

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

The Official Newsletter of The Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation

AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

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Did You Know...?

May 2016 marked a huge milestone for Setting Scoliosis Straight in our pursuit to become a leading resource in evidence-based patient education. On May 14th, Shriners Hospitals for Children, PA generously hosted our first patient education course, Power Over Scoliosis. With over 120 attendees, 27 faculty, and 30 volunteers, this event raised the bar in scoliosis patient education. The day after the event, HSG surgeon member Jack Flynn, MD, shared these words:

Yesterday was an inspiring day for HSG surgeons who correct spine deformity and counsel kids through non-op care. The patient panels, the family Q&A, and the patient testimonials drove home the value of the work we do. These powerful patient stories, and their unanswered questions, inspire us. We will do better now in pursuing answers to the research questions that interest families, not just the things that interest surgeons.

We want to offer special thanks to our institutional supporters: Shriners Hospitals for Children, PA, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Nemours duPont Pediatrics made this event possible! We want to thank all of our patient attendees, patient panelists, faculty, sponsors, and volunteers for the collaborative efforts that made this event a success!



Scoliosis Can Reshape Your Life: Turning Tragedy into Triumph!

At the StarStruck Gala, six patient stars were awarded for their accomplishments as scoliosis ambassadors.



Courtney Burns was inspired by her surgeon and is pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor.



Lindsay Gordon designed Strut for Scoliosis, a philanthropic clothing line!



Haley Gelberg returned to competitive sports within months of having spine surgery.



Caleigh Stednitz raises scoliosis awareness by creating scoliosis-inspired art.



Kelly Andersen shares her experience with other patients and reports for Oregon's KVAL news team.



Jarrod Padilla organized Races with Braces and donated the proceeds to scoliosis research.

Are you interested becoming a Scoliosis Ambassador? If so, contact Chloe Petcharaporn at cpetcharaporn@ssshsg.org today!

You Have the Key: Unlocking Long-Term Answers

Although scoliosis research has come a long way since its inception, patients and their families still have questions. What are the long-term effects of spinal fusion? Will pain be an issue? Will my ability to play sports or have children be affected? Unfortunately, the long-term effects of spine surgery are still unknown. That's why we've chosen Scoliosis Awareness Month to highlight the need for long-term follow-up data collection. It holds the keys to today's unanswered questions. Yes, there is a lot of work that needs to be done to answer these questions. We've accepted the challenge. Will you join us?

To find out more about our long-term study and ways that you can become involved, please visit our website! www.settingscoliosisstraight.org

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.

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