Our services are offered in a multidisciplinary setting that includes the expertise of neurologist, neuropsychologists and neurosurgeons. Our dedicated staff is sensitive to patient needs, and delivers easy access, high quality service and exceptional care.

Most patients with movement disorders are initially treated with medications. But with long-term use of medications and with disease progression, disabling side effects can occur, including excessive movements. When patients no longer have an acceptable quality of life with medical therapy, surgical treatments may be considered, among them, deep brain stimulation, or DBS.

What is Deep Brain Stimulation?

A thin metal wire is placed in the brain through a dime size hole and attaches to a pacemaker-like battery in the chest. The procedure is generally done in two parts and the patient stays one overnight in the hospital each time. DBS is changed for each patient over the course of the following months while medication is decreased. This is done in an office setting.

DBS alters abnormal function of the brain tissue in the region of the stimulating wire. Success of the surgery is based on finding the specific area in the brain for stimulation. DBS reduces, but does not eliminate symptoms of disease. Our movement disorders team works closely with research scientists to bring new therapies from the laboratories to patient care.

There are more medical and surgical options than ever before for patients with Parkinson’s Disease, Essential Tremor or other movement disorders. Deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery offers important symptomatic relief when quality of life is no longer acceptable on optimal medical therapy.

If you have had symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease for five years, or you are taking medications frequently and without the same benefit you once had, you may benefit from an evaluation for DBS.
When musician Bob Girouard received a diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease, his drumming career was halted. Using advanced deep brain stimulation technology, neurologists and neurosurgeons at Albany Med were able to control Bob’s symptoms—giving him his beat back.