

Albuquerque

8 FUN ABQ THINGS TO DO UNDER \$8

March 2006

The Magazine



EXCLUSIVE

TOP DOCS

THE ABQ PHYSICIANS CHOSEN BY FELLOW DOCS AS THE BEST IN THEIR SPECIALTIES

PLUS: EVERY DOC WHO RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE VOTE

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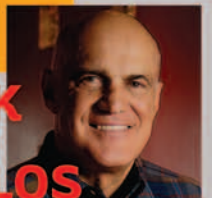
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**A LOOK BACK
WITH UNM'S
RUDY DAVALOS**



FROM THE VINE: CHECK OUT ATM'S NEW FOOD & WINE COLUMN!

NEUROSURGERY

Other Leading Physicians

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Residency: Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco

Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery and Radiation Oncology, Director of Gamma Knife Radiosurgery and Surgical Neuro-Oncology programs, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland

Why medicine/this specialty? I had role models who influenced me. In college, I did a research project for a cardiologist and cardiac surgeon and found their clinical work fascinating. In medical school, I worked in the laboratory of a neurosurgeon doing brain tumor research and discovered that I enjoyed being in the operating room.

What would you want to change about medicine? There's not enough space here, but if you really want to know, go to www.protectpatientsnow.org.

What misconceptions are there about your specialty? Some people think that neurosurgeons only do brain surgery. Most of us do spine surgery as well.

What do you do to relax? I like to travel with my family, cook on my Kamado grill, and sleep.

What makes you smile? Hearing my kids yell "Daddy!" when I get home after a long day. Listening to Jerry pick a solo on my iPod Nano.

How would other doctors describe you? Tall and skinny.