



Photo Courtesy of John R. Adler Jr.

John R. Adler Jr.

CyberKnife® Stereotactic Radiosurgery

U.S. PATENT NO. 5,207,223: Apparatus for and method of performing stereotaxic surgery

Inducted in 2025 Born: June 23, 1954

Primary Connections:

- Zap Surgical Systems Inc.: Founder and CEO, 2014-present
- Cureus Inc. (acquired by Springer Nature): Co-founder and CEO, 2009-present
- Varian Medical Systems: VP and Chief of New Clinical Applications, 2010-15
- Accuray Inc.: Founder, CEO, Chief Medical Officer, Board Chair, 1991-2009
- Stanford University: Professor (Emeritus), Departments of Neurosurgery and Radiation Oncology, 1987-2012

Education:

- Harvard College: A.B., 1976
- Harvard University: M.D., 1980

Key Memberships/Awards:

- American Radium Society: Janeway Medal for Lifetime Achievement, 2022
- International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society: Jacob I. Fabrikant Award, 2019
- Stanford University: 20th Annual Thomas J. Fogarty, M.D., Lecture, 2018
- American Association of Neurological Surgeons: Cushing Award for Technical Excellence and Innovation in Neurosurgery, 2018
- Lars Leksell Lecturer Award, 18th Meeting of the Gamma Knife Society, 2016

Neurosurgeon John R. Adler Jr. invented the CyberKnife® stereotactic radiosurgery system, which enabled precision robotic, image-guided therapeutic radiation without skeletal fixation. Today, the CyberKnife is used around the world to noninvasively ablate tumors and other abnormal lesions anywhere in a patient's body.



Full Bio: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/john-r-adler-jr>

Things You Should Know:

- Adler was born in 1954 in Yonkers, New York.
- Growing up in Hazardville, Connecticut, he enjoyed playing baseball and exploring the woods.
- Adler participated in the Boy Scouts, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.
- He says he carries two important values with him from his childhood: "It is 'sinful' to waste your God-given talents, and always leave your campground better than you found it."
- From 1980-87, Adler was a neurosurgery resident at Harvard. This was interrupted for one year (1985-86) for a fellowship at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, largely under the supervision of legendary neurosurgeon Lars Leksell.
- In 2002, he founded the CyberKnife Society, now called the Radiosurgery Society.
- Adler co-founded Cureus, a free, open-access, multidisciplinary medical journal, in 2009.
- By 2018, more than 1 million patients had been treated by CyberKnife globally, and multiples more have been treated by subsequent derivative technologies.
- He says, "A lot of people who achieve things in life will tell you – it's not about brains. It's more about persistence."
- Adler has 26 U.S. patents.