



# John Atkinson, MD, President Neurosurgical Society of America

H. Gordon Deen, MD  
April 4, 2017  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida



# Griffith Harsh, MD

## Rhodes Scholar





# John Atkinson, MD "Road" Scholar













## Early years

- Born: Montgomery, Alabama
- Eagle Scout
- Lettered in Football, Wrestling, Track and Field for 3 years in high school
- Record-setting weight lifter

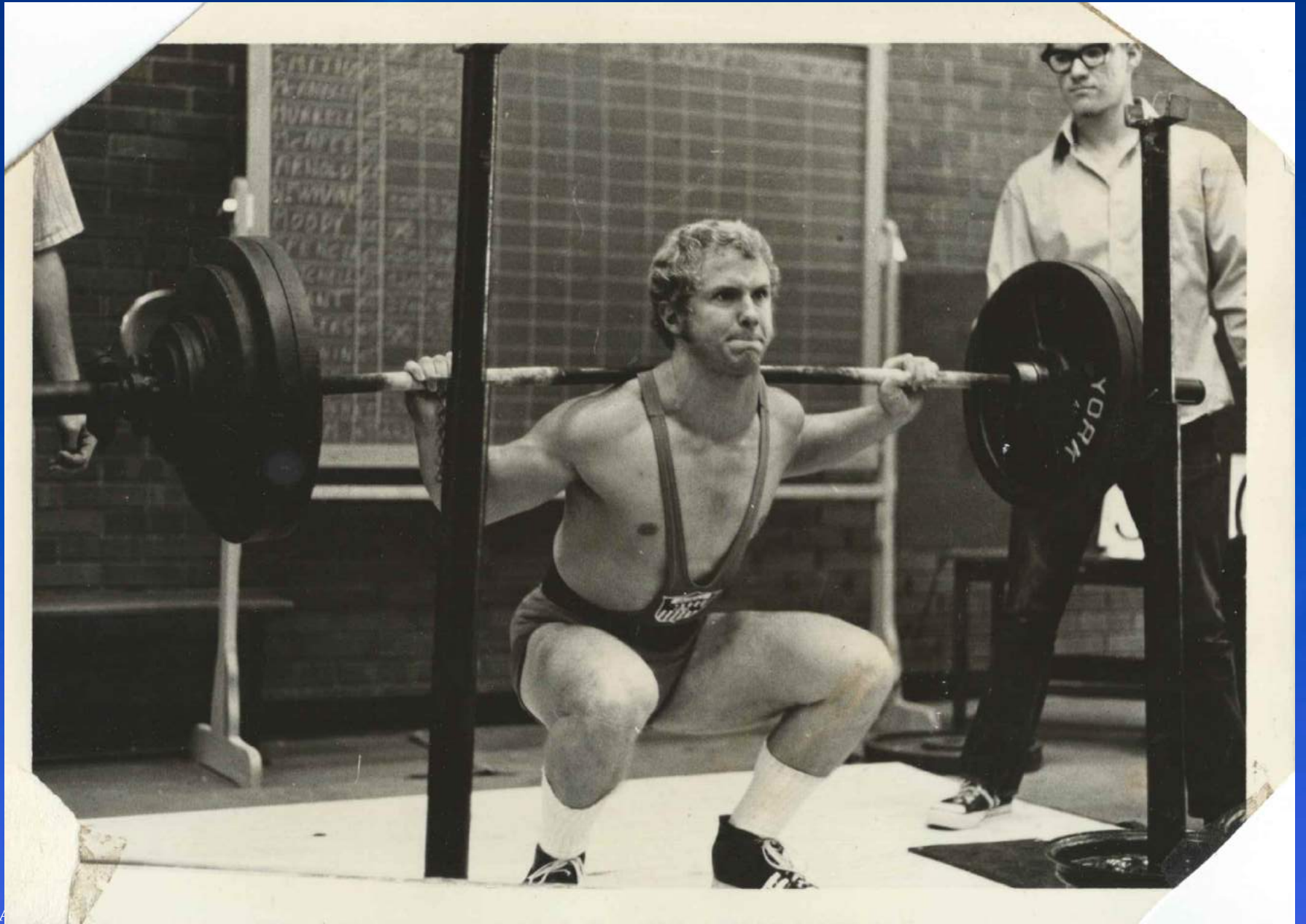
















# Education

- Undergraduate:
  - University of Alabama, BS (Biology/Math)
  - Tuskegee Institute, BS (Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy)
- Medical school: University of South Alabama

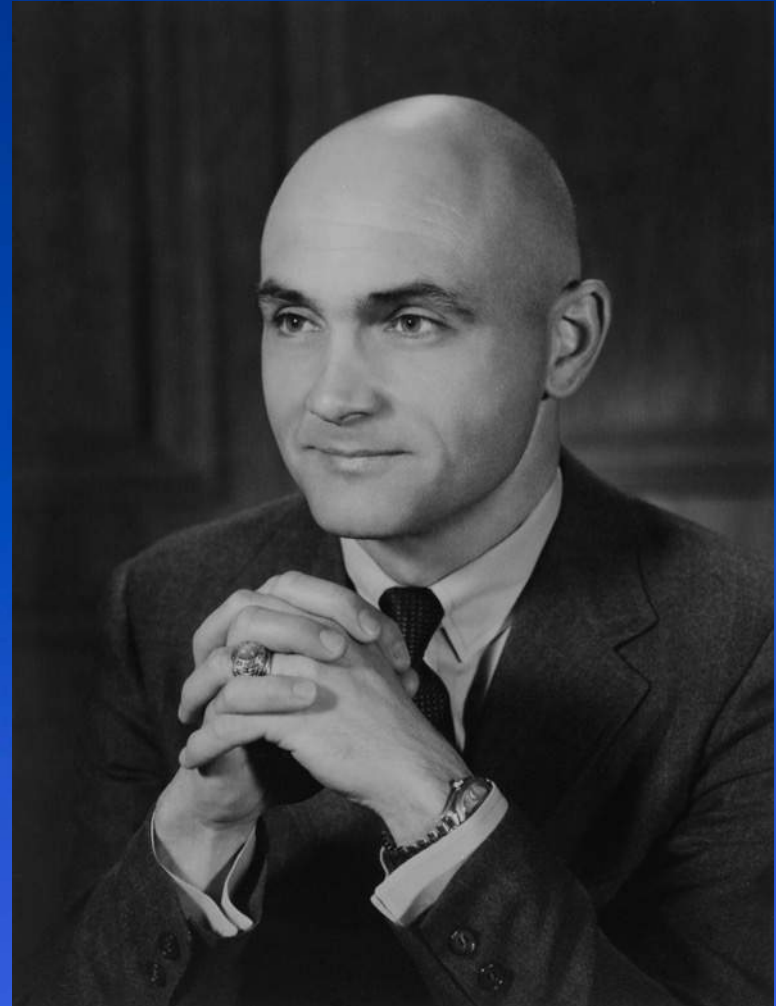
“If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else.”  
Yogi Berra





# Residency

- Residency: Mayo Clinic
- Program Director: Thoralf Sundt, MD
- Passed written board exams as an intern



# Military service

- Naval Hospital, Oakland CA
- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf









# Career at Mayo Clinic

- Appointed to staff: 1994
- Professor of Neurosurgery: 2003



# A true “general” neurosurgeon

- Scope of practice
- Research interests



# Range of Publications

- Vascular
- Head trauma
- Spine
- Pituitary
- CSF hypotension
- Hydrocephalus
- Peripheral nerve
- Sympathectomy
- Neurosurgical history

# Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

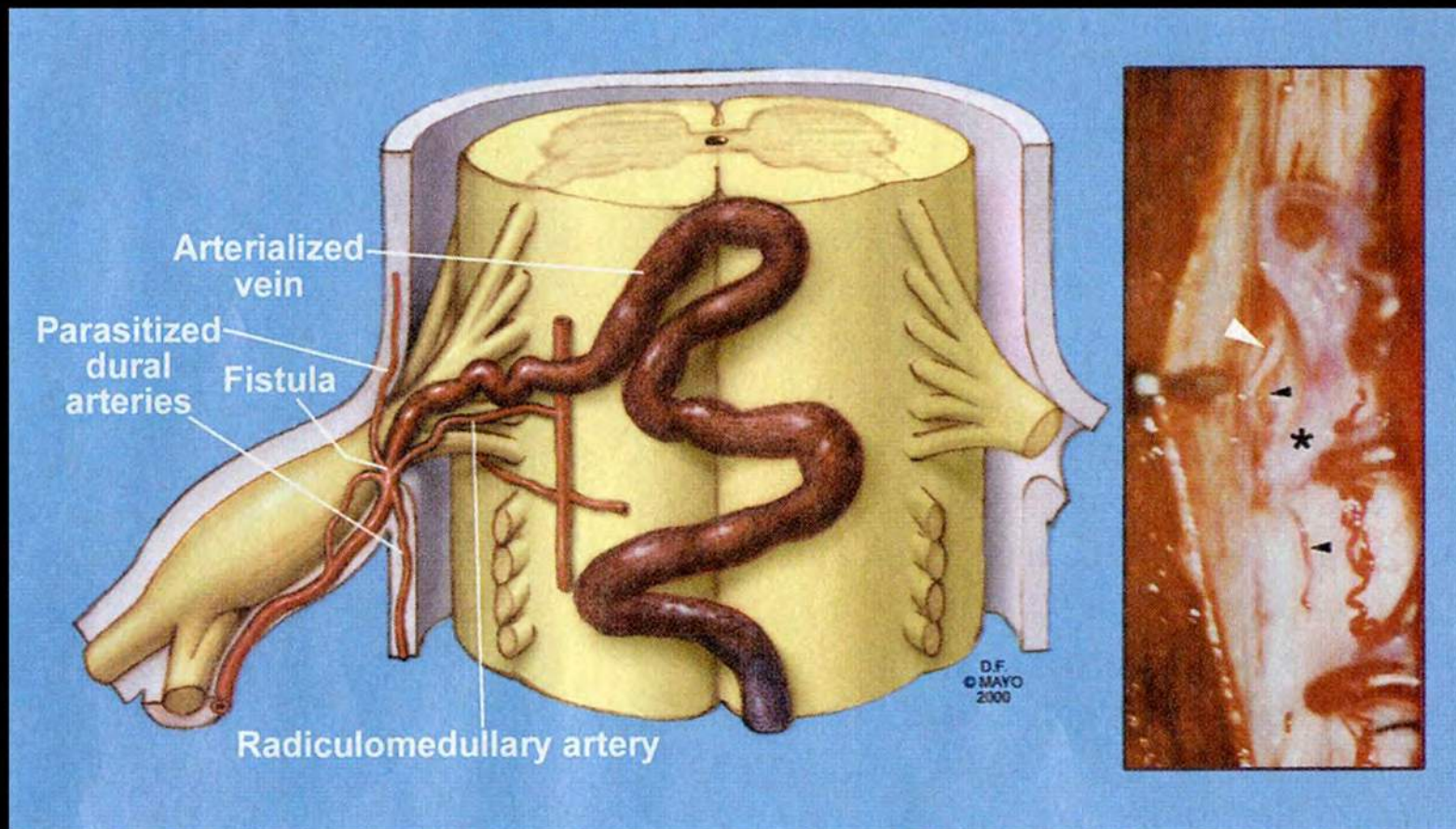
Medical and  
Surgical Management

edited by  
Takehiko Yanagihara  
David G. Piepgras  
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# Clinical and Radiographic Features of Dural Arteriovenous Fistula, a Treatable Cause of Myelopathy

JOHN L. D. ATKINSON, MD; GARY M. MILLER, MD; WILLIAM E. KRAUSS, MD; W. RICHARD MARSH, MD; DAVID G. PIEPGRAS, MD; PATTY PATE ATKINSON, MD; ROBERT D. BROWN, JR, MD; AND JOHN I. LANE, MD



# Honors and Awards

- Tuskegee Institute Honors Graduate
- USA College of Medicine: Alpha Omega Alpha
- USA College of Medicine: Outstanding student in Orthopedic Surgery
- Multiple teacher of the year awards
- Association of Women Surgeons Honorary Member Award













# What do others say about him?

- “Best teacher in our department”
- “Constantly reading...knows the literature better than anyone”
- “Disciplined”
- “Compassionate”

# What makes a great doctor?

- Intelligence
- Skill
- Compassion
- Teaching
- Ability to inspire others



