

Dr. Wale Sulaiman was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He completed a combined MD/MSc degree at Medical University, Varna, Bulgaria in Europe. His interests in Nerve and Spinal cord injury and regeneration research led him to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada where he also completed a PhD in Neurosciences (neurobiology of nerve injury and regeneration) under the tutelage of a world-renowned Neurophysiologist Dr. Tessa Gordon. He completed his Neurosurgery residency at University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He is board-certified in Neurosurgery by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and completed two world-renowned clinical fellowships in both complex nerve reconstruction (Louisiana State University, USA-Dr. David Kline) and complex spine surgery (Medical College of Wisconsin, USA- Drs. Larson and Maiman).

In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Sulaiman has extensive research experience in both nerve and spinal cord injury and regeneration, and has authored several peer reviewed publications and book chapters in these areas. He is a Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery with Tulane University. He runs a nerve/spinal cord regeneration translational research laboratory at Ochsner. Dr. Sulaiman is a reviewer for many neurosurgery and neuroscience journals, member of many editorial boards and the Associate Editor for Biomedical Reviews and Section Editor for Frontiers in Surgery.

His surgical expertise includes minimally invasive methods for treatment of spinal disorders and complex nerve reconstructive surgery. Currently, Dr. Sulaiman is the Medical Director of the multi-disciplinary comprehensive Back and Spine Center at Ochsner. He is the System Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, Ochsner Health System, which means he oversees all of the clinical and academic neurosurgery activities at all Ochsner-owned and network hospitals. Under his leadership, the Department of neurosurgery at Ochsner has been recognized as one of the top 50 programs in the USA by US news and World report, awarded 5 stars and ranked in the top 5% in the USA by Healthgrades and named Department of the year (2012). Recently, Ochsner Department of Neurosurgery was named #4 in the country for patient care and quality by CareChex. In 2016, Dr Sulaiman was named Co-Medical Director of the award-winning Ochsner Neuroscience Institute (ranked #22 by US News and World Ranking) thereby expanding his leadership role to including neurosurgery, neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation and neurocritical care departments.

Dr. Sulaiman is well known and respected in his field. He lectures in local, national and international meetings including serving as faculty, moderator and member of the scientific program committee at neurosurgery national meetings (CNS, AANS, Louisiana association of neurological surgeons). In the last 5 years he has developed strong interests in improving the quality of healthcare in Sub-Saharan African countries, especially in Nigeria and he is using his influence and expertise to bring this issue to the forefront. He has played a major role in bringing modern neurosurgery and spine practice to many neurosurgery practices in Nigeria, both private practice and government teaching hospitals. He also plays a prominent role

in the Association of Nigerian Physicians in Americas (ANPA) where he currently chairs a committee that oversees activities of Nigerian diaspora physicians that want to help advance healthcare provision in Nigeria. In this role he acts as a link between Nigerian healthcare institutions and Nigerian physicians abroad. He has played many other major roles in improving healthcare provision to the people of Nigeria as illustrated in his resume. Recently he was appointed as a member of the Ochsner International group with the title of Regional Medical Director for African region in recognition of his prominent role in Nigeria and his exposure to other Sub-Saharan African countries. He recently launched RNZ GLOBAL LTD, a healthcare development, operations and management company which is used as a vehicle to drive strategic improvements in healthcare in Nigeria.