Chairman of the National Coalition for Research in Neurological Disease and Stroke, and subsequently as chair of the National Foundation for Brain Research, Dr. Carmel collaborated with the late Representative Silvio Conte to launch the Decade of the Brain initiative. As a result, millions of dollars were raised for neurological disease and stroke research.

Dr. Carmel completed his medical training at the New York University School of Medicine and was a research associate at the National Institutes of Health. He completed his residency in neurosurgery at the Neurological Institute of New York and obtained his doctorate in neuroanatomy from P&S where he was the founding chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery and a professor of neurological surgery.

Dr. Carmel, a resident of Manhattan and Thompson Ridge, N.Y., is professor and chair of the Neurological Surgery Department as well as co-medical director of the Neurological Institute of New Jersey, both at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. He currently serves as an attending neurosurgeon at The UMDNJ-University Hospital. He joined UMDNJ in 1994 after serving at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons for 31 years.

“I am honored to be elected to lead the nation’s most influential physicians’ organization,” said Dr. Carmel. “As AMA president-elect, I pledge to serve as a strong voice and dedicated advocate for patients and physicians on the pressing issues confronting our health care system.”

Dr. Robert Johnson, interim dean of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, said, “Peter Carmel has a distinguished record of service. This well-deserved recognition comes as a direct result of his wisdom and leadership. We are honored that ‘one of our own’ has risen to a point where he can have a profound impact on the future of our profession and the health of our nation.”

Accolades for Dr. Carmel’s vast accomplishments include being named to the “Best Doctors in America” list by American Health magazine; Castle Connelly’s America’s Top Doctors® and America’s Top Doctors® for Cancer. Dr. Carmel was also an Edward J. Ill Outstanding Medical Educator Award recipient in May 2006.

Dr. Carmel provided service to many national positions in both the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS). As chairman of the National Coalition for Research in Neurological Disease and Stroke, and subsequently as chair of the National Foundation for Brain Research, Dr. Carmel collaborated with the late Representative Silvio Conte to launch the Decade of the Brain initiative. As a result, millions of dollars were raised for neurological disease and stroke research.

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University Hospital Using New Liquid Treatment for Brain Aneurysms

University Hospital announced earlier this month that Drs. Chirag D. Gandhi and Charles J. Prestigiacomo, both cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgeons, will begin using an FDA-approved liquid system for treating wide-necked brain aneurysms.

They are two of the few physicians trained to use this novel treatment for aneurysms. A brain aneurysm is a weakness in a major blood vessel that causes a portion of the vessel wall to balloon out. This abnormality puts an individual at risk should the aneurysm break open and bleed.

“A wide-necked brain aneurysm occurs in about 25% of patients with brain aneurysms,” said Dr. Gandhi “Wide-necked aneurysms can be difficult to treat surgically, which requires removal of bone and manipulation of the brain. However, by using the liquid treatment called Onyx HD-500, we are able to use a minimally invasive endovascular procedure to treat the aneurysm from within the blood vessel.”

continued
To date, there have been no research studies conducted to show whether this liquid system is effective, but clinical results are encouraging.

Dr. Gandhi continued, “The potential benefit of the liquid embolic system may be the complete blockage of the blood supply to the aneurysm. This would make a recurrence of the aneurysm less likely than seen with current treatment methods and may also help correct or lessen some symptoms.”

Typically, the surgeon will navigate a small catheter from the groin to the brain aneurysm and fill the aneurysm with metallic coils, causing clotting of the aneurysm. However, there is the possibility that the clot may dissolve, resulting in a recurrence of the aneurysm. In addition, some wide-necked aneurysms have such a large opening that the coils may not stay inside the aneurysm sac. By filling the aneurysm sac with the Onyx liquid, which solidifies in approximately five minutes, blood flow into the aneurysm is blocked, helping prevent the aneurysm from rupturing or increasing size.

The Onyx liquid treatment has been FDA-approved under a Humanitarian Device Exemption from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, which allows physicians to use the liquid to treat a disease or condition that affects fewer than 4,000 individuals in the U.S. per year and for which no comparable device is available. To qualify for treatment, patients must possess intracranial, saccular, sidewall aneurysms that present with a wide neck (≥ 4 mm) or with a dome-to-neck ratio < 2 that are not amenable to treatment with surgical clipping.

Meet Dr. Ira M. Goldstein

Dr. Ira M. Goldstein is an Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Goldstein is fellowship-trained in Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery and serves as the Director of Neurotrauma and also performs general neurosurgical procedures. He is also part of the team of providers that are part of the state-of-the-art Peripheral Nerve Center and performs Stereotactic Radiosurgery procedures.

Through his years of neurosurgery, Dr. Goldstein has achieved a particular expertise in minimally invasive surgery of the spine, endoscopic discectomy, the treatment of spinal tumors, kyphoplasty, nucleoplasty, arthroplasty, spinal fusion, biomechanics of the spine and stereotactic radiosurgery of the spine. Dr. Goldstein also implants Vagal Nerve Stimulators for epileptic patients as well as treating spinal cord injuries. Because of his knowledge in the field, he has been invited to speak at events around the country and he has received top honors from the New York Neurosurgical Society and the Montefiore Medical Center.

Dr. Goldstein graduated from University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine, underwent residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and completed advanced fellowship training in spinal surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Goldstein can be reached at 973-972-8211