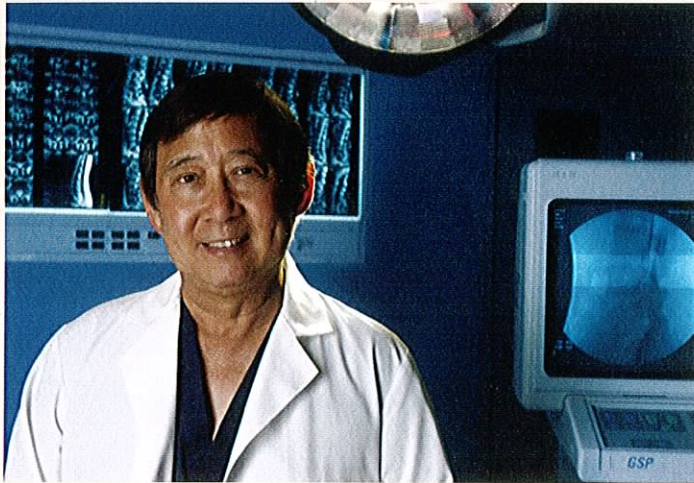


UNM to Open Revolutionary Endoscopic Spine Surgery Center

*Renowned Physician Anthony T. Yeung Aligns with School of Medicine —
Bequests \$2.5 Million*



In 2007, approximately 27 million U.S. adults reported having back problems, while 19 million adults reported receiving treatment for back problems at a cost of \$30.3 billion dollars, according to a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality 2010 report. That's a lot of people in a lot of pain.

Now there's hope through the emerging *Dr. Anthony T. & Eileen Yeung Center for Endoscopic Spine Surgery*, targeted for UNM's new Outpatient Surgery and Imaging Service facility.

UNM - Nation's First Academic Health Center with this Capability

Managed by the Center for Spinal Health in the Department of Neurosurgery, the *Endoscopic Spine Center* (ESC) will use the \$2.5-million gift to build a multidisciplinary program focused on the diagnosis and treatment of

a wide spectrum of painful conditions of the lumbar spine. Neurosurgeons, orthopaedic spine surgeons, pain management physicians, as well as rehabilitation physicians and physical therapists will make up the team.

Yeung's Mission Both Professional and Personal

A board-certified orthopaedic spine surgeon and internationally renowned endoscopic spine surgeon, Yeung specializes in diagnosing and treating the causes of back pain and sciatica by identifying the painful patho-anatomy in the lumbar spine.

"I recognized the need for more effective, less invasive spine surgery when my mother was disabled following surgery for her central disc herniation that injured her nerve and destabilized her spine," reveals Yeung, a 1970 UNM SOM graduate.

"I wasn't convinced that surgical fusion following a destabilizing decompression should be the first surgical option. There are new minimally invasive techniques that would have corrected her condition with less morbidity and destabilization."

Yeung has meticulously developed his endoscopic spinal skills over the past 22 years focusing on minimally invasive spine surgery for degenerative spinal conditions.

First to Use Endoscopically Guided Laser

Yeung's intense focus on developing endoscopic spine surgery – *he was first to use an endoscopically guided laser* – a very precise surgical tool that can be used for surgical decompression and ablation through very small openings.

Partnering with UNM SOM

"During a UNM SOM reunion, I learned of UNM's Spine Center of Excellence and saw an opportunity to

bring my surgical technique that fit well in a multi-disciplinary, patient focused, university based, academic center," Yeung explains. "I met with Howard Yonas, MD, chair, SOM Department of Neurosurgery, whose innovative ideas about medical education match my vision."

"These are very delicate and complicated spinal issues oftentimes involving chronic, excruciating pain," Dr. Yonas imparts. "By assembling comprehensive medical teams and advanced surgical technologies, and training under the tutelage of Dr. Yeung, we are developing a new generation of spinal surgeons and services for our patients."

Yeung is hopeful that his gift will help achieve the goals of today's healthcare reform, and serve as a model for other academic institutions. "Endoscopic spinal surgery is an effective component of spine care that serves the needs of *patients*," he asserts.



Eileen Yeung, Anthony Yeung, MD, Howard Yonas, MD