Course Objectives

• Comprehend the biomechanics of the upper cervical spine and TMJ in relationship to the craniomandibular system

• Understand concepts regarding the Trigeminocervical complex and central sensitization as contributors to craniomandibular pain

• Utilize the “Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders” (DC/TMD) to classify the primary sub-groups of TMD

• Implement evidence-based intervention, including both manual therapy and neuromuscular re-education, for both the cervical and temporomandibular systems

Eric Cedor, PT, DPT, ScD, COMT

Eric graduated from Louisiana State University's School of Allied Health with a master's degree in physical therapy in 2006. He went on to acquire a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Mississippi. More recently, Eric achieved certification in manual therapy of the complete spine through IAOM-US in conjunction with his acquisition of a doctorate of science degree through the Health Sciences Center at Texas Tech University. He currently maintains an extensive outpatient practice while serving as director at an orthopedic physical therapy clinic in Covington, Louisiana. In addition, Eric is an adjunct faculty member who regularly lectures for both the physical therapy and dental schools within both the LSU and Emory health science systems.
Craniomandibular pain represents one of the most complex and challenging diagnoses for medical intervention. The integrated web of neurophysiology, vascularity and biomechanics that exist therein can frustrate even the most seasoned of clinicians.

This course represents an amalgamation of both an upper cervical spine and TMJ course. Craniomandibular pathology usually involves dysfunction within the upper cervical spine, the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), myofascial system or in most cases, a combination of all three.

Successful intervention requires an appreciation of the intricacies of interaction between the stomatognathic and cervical systems, as well as an understanding of the multi-disciplinary interaction needed for comprehensive case management.

Education regarding the normal structure and function of this system is often lacking across the disciplines involved in its management, and therefore many clinicians enter clinical practice ill-equipped to appropriately intervene in cases of craniomandibular pain. The lack of continuing education courses dedicated to the subject further compounds this problem.

This course represents an attempt to redress these deficiencies, offering clinicians a systematic approach for both diagnosis and treatment.

“Comprehensive, accessible and actionable information...Eric is a great instructor” - Marc S.