

Bossier City native to give neurosurgery lecture

Bossier City native Dr. Arthur Day cultivated his passion for medicine during trips to the library as a child.

"I would take him to the library, and he would get four or five books, half on sports and half on medicine," mom Helen Day said.

Now her son has an international reputation as a neurosurgeon. He will speak today at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport through the Levy Visiting Professorship established by Ben Levy Jr. and his wife, Mary Louise Levy, in 2004.

Day became a professor of neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School and director of the Cerebrovascular Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2002. He taught at the University of Florida and held hospital positions in Florida from 1978 to 2002.

While interning in Birmingham, Ala., Day was exposed to plastic surgery and neurosurgery.

"Both of them were very artistic sorts of specialties. They have high precision and accuracy. I like the creativity and precision of (neurosurgery)."

Day has published extensively and co-edited a book about neurological sports medicine in 2001.

As a neurosurgeon, he has investigated safer surgical approaches to complex tumors and vascular lesions at the base of the skull. Some of Day's other research has focused on ways to protect nerve cells from irreversible injury after hemorrhages.

Technology is allowing neurosurgeons to repair aneurysms through an artery using catheters, similar to cardiac catheterization used to treat heart disease, Day said.

"However, we can't lose the (surgical) skills that we've got. There'll be many of these aneurysms that have to be repaired surgically."

His career has taken him to speaking engagements around the world, but this is his first professional visit to Shreveport-Bossier City.

He's made occasional personal visits since starting his career. He, his mother and siblings, Dr. William Day, Peggy Westerman and Sandra Day, will get together while he's here.

"I'm really excited to be coming home," Day said. "I'm interested to see how the city has changed. It's been a while since I've been there."

Dr. Arthur Day

Age: 60.

Positions: professor of neurosurgery, Harvard Medical School; chairman and program director, of the Neurosurgery Department and Cerebrovascular Center director, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Education: Bossier High School, 1965; Louisiana Tech University, 1968; LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans, 1972.

Family: married, three children.

If you go

Dr. Arthur Day will discuss surgical treatment of intracranial aneurysms at 10 a.m. today in the auditorium, Room 1-400, at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport.