



# Global Educators Pittsburgh Skull Base Surgeons Teach the World

What skull base surgeons from Pittsburgh did on their “summer vacation” is anything *but* vacation. The world-renowned surgeons carried on with educational activities throughout the summer via their innovative and in-demand three-part teaching approach: surgical and anatomic workshops at UPMC, surgical demonstrations and teaching abroad, and remote telementoring.

Skull Base Center Directors, Dr. Carl Snyderman and Dr. Paul Gardner, traveled to Russia, Italy, and Taiwan to teach endoscopic endonasal surgical techniques to surgeons and trainees. Skull Base Center Course Directors, Dr. Snyderman, Dr. Gardner, Dr. Juan Fernandez-Miranda, and Dr. Eric Wang hosted three summer workshops in Pittsburgh for visiting surgeons from around the world to advance knowledge of minimally invasive endoscopic surgery of the cranial base through anatomical specimen dissection, lectures and videos, 3D anatomy lectures, and case presentations.



ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫЙ ЦЕНТР  
ВЫСОКИХ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ  
КАЗАНЬ

Advanced Medical Technology  
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О ЦЕНТРЕ    ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ    РАСПИСАНИЕ ЗАНЯТИЙ    ОТПРАВИТЬ ЗАЯВКУ НА ОБУЧЕНИЕ    КОНТАКТЫ

Визитки в Казани в рамках программы образовательной помощи сотрудничеству университетов Казани с казахской диссертацией при участии ведущих экспертов Медицинского центра Университета Питтсбурга (UPMC), где будет представлена минимально инвазивная техника эндоскопической эндоназальной хирургии гипофизарной кляки и основания черепа. Специалисты и эксперты в данной области продемонстрируют анатомические и технические аспекты данного вида хирургии в сочетании с рисками, преимуществами и исходами.

Модераторы и лекторы:



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**Carl H. Snyderman, MD, MBA** (Карл Снайдерман) Professor  
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Neurological Surgery

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**Endoscopic Endonasal Surgery Course**

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Course Directors  
Carl Snyderman, MD, MBA  
Paul Gardner, MD  
Juan Fernandez-Miranda, MD  
Eric W. Wang, MD

Training  
Residency Program  
Online CME Courses  
Principles and Practice of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery  
Gamma Knife Nurses Course  
Endoscopic Surgery Course  
Innovations in Endoscopic Intracranial Surgery  
Multidisciplinary Management of Pituitary Tumors  
Deep Brain Stimulation Symposium

*Upper left:* Dr. Snyderman in Pittsburgh, remotely telementoring a surgical procedure being performed in Slovenia *Above:* Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman with Dr. Bakhtiyar Pashaev on the Kazan Medical State University website. *Left:* Pittsburgh endoscopic endonasal surgery workshop.



**Dr. Carl Snyderman** (left) and **Dr. Paul Gardner** (center) lecturing at the Advanced Medical Technology Education Center, Kazan Medical State University to surgeons and trainees from the Kazan Medical State University and members of The Russian Federation of Neurosurgeons.



## 7 DAYS IN RUSSIA

### Global Endeavors in Kazan

The Pittsburgh surgeons were invited to teach and to demonstrate their expertise with skull base technique by **Dr. Bakhtiyar U. Pashaev, MD**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery Interregional Clinical Diagnostic Center, Kazan Medical State University.

Dr. Pashaev became acquainted with Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman during his visits to UPMC as part of the “Visiting Scholar” program. Impressed with the procedures and skill of the surgeons in the Center for Skull Base Surgery, Dr. Pashaev invited the Directors to present their procedures at a special course that preceded the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Russian Federation of Neurosurgeons.

“Cooking pan,” one literal English translation of the Russian word “kazan,” is apt metaphor to describe the activities of Pittsburgh’s surgeons as they interacted with surgeons from Russia to discuss techniques and outcomes of endoscopic endonasal surgical procedures that they have developed in Pittsburgh. Day 1 lectures culminated in hands-on cadaver dissections, the first ever human cadaver workshop in Russia. On Day 2 in Kazan, Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman gowned, gloved, and masked to demonstrate their pivotal minimally invasive techniques on a patient with a meningioma.

So much positive feedback was generated by attendees that Dr. Snyderman and Dr. Gardner are already requested to reserve time in the future to present the successful workshop again to more surgeons in Russia.

As a result of the workshops, a “hotline” to share information and best practices between the countries is well established. Dr. Pashaev reports, “About our patient with TSM you've done in Kazan, I've discharged patient this morning. She is doing absolutely well. Let me tell her thanks to you and Paul. Thank you and Paul again! It was absolutely great to have you with us in Kazan!”

# Moscow

## Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute

Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman flew from Kazan to Moscow to lecture at the Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute (BNI) June 4 through 7. Patients from all republics of the Russian Federation - from tundra, steppe, forest, and mountain regions - travel to the Burdenko Institute, the premier Russian institute for neurosurgical care.

At the BNI, Dr. Snyderman and Dr. Gardner presented lectures to clinicians in conjunction with the Institute's annual Neurosurgical Conference. The Pittsburgh surgeons presented lectures on Challenges in Advanced Endoscopic Based Surgery.

**Professor Alexander A. Potapov**, Director of the Burdenko Institute, informed Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman that the acceptance from the surgeon attendees was so enthusiastic that they want to build a strong, ongoing collaboration between Pittsburgh and the Burdenko Institute for development of clinical skills and research activities.

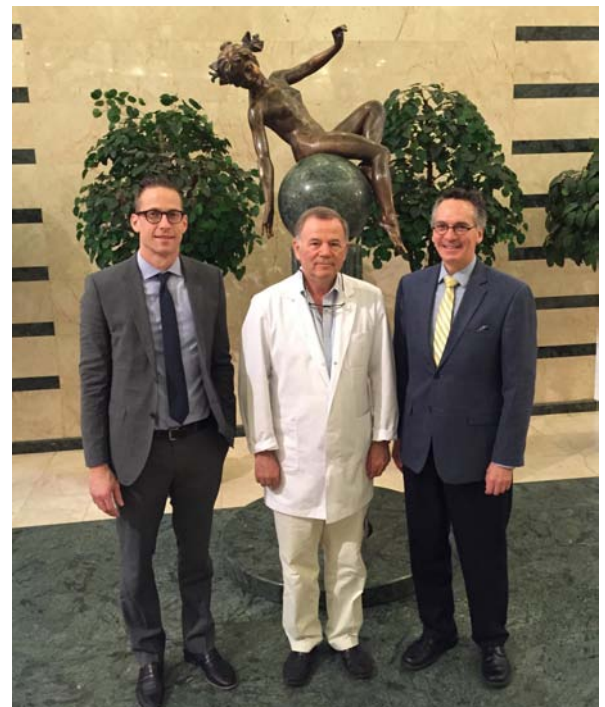


Above: **Dr. Paul Gardner** (left) and **Dr. Carl Snyderman** (right) at the gates of the Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute. Below: Dr. Alexander Potapov with Drs. Snyderman and Gardner in the BNI lobby.



Photos above show surgery in Kazan. Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman perform a minimally invasive procedure on a Russian patient.

**Dr. Pashaev** describes the procedure to students. Patient tumor seen on MRI and intraoperatively. Following successful surgery, the three surgeons engage in the universal activity of a selfie.



# PIACENZA, ITALY



Paul A. Gardner, MD and Carl H. Snyderman, MD flank **Professor Mario Sanna** of **Gruppo Otologico** in Piacenza, Italy. Dr. Snyderman and Dr. Gardner hold copies of Professor Sanna's books.

Dr. Gardner and Dr. Snyderman were invited to lecture at the Hands-On Course on Middle Ear and Lateral Skull Base Surgery in Piacenza, Italy in July.

Professor Mario Sanna established the Otologico Group in 1983 in Piacenza as an institution specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ears, cranial base, paranasal sinuses, and head and neck region.

Dr. Snyderman and Dr. Gardner participated in this course by presenting lectures on "The Endoscopic Endonasal Approach to the Petrous Apex and Middle Fossa" and "Controversies in Endoscopic Endonasal Surgery."

# TAIPEI, TAIWAN



A hands-on skull base dissection course was the mission of Dr. Snyderman's and Dr. Gardner's travel to Taiwan in July. An international group of surgeons and surgical trainees attended the sessions presented over a 2-day period at the **National Yang Ming University-Taipei Veteran's General Hospital**, the third consecutive year that the Pittsburgh surgeons were invited to host the lecture and dissection workshop.



# PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, USA



Workshops and courses were held in Pittsburgh throughout the summer for surgeons and trainees from across the United States and around the world as well as surgical fellows studying at the University of Pittsburgh. Educators and participants in the final summer course are shown above.



The other members of the skull base team, **Drs. Juan Fernandez-Miranda** (left) and **Eric Wang** (right), provided care for patients while the rest of the team was traveling.

Courses included Endoscopic Endonasal Surgery of the Cranial Base and Pituitary Fossa and Innovations in Endoscopic Intracranial Surgery. Typically, 20 countries are represented at each course and there continues to be a long waiting list for upcoming courses.

Feedback from attendees for the courses presented by Dr. Carl Snyderman, Dr. Paul Gardner, Dr. Juan Fernandez-Miranda, and Dr. Eric Wang shows appreciation for the educational approach of this team:

*"I have attended many courses all over the world but this was definitely the best and in short time, learnt the maximum about skull base surgery. All arrangements were perfect and of very high standard."*

*"Outstanding course. The best I have attended in 15 years of practice. Skull base team works well together—very educational, very approachable."*

*"Really fantastic; loved the course. So well organized; great center."*

*"Great and technologically advanced course."*

*"I found this course to be excellent in every way — engaged me as a neurosurgeon as well as the rhinologist with whom I work."*



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The University of Pittsburgh Skull Base Team is pictured above.

Additional photos and information about the educational and clinical work of the Surgeons of the Center for Skull Base Surgery are found at: [UPMC.com/skullbasesurgery](http://UPMC.com/skullbasesurgery)

In future newsletters, you will hear about some of the new exciting educational projects initiated at the Center for Skull Base Surgery.

*Your support is essential.*

If you would like to learn more about our activities or sponsor a project, please contact the Eye & Ear Foundation.\* To support the Center for Skull Base Surgery, please use the enclosed envelope or visit [eyeandear.org](http://eyeandear.org). If sending a check, please make payable to the Eye & Ear Foundation.

**[www.eyeandear.org](http://www.eyeandear.org)**

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\*The Eye & Ear Foundation is a non-profit (C)(3) organization created solely to support the educational and research efforts of the Departments of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh.