

# Leading-edge spine surgery takes place at RMC

Quality, skilled medical care is well within reach here in the Kankakee community. Innovative techniques are being pioneered and leading-edge technologies are being explored with success in Kankakee County.

Dr. Charles Harvey and Dr. Juan Jimenez of Riverside Neurosurgery Specialists in Kankakee are one such example. Dr. Jimenez recently became the first neurosurgeon in Illinois to use a new 3D implant technology during surgery for the cervical or neck portion of the spine. This type of implant is designed to aid in bone regrowth, offering a better, more natural healing process.

This level of access to neurotechnology places Dr. Jimenez as one of only 10 neurosurgeons in the nation to perform surgery with this type of implant. The team of Dr. Harvey and Dr. Jimenez currently are two of only three doctors in the state of Illinois with access to this device.

Inspired by the structure of bone, the new cervical fusion device, the Tritanium C Anterior Cervical Cages, are hollow, titanium alloy devices intended for use as an aid in placing the spine in a fixed position. These

cages are a highly porous titanium material designed for bone in-growth and biological fixation.

"In spinal fusion procedures, advancement of bony fusion is critical for a successful clinical outcome," said Dr. Jimenez. "3D additive manufacturing allows the creation of spinal implants with fully interconnected pores, similar to native bone, to promote bony integration or bony in-growth."

The Tritanium Cages are designed to be used in procedures done to relieve pressure on nerves caused by herniation of the discs in the cervical portion of the spine. In the procedure, neurosurgeons will remove a piece of the ruptured disc and the cage is implanted in its place to add stability. Over time, bone cells will begin to grow within the implant to offer more strength to the area with the goal of relieving pain-causing pressure.

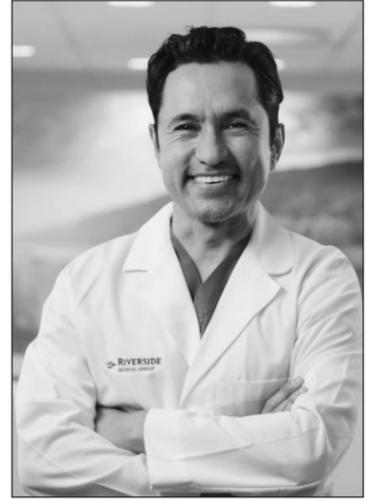
This type of implant is extremely limited in availability in the U.S. and Stryker, the company making this implant, plans to roll out this technology to neurosurgeons around the country but not until next year. For now, Riverside Healthcare remains one of the few medical

centers with access to these materials.

"We are excited to bring this leading-edge technology. Our physicians' dedication combined with our staff's commitment to find new approaches ensures we deliver the very best care to each and every patient," stated Phil Kambic, Riverside president and CEO. "With Riverside offering this level of care, patients and their families have the ability to stay in the area, reducing the stress and cost of traveling, while still having access to world-class health care."

A graduate of Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Harvey has been part of the Riverside Neurosurgery team since its inception in the 1990s. His major focuses continue to be on tumors of the brain and spine, disk disorders in the back and neck and minimally invasive surgery of the brain and spine. Currently, he sees patients in Kankakee and Watseka.

Dr. Jimenez earned his medical degree from University of California, Los Angeles. He currently sees patients in Kankakee and Frankfort. His training encompasses the treatment of patients with a



Dr. Charles Harvey (left) and Dr. Juan Jimenez (right) Riverside Neurosurgery Specialists

broad range of neurological disorders including conventional and minimally invasive surgical techniques for brain and spinal disorders. Dr. Jimenez was the second neurosurgeon in the nation to use the lumbar version of the cervical implant in 2016. He specializes in neurological disorders, including conventional and minimally invasive surgical techniques for brain and spinal disorders. His research focuses on surgi-

cal spinal devices. Dr. Jimenez is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the American Medical Association. Dr. Jimenez is bilingual in English and Spanish. To learn more about Dr. Charles Harvey, Dr. Juan Jimenez and Neurosurgery Specialists, or to book an appointment, visit <http://bit.ly/2AzQoHk> or call 1-815-932-7200.

# Happy New Year! Bonne et Heureuse Annee!

## Le Jour de L'An Adrien Richard From Tales of Another Day

Adrien Richard was a founding member and first president of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. He wrote the seminal history of Bourbonnais, The Village, a Story of Bourbonnais. In this story, an excerpt from his book, Tales of Another Day, Richard describes the early 20th century New Year's traditions of Bourbonnais' French Canadian inhabitants.

Happy New Year! Bonne et Heureuse Annee!

That was the greeting you heard in Bourbonnais in early 1900. Christmas was a day for the exchange of holiday greetings but the big day was Le Jour de L'An, New Year's Day, a day when most inhibitions were discarded. There were very few New Year's Eve parties but the first day of the year called for a visit to the senior member of the family, usually the grandfather, where the solemn custom prevailing in French communities consisted of kneeling before grandpere to receive his paternal blessing.

As a boy, this custom was always most impressive to me and was the source of establishing a priority for parental respect, a custom that seems to have escaped us in this late twentieth century.

From grandfather's house it was off to church with my sister, mother and dad. If the weatherman of those "good old days" was cooperative, the means of travel was dad's cutter drawn by his blue-ribbon mare, "Lady", ears erect like twin church steeples as she responded to the sharp tingle of the sleigh bells, always quick

in recognizing that she too was contributing an important part in this most solemn holiday. It was always a great thrill to see my dad, attired in his fur cap, earflaps down; his hands adorned with those sharp long-cuffed buckskin gloves; a warm winter coat providing all the protection needed to resist the biting cold of this New Year's Day. The rest of us were probably not dressed as glamorously as the driver but our full length leggings or gaiters kept our legs warm. Mittens, a warm coat, scarf and tassel stocking cap did the trick quite adequately, as we all snuggled under the warm buffalo robe, feet on oven-warmed bricks.

After church services, it was back to grandfather's house, but only after many exchanges of greetings with the pastor and fellow parishioners. There, breakfast was served. This consisted of roast goose or duck with all the trimmings. These delicacies were preceded by handshakes, many kisses (especially by all the aunts), a toast of good homemade wine, and a plate of grandmother's powdered-sugar-covered donuts. My maternal grandmere made delicious figure-eight-shaped donuts, and this project was a once-a-year event only at New Year's time. Needless to say, when we arose from the table to go home, no one was wanting for any food. But wait...this procedure had to be repeated before the first day of the new year came to a finish.

Now it was to our maternal grandmother's house for another sumptuous meal, either at noon or at night, as the cook decided. More handshakes, hugs and kisses by more aunts and cousins, more wine and

donuts, and finally a huge roast tom turkey made his regal entry, hoisted high on

a large platter, surrounded with dressing, cranberries and the always present boudin (blood sausage), a tradition in itself amongst the French villagers. When this French-Canadian delicacy is available, it is still the number one item on our holiday menu today.

In later years, when the marvel of the century, radio, came into being, the speaker (a separate unit) was propped up on a chair as close to the dinner table as was permitted by my mother and the boys and the men in the entourage could lend an occasional ear to the progress of the Rose Bowl game. This was just so much "static" to the female members of the house; even then football had its share of "widows".

Prior to the turn of the [20th] century, the young men of the community banded together and went from house to house (especially where some popular and attractive young miss resided), serenading until all were eventually invited in for...you guessed it, more wine, donuts and yes, more kisses. By the time the sun had set, needless to say, some of the troubadours were feeling little pain, mostly from the wine and kisses, and one by one the party thinned out until all merriment had ceased. Seldom did the local newspapers report of accidents from "drunken drivers", as the celebrants who had come from afar were always taken home safely by old Dobbin, who always knew the way home without any prompting or direction from the driver. So it was make yourself comfortable, the old nag did the rest. For

those who still remember these customs and who participated in the merriment of a younger day will agree that those were the "good old days".

Richard's personal account reminds us that recording and sharing memories is a powerful way to preserve local history. BHGS encourages the public to become part of the village's collective memory. Send stories to [bbgrovehs@yahoo.com](mailto:bbgrovehs@yahoo.com).

The Bourbonnais Grove His-

torical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting local history.

Monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month March to December.

Museum hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month, March through December or by appointment.

Contact BGHS at [bourbonnaishistory.org](http://bourbonnaishistory.org), on Facebook at [facebook.com/bourbonnaisgrove](https://www.facebook.com/bourbonnaisgrove) or phone 1-815-933-6452.

## Super Crossword

### Answers

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The Herald - - - - -

**COPY DEADLINE**

- - - - - Monday, 9:00 a.m.