

Spine surgeons & pain management — under 1 roof

Augusta Back is a multidisciplinary, regional center of excellence for the treatment of back and neck problems.

Augusta Back physicians are able to care for any type of back or neck problem, from the simple back or neck strain all the way to the most complex spine surgery.

The spine center combines the expertise of three pain management MDs dedicated to the nonsurgical management of spine problems.

If spine surgery is necessary the spine center includes the expertise of five board-certified neurological surgeons.

The spine center facility in West Augusta combines all these spine specialists, along with MRI, X-ray and an injection suite all under one roof. Consequently, the back or neck pain patient no longer has to drive around town for care.

Having all the spine

specialists, diagnostic testing and non-operative treatment under one roof eliminates the need for multiple referrals, delayed care and confusion. Instead of having to drive around town from a doctor's office, to a diagnostic center, to an injection suite location, and then to a therapy clinic, patients access all these capabilities in one location.

Augusta Back tries to exhaust non-surgical treatment options before a surgery is recommended. This can include spinal injections that reduce inflammation around a nerve root — in some cases eliminating the need for surgery.

Augusta Back is the only spine center in Georgia to be included in SpineCenterNetwork.com. To be included a spine center needs to emphasize nonsurgical treatment options, minimally invasive spine surgery and educational information for consumers.



With minimally invasive spine surgery, the surgeon operates through a half-inch incision with tubular retractors. A smaller incision reduces blood loss and eliminates the need for outside blood; lessens pain after surgery and during recovery; and shortens the stay in the hospital. For example, some patients can go home the same day after spine surgery.

NEUROSURGEON CAPABILITIES

University Neuroscience is one of the largest neurosurgical groups in Southeast Georgia. Its neurosurgeons are referred some of the most complex spine, brain tumor, brain injury, spinal cord problems and aneurysm cases from across the Southeast Georgia region. The board-certified neurosurgeons are experienced in the following issues:

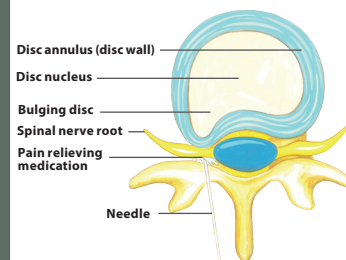


- Herniated Discs / Spine Surgery
- Spinal tumor / Brain tumor
- Stroke
- Peripheral Nerve Problems
- Carpal Tunnel / Ulnar Nerve
- Acute Spinal Cord Injury
- Aneurysm

More information about neurosurgical and neuroscience capabilities is available on the educational web site AugustaBack.com

How spinal injections relieve back & neck pain symptoms

When a disc herniates it can press on adjacent nerve roots that branch off from the spinal cord. One non-surgical way to relieve pressure on a nerve root is to inject pain medication directly into this area which reduces inflammation and pain symptoms. The three pain management specialists at Augusta Back use spinal injections to relieve herniated disc symptoms that can include radiating pain, or numbness and weakness in a leg or arm. A spinal injection takes as little as 15 minutes. During an injection procedure, the patient lies on the stomach to enable a C-arm fluoroscopic device to provide X-ray images of the spine. A local anesthetic may be injected into the skin to reduce discomfort from the injection. Next, a thin needle is inserted into the epidural space. Medication is slowly injected. During this time, the patient is able to communicate with the doctor. After the injection, a patient relaxes in a recliner for 45 minutes under a nurse's observation, before heading home.



Medication is injected into the area surrounding a nerve root, which reduces inflammation and relieves pain. Epidural steroid injections can act as a bridge, enabling the patient to proceed to therapy and a full return to activity.

Board-Certified Neurosurgeons for Spine & Neuroscience

CARGILL H. ALLEYNE, JR., MD

Board-Certified Neurosurgeon

Fellowship-trained in Neuroendovascular Surgery

Dr. Alleyne, Jr. is a board-certified neurosurgeon with a special interest in the practice of cerebrovascular neurosurgery, endovascular neurosurgery, skull base tumors, spine surgery, radiosurgery and general neurosurgery. Dr. Alleyne has been providing neurosurgical care for over 27 years, and joined University Neuroscience - Augusta Back in 2018. He has appointments at University Hospital and Doctor's Hospital. Dr. Alleyne was the Marshall Allen Distinguished Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University from 2007 to 2018, Residency Program Director from 2004 to 2018, and Associate Professor and Academic Vice-Chairman from 2004 to 2007. He completed his medical training at Yale University School of Medicine (elected Alpha Omega Alpha), residency at Emory University and a fellowship in cerebrovascular and skull base tumor surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute. He also obtained a fellowship in neuroendovascular surgery from University of Rochester, NY.



DAVID FLOYD, MD

Board-Certified Neurosurgeon

Board-Certified Gamma Knife Perfection / Cyberknife

Dr. Floyd is a board-certified neurosurgeon with a special interest in the practice of spinal surgery and cranial surgery. Dr. Floyd has been providing spine care for over 20 years, and has been in the Augusta Back Group. He has appointments at University Hospital, Doctor's Hospital, and Trinity. He received his medical degree from University of Tennessee College of Medicine with the highest honors. He completed his surgical internship and neurosurgical residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Dr. Floyd's specific medical interests include both surgical and non-surgical management of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. His practice includes both minimally invasive and open procedures of the spine using the latest in non-fusion and fusion technology when appropriate. He has been trained in cervical disc replacement, Stereotaxic Surgery, Congenital Disorders, Vertebroplasty, Kyphoplasty, Spinal Arthrodesis and Instrumentation, Stereotactic Brain Biopsy, and other procedures including Burr Hole, Biopsy, and Injections.



J. MARC GUITTON, MD

Board-Certified Neurosurgeon

Dr. Guitton is a board-certified neurosurgeon with a special interest in the practice of spinal surgery. Dr. Guitton has been providing spine care for almost 20 years, and has been in the Augusta Back Group since 2000. He has appointments at University Hospital, Doctor's Hospital, and Trinity. He received his medical degree at Emory. He completed his internship and residency at the Semmes-Murphey Clinic at the University of Tennessee Memphis. After residency, Dr. Guitton served four years in the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson in Dayton, Ohio as a staff neurosurgeon. He was Chief of the Department for his final two years. Dr. Guitton's specific medical interests include both surgical and non-surgical management of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. His practice includes both minimally invasive and open procedures of the spine using the latest in non-fusion and fusion technology when appropriate. He has been trained in cervical disc replacement with both Medtronic and Synthes. He can also offer treatment with X-Stop for mild to moderate stenosis, and Kyphoplasty for vertebral compression fractures.



GREGORY M. OETTING, MD

Board-Certified Neurosurgeon

Dr. Oetting is a board-certified neurosurgeon. He received his medical degree at St. Louis University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Medical College of Virginia. His professional affiliations include diplomate of American Board of Neurological Surgeons, American Medical Association, Missouri State Medical Association, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Oetting's specific medical interests include both surgical and non-surgical management of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. His practice includes both minimally invasive and open procedures of the spine using the latest in non-fusion and fusion technology when appropriate.



JONATHAN TUTTLE, MD

Board-Certified Neurosurgeon

Fellowship-Trained in Orthopaedic Spine Surgery

Dr. Tuttle is a board-certified neurosurgeon with a special interest in the practice of spinal surgery. Dr. Tuttle has been providing spine care for over 20 years, and has been in the Augusta Back Group. He has appointments at University Hospital, Doctor's Hospital, and Trinity. He received a degree Magna Cum Laude in Science Technology. He went on to receive his medical degree at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He completed his internship and residency in General Surgery and Neurological Surgery at Medical College of Georgia. He completed a fellowship in Orthopaedic Spine Surgery in 2007. Dr. Tuttle is currently Board Certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons. He is licensed to practice medicine in Ohio and Georgia. Dr. Tuttle was assistant professor of Neurosurgery and Orthopaedics at the Medical College of Georgia. His honors and awards include CSNS Award for healthcare management. He was also a recipient of the Montgomery County Alliance Scholarship. Dr. Tuttle has volunteered as medical support for Columbia County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team.



Nonsurgical Spine Care & Pain Management

ANDREW FORGAY, MD

Board-Certified Anesthesiology & Pain Management

Dr. Forgay is an interventional pain management specialist at Augusta Back Neuroscience. He specializes in the nonsurgical relief of pain, including epidural steroid injections, radiofrequency treatments, sympathetic nerve blocks, facet blocks, sacroiliac blocks, peripheral nerve blocks, and many others. Dr. Andrew Forgay has over 21 years of experience in the field of medicine and specializes in interventional pain medicine. Dr. Forgay is a Board-Certified Anesthesiologist and Board-Certified in Pain Management. Dr. Andrew Forgay graduated from Emory University School Of Medicine with his medical degree in 1997. He is affiliated with numerous hospitals, including University Hospital in Georgia. Dr. Forgay is accepting new patients at his medical office and Augusta Back Neuroscience location and available for appointments, preventative care, medical care as well as ongoing patient care.



STEVEN R. HANDLING, MD

Board-Certified Anesthesiology & Pain Management

Fellowship-Trained in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia

Dr. Steven Handling is an interventional pain management specialist at Augusta Back Neuroscience. Dr. Steven Handling is board-certified in pain medicine and anesthesiology. Dr. Handling believes in utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach to facilitate the comprehensive management of chronic pain. His primary goals are functional restoration and improvement in the quality of life through the reduction and treatment of pain symptoms. His particular interests include acute and chronic pain of the back and neck, complex regional pain syndrome, musculoskeletal pain, neuropathic pain, neuromodulation with the use of spinal cord stimulation, and cancer pain. Dr. Handling finished his Doctor of Medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD in 2001. He was awarded the AMSUS Award for Military Medical Excellence and also Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for Surgery. He completed his residency in Anesthesiology at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA in 2004. Dr. Handling completed a Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Fellowship at Washington Hospital Center in 2005. He then finished a Fellowship in Pain Medicine at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA in 2007. In 2017, he was the Executive Vice Chair of Clinical Operations and Division Chief Pain Services at Augusta University Medical Center, Augusta GA. From 2018, he has served as the Medical Director (CARF accredited) of Outpatient Interdisciplinary Pain Program (OIPP) at Columbia VA Health System, Columbia SC.

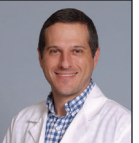


AARON SANDERS, MD

Board-Certified Anesthesiology & Pain Management

Fellowship-Trained in Chronic Pain Management

Dr. Aaron Sanders is a native of Augusta, graduating from Augusta Christian Schools, and earning his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in 2016. He then went on to complete his residency in Anesthesiology at Wake Forest Baptist Health in 2020, and his fellowship in Chronic Pain Management at Wake Forest Baptist Health in 2021, before returning to Augusta to begin his practice. His primary goals include the reduction of pain to allow increased functionality and improved quality of life, helping patients to return to activities that they previously enjoyed. He has a strong interest in the treatment of joint pain, including knees, hips, sacroiliac, and shoulder joints, as well as epidural steroid injections and the treatment of axial back and neck pain. He is also interested in both peripheral nerve and spinal cord stimulation, and is proficient in many other interventions as well.



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Augusta Back

Expertise in Spine & Neuroscience
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