

# Carle Spine Institute

A SPINE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

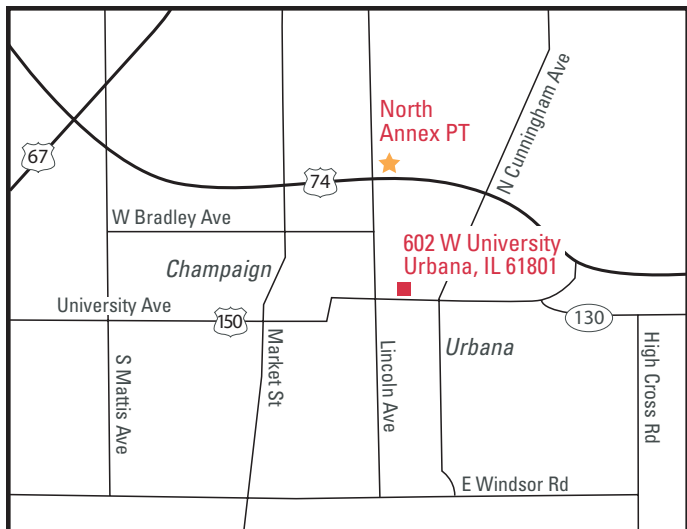
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Medical Advice Hotline 217.383.6555

[www.carlespineinstitute.com](http://www.carlespineinstitute.com)

## A REGIONAL CENTER FOR BACK AND NECK CARE

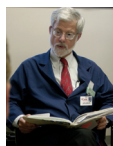
Carle Spine Institute is a regional spine center which emphasizes a non-surgical approach to back and neck pain. Carle Spine Institute includes the expertise of physical medicine & rehabilitation physicians and physical therapists — all specialized in spine. In addition, the clinic has consulting spine surgeons who are fellowship-trained in spine.



### **ZEESHAN AHMAD, M.D.**

*Fellowship-Trained, Board-Certified Physiatrist*

Dr. Ahmad is a board-certified, fellowship-trained physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) specialist. He is successful at helping patients return to activity nonsurgically. Dr. Ahmad completed a three-year fellowship in orthopedic, musculoskeletal and sports medicine with specific experience and training in interventional pain management at Portner Orthopedic Rehabilitation, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He did a four-year residency in PM&R at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. Dr. Ahmad has also served as an editor of *Rehab in Review*, a monthly publication produced in collaboration with Harvard Medical School.



### **JAMES J. HARMS, M.D.**

*Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon, Fellowship-Trained in Spine*

Dr. Harms is a fellowship-trained, board-certified orthopedic spine surgeon. Dr. Harms has been an active spine specialist at Carle for almost 25 years. Dr. Harms also acts as a professor in the department of surgery at the University of Illinois. Dr. Harms completed a fellowship in spine surgery at St. Luke's Hospital, Shriners' Hospital and the University of Illinois Hospital.



### **VICTORIA J. JOHNSON, M.D.**

*Board-Certified Physiatrist*

Dr. Johnson specializes in the non-surgical treatment of neck and back pain at Carle Spine Institute. She has practiced physical medicine and rehabilitation at Carle Clinic for more than 10 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and two graduate degrees at Indiana University. Dr. Johnson received her medical degree at the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. She completed two years of training in internal medicine at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas and three years of training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.



### **WILLIAM OLIVERO, M.D.**

*Fellowship-Trained Pediatric Neurosurgeon*

Dr. Olivero is a neurological surgeon at Carle Spine Institute. He earned both his B.S. and M.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana. Dr. Olivero finished a neurosurgery residency at the University of Illinois in Peoria, Illinois. Dr. Olivero is fellowship-trained in pediatric neurosurgery, which is the highest level of training available for a specialized physician. He completed his fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, AZ. He is a member of many professional organizations including the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Medical Association and the Illinois Neurological Society. Dr. Olivero is currently participating with the Research Department at the University of Illinois, Urbana. His current study is to help determine why some patients develop chronic low back pain and sciatica. The study utilizes a functional MRI.



### **SAMATHA TIPIRZENI, M.D.**

*Fellowship-Trained in Pain*

Dr. Tipirneni is a spine specialized physical medicine physician at Carle Spine Institute. She earned her M.D. from Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Dr. Tipirneni completed a physical medicine and rehabilitation internship (2003-2004) and residency (2004-2007) at Washington University, Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Tipirneni is fellowship-trained in pain, which is the highest level of training available for a specialized physician. She completed her fellowship at Emory University Hospital, Department of Anesthesiology in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a member of many professional organizations including the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Medical Association and the American Pain Society. At Carle Spine Institute, Dr. Tipirneni specializes in thoracic and lumbar epidural injections, cervical and lumbar facet injections, cervical and lumbar radiofrequency nerve ablation injections, as well as trigger and sacroiliac joint injections.