd)

Viral R. Patel, MD



Acting Instructor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center, UWMC-Roosevelt

Patient Care Philosophy: Provide optimal patient care and provide the best experience for the patients going through surgery

Research & Clinical Interests: Research in sacral trauma, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, post-operative spinal wound infection and related complications. Clinic interests include research in adult spinal deformity and minimal invasive spine surgery

Rajiv Saigal, MD, PhD, MSc



Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: Strives to create active partnerships with his patients to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Clinical Interests: Spinal cord injury, neurotrauma, spinal deformity, spinal tumors and minimally invasive techniques.

Fangyi Zhang, MD



Professor of Neurological Surgery and Orthopaedics, University of Washington School of Medicine  
Director of Neurosurgical Spine Fellowship Program  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: Strive to create active partnerships with patients and their families

Research & Clinical Interests: Clinical research in spine trauma and disorders. Research interests include the outcomes study of spine surgery, spinal cord blood flow regulation and acute spinal cord injury

Haitao Zhou, MD



Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Washington Medical School of Medicine  
Site(s) of Practice: Harborview Medical Center

Patient Care Philosophy: I believe that all patients should be treated by their doctors as if they were a family member. I believe that spending time communicating to the patient can solve issues.

Research & Clinical Interests: Clinical research in adult deformity

# Fellowship Specifics

The usual weekly schedule ranges from 2-3 OR days and 2 clinic days per week, and one research/vacation backup day, depending on the rotation. Call frequency is approximately 1/5, with the same ratio applying to weekends. Weekend call usually extends from Friday AM through Sunday AM. Our ACEs/Fellows report between 250 to 300 cases per year.

	<b>BRANSFORD</b>	<b>BELLABARBA</b>	<b>UW/COMBINATION</b>
<b>MON</b>	HMC Spine Clinic	HMC Operating Room (Bellabarba)	HMC Operating Room (Bellabarba)
<b>TUES</b>	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)	UW-Roosevelt Bone & Joint Clinic (Patel)
<b>WED</b>	HMC Operating Room (Bellabarba)	HMC Operating Room (Bellabarba)	UWMC Operating Room (Patel)
<b>THUR</b>	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)	HMC Spine Clinic	HMC Spine Clinic
<b>FRI</b>	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)	HMC Operating Room (Bransford)

# Fellowship Specifics (cont'd)

## Spine Education Meetings

Daily:	7:00-7:15am	HMC On-Call Sign Out Conference
Monday:	7:00pm-Close	Journal Club (1st Monday, Dr. Wagner's House)
Tuesday:	7:00-8:30am 6:30-8:00am	Spine Indications (UWMC) M&M (4th week)
Wednesday:	7:00-8:00am	Spine Grand Rounds (HMC, 3rd week)
Thursday:	7:30-8:30am 8:30-9:15am	Research Report vs. Didactic Conference (HMC) Spinal Radiology Conference (HMC)
Friday:	7:15-8:15am	Spinal Indications (HMC) M&M (4th week)

## Spine Annual Events

ACE/Fellows Research Day and Graduation Dinner  
AOSpine Fellowship Retreat  
Attendance at one sponsored Society Meeting in North America  
Attendance at two AOSpine Courses  
Funding to present UW generated research



(2018-2019 Spine ACE Ashraf El Naga, MD presenting his research project)

## Resources

- Applied Biosciences Research Laboratory
- Spinal Biomechanics Laboratory
- Research staff and experienced Senior Study Coordinator Julie Agel
- Epidemiologists
- Spinal Database
- Trauma Database
- Selected AOSpine North America Fellowship Site
- Research Funding available through 3 Endowed Spine Chairs and several ongoing grants
- Free iTunes Podcasts: UW Health and Medicine

# Meet Our Current Spine ACEs

**Taylor Beatty, DO**



Dr. Beatty received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines, IA. He completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at Nova Southeastern University/University of South Florida, Largo Medical Center in Largo, FL.

**Iain Elliott, MD**



Dr. Elliott received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL. He completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT. He just completed an Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA.

**Catherine Olinger, MD**



Dr. Olinger received her Doctor of Medicine from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE. She completed her Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Campbell Clinic in Memphis, TN.

# Harborview Spine ACE Alumni

2019 - 2020	Kim Driftmier, MD	Derrick Foge, MD	Jon Kark, MD
2018 - 2019	Ashraf El Naga, MD	Edward Jung, MD	Eric Rebich, DO
2017 - 2018	Christina Cheng, MD	David Gendleberg, MD	Nathan Wigner, MD
2016 - 2017	Samia Ghaffar, MD	Farhan Karim, DO	Brett Walker, DO
2015 - 2016	David Glassman, MD	Jason Pittman, MD	Haitao Zhou, MD
2014 - 2015	Alireza Anissipour, MD	Saad Elrahmany, MD	Viral Patel, MD
2013 - 2014	Max Berdichevsky, MD	Viral Patel, MD	Joshua Shatsky, MD
2012 - 2013	Zachary Child, MD	Mathias Daniels, MD	Mark Manoso, MD
2011 - 2012	Sree Harsha Malempati, MD	Amit Patel, MD	Saravanaraja Muthusamy, MBBS
2010 - 2011	Myles Luszczczyk, MD	Jeremiah Maddox, MD	Anuj Varshney, MD
2009 - 2010	Nguyen Do, MD	Roland Kent, MD	Abilio Reis, MD
2008 - 2009	Mark Freeborn, MD	Christopher Howe, MD	
2007 - 2008	Paul Kraemer, MD	Delmore Morsette, MD	Anthony Russo, MD
2006 - 2007	Troy Caron, MD	Joshua Patt, MD	
2005 - 2006	Elgafy Hossein, MD	David Stevens, MD	
2004 - 2005	Jason H. Thompson, MD		
2003 - 2004	Tim McHenry, MD		
2002 - 2003	Mike Binette, MD		
2001 - 2002	Richard Bransford, MD		
2000 - 2001	John Borkowski, MD		
1999 - 2000	Andrew Cree, MBBS	Christopher Summa, MD	
1997 - 1998	Allain Girouard, MD		
1995 - 1996	Joel A. Finkelstein, MD		
1994 - 1995	Darrell Brodke, MD		
1992 - 1993	Edward J. Dohring, MD		
1991 - 1992	John Steinmann, MD		
1990 - 1991	Jens R. Chapman, MD	Walter F. Krengel, MD	
1989 - 1990	Timothy Budorick, MD		



# Contact Information

Website: [www.orthop.washington.edu](http://www.orthop.washington.edu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UWOrthopaedicsSportsMedicine](http://www.facebook.com/UWOrthopaedicsSportsMedicine)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UWOrthopaedics](http://www.twitter.com/UWOrthopaedics)

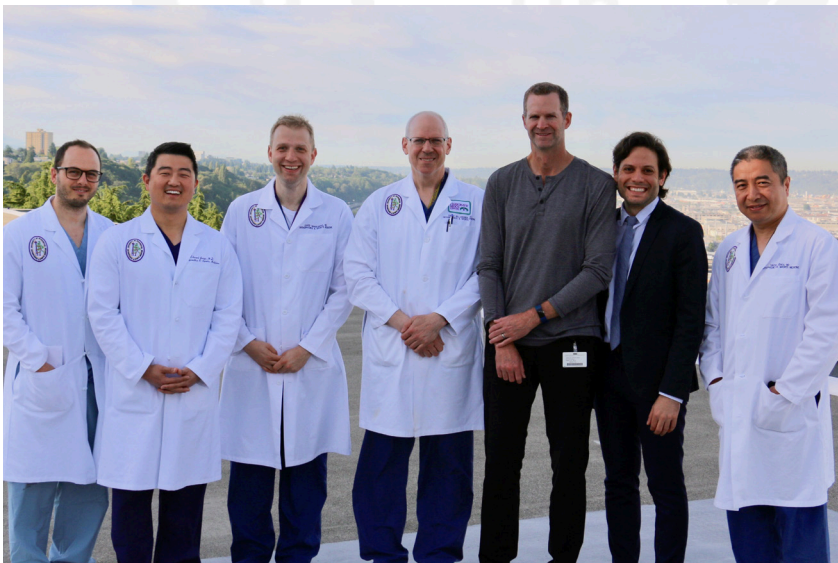
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uwortho/>

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Harborview Medical Center Orthopaedic Administration Office  
8th Floor, Ninth and Jefferson Building  
908 Jefferson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104



2018-2019 Spine Service From left: Dr. Eric Rebich (ACE), Dr. Edward Jung (ACE), Dr. Gendelberg, Dr. Bellabarba, Dr. Bransford, Dr. Ashraf El Naga (ACE), Dr. Zhou



2017-2018 Spine Service from left: Dr. Zhou, Dr. Christina Cheng (ACE), Dr. Nathan Wigner (ACE), Dr. David Gendelberg (ACE), Dr. Bellabarba