

AOSpine North America Community News Winter 2017/18





Table of Contents

Content	Page
AOSNA Chairman's Message	3
From the Editor	4
AOSpine North America Board and Committees	5
Upcoming AOSNA Courses	6
Global Spine Congress 2018 Singapore	7
Young Investigator Research Grant Awards	9
Committee Updates	10
AOSNA Reception at NASS	12
AOSpine Masters Series: Pediatric Spinal Deformities	13
Essentials for Building a Successful Practice	14
RISCIS Enrolls 100th Patient	15
Welcome to New Fellows	16
MIS Spine Camp	17
Global Spine Journal—Clinical Practice Guidelines DCM and TSCI	18
New Fellowship Committee Members	19



AOSNA Chairman's Message

Dear AOSNA Members and Colleagues,

Education continues to be a cornerstone for AOSpine North America in 2017 through the unparalleled education for professionals ranging from surgeons in training to those in practice. It also continues to set the standard for educating educators which have brought forth some of the most respected surgical educators in the world. This year also saw several new programs with the Practice Essentials course aimed at teaching non-clinical competencies and our new collaboration with AOSpine Latin America, the MIS Spine Camp, combining personalized planning and simulation training through blended learning and pre-course activities. The feedback from both of these new programs were extremely positive.

The Fellowship Committee welcomed 92 fellows and funded 25 AOSNA fellowship sites throughout North America. The AOSpine Fellowship Program fosters the global connection of like-minded spine care professionals, who strive for excellence in teaching and patient care through the distribution and exchange of knowledge, as well as providing opportunities to build relationships both locally and globally. AOSNA fellows have access to a wide variety of educational experiences including courses and conferences, suggested topic-related reading lists for self-directed learning, webinars taught by the top leaders, surgery reference modules, and opportunities to network with other fellows and faculty throughout North America.

As in nature, growth is an organic and ongoing experience and through our collaborations, we are able to grow as professionals and as an organization. There is no better time to be a part of this great organization.

Sincerely,

Darrel Brodke, MD

Chairman—AOSpine North America



From the Editor

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Winter 2017/2018 AOSNA newsletter.

We hope you will take the opportunity to peruse the section updates.

Highlights of the past six months showcased in the issue include:

- Successful inaugural Practice Essentials Course—over 70 participants focusing on core non-clinical competencies
- The RISCIS study enrolls its 100th patient
- The successful Minimally-Invasive Surgery Spine Camp held in conjunction between AOS North America and AOS Latin America
- A listing of current fellows
- Practice Guidelines for Cervical Myelopathy in the Degenerative Spine and Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury published in the Global Spine Journal

This newsletter again has the highlights of the educational, research, fellowship and community development endeavors in the second half of 2017.

The AO continues to be the go-to for knowledge and camaraderie in spine care. Global membership has reached record levels.

There has never been a better time to join.

We hope you enjoy finding out what's on at the AO!

Sincerely,

Lali Sekhon, MD

Chairman

AOSNA Community Development Committee



AOSpine North America Board and Committees

AOSNA Board

Darrel Brodke	AOSNA Chairperson
Michael Fehlings	Past Chair
John DeVine	Education Committee Chair
James Harrop	Research Committee Chair
Lali Sekhon	Community Development Committee Chair
Dan Gelb	Fellowship Committee Chair

AOSNA Education Committee

John DeVine	Chair
Joseph Cheng	Past Chair
Michelle Clarke	
David Gloystein	
Roger Hartl	
Bradley Jacobs	
Eric Klineberg	
Alpesh Patel	

AOSNA Research Committee

James Harrop	Chair
Tom Mroz	Past Chair
Samuel Cho	
Brian Kwon	
Ahmad Nassr	
Justin Smith	

AOSNA Community Development Committee

Lali Sekhon	Chair
Norman Chutkan	Past Chair
Eric Massicotte	
Ripul Panchal	
Patrick Pritchard	

AOSNA Fellowship Committee

Daniel Gelb	Chair
Ted Choma	Past Chair
Brandon Lawrence	
Dan Sciubba	
Bradley Segebarth	
Michael Weber	

Upcoming AOSpine North America Courses

AOSNA Course: Principles and Treatment of Spinal Disorders for Residents

January 19-20, 2018

Las Vegas, NV

AOSNA Webinar—Lumbar Interbody Fusion: Choosing Which “LIF”—Anterior, Lateral, Transforaminal

March 28, 2018

AOSNA Regional Residents Course

April 13-14, 2018

San Francisco, CA

AOSNA Webinar—Adult Degenerative Scoliosis—Surgical Planning

May 9, 2018

AOSNA Regional Residents Course

July 27-28, 2018

Chicago, IL

For more information about the courses or to register, please go to:

www.aona.org

Did You Know?

AOSpine established the Germán Ochoa Travelling Fellowship in 2015 to allow senior surgeons to travel to a spine center of their choice acting as an “ambassador” for and promoting AOSpine. The award allows for the winner to spend up to 4 weeks in an established center in the developed world or hospital in a less developed economic climate. Application forms are due by February 16th, 2018 and the winner will be announced at the Global Spine Congress 2018 in Singapore.

Application forms can be downloaded from:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Global Spine Congress Singapore | May 2–5, 2018



Register before December 20th, 2017 at www.gsc2018.org for an early bird discount.

The GSC heads to Asia Pacific for 2018. The AOSpine flagship event will take place in Singapore from May 2-5, 2018 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. For the 7th edition of the GSC, a record number of total 1100 abstracts were submitted for 25 available topics. The top 5 countries for abstract submission were China, USA, India, United Kingdom, and Canada, highlighting diversity of the Global Spine Congress.

Join us in Singapore and:

- Participate in parallel sessions of relevant spine topics
- Meet the world's best spine experts
- Learn new approaches in spine treatment

The program will consist of:

- Pre-courses
- AOSpine symposia
- Guest society symposia
- Parallel paper sessions
- AOSpine members-only sessions
- Eposters
- International ICLs

The Global Spine Congress heads to Asia Pacific

REGISTER NOW!
Early bird discount ends
December 20, 2017



Global Spine Congress
Singapore | May 2–5, 2018

www.gsc2018.org





AOSpine North America Sends Out Call for Applications for the Young Investigators Research Grant Awards

The AOSpine North America Research Committee established annual research funding that is available to new investigators (within 5 years of first appointment) who have a desire to perform high-quality, clinically relevant spinal or spinal cord research in basic or clinical science. The purposes of these grants are to encourage new investigators by providing start-up funding of up to \$20,000 for one year.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The primary applicant must be a subscribing member of AOSNA
- The applicant must be a physician, surgeon, or scientist with focused interest in disorders of the spine/spinal cord and with an appointment at a university or hospital-based research institute
- The grant application requires evidence that the investigator has the experience and resources to complete the proposed research
- Successful applicants must agree to present their research findings at the Annual AOSpine North America Fellows Forum
- AOSNA must be cited as the source of funding in any publication, presentation, or in any publicity resulting from the award or its results
- The number and amount of research grants awarded each year are at the discretion of AOSNA

For guidelines and application please contact Chi Lam: clam@aospine.org

The deadline for submission is December 31, 2017.

Awards will be announced in March 2018 at the AOSNA Fellowship Forum.

Committee Updates

Education Committee Update

John DeVine, MD

I want to first thank Joseph Cheng for a job well done. Joe has completed his tenure as the Chair of the Education Committee, and will continue to serve as the Past Chair for the coming year. I look forward to serving AOSpine North America as the Active Chair for the next three years.

In 2017, there has been a change in our educational offerings that align with our "Needs Analysis" performed earlier in the year, and 2018 will continue to reflect those changes. We continue to work to align our educational offerings with ACGME milestones for both orthopedic and neurosurgeon residencies with the goal of providing program directors with feedback from Principles courses provided to those residents. The webinar series continues to mature with increasing engagement from target audience groups.

Regarding resident education, Rick Bransford spearheaded the "Standardization Case Library" project. A group of senior faculty met in Chicago to review the cases compiled, and the first Principles Course to utilize the "Standardized Cases" was the October Principles Course. We received positive feedback from the faculty and education advisor, with some suggestions for improvement. Additionally, lecture recordings have been completed and compiled to allow the integration of the flipped classroom approach for the 2018 Principles Courses, and the January Principles Course will be the first iteration of this approach. Lastly, two pilot regional resident courses are being developed for 2018 to augment resident competencies and alleviate travel and time away from residency training.

Based on the needs analysis, a gap was identified in the area of systems based practice. Lali Sekhon and Joseph Cheng Co-Chaired the first Practice Essentials course. Because the traditional September Fellows Course was canceled due to Hurricane Irma's impact in the Tampa area, an amended version was rescheduled to coincide with the scheduled Practice Essentials course. Despite several logistical obstacles, both courses were completed and well received. The Practice Essentials course included primers on coding and reimbursement, marketing, addressing liability and malpractice, and several other topics relevant to the spine fellow and young spine surgeons (first 1-3 years in practice)—information that is vital to survival yet not typically covered in residency and fellowship training.

Lastly, the AOSpine's first Spine Camp was offered in November—a collaboration between AOSpine North America and AOSpine Latin America. This was a focused clinic aimed at enhancing skills in MIS surgery. The plan was to offer a series of focused clinics aimed at enhancing a particular skill using spine simulators and hands on coaches to improve participants' efficiency and decrease complications.

Research Committee Update

James Harrop, MD

The research committee consists of James Harrop (Chair), Tom Mroz (Past Chair), Sam Cho, Brian Kwon, Justin Smith, and Nassr Ahmad. I would like to welcome Brian Kwon, Justin Smith, and Nassr Ahmad who were recently added to the committee. The research committee met in March in Banff, Alberta, Canada to review and select this year's Young Investigator Research Grant Award winners (YIRGA). All submissions were excellent and each year the quality of work continues to improve. The call for applications for the 2018 YIRGA awards was announced in October with the deadline of December 31, 2017.

The AOSpine International Research Commission has focused on research globalization to allow all regions to apply for funding in order to execute the best and most relevant studies. For our own studies, I am happy to report that enrollment is increasing in the RISCIS study (Riluzole for acute SCI) with 100 patients enrolled. Riluzole for CSM should conclude in the immediate future with an enrollment of 300 patients. Anterior vs Posterior study for treatment of isthmic spondylolisthesis is enrolling on schedule. AOSpine international has a new initiative called AO Peer which provides funding for each region to do research directed education. We are exploring modules and ideas to place this initiative in our Fellows Course and Fellows Forum on Research. The next focus issue on Spinal Infections is on track for GSJ in 2018 and will be directed at iatrogenic and primary spinal infections.

Community Development Committee Update

Lali Sekhon, MD


It's been a busy past few months for the AOSpine North America Community Development Committee, comprising Lali Sekhon, Eric Massicotte, Pat Pritchard, Ripul Panchal and Norm Chutkan.

1. Congratulations to Norm Chutkan, MD for being appointed the next Community Development Chair for AOSpine International. Norm has a long history with the AO and with Community Development and takes over his post next year. Norm is an outstanding selection who will continue to further the AO values of education, integrity and spine care.


Committee Updates

2. **Practice Essentials Meeting:** This interactive event was the first AOSpine North America event aimed at non-clinical competencies that are essential for every practicing spine surgeon to master in order to have a successful and thriving practice. This inaugural event offered participants an opportunity to learn from experts in the field in health care economics, contracting, coding, marketing and lifestyle management. The meeting was held on Nov 3-4, 2017 at The Venetian Las Vegas, Nevada and is co-chaired by Joseph Cheng, MD, Paul Gladden, MD and Lali Sekhon, MD.

3. **Social Media:** AOSpine North America is on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram:

 facebook.com/aospine-North-America

 [@aospineNA](https://twitter.com/aospineNA)

 [aospine](https://in.aospine)

 aospine_NA

4. **Member Engagement Opportunities:** Many members want to contribute and there are lots of ways to do it. Members have opportunities to get involved in education, research, marketing and promotion, fellowship outreach and professional growth. For those interested in becoming more involved, email Chi Lam at CLam@aospine.org
5. AOSpine International has released the Insight Spine app for iOS and Android. Bringing online knowledge to your fingertips this app promises to deliver tailored content to your smart phone. Download it now.

The AO Community continues to grow. With over 6,000 members worldwide, there has never been a better time to join. If you have not done so, join now!

Fellowship Committee Update Daniel Gelb, MD

I was excited and pleased to take over the chairmanship of the committee from Ted Choma this summer. Ted did a superlative job leading the committee through its formation and initiation. He left us with an excellent foundation on which to continue and, of course, will continue to be a strong contributor as Past Chair of this committee.

We successfully completed the last funding cycle and awarded \$75,000 to each of 25 sites. Another 10 sites were designated as AOSpine North America fellowship sites (without funding). These programs were recognized for their excellence even though we did not have money to award. The fellows at these programs will have the benefits of being AOSpine fellows and will be invited to our Fellows Course and Fellows Forum in Banff next year. The goal was to increase the community of AOSpine North America to include even more future leaders to the North American spine community.

The make-up of the committee also changed. Robert Molinari and Christina Goldstein completed their tenure and we welcomed two new members to the committee: Brad Segebarth and Michael Weber. Kudos to Bob and Christina! Brad and Michael will start a three-year term. Dan Sciubba and Brandon Lawrence have graciously agreed to continue on the committee for another year to allow for greater continuity. We have a strong group going forward.

With the beginning of the current funding cycle, we had a very successful Introductory Webinar in August for all the new Fellows and Fellowship Directors to welcome them and set expectations. As the largest non-commercial fellowship sponsor, one of our goals is to increase the recognition and identification of AOSpine among the Fellows to strengthen the AOSpine North America community.

The Fellows' Course was unfortunately cancelled due to the hurricane in September but through the hard work and initiative of our staff, we were able to reschedule and combine the course with the Practice Essentials Course in Las Vegas last month. Initial feedback from the course has been extremely positive. Thanks to Elizabeth, Kelly and Chi.

As part of our efforts to increase membership retention, the committee is working on making the fellowship experience more than just a one-year experience. We are looking for opportunities to engage the fellows from the time that they match—during their last year of residency and extending our engagement with them through their first few years of practice.

Of course, the next application cycle will be upon us soon. There will certainly be plenty of work to do.

AOSNA Continues Annual Tradition with Reception at NASS

AOSpine North America continues the tradition with hosting a reception for members and non-members alike at the Hyatt Regency Orlando during the North American Spine Society Annual Meeting.

The reception, held on October 25, set off on a friendly note as people socialized and caught up with friends and old acquaintances. Overall, the evening was a huge success and we thank those of you who were able to stop by.



AOSpine Masters Series, Volume 9: Pediatric Spinal Deformities

Authors: Luis Roberto Vialle, Marinus de Kleuver, and Sigurd Berven

Print ISBN: 9781626234536

E-Book ISBN: 9781626234543

Pages: 170pp

Illustrations: 155

Euro Price: €109.99

US Dollar Price: \$119.99

Description

An estimated 9 million children every year are affected by pediatric spinal deformities, encompassing a broad spectrum of pathologies. New classification systems, innovative imaging modalities, and advances in surgical techniques have contributed to a continually evolving, evidence-based treatment paradigm. Patient variables such as the age of onset, severity, course of deformity progression, as well as the availability of technology pose individualized challenges.

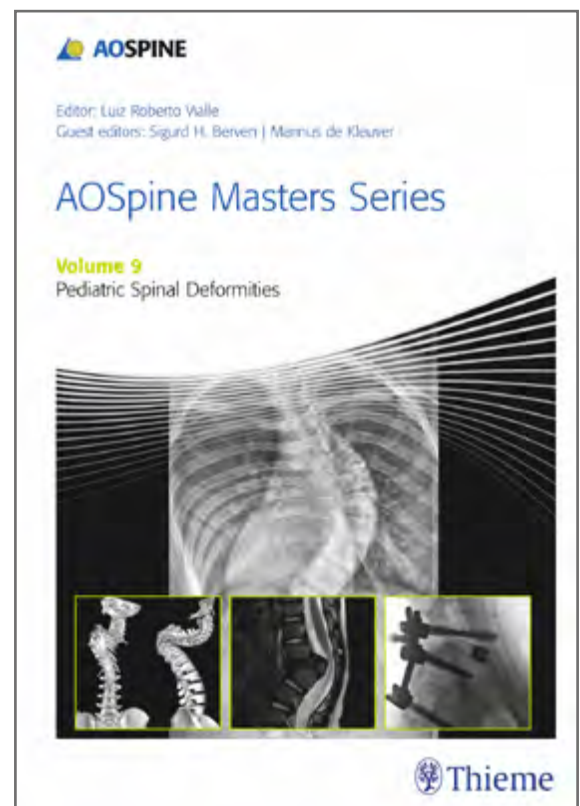
AOSpine Masters Series, Volume 9: Pediatric Spinal Deformity is a concise yet comprehensive review of fundamental surgical and nonsurgical approaches, contemporary issues, and treatment obstacles. Internationally renowned spine surgeons Luis Roberto Vialle, Marinus de Kleuver, and Sigurd Berven and a cadre of esteemed contributors deliver a state-of-the-art reference on deformities of the pediatric spine. From early childhood to adolescent spine disorders, 17 richly illustrated chapters cover diagnosis, preoperative evaluation, imaging, spine surgery interventions, non-fusion procedures, and long-term management.

Key Highlights

- Overviews on the classification and natural history of early onset scoliosis and adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, with subsequent chapters covering non-operative management and contemporary surgical techniques
- Evidence-based discussion of long-term surgical care outcomes, indications for revision surgery, and strategies for achieving optimal results
- Management of congenital and developmental kyphosis, lordosis, syndromic conditions, and low and high grade spondylolisthesis
- Clinical pearls on spine surgery in the developing world, safety issues and complications, and the importance of developing outcome metrics

The AOSpine Masters series, a co-publication of Thieme and the AOSpine Foundation, addresses current clinical issues featuring international masters sharing their expertise in the core areas in the field. The goal of the series is to contribute to an evolving, dynamic model of evidence-based approach to spine care.

This outstanding textbook is a must have for spine surgeons, in particular those who specialize in treating childhood spine disorders. Orthopaedic and neurosurgery residents, as well as veteran surgeons with extensive knowledge will find this an indispensable tool for daily practice.



AOSNA Teaches Essentials for Building a Successful Practice

AOSpine North America (AOSNA) continues to offer high quality education with a new course focused on non-traditional topics taught in a dynamic and interactive format. This past November, AOSNA hosted a Practice Essentials Course to teach non-clinical competencies that are essential for every practicing spine surgeon to master in order to have a successful and thriving practice. The inaugural course was a huge success because it offered participants an opportunity to learn from experts in the field of health care economics, contracting, coding, marketing and lifestyle management. The modular format combined lectures by leaders in the field with small group round table breakouts for more personalized discussions.



RISCIS Enrolls 100th Patient

AOSpine North America (AOSNA) is pleased to announce that we have just enrolled our 100th patient into the ongoing AOSNA “Multi-Center, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blinded, Trial of Efficacy and Safety of Riluzole in Acute Spinal Cord Injury” Study (RISCIS).

In the RISCIS trial, which is led by Dr. Michael Fehlings, Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto and Chair of the AOSpine Spinal Cord Injury Knowledge Forum, there are currently 21 major international trauma centers in Australia, Canada, and the United States with further global centers which are in various stages of site activation. RISCIS is the largest ongoing prospective spinal cord injury trial in the world and one of the most extensive randomized controlled spinal cord injury studies ever conducted.

Presently, there are over one million people living with Spinal Cord Injury in North America alone, with annual costs for this acute treatment and chronic care of these patients totaling four billion dollars. The worldwide prevalence of Spinal Cord Injury is unknown, but is especially a burden in the developing world. In spite of the immense impact of Spinal Cord Injury at a personal and societal level, a highly effective and safe pharmacologic treatment remains absent.

AOSpine North America is actively working with AOSpine International to increase the global impact and treatment of this disorder. We would also like to acknowledge further our collaborating partners including The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation’s North America Clinical Trials Network (NACTN; through a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense), The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, and The Rick Hansen Institute.

More information about the study can be found on:

CLICK HERE

or by emailing:

RISCIS@nor-consult.com

Did you know?

The Global Spine Congress has received a record number of 1,100 abstracts submitted for the 2018 meeting in Singapore. This is the largest number of abstracts submitted to any world spine event. All accepted abstracts will be published in the special online issue of the Global Spine Journal, which will be published just before the Global Spine Congress.

For more information, click here:

CLICK HERE

Welcome to New Fellows

The AOSNA Board and Fellowship Committee is honored to welcome incoming fellows for the 2017-2018 academic year. These fellows will further their medical careers in spine at AOSNA fellowship sites that are dedicated to core values of caring and compassion in the context of state-of-the-art clinical experiences and facilities.

Cleveland Clinic

John Freeland Ackley, DO
Samuel Clay Overley, MD
Anup Krishna Gangavalli, MD
Maziyar Arya Kalani, MD
Ganesh Mani Shankar, MD

Columbia University Medical Center

Melvin Makhni, MD
Martin Pham, MD
John Sielatycki, MD

Emory University

Daniel Blizzard, MD
Chase Bennett, MD
Amit Jain, MD
John Rodriguez-Feo, MD

Hospital for Special Surgery

Patrick Hill, MD
Brandon Carlson, MD
Phillip Saville, MD
Eric Feuchtbaume, MD

Houston Methodist

Ronak Desai, DO
Joseph Brindise, MD

Johns Hopkins University

Corinna Zygorakis, MD
Samuel Kalb, MD

Mayo Clinic

Oscar A. Duyos Garcia, MD
Bryan Lawson, MD

McGill University

Andrew Douglas Tice, MD
Abdulaziz Alhajeri, MD
Abdulmajeed Alzakri, MD
Abdulaziz Saud Bin Shebreen, MD

Northwestern University

Andrew Yew, MD
Eric Bialanski, DO

NYU Hospital for Joint Disease

Bradley Johnson, MD
Tomas Kuprys, MD
Tina Raman, MD
Aaron Hockley, MD
Pawel Jankowski, MD

OrthoCarolina Spine Center

Michael R. Conti Mica, MD
Michael Silverstein, MD

Rush University

Hani Malone, MD

Stanford University

Remi M. Ajiboye, MD

Swedish Neurosciences Institute

Ronen Belcher, MD
Amir Abdul Jabbar, MD
Louis Nkrumah, MD
Thomas O'Lynnner, MD
Tamir Tawfik, MD

Thomas Jefferson University

Yusef Mosley, MD

Toronto Western/University of Toronto

Mario Ganau, MD
Vinay Kulkarni, MD
Chris Neilsen, MD
Maheswara Akula, MD
Robert Ravinsky, MD
Fan Jiang, MD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Kivanc Atesok, MD

University of British Columbia

Shreya Srinivas, MD
Hanbing Zhou, MD
Babak Sharifi, MD

University of Calgary

Duncan Cushnie, MD
Christos Zafeiris, MD
Fillipe Nares, MD
Alisson Teles, MD
Patricia Sirios, MD

University of Cincinnati

Rani Nasser, MD
David Gimbel, MD

University of California Davis

Luke Hiatt, MD
Gurpal Pannu, MD

University of California San Francisco

Neil Bhamb, MD
Paul Eichenseer, MD
Singh Paramjit, MD
Catherine Miller, MD

University of Maryland

Morenikeji Buraimoh, MD
Charles Gordon, MD
Vishal Khatri, MD

University of Missouri

Josue Acevedo Nieves, MD

University of Pennsylvania

Nissim Ackshota, MD

University of Rochester

Eric Emanski, MD

University of Southern California

Pranay Patel, MD
Nickul Jain, MD
Ifije Ohiorhenuan, MD

University of Utah

Ross McEntarfer, MD
Jeremy Shaw, MD

University of Virginia

Juanita Garces, MD
Marcus Mazur, MD
Jeffrey Mullin, MD

University of Washington

Christina W. C. Cheng, MD
David Gendelberg, MD
Nathan Wigner, MD

Washington University

Pablo J. Diaz-Collado, MD
Pooria Salari, MD
Alexander A. Theologis, MD
Chase Woodward, MD

Weill Cornell Medical College

Robert Hernandez, MD
Christoph Wipplinger, MD
Rodrigo Navarro-Ramirez, MD

West Virginia University

Colby Fagin, MD

Yale University

Ryan Grant, MD

AOSNA Partners with AOSLA on the MIS Spine Camp

The Spine Camp held on Nov. 10-11, 2017 at the Center for Advance Medical Simulation Center in Tampa, FL offered participants a unique opportunity to practice workflows and techniques using actual surgical tools in a highly realistic surgical simulation setting. The faculty consisted of leaders in MIS Surgery from North America and Latin America. Course participants were assigned to a faculty “personal trainer” to help him/her develop an appropriate MIS operative treatment plan. The camp was designed for participants to master skills to perform MIS lumbar spine decompression and TLIF, showing how to deal with intraoperative CSF leaks, and on the discussion of clinical cases to facilitate the exchange of opinions between the faculty and participants.



Now Published on the Global Spine Journal— Clinical Practice Guidelines DCM and TSCI

Global Spine Journal has had a great year so far, with more exciting news to come next year. The Editors-in-Chief of GSJ are pleased to announce the release of GSJ's newest special issue, "Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy and Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury". This special issue was spearheaded by GSJ Deputy Editor and Chairperson of the AOSpine Knowledge Forum for Spinal Cord Injury, Michael Fehlings, MD.



AOSpine North America and AOSpine International, in collaboration with the Cervical Spine Research Society and the American Association/Congress of Neurologic Surgeons, sought to develop clinical practice guidelines to outline how to best manage patients with tSCI and DCM and address existing areas of controversy. Dr. Fehlings said: "Both traumatic and nontraumatic spinal cord injury result in devastating functional impairments and reduced quality of life. The last 10 years have witnessed significant improvements in the management of these conditions due to improved knowledge surrounding injury mechanisms, disease pathophysiology and the impact of surgery. These guidelines distill, for the first time, existing evidence on these topics and aim to develop recommendations to outline how to manage patients with degenerative cervical myelopathy and traumatic spinal cord injury. We hope these guidelines will promote shared decision making among physicians, patients and their families, standardize care worldwide and encourage future research to address existing knowledge gaps."

This issue is available in full online:

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Top Downloaded and Accessed Article from this issue was "Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy and Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury".

Read here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

"We hope these guidelines will promote shared decision making among physicians, patients, and their families, standardize care worldwide and encourage future research to address existing knowledge gaps."

Michael Fehlings, an academic neurosurgeon from the Toronto Western Hospital and Chairperson of the AOSpine Knowledge Forum SCI.



Other News from the GSJ

GSJ had a very busy year which is now wrapping up. The final issue of 2017 was published at the end of November. We have already begun planning for 2018—look out for issue 1 coming out at the end of January. We also will have more special issues in the works for next year.

2017 has been the most successful year so far for GSJ, with a record number of submissions, citations and downloads and that is thanks to all of our amazing authors, reviewers, and readers. It is all of you who keep the journal thriving.

The Top Downloaded and Accessed Regular Issue article published in 2017 was “Spine Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy: Indications, Outcomes, and Points of Caution”. [You can access it here](#)

GSJ has also resumed a regular podcast series, with new podcasts coming out with each new issue, including podcast companions for the special issues.

You can listen to all of the podcasts here:

CLICK HERE

We want to remind all AOSpine members that they can opt-in on their member profile to receive a free paper copy of every issue of GSJ. The Open Access fee of \$1,500 for accepted articles is also waived for all accepted GSJ papers where at least one author is an AOSpine member!

Don't forget to follow us on social media.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/globalspinejournal and on Twitter: [@globalspinej](https://twitter.com/globalspinej).

This is the best way to stay up-to-date with all GSJ news and announcements.

All issues are available online to read:

CLICK HERE

AOSNA Welcomes New Fellowship Committee Members



Dr. Brad Segebarth is a fellowship trained orthopedic spine surgeon with OrthoCarolina Spine Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. He completed his education at the University of Kentucky and his residency at Vanderbilt University. His spine fellowship was completed at OrthoCarolina. Dr. Segebarth has also been an AOSNA faculty member since 2014.



Dr. Michael Weber currently serves as an Assistant Professor at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and completed his residency at the University of British Columbia. He also completed an orthopedic spine fellowship at the University of California San Francisco in 2011. Dr. Weber has served as AOSNA faculty since 2013 and has taught at over 10 courses since then.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Segebarth and Weber as they assume their new roles within the AOSNA organization.

Advancing
spine care
worldwide

Get updates on the latest news, events, course
registration openings, and much more



**AOSpine North America
on FACEBOOK**



**AOSpineNA
on Twitter**



**AOSpine_NA
on Instagram**




**Coming Soon
AOSNA on YouTube**

AOSpine North America
1700 Russell Road
Paoli, PA 19301

T (610) 993-5131
F (610) 695-2420
clam@aospine.org
www.aospine.org

 facebook.com/aospine-North-America

 [@aospineNA](https://twitter.com/aospineNA)

 [aospine](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aospine)

 [aospine_NA](https://www.instagram.com/aospine_NA)