



Jeremy Larva, PA-C

Physician Assistant, Orthopedic Surgery

Jeremy Larva, PA-C is an Advanced Practice Provider at Northwestern Medicine in the Center for Spine Health. Prior to his time at Northwestern he worked as a licensed Athletic Trainer at the high school, collegiate, and semi-professional level treating patients with Orthopaedic injuries in the clinic and on the field. His current role consists of the evaluation and treatment of non-surgical spine conditions as well as surgical patients during the perioperative period. He regularly collaborates with 3 Orthopaedic spine surgeons and enjoys presenting on non-surgical spine care.



Shelley Aranas, RN, BSN, CNRN

Interim Practice Manager, Neurosurgery

Shelley Aranas began her nursing career in 2007 in the Neuro-ICU at Rush University Medical Center and has spent the entirety of her subsequent nursing career in neurosurgery. She joined Northwestern Medicine's Department of Neurological Surgery in 2015 as a nurse clinician in the Brain Tumor clinic. During that time, she also worked with the centralized scheduling team on access and scheduling algorithms while continuing to support various neurosurgeons in the clinical practice. In 2020, she was promoted to the department's Clinical Operations Coordinator, leading the clinical team through the pandemic and in opening The Center for Spine Health. She recently stepped away from direct clinical practice and is currently the interim Practice Manager for Northwestern's Department of Neurosurgery while also pursuing a Masters in Health Administration.



Alpesh Patel, MD MBA

Co-Director, Northwestern Center for Spine Health
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Professor of Neurosurgery

Dr. Alpesh Patel is the Co-Director of the Northwestern Center for Spine Health. He has fellowship surgical training in both Orthopaedic Spine Surgery and Neurosurgery. He specializes in cervical spine surgery and minimally invasive spine surgery. He is known for his clinical research on patient outcomes, quality and value in healthcare, and predictive analytics. He is dedicated to creating value through strategy and innovation in healthcare.



Tyler Koski, MD

Co-Director, Northwestern Center for Spine Health
Associate Professor of Neurosurgery
Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. Tyler Koski is the Co-Director of the Northwestern Center for Spine Health. He completed his medical education at Michigan State and residency training at Northwestern University. He has fellowship surgical training in complex and reconstructive spinal surgery. He specializes in complex spinal deformity surgery, minimally invasive surgery, and reconstructive spine surgery.



Nicholas Weber, MD

Physician, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dr. Nicholas Weber is a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician with fellowship training in interventional spine care and sports medicine. His area of focus is non-operative and interventional spine care.



Lizzie Fankhanel, MBA

Director of Operations and Department Administrator, Neurosurgery

Lizzie Fankhanel is the Director of Operations and Department Administrator for the Neurosurgery Department at Northwestern Medicine. Lizzie began her healthcare career in 2012 in the Value-Based healthcare department of Northwestern Medicine, supporting the development of value-based contracts. She then obtained her MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business with a concentration in healthcare, after which she completed an administrative fellowship at Northwestern Medicine. Since her fellowship, she has served in a variety of healthcare operations leadership positions at Northwestern, overseeing specialties including Endocrinology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, and Vascular Surgery. Lizzie joined the Department of Neurosurgery leading the Northwestern Center for Spine Health in 2019.