
OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD

B. Gregory Thompson Jr., M.D.

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery

Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology



When he arrived at the University of Michigan in 1998, Dr. Gregory Thompson was a nationally and internationally known and respected cerebrovascular neurosurgeon.

Upon his arrival at Michigan, Dr. Thompson began a strong skull base surgery program that has been actively taking care of patients with skull base tumors and with tumors of the auditory meatus.

His colleagues recognize Dr. Thompson as a technical master. His dedication to his patients is legendary. And, because of the hours he spends in the operating room patiently, carefully and meticulously teaching his residents microsurgical techniques,

they leave the training program as capable neurosurgeons.

His results with skull base surgery, aneurysm clip reconstructions, anatomic bypasses and AVM resection are among the very best in the country. His facial nerve preservation rates are remarkable, achieving results almost unheard of. And he has revolutionized our hearing preservation efforts, introducing exposure techniques for the middle fossa approach that have improved access and tumor visualization in a manner that has allowed Michigan to achieve the best results published in the world literature.

He is the local co-principal investigator on a Carotid Occlusion Surgery Study and has been the local co-principal investigator for several multicenter trials including the Intraoperative Hypothermia in Aneurysm Surgery Trial and Cognitive Function After Aneurysm Surgery Trial.

After coming to Michigan, he recognized that cerebrovascular neurosurgery was developing in an area in which he had not previously received training as a resident and so did an additional fellowship in endovascular surgery and interventional neuroradiology at Thomas Jefferson University – considered the premier fellowship of its kind for neurosurgeons in the United States – while still maintaining a strong and busy practice here at Michigan. By learning and developing these techniques within Neurosurgery, he has most assuredly placed his department at the forefront of medical centers around the United States with respect to cerebrovascular neurosurgery.

Because of his endovascular training, he became one of the very few dual-trained vascular neurosurgeons in the world. In the ensuing years, he has shown that he is not only capable of performing the most challenging cerebrovascular cases by open-cranial surgical techniques and microsurgery, but is equally adept at minimally invasive endovascular techniques.

The number of patients the University of Michigan sees for cerebrovascular and skull base problems has more than doubled in the last several years. As neurosurgeons around the country decide that they are no longer going to do intracranial work, Dr. Thompson's expertise and abilities are appreciated even more.

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As one colleague remarked, "He is a team player who has raised the bar in caring for patients with complex skull base lesions and cerebrovascular problems." Another colleague said, "Despite his immense talent and stature as a neurosurgeon, he is approachable and kind-hearted toward others. He quickly gains the confidence of patients and demonstrates superb judgment in his professional interactions. He is forthright with patients about the risks they are facing, yet frequently exceeds their expectations."

To many colleagues, Dr. Thompson is the quintessential physician-surgeon who is also an ideal role model for medical students, neurosurgery residents and, as one colleague said, "anyone else who would be willing to watch and learn."

Regularly sought after nationally and internationally as a lecturer, he recently completed his tenure as president of the Joint Section of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons. He also served on the AANS/CNS Washington Committee representing neurosurgery to various government agencies. He has received the American Heart Association's Robert G. Siekert Young Investigator Award for Stroke, and here at Michigan was honored in 2000 with a Medical Student Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence in Neuroscience. He is on the editorial boards of *Circle of Willis* and *Skull Base Surgery*.

Dr. Thompson graduated from Harvard College in 1982, and received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1986. Dr. Thompson completed his training in neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh in 1993. He then went on to do a fellowship in neurovascular and skull base surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute. He started his academic career as an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the University of Utah and came to the University of Michigan in 1998 as assistant professor. He became associate professor in 2001.

Dr. Thompson enjoys coaching youth athletic teams and attending Michigan intercollegiate athletics with his children, as well as snow skiing, fly-fishing, and traveling with his wife Ramona and friends. He also enjoys reading American history and Tom Clancy novels, but his family is his greatest pride and joy.

Dr. Thompson wishes to thank Drs. Karin Muraszko, Steve Telian, Gib Upchurch and Dheeraj Gandhi, and Mr. Don Tomford, Mss. Amy Steinacker, Dawn Johnson and Donna Auer for their immeasurable professional and personal support. He would also like to acknowledge his great admiration for Drs. Peter Jannetta, Robert Spetzler, John McGillicuddy, Bill Chandler and Julian "Buz" Hoff as models and mentors for him professionally.