# Richard N.W. Wohns, M.D., J.D., MBA

1519 3rd St SE ***▪*** Puyallup, WA 984372 ***▪*** phone 253.841.8939 ***▪*** email rwohns@neospine.net

## Education

**SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW**,Seattle, WA

J.D., May 2011

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,** Seattle, WA

MBA, received June 1997

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY**, Seattle, WA

Surgery Intern, 1977-1978

Neurosurgery Resident, 1978-1982

Chief Resident and Acting Instructor in Neurological Surgery, 1982-1983

**NATIONAL HOSPITAL, QUEEN SQUARE,** London, England

Post-Graduate Fellow in Neuroradiology, 1980

**YALE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,** New Haven, CT

M.D., received June 1977

**HARVARD COLLEGE,** Cambridge, MA

A.B., received June 1973

Honors: Magna Cum Laude

### Board Certification and State Licensure

**AMERICAN BOARD OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY**

Board Certified, 1986

**WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL LICENCE**, 1978

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL LICENSE**, 2005

### Academic Position

**ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY**, **University of Washington, Seattle, WA,** 1995-present

**VISITING PROFESSOR OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY,**

**Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal,** 2018-present

### Professional Experience

**SOUTH SOUND NEUROSURGERY, PLLC, (dba NEOSPINE)**, Puget Sound Region, WA

***Founder, Managing Member & Practicing Neurosurgeon,* *1983-present***

***▪*** Founded neurosurgery practice, built three offices, outpatient surgery center, MRI scan facility, Gamma Knife Radiosurgery program, manage 47 employees

**SURGERY PARTNERS, INC.**  Nashville, TN

***Special Consultant for Spine Surgery*, *2008-present***

***▪*** Development of de novo outpatient spine surgery centers and integration of outpatient spine surgery into existent multi-specialty surgery centers.

**NEOSPINE, LLC**, Nashville, TN

***Founder, 2001***

***Chairman of the Board*, *2001-2008***

***▪*** Authored business plan for outpatient spine surgery center company, founded company, raised $20 million venture capital, designed and built national network of outpatient spine surgery centers

**SOUTH SOUND GAMMA KNIFE,** Tacoma, WA

***Business and Clinical Development*, *2005-2008***

***▪*** Organization of partnership amongst neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, and St. Joseph Hospital for development of Gamma Knife center at St. Joseph Hospital.

**NEUROSURGICAL CONSULTANTS OF WASHINGTON**, Seattle, WA

***Vice President*, *1997-2002***

***▪*** Organized and co-founded neurosurgical clinic without walls involving twelve neurosurgeons throughout Puget Sound Region

**ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER**, Tacoma, WA

***Medical Director, Neuro Unit*, *1990-1992***

***▪*** Responsible for clinical oversight of neurosurgical intensive care unit

**CARE**, Tanzania, Africa

***Physician for Mt. Kilimanjaro climb,* *1998***

***▪*** Responsible for medical care of climbers on fund-raising successful ascent of the Western Breach route of Mt. Kilimanjaro

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF MOUNTAIN MEDICINE**, Geneva, Switzerland

***Vice President*, *1988-1991***

***▪*** ISMM’s goals are to bring together physicians, scientists and allied professionals interested in mountain medicine, to encourage research on all aspects of mountains, mountain peoples and mountaineers and to spread scientific and practical information about mountain medicine around the world

**ULTIMA THULE EVEREST EXPEDITION**, Tibet, China

***Medical Director and Climber, 1984***

***▪*** Medical research expedition withapproach through Tibet and ascent of Northwest Buttress of Mt. Everest. Helped fund expedition with grants from U.S. Army and Dreyfus Foundation. Research included a double-blind controlled randomized study of Dilantin prophylaxis of acute mountain sickness, the first evaluation of visual evoked potentials at high altitude, study of high altitude retinal hemorrhages, and measurements of pulmonary plethysmography. We successfully climbed 800 feet from the summit on the classic Mallory-Irvine route.

**Society Memberships**

**American Association of Neurological Surgeons**

**Washington State Association of Neurological Surgeons**

**Western Neurosurgical Society**

**North American Spine Society**

**Congress of Neurological Surgeons**

**American College of Surgeons (FACS)**

**American Medical Association**

**Washington State Medical Association**

**American Alpine Club**

**Himalayan Club**

**Explorers Club**

**International Society for Mountain Medicine**

**American Health Lawyers Association**

**Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery Society (Founding Member)**

**Corporate Board Positions**

**Nepal Spine Foundation,** Founder and Chairman of the Board **2021 - present**

**angelMD,** Chief Medical Officer **2015 - 2018**

**Brain Injury Alliance of Washington,** Director **2015 - 2019**

**Aqueduct Neurosciences,** Director **2013 - 2019**

**South Sound Neurosurgery Research & Education Institute**, Director **2009 - present**

**U.S. Radiosurgery,** Board of Directors **2008 - 2011**

**Archus Orthopedics,** Data Safety Monitoring Board **2006 - 2009**

**Ranier Technology Ltd.,** Scientific Advisory Board **2006 - 2015**

**NeoSpine, LLC, Chairman,** Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board **2001 - 2008**

**Seattle Conservatory of Music 1997 - 2003**

**Commencement Bay Rowing Club 1997 - 2002**

**SeaMed, Inc., Board of Directors 1999 – 2001**

**Professional Society Officer Positions and Committees**

**Washington Medical Commission (WMC)**

***Commissioner, 2019-2023***

▪ It is the purpose and responsibility of the WMC to protect the public by ensuring that quality healthcare is provided by physicians and physician assistants. The WMC establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensure, consistent standards of practice, and continuing competency. The WMC currently regulates about 34,000 licenses. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality healthcare to the people in Washington.

**Western Neurosurgical Society**

***President, 2013-2014; Vice-President,* *2011-2012***

**Professional Conduct Committee, American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)**

***Committee member, 2017-2023***

▪ Investigate charges of unprofessional conduct brought by members of the association against

other members of AANS.

**Ethics Committee, AANS**

***Committee member,* *2010-2013***

***▪*** Assessment of questionable practices and review of substandard practices. In advisory capacity, committee has broad sweep of responsibility, and may make recommendations to the AANS Board of Directors. In review capacity, committee reviews specific cases or issues presented to it.

**Education and Practice Management Committee, AANS**

***Committee member,* *2010-2013***

***▪*** Committee creates continuing medical educational programming driven by assessed needs of neurosurgical membership.

**Bylaw Committee, Western Neurosurgical Society**

***Chairman,* *2009-2011***

***▪*** Oversight, interpretation, modification of corporate bylaws

**Liability Committee, AANS**

***Chairman, 2005-2008***

***Committee Member, 2002-2005, 2009-2011***

▪ Committee served as interface between American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the medical malpractice insurance company, The Doctors Company

▪ Gained extensive experience related to neurosurgical negligence claims

**Quality Improvement Workgroup Committee, AANS**

***Committee Member, 2005-2008, 2013-2015***

***▪*** The QIW is tasked with promoting sound federal public policy that supports neurosurgeons and the patients they serve.

**American Association of Neurological Surgeons Bulletin**

***Editorial Board*, *2005-2008***

***▪*** Authored and edited articles related to socioeconomics of neurosurgery

**Council of State Neurosurgical Societies**

***Chairman, Northwest Quadrant, 2005-2008***

***Washington State Delegate, 2002-2008***

***▪*** The CSNS is the socioeconomic, grassroots neurosurgical society that reports to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the Washington Committee.

**Washington State Association of Neurological Surgeons**

***President, 2003-2005***

***▪*** Coordinated academic and socioeconomic activity for sixty neurosurgeons in Washington State

**Medical-Legal Committee, CSNS**

***Committee Member, 2002-2008***

***▪*** Research, report, and educate CSNS and AANS/CNS members on medico-legal issues affecting neurosurgical practice, including professional liability, informed consent, Medicare fraud and abuse regulation and enforcement, CPT coding/E&M documentation rules, antitrust laws, and other pertinent law or regulation.

**Reimbursement Committee, CSNS**

***Committee Member, 2002-2005***

***▪*** Coordinate CSNS participation with the AANS/CNS Coding and Reimbursement Committee in CPT coding and reimbursement activities of the AANS and CNS, including CPT Editorial Board and Relative Value Update Committee (RUC) issues and actions. Disseminate current information to CSNS members on coding and reimbursement topics, controversies, and proposals. Develop a knowledgeable workgroup of CSNS committee members available to contribute time and expertise to CPT and RUC-related work projects.

**Recent Awards**

* **Listed as one of the “40 Smartest People in Healthcare” 2014**
* **Winner of Annual Spine Leadership Award 2013, Becker’s Spine Review**
* **Rated one of 100 Best Spine Surgeons and Specialists in America, Joimax, Feb. 2011**
* **Rated one of 50 Best Spine Specialists in USA, Becker’s ASC Review, Feb. 2010**
* **Finalist for the 2010 Mark Reutlinger Scholarship for Excellence in Legal Writing**
* **One of top three “Outstanding Health Care Executives – Metropolitan Region,” SeattleBusiness Journal, March 2009**

**Intellectual Property Development**

* **Co-Developer with LDR: Interspinous Implant and Implantation Instrument.** 
  + **PCT/EP2012/062750 filed 7/2/12**
* **Co-Developer with Orthofix: Azure anterior cervical plate and screws**
  + **Patent pending**
* **Co-Developer with David Auth, Tom Clement: Biceps Bipolar**
  + **Patent 1982**

**Editorial Boards**

* Surgical Neurology International 2014 – present
* European Spine Journal 2014 – present
* World Neurosurgery 2014 – present
* Journal of Institute of Medicine Nepal 2019 - present

**Publications**

Wohns, RNW, Glickman, M, and Kerstein, M.D.: Osteomyelitis Following Translumbar Aortography. Angiology 28:7, 1977

Wohns, RNW: First Appendectomy Performed at High Altitude. Summit, August-September 1978

Wohns, RNW: First Medical Glimpse into Regions Around Annapurna. Summit, October-November 1978.

Wohns, RNW, and Wyler, AR: Prophylactic Phenytoin in Severe Head Injuries. Journal of Neurosurgery 51:507-509, 1979

Dunn, R, Howe, J, Wohns, RNW, and Kelly, WA: Spinal Epidural Metastases. Journal of Neurosurgery 52:47- 51, 1980

Lohse, DC, Senter, HJ, Kauer, JS, and Wohns, RNW: Traumatic Paraplegia. Journal of Neurosurgery 52:335- 345, 1980

Wohns, RNW: High Altitude Cerebral Edema: A Pathophysiological Review. Critical Care Medicine 9:880-882, 1981

Fried, I, Mateer, C, Ojemann, G, Wohns, RNW, and Fedio, P: Organization of Visual Spatial Function in Human Cortex: Evidence of Electrical Stimulation. Brain 105:349-371, 1982

Wohns, RNW, and Kerstein, MD: The Role of Dilantin in the Prevention of Pulmonary Edema Associated with Cerebral Hypoxia. Critical Care Medicine 10:433-436, 1982

Wohns, RNW, Tamas, L, Pierce, K, and Howe, J: Use of Chlorpromazine as Treatment for Neurogenic Pulmonary Edema: Case Report. Critical Care Medicine 13:210-211, 1985

Wohns, RNW, Colpitts, M, Clement, T, Karuza, A, Blackett, WB, Foutch, R, and Larson, E: Phenytoin and Acute Mountain Sickness on Mt. Everest. American Journal of Medicine 80:32-36, 1986

Wohns, RNW: Transient Ischemic Attacks at High Altitude. Critical Care Medicine 14:517-518, 1986

Clement, T, Wohns, RNW, Nichols R: Mt. Everest Expedition Researches Acute Mountain Sickness. Medical Electronics, April 1985

Colpitts, M, Wohns, RNW, Colpitts, Y, Clement, T, Blackett, WB, Karuza, A: The Effect of High Altitude on Visual Evoked Potentials in Humans on Mt. Everest. Neurosurgery 21:352-256, 1987

Wohns, RNW, and Robinett, R: Day Surgery for Lumbar Microdiscectomy, Experience with 60 cases.

Ambulatory Surgery 4:31-33, 1996

Wohns, RNW, and Robinett, R: Outpatient Anterior Cervical Microdiscectomy: Experience with 106 cases. Ambulatory Surgery 7:35-37, 1999

Wohns, RNW: Microeconomics of Microneurosurgery. Neurosurgery Quarterly 10(1):80-82, 1999.

Wohns, RNW: What is a “Fair Salary” for a Surgical Sub-specialist? Neurosurgery Focus, April, 2002.

# Wohns, RNW: Outpatient Spinal Surgery, Chapter 2: Setting Up an Ambulatory Spinal Surgery Clinic; Chapter 3: The Business of Outpatient Spinal Surgery; editors: Perez-Cruet and Fessler, Quality Medical Publishing, Inc. 2002

Wohns, RNW: Liability is Rooted in Elective Spine Cases. American Association of Neurological Surgeons Bulletin 14 (2), Summer 2005

Wohns, RNW: Why Neurosurgeons Drop Craniotomy Privileges. American Association of Neurological Surgeons Bulletin 15 (1), Winter 2006

Wohns, RNW: Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery, Chapter 9: The Business of Outpatient Spine Surgery; editor: Perez-Cruet, Quality Medical Publishing, Inc., 2006

Joseffer, S, Shin, P, and Wohns, RNW: Outpatient Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion: Indications and Clinical Experience in a Consecutive Series of 390 Patients, Neurosurgery Quarterly 20(2): 107-110, June 2010

Wohns, RNW: Loss of Mental Competency: End of Life Issues Related to Advance Health Care Directives and Mental Health Advance Directives, 2010

Wohns, RNW: Safety and Cost-Effectiveness of Outpatient Cervical Disc Arthroplasty. Surgical Neurology International, [www.surgicalneurologyint.com/content/1/1/77](http://www.surgicalneurologyint.com/content/1/1/77), 2010

Wohns, RNW, Nakano, N, et al: Minimally Invasive Spine Fusion, Chapter 2: Establishing a Minimally Invasive Spine Center; editor: Perez-Cruet, Quality Medical Publishing, Inc., 2011

Wohns, RNW: Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine and Direct Hospital Employment of Physicians, AANS Neurosurgeon Volume 21, Number 1, 2012

Wohns, RNW: A Comparison of the Safety of Lumbar Fusions Performed as Outpatient (<25-Hour Discharge) or Inpatient (>24-Hour Discharge) Procedures; The Spine Journal, Volume 12, Issue 9, Supplement: S155-S156, September 2012

Smith, WD, Wohns, RNW, Christian, G, Rodgers, E, Rodgers, WB: Outpatient Minimally Invasive Lumbar Interbody Fusion: Predictive Factors and Clinical Results; Spine, Volume 41, Issue p. S106-122, April 2016

Mohandas, A, Summa, C, Worthington, WB, Lerner, J, Foley, KT, Bohinski, RJ, Lanford, GB, Holden, C, Wohns,

RNW: Best Practices for Outpatient Anterior Cervical Surgery, Results from a Delphi Panel; Spine,

Volume 41, Number 00, pp, 2016

Wohns, RNW, Dyrda, L, et al: An Anatomic Approach to Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery, Ch. 10: Establishing an Ambulatory Spine Surgery Center; QMP, Inc., 2018

Gornet MF, Buttermann GR, Wohns R, Billinghurst J, Brett DC, Kube R, Sales JR, Wills, NJ, Sherban, R, Schranck, FW, Copay AG: Safety and Efficiency of Cervical Disc Arthroplasty in Ambulatory Surgery Centers vs. Hospital Settings; International Journal of Spine Surgery, Vol. 12, No.5, 2018, pp. 557-564

Wohns, RNW: Minimally Invasive Spinal Fusion, Ch.: Safety and Efficiency of Cervical Disc Arthroplasty in Ambulatory Surgery Centers; IntechOpen, 2021

Pradhanang AB, Shrestha DK, Rajbhandari B, Sedain G, Sharma MR, Shilpakar SK, Wohns R: Virtual Pedagogy in Neurosurgery During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from University Hospital in Nepal, submitted for publication 2021