With a combination of the best tools available and some of the most experienced neurosurgeons in the country, Lourdes Health System has elevated its neuroscience capabilities to a world-class level. With its new hybrid cerebro-endovascular neurosurgical suite, Lourdes is providing a level of care for stroke and other brain-related conditions that many university hospitals do not offer.

Staffed by Lourdes’ partner Global Neurosciences Institute (GNI), the facility at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center can be converted from an interventional angiography lab to an operative theater during a patient case by simply shifting equipment at the patient’s table. An exceptional team of neurosurgeons, comprehensively prepared and experienced—and fully trained in both endovascular and open procedures—give the patient an uncommon resource for the most prompt and precise care.

**Versatile for the Surgeon-Interventionalists**

Cerebral angiography is at the center of the new resource. With bi-plane imaging—based on anterior/posterior and lateral fluoroscopy—the team views the brain and vessels in three dimensions and can rotate images to see each angle and aspect, for a complete understanding of an abnormality such as an aneurysm.

Patients treated have time-sensitive brain emergencies, including stroke, aneurysm or brain bleeds, and the new imaging helps determine whether an endovascular or surgical approach is best. With a view of the exact location of a blockage or aneurysm in relation to the cranial arteries, brain structures and other anatomy, the team can safely advance microcatheters from the femoral artery to the targeted site in the brain. The neurosurgeons then have access to the brain to address the emergency by removing blood clots or placing devices in locations to resolve the emergent situation.

GNI is led by internationally renowned neurosurgeon Erol Veznedaroglu, MD, FACS, FAANS, FAHA. Dr. Vez, as he is known, is one of the most experienced comprehensive vascular neurosurgeons in the country. The program’s neurosurgeons also include Mandy Binning, MD, director of the Lourdes neurosurgery program; Kenneth Liebm an, MD, FACS, FAANS; and Zakaria Hakma, MD.

All equipment remains in the hybrid suite, ready at all times, and the full team works in concert, getting the same monitor views, including reference documents such as CT scans, anywhere in the room. If the need arises, the team can smoothly switch the space from a neuro-interventional lab to an operating room.

“The new hybrid suite approach is about maximal visualization and access to the angio-architecture of the brain,” said Dr. Liebm an. “It’s about speed, and seamless efficient treatment that we can initiate or adjust in a matter of minutes.”

**Objective Decision Points in Patient Interventions**

Equal access to both approaches to cerebral interventions helps to ensure an unbiased approach to electing treatment that will produce the best outcomes for the patient. With the latest catheter devices and know-how, the team can reach brain locations that are impossible to access conventionally (through the skull), thus allowing some patients to avoid a craniotomy. Other procedures include intra-arterial chemotherapy delivered to brain tumors; preventive, pre-emptive treatment of aneurysms; and resolution of arteriovenous malformations.

“This exceptional service is about the partnership with Lourdes, the equipment, the team and the protocols we bring here,” said Dr. Vez.

The new suite and its dedicated team are available around the clock for access by patients with acute neurovascular emergencies. Timely, accurate interventions combined with recovery in the most up-to-date ICU serves as a leading-edge response to patient demand for the highest level of care in a local setting.

Find the hybrid lab video on the Lourdes YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/user/LourdesHealthSystem](https://www.youtube.com/user/LourdesHealthSystem)
GNI Subspecialists Enhance Lourdes Neurology Services

With the addition of providers from Global Neurosciences Institute, Lourdes has significantly expanded its neurology resources for patients. Three neurologists and a neuropsychologist, each with subspecialty expertise, now supplement the existing Lourdes Medical Associates providers in this specialty area, with outpatient care available at LourdesCare in Cherry Hill.

Jill Giordano Farmer, DO, MPH, is a fellowship-trained, subspecialty neurologist with particular focus and expertise in movement disorders. At Drexel Medicine, Dr. Farmer directs the Movement Disorder and Parkinson’s Disease Program.

Dr. Farmer completed a fellowship in movement disorders at Georgetown University Hospital. Board certified in neurology, she has received multiple honors for her work, including a research grant from the National Institute of Aging. Neurology and Neurocase have published her research. She has a certification from the National Parkinson’s Foundation Allied Team, and has won the Health Care Hero award from Capital Health.

G. Peter Gliebus, MD, is a fellowship-trained, subspecialty neurologist with a focus on and expertise in Alzheimer’s disease, cognitive disorders, dementia and concussions. At Drexel Medicine, Dr. Gliebus directs the Cognitive Disorders Center. Earlier, he was director of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Cognitive Disorders Center at Capital Health.

Dr. Gliebus completed a behavioral and cognitive neuroscience fellowship at Northwestern University’s Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center. Board certified in neurology, Dr. Gliebus has a subspecialty certification in behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry. The American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease & Other Dementias, as well as Neurology and the Journal of Neuroscience, have published his research. Dr. Gliebus is the principal investigator for a clinical trial of the drug MK-8931 for patients with Alzheimer’s disease, as well as for several other trials.

Kathryn Lester, PsyD, ABPP, earned her doctorate in neuropsychology at the Medical College of Georgia, after pre-doctoral internships at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. At Drexel Medicine, she directs the neuropsychology program.

Board certified in clinical neuropsychology, Dr. Lester works with patients in assessing a range of developmental and acquired neurological conditions. She is experienced in identifying and differentiating cognitive difficulties caused by underlying psychiatric disease. Her current research interests include neurodegenerative conditions and mild traumatic brain injury.

Jyoti Pillai, MD, is a subspecialty neurologist, board certified in clinical neurophysiology. At Drexel Medicine, she directs epilepsy monitoring and the neurophysiology fellowship program. She has conducted research on EEGs and epilepsy.

A publication of: Lourdes Health System
1600 Haddon Avenue • Camden, NJ 08103 • www.lourdesnet.org
1-888-LOURDES (1-888-568-7337)
AVP, Communications: Carol Lynn Daly
Publications Manager: Josh Bernstein • Writer: Russ Allen