



Skull Base Fellows Course

September 3-4, 2026 - Cleveland, Ohio

Course Director

Nicholas C. Bambakidis

Faculty

Sepideh Amin-Hanjani, Ashok R. Asthagiri, Garni Barkhoudarian, Garret Choby, Brian D'Anza, Paul A. Gardner, Yin C. Hu, Louis J. Kim, Matthew Koch, Sarah Mowry, Peter Nakaji, Sanjeet Rangarajan, Abhishek Ray, Alejandro Rivas, Kenneth Rodriguez, Sahar Sarmadi, Maroun Semaan, Cameron Wick, Joseph M. Zabramski

Reviewers: Akash Patel

Course Description

This comprehensive two-day course is tailored for skull base fellows and early-career neurosurgeons with a keen interest in skull base surgery. Participants will engage in an intensive learning experience that combines lectures, case-based discussions, and hands-on cadaver dissections, focusing on the fundamental surgical approaches and anatomical knowledge essential for every skull base neurosurgeon. The distinguished faculty, comprising both neurosurgeons and ENT surgeons, will provide expert instruction on posterolateral and transtemporal surgical techniques as well as endoscopic endonasal anatomy and surgical strategies. Additionally, the course will place special emphasis on the management of vascular lesions, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, attendees will be able to:

- Identify factors that lead to surgical complications and poor outcomes when treating brain tumors.
- Employ strategies for surgical complication avoidance and treatment management.
- Analyze the impact of surgical complications on patient quality of life.
- Demonstrate proper surgical techniques for endonasal endoscopic approaches to the anterior skull base.
- Demonstrate proper surgical techniques for addressing diverse pathologies within the cerebellopontine angle.

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The Congress of Neurological Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation Statement

The CNS designates this live activity for a maximum of **17.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Agenda

Thursday, September 3

Posterolateral Skull Base Approaches

7:00-7:30 am

Breakfast

7:30-8:00 am

Anatomy of the Posterolateral Skull Base

Joseph M. Zabramski

8:00-8:30 am

Indications and Approaches for the Management of Skull Base Pathology

Nicholas C. Bambakidis

8:30-9:00 am

Management of Acoustic Neuromas—The Retrosigmoid Approach

Ashok R. Asthagiri

9:00-9:30 am

Complication Mitigation when choosing an approach for Acoustic Neuromas

Matthew Koch

9:30-10:00 am

Tuberculum Sella Meningioma Surgical Approaches: Above or Below?

Garni Barkhoudarian

10:00-10:45 am

The Far Lateral Approach and Its Variations

Louis J. Kim

10:45-11:45 am

Transpetrous and Combined Approaches

Sarah Mowry, Alejandro Rivas, Maroun Semaan, Cameron Wick

11:45 am-12:30 pm

Break and Lunch

12:30-5:00 pm

Laboratory Session

Retrosigmoid/Translabyrinthine/Transpetrosal, Far Lateral Approach and Variations

6:30 pm

Shuttle departs Courtyard Marriott for course dinner

7:00 pm

Course Dinner

Friday, September 4

Endonasal Endoscopic Approaches to the Anterior Cranial Skull Base

7:00-7:30 am

Breakfast

7:30-8:00 am

Basic Intra-nasal Anatomy and Anatomy of the Pituitary Gland and Parasellar Region

Kenneth Rodriguez

8:00-8:20 am

Equipment Setup and Operating Room Strategy

Garret Choby

8:20-8:45 am

Resection Techniques with Intraoperative Examples

Paul A. Gardner

8:45-9:30 am

Reconstruction of the Surgical Defects

Garret Choby

9:30-10:15 am

Surgical Options for Intraorbital Pathology

Abhishek Ray

10:15-10:45 am

The Orbitozygomatic Approach: Variations and Indications

Peter Nakaji

10:45-11:15 am

The Anterior Clinoidectomy for the Treatment of Paraclinoid Aneurysms

Sepideh Amin-Hanjani

11:15-11:30 am

Technology and AI in Healthcare and Skull Base Surgery

Brian D'Anza

11:30 am-12:15 pm

Surgical Case Examples and Indications

Yin C. Hu, Sanjeet Rangarajan, Kenneth Rodriguez

12:15-1:00 pm

Break and Lunch

1:00-5:00 pm

Laboratory Session

Endonasal Endoscopic Approaches, Orbitozygomatic Approaches and Variations

5:00 pm

Course Adjourns and Departure

Agenda and faculty subject to change