

HARMS STUDY GROUP NEWS

LEADING THE WAY IN SPINAL DEFORMITY SOLUTIONS

OUR MISSION *The HSG is a group of surgeons dedicated to the advancement of treatment for children and adolescents with spine deformity. Through comprehensive, multicenter prospective research studies questions regarding treatment approach and treatment techniques that achieve desired outcomes are studied.*

A LOOK AT THE HARD WORK OF 2011

Welcome to The Harms Study Group's last newsletter of 2011! In this edition, we'll provide you with a very general overview of some of the research we've conducted over the past year, and we will include a general overview of some of our findings that were shared with our research community. We'd also like to introduce you to a "Grateful Patient," whose drive and commitment to making the world a better place for others has put her on a path to improving the lives of other Harms Study Group patients.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HSG STUDIES



The Harms Study Group's members submitted a total of thirty-eight articles to peer reviewed journals. Twelve of those articles were published. Some of the topics studied included:

- How common is post-operative **trunk shift** in Lenke Curves 1 and 2?
- Does a larger pre-operative curve magnitude influence **peri-operative healthcare utilization**?

The Harms Study Group had a variety of presentations in 2011. Some of the topics of the posters and podiums presented at the Scoliosis Research Society's annual meeting include topics such as:

- The effect of surgeon experience on **Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis** surgery outcomes &
- Quality of Life assessments in patients with **Scheuermann's Kyphosis**.

A complete list of all articles, podiums, posters and case discussions can be found at our newly redesigned website: www.hsgf.org. Please visit our new website and tell us what you think!

HARMS STUDY GROUP FOUNDATION

THE HARMS STUDY GROUP FOUNDATION IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE HARMS STUDY GROUP: A COLLABORATIVE COHORT OF WORLDWIDE DISTINGUISHED SURGEONS DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH SPINE DEFORMITY. TO LEARN MORE OR HELP SUPPORT OUR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE,

WWW.HSGF.ORG

SCIENTIFIC MEETING PRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HSG IN 2011

5 presentations were made at the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons meeting in February

4 presentations were made at the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America meeting in May

23 presentations were made at the International Meeting of Advanced Spinal Techniques meeting in July

3 presentations were made at the American Academy of Neuro Surgeons meeting in September

21 presentations were made at the Scoliosis Research Society meeting in September

2 presentations were made at the North America Spine Society meeting in November

THE GIFT OF A DANCER: GRATEFUL PATIENT KATHY RICARDI



Kathy is a nineteen year old who underwent spinal surgery in Delaware in 2009. Kathy, who was and is an avid dancer, experienced physical pain and emotional distress after her surgery. At a time when most girls are simply looking forward to their oncoming senior year of high school, Kathy was faced with a long recovery. Kathy never gave up. Since her surgery, Kathy has made an extraordinary recovery, and she has also decided to donate an extraordinary amount of her effort and time to improving the lives of others in as many ways as she can. In her own words:

"During my senior year my high school held a fundraiser for children, in the Philadelphia area, needing toys for the Christmas holiday. First, the collections came leisurely until I erupted out of my shell and made an announcement to the entire student body that I am a patient of this hospital and described my summer surgery. At the end of my speech, I could see the tears in not only the students but in the faculty's eyes. My high school contributed a total of one thousand dollars. We were able to create a sense of hope for those children."

In October, Kathy organized a pumpkin carving contest to help raise funds for the production of the Harms Study Group Scoliosis Handbook. We still have a ways to go, but Kathy's commitment is making a world of difference. On behalf of all members of the Harms Study Group, thank you, Kathy! We truly appreciate your gifts. If you wish to read more of Kathy's story or find out how you can become involved as a grateful patient, please visit us at www.hsgf.org.



THERE IS NO HARM IN ASKING

One of the main goals of The Harms Study Group is to enhance education. We aim to provide the best spinal deformity information available to as many people as we possibly can. Thus, each upcoming issue of our newsletter will have a question & answer section where our experts will field your inquiries. If you have questions about The Harms Study Group, our research or questions about spinal deformities, please submit them to mmarks@hsgf.org. We will do our best to address your concerns as quickly as possible, and we welcome all comments too!

You can share your story and pictures with the HSG newsletter! We'd love to profile your individual stories in a future HSG newsletter to share with other patients. If interested, please send an e-mail to The Harms Study Group Foundation office at mmarks@hsgf.org.

Sign up for an electronic version of our newsletter at our website.

You can also follow us on Facebook (HSGFoundation) and Twitter (HSG_Foundation).

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REMEMBER, as a patient volunteer in Harms Study Group research, you can continue to help. Be sure to make all of your scheduled follow-up appointments with your spine surgeon. Once you have agreed to participate in HSG research, the follow-up information that you provide is CRITICAL to our success in answering our important research questions.

**H A R M S S T U D Y G R O U P
F O U N D A T I O N**