

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SETTING SCOLIOSIS STRAIGHT

*The Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation is a non-profit corporation founded to advance the understanding of scoliosis. The foundation fosters patient education, physician education and multi-center clinical research in the field of scoliosis and other spinal deformities.*

## POSTERIOR SURGICAL CORRECTIONS

Pre-Operative Spine



## HEALTHY BACK TIPS

If you have to move a heavy item, remember that pushing is easier on your back than pulling. Pushing primarily with your hands and legs also alleviates stress to your back.

If you'd like to attend our fantastic non-gala, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone.

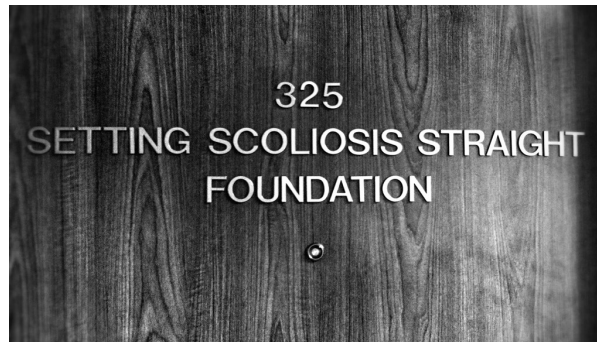


It will take you to a website where you can donate and help us further scoliosis research. We thank you so much for all of your support.

## FOLLOW US ON



## NEW & IN THE NEWS!



Welcome to our second newsletter of 2012! In our last newsletter, we told you about our foundation's new name. We now have a new location to boast about as well! In July, Setting Scoliosis Straight moved off of the Rady Children's Hospital Campus and into an office in Mission Valley. We are still located in San Diego, and we thank Rady Children's Hospital for housing us for so many years, but as you can tell by the picture, we are excited to have our very own space!

## WORLDWIDE EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

One of our main goals is to further the education and treatment of spinal deformities in children around the world, so we are very pleased to announce that our AIS patient handbook's Mandarin translation is complete and ready to print. Translations of our handbook in both Spanish and Turkish have been completed, are awaiting one final review, and then will be sent to print. Furthermore, our patient handbook has received three recent endorsements from:



COA 2012  
Chinese Orthopaedic Association



Spanish Spine Society

We are grateful for the collaborations with our colleagues around the world who help us with worldwide distribution of this incredible patient education handbook!

## SETTING SCOLIOSIS STRAIGHT NON-GALA



We are very excited to announce our very first fundraising campaign as the Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation! We have chosen a black tie *non-gala* because that will allow **100%** of each donation to go toward SSS research and education. The research we perform is utilized to educate doctors, patients and families about spinal deformities, and it impacts and improves the level of care children with scoliosis receive. **Countless children's lives have been improved because of the dedication of our members and our supporters.**

*To learn more about how you can become involved and help us fight spinal deformity on a global level, please visit [www.settingscoliosisstraight.org](http://www.settingscoliosisstraight.org) & donate today.*

## CONTACTS

### Rady Children's Hospital, SD, CA

Carrie Bartley -  
[cbartley@rchsd.org](mailto:cbartley@rchsd.org)

### Philadelphia Shriners's, PA

Charlotte Carroll -  
[Ccarroll@shrinenet.org](mailto:Ccarroll@shrinenet.org)

### Johns Hopkins Hospital, BA

Leslie Thaxton -  
[tleslie1@jhmi.edu](mailto:tleslie1@jhmi.edu)

### Nemours Children's Clinic, DE

Geraldine Neiss -  
[gneiss@nemours.org](mailto:gneiss@nemours.org)

Petya Yorgova -

[pyorgova@nemours.org](mailto:pyorgova@nemours.org)

### Klinikum Karlsbad, Germany

Lynn Letko, MD -  
[Lynn.Letko@kkl.srh.de](mailto:Lynn.Letko@kkl.srh.de)

### Scoliosis & Spine Associates, NY

Courtney Toombs -  
[Lonnerresearch@gmail.com](mailto:Lonnerresearch@gmail.com)

### Miami Children's Hospital, FL

Rafaela Solano -  
[Rafaela.solano@mch.com](mailto:Rafaela.solano@mch.com)

### Children's Hospital of PA

Melissa Gunderson -  
[gundersonm@email.chop.edu](mailto:gundersonm@email.chop.edu)

### BC Children's Hospital, VAN

Michael Nikikman -  
[Michael.Nitikman@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Michael.Nitikman@cw.bc.ca)

### University of Virginia, VA

Mark Feger -  
[MF3DE@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu](mailto:MF3DE@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu)

### CHU St. Justine of Montreal

Marjolaine Roy Beaudry -  
[Marjolaine.beaudry@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca](mailto:Marjolaine.beaudry@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca)

Isabella Turgeon -

[Isabelle.turgeon@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca](mailto:Isabelle.turgeon@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca)

### HSG Coordinator

Michelle Marks -  
[mmarks@ssshsg.org](mailto:mmarks@ssshsg.org)

**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.

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[WWW.SETTINGSCOLIOSISSTRAIGHT.ORG](http://WWW.SETTINGSCOLIOSISSTRAIGHT.ORG)



## CHU ST. JUSTINE OF MONTREAL: IN 3D



*Jean-Marc Thiong MD, Hubert Labelle MD, and Stefan Parent MD at the IMAST meeting.*

adjustments that may be necessary during the bracing process. St. Justine's clinical researchers and engineers have developed, and are now refining, computer-assisted surgery and virtual reality tools to be used in spine surgery. These tools will simulate surgeries prior to operation and allow surgeons to weigh various techniques and their anticipated outcomes, thus providing the optimal treatment possible for each patient.

Dr. Parent and the research team at St. Justine have made great strides in improving the treatment patients with scoliosis receive, and their success was recently recognized when they received an OREF grant to continue their study. The OREF grant awarded to Dr. Parent and the Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation will allow patients being treated by the St. Justine research team, and additional sites of the Harms Study Group, to undergo 3D reconstruction of their spine. We want to take this quick moment to congratulate Dr. Parent and the amazing progress made by Dr. Labelle's research team. Way to go, St. Justine!

Harms Study Group surgeon member Dr. Stefan Parent is part of the musculoskeletal research team at University Health Center of St. Justine. This team, led by Dr. Hubert Labelle, has been pioneering research in 3D analysis of the spine for years. By combining geometric modeling tools and sophisticated computer reconstructions, Dr. Labelle, Dr. Parent, and their co-investigators have been able to produce exceptional 3D analyses of the patient spine to assist in the treatment of scoliosis in a variety of ways.

Prior to surgery, the 3D analysis of the spine is beneficial in determining the effectiveness of bracing as well as highlighting any customized



*Montreal Site Coordinators Isabelle Turgeon & Marjolaine Roy-Beaudry.*

## PATIENT STORY: VERONIQUE BROSSARD



On July 30th of this year, I underwent surgery for my scoliosis. This was my first surgery ever, so needless to say, I was very nervous and afraid. My surgeon, Dr. Stefan Parent, really reassured me that I would be okay. This helped me trust him with my surgery. The first two weeks after surgery were the most difficult. I hardly slept at night because of the pain and nausea caused by the pain medication. I was certain that the pain would never go away and that I would never return to my normal life, but after just three weeks, I could see a big improvement. I didn't walk like a robot anymore, and I even returned to school. After one month, the pain was completely gone. Now, I am happy with the results of my surgery. The speed at which the body is capable of recovering amazes me! I feel better about myself, I have no more complexes about my back, and I can confirm that this surgery was worth the pain.

*We want to hear from you! If you have any questions for a surgeon member of our team, are a grateful patient with a story to share, or would like your site to be highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Michelle Marks at [mmarks@ssshsg.org](mailto:mmarks@ssshsg.org).*

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

THE SETTING SCOLIOSIS STRAIGHT 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.