

Health Sciences Center

Department of Neurosurgery

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October 4, 2017

Board of Supervisors:

This is a letter of full support and loyalty for our chairman, Dr. Anil Nanda. This afternoon our department was notified by Chancellor Ghali that Dr. Nanda has been removed as the Chairman of the department of Neurosurgery at LSU Health Sciences Center. The faculty and staff were told that this removal comes with no specific cause or wrongdoing by Dr. Nanda, but only that the LSU Health Sciences Center wants to move in a different direction. Everyone in our department was shocked, disappointed, and heartbroken by the unilateral decision made by Chancellor Ghali.

Dr. Nanda was recruited to Shreveport and LSUMC by Dr. John McDonald in 1990 as the Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery. In 1995, Dr. Nanda started the Department of Neurosurgery at the Health Sciences Center. In his 27 years as the Chairman of the department of Neurosurgery, Dr. Nanda has built an internationally renowned department and residency training program. The department of Neurosurgery under his direction has served all of Louisiana, east Texas, and south Arkansas. Our department is the only neurosurgical service to provide full care to unfunded, Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial patients in the state. Dr. Nanda's vision has allowed our department to grow and thrive. Dr. Nanda built our Gamma Knife Radiosurgery program and our Neuroendovascular program, both of which would fail without his leadership and support. Our department currently has over 70 employees, the majority of whom have worked with the department over 8 years, despite the continued troubles of the Health Sciences Center, University Health, and Willis Knighton. Our department believes in our leader, Dr. Nanda, which is why the majority of us have remained at this institution.

Under his leadership, the department of Neurosurgery has risen to be one of the most productive and profitable departments in the Health Sciences Center. He has built a solid clinical team with the lowest number of free care and Medicaid patients waiting for appointments at LSUHSC-Shreveport, with a wait list of less than 2 months for any physician in our group.

In 2003, Dr. Nanda successfully began a neurosurgical training program in Shreveport. In the following 15 years, the program has continued to grow exponentially under his leadership and direction. Dr. Nanda has single-handedly put Shreveport on the map in the neurosurgical community. His surgical expertise, research prowess, academic advancements, and departmental and community leadership, have been recognized at the state, regional, national, and international level. Our resident applicant pool has more than doubled, with many of our applicants telling us they applied to our program because of Dr. Nanda. All over this country, resident applicants recognize him as not only an excellent neurosurgeon but a leader in the field. He has put our community of Shreveport on the map for Neurosurgery. Across the country, other chairmen and academic leaders have recognized and praised his success in building this department and residency program.

Dr. Nanda has consistently contributed to the local medical community. He has two annual visiting professor fellowships, which have brought national and international

neurosurgical leaders to Shreveport and the Health Sciences Center. These are not only amazing educational opportunities for the students, residents, and other physicians at LSUHSC, but it also serves to spread the name of our Health Sciences Center across the globe. Furthermore, Dr. Nanda and his wife, Laura, have supported numerous philanthropic efforts in the Shreveport-Bossier community, such as the Shreveport Symphony, Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and ThinkFirst.

Dr. Nanda is an academic leader in Neurosurgery, locally, nationally, and internationally. He is a Director on the Board of American Neurological Surgeons, a Board Member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and serves on numerous other national neurosurgical organizations. He serves as a reviewer on over 20 peer-reviewed journals. He has over 440 peer-reviewed publications, 25 book chapters, and has personally authored 2 Neurosurgical textbooks. His H-Index is 52. He remains dedicated to research and education, which are two of the three pillars the Health Sciences Center touts as their mission of the institution.

He is our leader and the reason for the recruitment of our entire faculty, residents, academic and clinical staff, and research fellows. Dr. Nanda is the ultimate modern-day academician. In academic medicine today, it is no longer just about teaching and research. It is also about being able to combine being a successful businessman, compassionate physician and dedicated teacher. Dr. Nanda is one of the few people at LSUHSC who embodies all these traits. He has always maintained an open-door policy in the department with transparency and honesty, which is why as a department we cannot support the removal of him as our Chairman.

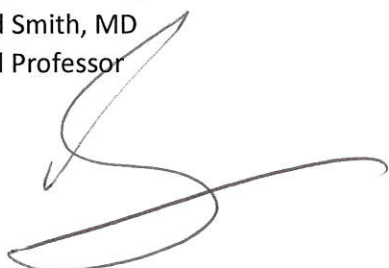
Our entire department feels that Dr. Ghali's decision to remove Dr. Nanda as the Chairman of our department is a personal attack on a man who has dedicated his career to LSUHSC-Shreveport and the education of students and residents.

We whole-heartedly stand behind Dr. Nanda as our Chairman, our leader, and our mentor.

Respectfully,



Donald Smith, MD
Clinical Professor



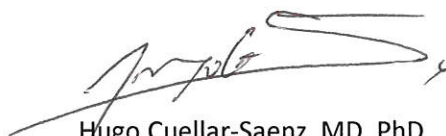
Anthony Sin, MD
Associate Professor
Director of Complex Spine Disorders



Christina Notarianni, MD
Associate Professor
Residency Program Director
Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery



Bharat Guthikonda, MD
Associate Professor
Director of Skull Base Research








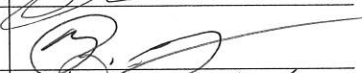
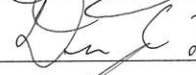




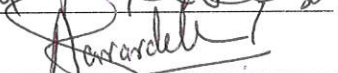



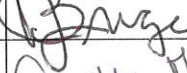
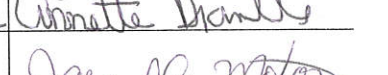
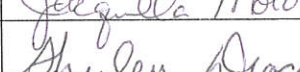
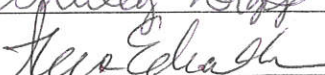
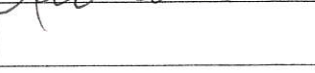
Hugo Cuellar-Saenz, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Director of Neurointerventional Surgery



Hai Sun, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Director of Epilepsy Surgery

Department of Neurosurgery employees in agreement with letter

Printed Name	Signature
Christy Lammus	Christy Lammus
Tabitha Ward	Tabitha Ward
Brian M. Rigdon	Matthew Rigdon
Terri Holtby	Terri Holtby
Christina Dominguez	Christina Dominguez
Deann Jewell	Deann Jewell
LaToya Henghill	LaToya Henghill
Jessica Cote	Jessica Cote
Susan Steen	Susan Steen
Corrie Dale	Corrie Dale
Cynthia Washigton	Cynthia Washigton
Simone Barrett	Simone Barrett
Heather Ray	Heather Ray
Ashley Reddie	Ashley Reddie
Kathlyn Watson	Kathlyn Watson
Tucker Kifer	Tucker Kifer
Bonnie Hampton	Bonnie C. Hampton
Barbara A. Peters	Barbara A. Peters
Jose Lamy	Jose Lamy
Jane Maxwell	Jane Maxwell
Tom Harris	Tom Harris
Catie Griffith	Catie Griffith
Aristy Berney	Aristy Berney
Jana Graham	Jana Graham
Kristi O'Glee	Kristi O'Glee
Melissa Gunn	Melissa Gunn
Senelle Wells	Senelle Wells
Amy Arvidson	Amy Arvidson

Printed Name	Signature
CODY HANAWA	
James Barry	
Christopher Stancil	
Frank Faroshi	
Racheal Wolfson	
Edward Burkhardt	
Richard Meyer	
Devon LeFever	
Jared Drough	
Rinal Dasani	
JAI DEEP THAKUR	
PAPIREDDY ZOLLAN	
AMEY R. SAVARDEKAR	
NASSER MOHAMMED	
VINAYAK NARAYAN	
Deborah CASH	
Brigette Rose	
Ginnette Granville	
Jaquilla Moton	
Shirley Diggs	
Alice Edwards	