

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

The Official Newsletter of The Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation



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2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Setting Scoliosis Straight and The Harms Study Group's 2014 Annual Meeting was held in Las Vegas from January 2nd to January 4th. Highlights from the meeting include:

Study Group Developments: Members developed a consensus/evidence based pathway designed to decrease the length of hospitalization for surgically treated patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS). In addition, variation in blood loss during surgery for AIS was discussed. Plans for improved data collection methodologies were considered.

Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis:

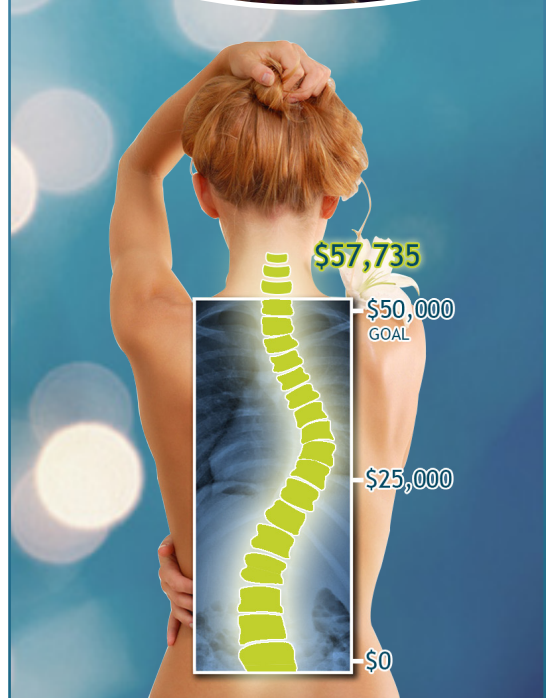
Members presented individual research projects from this prospective study. Topics explored included the risk of curve progression in non-operative patients as well as returning to playing sports for athletic operative patients.

Scoliosis in Cerebral Palsy: Members presented individual research projects from this prospective study. One project asked whether staged surgeries are safer than non-staged surgeries and another looked at identifying various complication risk factors.

Scheuermann's Kyphosis:

Important contributions in identifying complications and defining quality of life in post-operative patients were made due to the successful completion of this study.

Post-op Motion: Valuable information gained from the successful completion of this study shows that motion in the unfused spinal segments is preserved in the 2-10 year post-operative group, but longer fusions can have a negative impact on functional motion.



2nd ANNUAL NON-GALA

The results from 2013's non-gala are in. A total of \$57,735 was donated via 62 dedicated donors.

We want to thank all of our donors and supporters! The work we do wouldn't be possible without you, and we hope you will continue to support us in 2014!



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HSG SITE HIGHLIGHT:

MEET ISABEL & DR. ABEL FROM VIRGINIA

Isabel was born prematurely at twenty-nine weeks and was later diagnosis with Cerebral Palsy. She has been under the care of Dr. Mark Abel since 2001. As Isabel continued to grow, her spine curvature did too, and soon it was causing her discomfort and negatively impacting her quality of life. Isabel had to have multiple surgeries to fix both kyphotic and lordotic curves in her back, but after six months of recovery time, Isabel's family was able to see astonishing improvements in Isabel's daily life. Her pain has lessened, her sleep has improved, she is able to take less medicine, and she can face forward to see who she is interacting with. Also, due to Isabel's increased lung capacity, her speech has improved, and her parents are able to hear her say things that she couldn't before. The Holmes are very happy with Isabel's spinal surgery.



"We are so grateful to see these changes in her life. I think we got excellent guidance as well as surgical expertise and care. Thank you, Mark Abel. We owe you so many thanks for your help in bringing back Isabel's smile."

-- Penny Holmes

*From left to right:
Don Holmes, Mark Feger,
Isabel Holmes, Penny
Holmes, and Dr. Mark
Abel.*

DON'T FORGET! As a patient volunteer for the **Harms Study Group**, your continued help is essential. Please remember to make all of your scheduled follow-up appointments with your spine surgeon.

www.settingscoliosisstraight.org