

# Johns Hopkins Bayview News

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**Zero Harm**

**Hear! Hear!**

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**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
MEDICINE

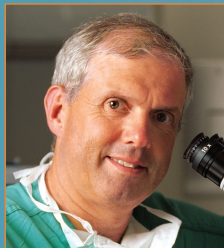
JOHNS HOPKINS  
BAYVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

Cover Story

# BRAIN POWER

Johns Hopkins Bayview  
assembles a team of  
experts to bring  
patients the best in  
neurosurgical care

by Kim Goad



**On the cover:**  
Alessandro Olivi, M.D.,  
chair of the department  
of neurosurgery.

When your life is on the line as a result of a neurological disorder or injury, surgery is rarely a choice. It is a necessity for most and, for some, an urgent matter of life and death. Because patients know that these procedures are extremely intricate—and the consequences of the smallest miscalculation potentially dire—placing their trust in a surgeon requires a combination of confidence and faith. At Johns Hopkins Bayview, a team of renowned neurosurgical specialists continue to earn the trust of patients whose lives have been changed or saved as a result of their doctors' long-standing commitment to the best possible care.

It was at Johns Hopkins that the first clipping of a cerebral (brain) aneurysm was performed in 1937. Today, Hopkins is considered one of the most comprehensive neurological centers of its kind. The neurosurgery program at Hopkins Bayview, fully integrated with its counterpart at the main Hopkins campus, offers the same level of strengths and services,

including groundbreaking experimental and cutting-edge treatments for all neurological problems. Recently, the Bayview program was expanded to offer the latest technologies and even greater expertise in the treatment of brain tumors, cerebrovascular diseases and spinal disorders. It also is one of only three programs in the area to back up its services with a critical

care unit specially designed for neurological intensive care. All levels of patient care required are provided by expert nursing staff who are specially trained in neurosciences. In addition, Hopkins Bayview provides a multidisciplinary team with specialists in neurology, rehabilitation, nutrition and social work.

“It’s the comprehensive nature of our program—the combination of advanced expertise, stellar faculty, high standard of care, state-of-the-art equipment and ongoing research—that sets us apart,” says Alessandro Olivi, M.D., chair of the department of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Bayview. “Most other hospitals are just not equipped to do what we can do.”

## Attacking Brain Tumors on Two Fronts

“In a perfect world, no physician would have to perform brain surgery,” says Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, M.D., director of the brain tumor program at Johns Hopkins Bayview. “But for now, the best we can do is work with what we have.” That’s why Dr. Quiñones fights every day to see how he can make patients’ lives better—not just through his surgeries, but through the knowledge he acquires in the laboratory. Dr. Quiñones heads a multidisciplinary team that treats patients affected by all types of brain tumors. He also leads a research effort to examine the role of stem cells in the origin of brain tumors and discover the potential role they play in fighting brain cancer and regaining neurological function.

Using the most state-of-the-art equipment available, the brain tumor team performs the latest procedures, including awake and asleep craniotomies. Surgeons and patients alike also benefit from advanced techniques to map the brain and pinpoint elusive tumors. In addition, high-tech microscopes and an advanced neuronavigational system improve precision in surgical procedures. These technologies, combined with the team’s clinical and research expertise, lead to the safest and most effective treatment for even the most challenging types of tumors. “This is a devastating disease that will not be cured in the operating room. The operating room is an extension of my lab,” Dr. Quiñones explains. “We have to be at the forefront because we’re dealing with these patients every day. We have to try to make a difference.”

## Offering the Latest Options for Cerebrovascular Care

More than 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year, making it the number one cause of disability in the country and the third leading cause of death. As one of three hospitals in the state with designation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a certified Primary Stroke Center, Johns Hopkins Bayview is uniquely positioned to help these patients. Those who require surgery have immediate access to proven techniques, such as carotid endarterectomy, a procedure in which blood flow is restored by removing plaque from the artery that carries blood from the heart to the brain.

In addition to stroke treatment, the Medical Center’s cerebrovascular team provides the most technologically advanced care for other emergency and non-emergent problems, such as brain aneurysms and hemorrhages. For instance, the multidisciplinary team, led by neurosurgeons, uses the latest technology in electrophysiological monitoring and intraoperative angiography to perform complex aneurysm procedures in the safest possible way.

In addition, clinical research into these and other problems leads to treatment strategies that promote the best patient outcomes. More important, this high-tech approach comes with a personalized touch. With decades of experience, the Hopkins Bayview team intimately understands the special needs of its patients. “You can go to any institution and receive adequate care, but in scary situations like these, you want the best,” says neurosurgeon Judy Huang, M.D., director of cerebrovascular surgery at Johns Hopkins Bayview. “You want people who understand what you’re going through and the toll it takes on your work, your family and your life. That’s the kind of individualized, comprehensive approach we bring to each patient, and it makes a big difference.”

## Taking a Team Approach to Spinal Repair

In Hopkins Bayview’s Spine Center, experts specialize in treating tumors, trauma and

degenerative disease of the spine. Because each patient brings different needs and concerns, an experienced medical team is critical to surgical success. According to neurosurgeon Jean-Paul Wolinsky, M.D., spinal cord “real estate” is very valuable. “All of the body’s motor and sensory functions—from movement of the arms and legs to bowel and bladder functions—are controlled via the nerves in the spine,” he explains. “Any injury to that can be devastating.”

That’s why Bayview’s neurosurgeons are expertly trained in spinal procedures, including the latest minimally invasive surgeries and motion preservation techniques. This experienced team performs complex spinal reconstruction, ranging from deformity corrections to multi-level fusion techniques for degenerative spinal disease. Additionally, with the assistance of advanced monitoring during surgery, the team is able to give hope to patients whose spinal tumors were once believed impossible to remove.

## Looking to the Future

The neurosurgery department at Hopkins Bayview has even greater plans in store, including the construction of an operating room specifically dedicated to neurosurgical cases, as well as the purchase of an intra-operative CT scanner to help doctors more accurately monitor changes that are taking place in the operating room during the treatment of a variety of neurological diseases. In addition, experts are developing more sophisticated techniques to allow minimally invasive procedure for endoscopic pituitary surgery.

“Our department is truly enjoying a true renaissance,” says Dr. Olivi.

“We are proud to be able to offer this level of expertise and service to our community and to the region.”

For more information about the neurosurgery department and its services, please call 410-550-0465.