



Dr. Spetzler at Sky Harbor Airport, heading off to one of the many neurosurgical conferences he presents at each year . . . during surgery . . . using his legendary powers of concentration.

Dr. Spetzler and his wife, Nancy, performing at the annual Women's Board luncheon . . . giving good news to a patient's loved ones . . . in surgery at Barrow.

## 20 Years of Achievement

Robert F. Spetzler, MD, joined Barrow in 1983 and became its director in 1986. He has continued Dr. John Green's vision of creating a world-class neurological institute dedicated to excellence in patient care, research and medical education. Here are some of his many accomplishments:

- Brought together independent neurosurgeons practicing at Barrow to form Barrow Neurosurgical Associates.
- Recruited top neurologists, such as William Shapiro, MD, and neuro scientists, like James Bloedel, MD, to lead the development of the Neurology and Neurobiology Divisions at Barrow.
- Has been instrumental in creating a highly respected neurosurgical residency program at Barrow that focuses on maturing all aspects of trainees – mind, body and spirit. About 90 percent of residents who train under Dr. Spetzler assume academic positions immediately after completing their training.
- Played a dominant role in developing hypothermic cardiac arrest (cardia standstill) into an effective surgical technique for treating large or dangerous cerebral aneurysms. This technique creates a bloodless field for the neurosurgeon by chilling the patient's body, stopping the heart and draining the blood. The neurosurgeon can then operate on dif-

- Has published more than 570 articles and chapters, made more than 850 professional presentations, and published/edited several major neurosurgical textbooks.
- Has helped develop the 3-D microscope for clinical and academic use in the neurosurgical suite.
- Was named Honored Guest by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in 1994, the youngest member to receive the prestigious award.
- Was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by his undergraduate alma mater, Knox College, in 1999.
- Was the invited Olivecrona Lecturer in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1999.
- Served as the President of the North American Skull Base Society in 1999-2000.
- Received the Golden Plate Award from the Academy of Achievement in 2000, a prize reserved for the most outstanding American leaders. ■



Dr. Spetzler during rounds with Barrow Neurosurgery residents . . . while mountainbiking with residents one weekend . . . greeting Patricio Martinez, Governor of Chihuahua, Mexico, who was cared for at Barrow after an assassination attempt in 2001.

Dr. Spetzler with Tom Bible, a former patient and the creator of these photographs . . . leaving his office at Barrow . . . spending a quiet moment in his office after a surgery.

Photos by Tom Bible