



## **What is a Neurosurgeon?**

### **Benjamin H. Venger, MD, FACS**

Most people think of a neurosurgeon as "just a brain surgeon"! Neurosurgeons are, in fact, much more than that. After college, neurosurgeons spend at least another ten years learning how to navigate within the complicated areas throughout the brain. There they can remove tumors, treat blood vessel problems, or repair the effects of head injuries. All of this requires the skill of a microsurgeon; a doctor with the talent to work with delicate structures, some thinner than a human hair. But did you realize that neurosurgeons also use this ability to treat all types of problems of the spine?

In fact, neurosurgeons from all over the world have been, and still are, leaders in the development of ways to evaluate and operate on the neck, mid and low back regions. My partners and I are fortunate enough to not only provide state of the art services for brain surgery, but also for the care of the spine. This includes, but is not limited to, evaluations and surgery for back and neck pain, radiation of this pain into the arms and/or legs, weakness and/or numbness of the arms, legs or both, as well as operations for tumors, blood vessel diseases, and injuries of the spine and spinal cord. Also, we are actively involved in a number of research projects hopefully leading to better ways to diagnose and treat diseases of the brain, spine and all parts of the body's nervous system.

I see patients in the Bullhead City, Laughlin or Kingman areas, once or twice per week. My partner, John A. Anson, MD is available in our Lake Havasu office and our most recent associate, Derek A. Duke, MD is available for consultations in Needles. For the last nine years we have been fortunate to provide the best neurosurgical and spine care possible, to the River Cities.