

 setting  
**SCOLIOSIS**  
straight  
*Supporting Discoveries in Scoliosis*

 **HSG**  
HARMS STUDY GROUP  
*Pioneering Research in Scoliosis*

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Join Us in Making a Difference in Scoliosis Treatment.

[www.setting scoliosis straight.org](http://www.setting scoliosis straight.org)



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, we are pleased to celebrate and share the accomplishments of **Setting Scoliosis Straight** in the past year and our excitement for the future in this issue of our annual report. The focus on mission remains steadfast as we continue to make the lives of scoliosis patients better through research and education. Innovation and new opportunities continue to develop in scoliosis treatment, but which ones will be safe and effective in the long term, and which patients might be best served by particular treatment methods? Our patients and families have also made it clear that they have preferences, want to see the data and gather in shared decision making.

Our group of surgeons and researchers assemble the data, scrub it and analyze the evidence generated to best help us understand what's true - based in evidence. The power of the scientific method cannot be overstated, and the evidence created is what powers our educational mission both for patients and healthcare professionals around the world.

It is through our patients and families' willing and interested in participating in our various clinical trials that we can collect the data and answer the questions that make care better. Your willingness to share your outcomes and experiences in our research and educational efforts inspire us at Setting Scoliosis Straight to push boundaries and help many more patients than our own.

In my second year as President of this group I see how broad and far we can go in its strategic direction, research opportunities,



and collaborations. The financial landscape is changing, research funding is under threat and industry support has been spread thin; therefore, we must innovate our model and derive sustainable methods to continue this important work. Thankfully, our leadership structure includes **Drs. Firoz Miyanji** (VP research) and **Amer Samdani** (VP Education), a dedicated Executive Committee, and an amazing Board of Directors. Our Executive Director, **Michelle Marks**, really captains this ship with grace, poise, and servant leadership to the organization and is celebrating 28 years with the organization. Her infrastructure team works tirelessly with our research coordinators in the background, orchestrating all the details that make a research idea or educational effort a reality. Please enjoy the pages that follow and celebrate what we have done together in 2024 and what we hope to accomplish in 2025 and beyond.

In March, we will gather for a course for spine surgeons to disseminate much of the knowledge gained over 3 decades and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the study group and all the patients, surgeons and communities that have benefitted from this great body of work.

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve, most sincerely,



**Suken Shah, MD**  
President,  
Setting Scoliosis Straight

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# TWO DIVISIONS OF OUR ORGANIZATION:

### NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION

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## Harms Study Group

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Scoliosis Family,

I want to highlight our amazing infrastructure team for their unwavering support throughout 2024, a challenging year following my husband's cancer diagnosis and passing. Their dedication kept our work uninterrupted.

**Maty** has spent over 20 years managing our databases and research team with unparalleled loyalty and expertise. **Harvey** has been our webmaster, radiographic measurer, and development manager for 15 years, with remarkable achievements.

**Tracey** has performed statistical analyses for over 2 decades for HSG research studies with unwavering support and expertise. **Mary** contributed 8 years managing research and the Surgeon Performance Program; now at UCSD, she still supports us. **Alan** has been with us for 5 years, coordinating research meetings and community management. **Julia**, our finance manager for 4 years, has brought invaluable expertise as a CPA, enhancing research and reducing expenses. **Sandra**, our contracts manager, has streamlined and strengthened agreements, further protecting

our organization. **Daniel**, our research QA manager, ensures our data meets the highest standards in multicenter research. **Sydney**, our SPP manager, also manages two study cohorts and entered all data for an AIS pain study. **Dee**, our VBT research coordinator, revamped peri-operative data collection to align with VBT nomenclature and manages all tether research. **Marissa**, on our radiographic team, ensures quarterly measurements with excellent reliability and maintains all 3D reconstructions. **Haley** oversees image and data submissions, excelling as a liaison with research sites and serving as a radiographic measurer.

This team is extraordinary, and I am deeply grateful for their dedication to scoliosis patients.

Most sincerely,



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Michelle Marks".

**Michelle Marks, PT, MA**

Executive Director,  
Setting Scoliosis Straight



Supporting Discoveries in Scoliosis



# THE NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION

The **Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation (SSSF)** is a nonprofit organization founded in 2008 to champion the research initiatives of the **Harms Study Group (HSG)**. Committed to advancing the treatment of scoliosis, the Foundation channels its efforts into fundraising, raising awareness, and empowering individuals through education and the development of a supportive scoliosis community.

## Pg. 6 EDUCATION

Patients and their families face complex treatment decisions throughout their scoliosis journey. Our education programs provide clear, evidence-based information on all aspects of care.

## Pg. 8 COMMUNITY

The collaborative endeavors of scoliosis ambassadors nationwide work to empower, support, and advocate for children living with scoliosis.

## Pg. 10 RESEARCH

Clinical research is vital to improving scoliosis treatment. To support this essential work, SSSF focuses on fundraising to fund HSG research initiatives.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Setting Scoliosis Straight's board of directors are passionate about working to advance care for scoliosis patients. This well-rounded group of individuals volunteer their time, expertise, energy and generous donations to ensure the foundation fulfills its mission in a meaningful way.



**SUKEN SHAH, MD**  
President & Chair



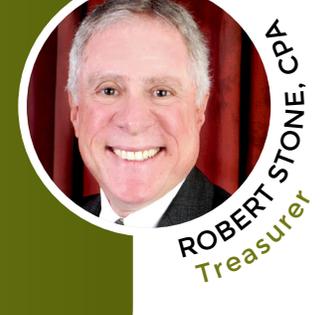
**AMER SAMDANI, MD**  
VP of Education



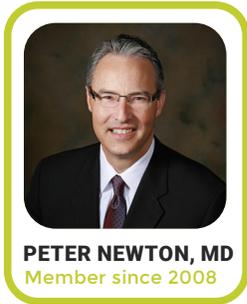
**FIROZ MIYANJI, MD**  
VP of Research



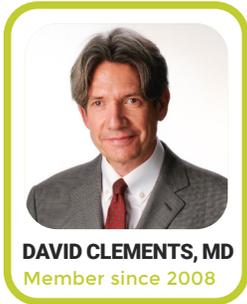
**MICHELLE MARKS, PT, MA**  
Secretary



**ROBERT STONE, CPA**  
Treasurer



**PETER NEWTON, MD**  
Member since 2008



**DAVID CLEMENTS, MD**  
Member since 2008



**RANDEL BETZ, MD**  
Member since 2008



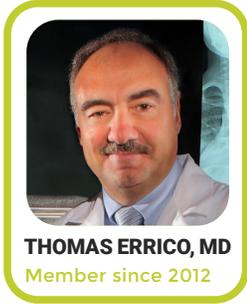
**HARRY SHUFFLEBARGER, MD**  
Member since 2008



**BARON LONNER, MD**  
Member since 2011



**LAWRENCE LENKE, MD**  
Member since 2011



**THOMAS ERRICO, MD**  
Member since 2012



**KEVIN SAYAR, Esq.**  
Member since 2013



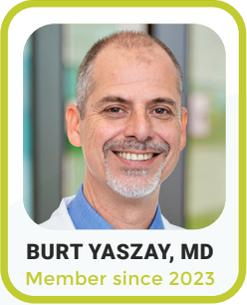
**STACEY GOLDFARB, Esq.**  
Member since 2014



**ROSS SYLVIA**  
Member since 2020



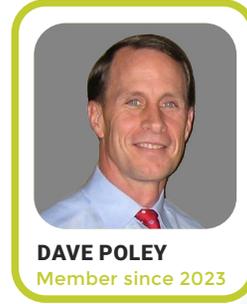
**THERESA CHESNUT**  
Member since 2022



**BURT YASZAY, MD**  
Member since 2023



**NOELLE LARSON, MD**  
Member since 2023



**DAVE POLEY**  
Member since 2023

**SCAN QR CODE**  
To Learn More About  
Our Board Members

**LEARN MORE**



# PATIENT & SURGEON EDUCATION



## 2024 WEBINAR RECAP

6

Webinars

558

Live Attendees

2,362+

Recorded Views

**SCAN QR CODE**  
To View Our Recorded  
Webinar Playlist

**LEARN MORE**



Scoliosis patient education is essential for empowering individuals to better understand their condition, make informed decisions, and take an active role in managing their health.

The SSSF supports this mission with free webinars, a library of educational videos on YouTube, and the newly updated Scoliosis Handbook.

Through these resources, the foundation aims to foster awareness and knowledge, helping those affected by scoliosis take a proactive approach to their healthcare.

## FREE WEBINARS

We are proud of our efforts to expand our webinars to **the world** audiences and experts. This year, we hosted **3 patient education webinars**, 2 surgeon education webinar and **1 Surgeon Performance Program Forum** (See pg. 11). All webinars were attended by scoliosis patients and their families as well as healthcare providers from around the world.

To view our recorded webinars, visit our website at:  
[www.settingscoliosisstraight.org](http://www.settingscoliosisstraight.org)

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our incredible speakers for contributing to our webinars and to Stryker, Inc. and Pacira for generously sponsoring our 2024 surgeon education webinars!

# SCOLIOSIS HANDBOOK

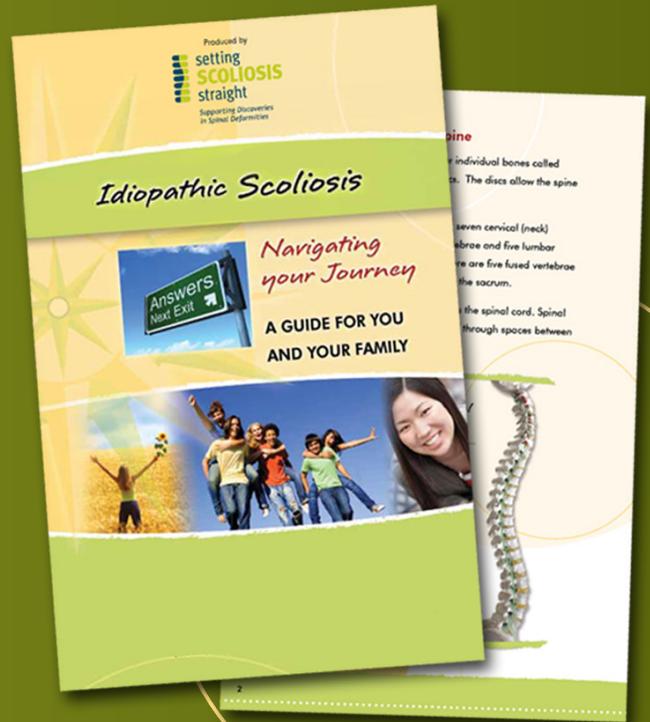
This handbook serves as a valuable guide for patients and their families, offering essential insights and support throughout their scoliosis journey, and is accessible to the public at no cost.

Visit our website or scan the QR code below to download your free digital copy today!

SCAN QR CODE

To Learn How to Download  
Our Scoliosis Handbook

LEARN MORE



# YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Setting Scoliosis Straight is proud to present our large video library, which consists of evidence-based information conveyed through animated infographics, recorded webinars, and a wide range of interviews with renowned surgeons and patients who have experience with different treatments.



SCAN QR CODE

To Visit Our  
YouTube Channel

LEARN MORE



# COMMUNITY OF AMBASSADORS

**Scoliosis Ambassadors are Today's Change Makers & Social Innovators**

The **Setting Scoliosis Straight Ambassadors** are advocates who spread awareness of the work we do within the community. They help raise funds to support our research and education programs, empowering others faced with Scoliosis. Small actions that work toward big ideas create change. Setting Scoliosis Straight's Ambassadors, drawn from all over the country, work enthusiastically to empower others and give voices to children living with Scoliosis within their respective communities.



WE'VE ADDED  
**14 NEW**  
PATIENT STORIES  
ON OUR  
WEBSITE



**SCAN QR CODE**  
To read our library of  
patient stories

**READ MORE**

## MEET DIYA BALDAWA

Diya was diagnosed with scoliosis at just 4 years old. Despite her fears, she overcame many challenges following her spinal fusion surgery. Inspired by her journey, she chose to give back by volunteering with SSSF, becoming a truly invaluable part of our foundation.



## MEET GEORGIA KARAS

Georgia was diagnosed with scoliosis at the age of 10 and endured 4 years of wearing a brace for 20 hours a day. Her determination and resilience paid off, allowing her to avoid surgery. Today, she volunteers with SSSF, contributing her talents to our marketing efforts.





DIYA BALDAWA

ADVICE FROM  
**SCOLIOSIS FRIENDS**  
 With Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation



EESHA PILLAI



GUADALUPE GUTIERREZ

In 2024, SSSF launched **Advice from Scoliosis Friends**, a video series where patients from diverse backgrounds share their experiences and offer valuable tips to those newly diagnosed with scoliosis. The series aims to provide support and guidance as patients begin their scoliosis journey through various treatments.



MADISON PERRY



SHRAVAN PILLAI

↓ **TOPICS:**

- 1 EXERCISING & STRETCHES
  - 2 FASHION TIPS
  - 3 SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS
  - 4 FINDING SUPPORT
  - 5 SLEEPING POSITIONS
  - 6 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES
  - 7 EMBRACING BODY POSITIVITY
  - 8 MENTAL HEALTH TIPS
  - 9 FINDING INNER STRENGTH
  - 10 SETTING GOALS
  - 11 MAINTAINING POSITIVITY
- and many more...

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SCAN QR CODE**

To watch this video series



SAGE SPEAR



SARAH KRIVICHKIN



# THE RESEARCH GROUP

Founded in 1995, the **Harms Study Group (HSG)** is a collaborative group of surgeons who perform comprehensive, multi-center, prospective research studies focused on pediatric and adolescent scoliosis and spinal conditions.

This **Research Study Group** is dedicated to answering important clinical questions regarding treatment approaches, techniques, and best practices. All research is performed with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes.



LEADERSHIP: AMER SAMDANI, MD,  
SUKEN SHAH, MD, FIROZ MIYANJI, MD



HSG ANNUAL MEETING



HSG @ CUTTING EDGE

Pg. 12

## OUR COMMITMENT

45 surgeon members from 30 research sites volunteer their time to answer important research questions.

Pg. 14

## OUR RESEARCH

We are the 'gold standard' in multi-center research, with our focus on quality of data acquisition and analyses.

Pg. 16

## OUR DATABASE

Our research improves treatment and sparks innovation for Scoliosis surgical treatment.



**Surgeon Performance Program (SPP)** is a quality improvement initiative designed by and for orthopedic surgeons to optimize performance and improve patient outcomes in treating Scoliosis.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY:**

- Participation is Free!
- Routine dashboard reporting provides:
  - Performance evaluation with comparative peer data
  - Opportunity for strategic changes & mentor input
  - Patient care improvements
- **The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC)** approved each year of participation in the SPP as an alternate choice for earning 10 Self- Assessment Examination (SAE) credits toward ABOS MOC requirements.
- **Current patient data volume:**
  - 18,844 = IS fusion
  - 950 = IS non-fusion
  - 1,365 = Neuromuscular
- **~200 surgeons (US and OUS) participating**

**2024  
NEW CUSTOM  
DATABASE LAUNCHED:**

- Automated dynamic dashboard reporting
- Enhanced filtering capabilities and visualization options
- QI registry modules offered:
  - Idiopathic Scoliosis Fusion
  - Neuromuscular Scoliosis Fusion
  - Pediatric Spondylolisthesis
  - Idiopathic Scoliosis Vertebral Body Tethering



**Operating Time Dashboard Report**

Predictive (machine learning/risk adjusted) Dashboards coming in 2025!

This program would not be possible without the generous and long-standing support from Medtronic!



Contact SPP for more information:  
[sppassistant@sshsg.org](mailto:sppassistant@sshsg.org)

# HSG MEMBERS

12 | Harms Study Group

Firoz Miyanji, MD  
British Columbia  
Children's Hospital  
Vancouver, Canada



Peter Sturm, MD  
Cincinnati Children's  
Hospital Cincinnati,  
Ohio



Burt Yaszay, MD  
Seattle Children's  
Hospital, Washington



Michael Glotzbecker, MD  
Rainbow Babies &  
Children's Hospital  
Cleveland, Ohio



Mark Erickson, MD  
Children's Hospital  
Colorado, Denver



Noelle Larson, MD  
Mayo Clinic Rochester,  
Minnesota



Amer Samdani, MD  
Shriners Hospitals for  
Children Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania



Sumeet Garg, MD  
Children's Hospital  
Colorado, Denver



Mark Abel, MD  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia



Josh Pahys, MD  
Shriners Hospitals for  
Children Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania



Bob Cho, MD  
Shriners Pasadena,  
California



Keith Bachmann, MD  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia



Steven Hwang, MD  
Shriners Hospitals for  
Children Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania



Peter Newton, MD  
Rady Children's  
Hospital San Diego,  
California



Laurel Blakemore, MD  
Pediatric Specialists  
of Virginia -  
Children's National



Patrick Cahill, MD  
Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania



Salil Upasani, MD  
Rady Children's  
Hospital San Diego,  
California



Munish Gupta, MD  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Missouri



Jack Flynn, MD  
Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania



Michael Kelly MD  
Rady Children's  
Hospital San Diego,  
California



Daniel  
Hoernschemeyer, MD  
University of Missouri  
Health Care



Lawrence Haber, MD  
Ochsner Health  
Center for Children  
New Orleans



Aaron Buckland, MD  
Melbourne Orthopaedic  
Group & Royal Children  
Hospital, Melbourne



Daniel Sucato, MD  
Texas Scottish  
Rite Hospital



## HSG MENTEES

Arun Hariharan, MD  
Paley Orthopedic &  
Spine Institute, Palm  
Beach, FL

Craig Louer, MD  
Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center  
Nashville, TN

John Vorhies, MD  
Stanford Childrens  
Health Los Gatos, CA

Jaysson Brooks, MD  
Texas Scottish  
Rite Hospital

Jennifer Bauer, MD  
Seattle Children's  
Hospital, Washington



Stefan Parent, MD, Ph.D.  
CHU Sainte-Justine  
Montreal, Canada



Jean-Marc Mac-Thiong, MD  
CHU Sainte-Justine  
Montreal, Canada



Randal Betz, MD  
Institute for Spine &  
Scoliosis Lawrenceville,  
New Jersey



David Clements, MD  
Cooper Bone & Joint  
Institute Camden,  
New Jersey



Daniel Hedequist, MD  
Boston Children's  
Hospital Boston,  
Massachusetts



Lawrence Lenke, MD  
Columbia University  
New York, New York



Michael Vitale, MD  
Columbia University  
New York, New York



Ben Roye, MD  
Columbia University  
New York, New York



Baron Lonner, MD  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
New York, New York



Suken Shah, MD  
Nemours Children's  
Health Wilmington,  
Delaware



Ahmet Alanay, MD  
Acibadem Maslak  
Hospital, Turkey



Peter Gabos, MD  
Nemours Children's  
Health Wilmington,  
Delaware



Caglar Yilgor, MD  
Acibadem Maslak  
Hospital, Turkey



Nicholas Fletcher MD  
Emory Orthopaedics  
& Spine Atlanta,  
Georgia



Paul Sponseller, MD  
Johns Hopkins  
Hospital Baltimore,  
Maryland



Josh Murphy, MD  
Children's Healthcare  
of Atlanta, Georgia



Amit Jain, MD  
Johns Hopkins  
Hospital Baltimore,  
Maryland



Kevin Neal, MD  
Nemours Children's  
Clinic, Jacksonville



Tom Errico, MD  
Nicklaus Children's  
Hospital Miami, Florida



Harry Shufflebarger, MD  
Paley Orthopedic and Spine  
Institute, Palm Beach, Florida



Stephen Goerge, MD  
Nicklaus Children's  
Hospital Miami, Florida

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

Alvin Crawford, MD  
Cincinnati Children's  
Hospital Cincinnati, Ohio

Dennis Wenger, MD  
Rady Children's Hospital  
San Diego, California

Juergen Harms, MD  
Ethianum Klinik  
Heidelberg, Germany

# 2024 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

The **Harms Study Group** had a big presence this year at **five major annual scientific meetings and courses**. These courses allow surgeons from all across the world to share their research findings and ultimately foster the optimal care of all patients with spinal deformities.

## Research Accomplishments:

Presented **14** scientific findings at prominent society meetings

Published **22** manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals

Leading multi-center studies on Vertebral Body Tethering outcomes, advancing critical treatment knowledge



PETER NEWTON, MD PRESENTING AT POSNA

1. **Bastrom & Kelly et al.** Pain Medication Use Two Years after Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Fusion Surgery. Published: Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2024 Jan 1.
2. **Larson et al.** Non-Fusion Versus Fusion Surgery in Pediatric Idiopathic Scoliosis: What Trade-Offs in Outcomes Are Acceptable for the Patient and Family? Published: J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2024 Jan 3.
3. **Hoernschemeyer et al.** Bilateral vertebral body tethering: identifying key factors associated with successful outcomes. Published: Eur Spine J. 2024 Jan 5.
4. **Sponseller et al.** Fifteen Years of Spinal Fusion Outcomes in Children With Cerebral Palsy: Are We Getting Better? Published: Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2024 Feb 15.
5. **Lonner et al.** Anterior vertebral body tethering shows clinically comparable shoulder balance outcomes to posterior spinal fusion. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Mar 22.
6. **Cahill et al.** Incidence of Tether Breakage in Anterior Vertebral Body Tethering. Published: J Pediatr Orthop. 2024 Apr 1.
7. **Murphy et al.** Vertebral Body Tethering for Lenke 1A Curves: The Lumbar Modifier Predicts Less Optimal Outcomes. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 May 12.

8. **Lonner et al.** Double major curvature treated with vertebral body tethering of both curves: how do outcomes compare to posterior spinal fusion? Published: Spine Deform. 2024 May 12
9. **Upasani et al.** 3D Analysis of the Preoperative Deformity in AIS Can be Used to Guide Surgical Decision Making for Selective Thoracic Fusion. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 May 12
10. **Newton et al.** Severe (>100 Degrees) Thoracic Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis - A Comparison of Surgical Approaches. Published: Global Spine J. 2024 Jun 21.
11. **Vitale et al.** Evaluating Compliance with the Best Practice Guidelines for Wrong Level Surgery Prevention in High-risk Pediatric Spine Surgery. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Jul
12. **Larson et al.** Representation and Race in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Research: Disparities in Curve Magnitude and Follow-Up. Published: Global Spine J. 2024 Jul 21.
13. **Bachmann et al.** Curve progression following selective and nonselective spinal fusion for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: are selective fusions stable? Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Aug 19.
14. **Miyanji et al.** Prospectively Collected Comparison of Outcomes Between Surgically and Conservatively Treated Patients With Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis. Published: Spine. 2024 Sep 1.
15. **Cahill et al.** Rib-on-pelvis deformity: a modifiable driver of pain and poor health-related quality of life in cerebral palsy. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Sep 26.
16. **Sponseller et al.** Changes in Diaphragm Intrusion and Thoracic Dimensions After Posterior Spinal Fusion in Patients With Neuromuscular Scoliosis. Published: J Pediatr Orthop. 2024 Oct 11.
17. **Bauer & Shah et al.** Compensatory thoracic curve correction in lumbar anterior vertebral body tether (VBT) versus lumbar posterior spinal fusion (PSF). Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Nov 8.
18. **Cahill et al.** Impact of Spinal Deformity and Surgery on Health-Related Quality of Life in Cerebral Palsy: A Multicenter Prospective Controlled Trial. Published: J Pediatr Orthop. 2024 Nov-Dec
19. **Brooks & Samdani et al.** Should the C7-T1 Junction Be Feared? The Effect of a T1 Upper Instrumented Vertebra on Development of Proximal Junctional Kyphosis. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Nov 10.
20. **Newton et al.** Intrawound Vancomycin Powder Reduces Delayed Deep Surgical Site Infections Following Posterior Spinal Fusion for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis. Published: Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2024 Nov 15.
21. **Larson et al.** High-Density and Moderate-Density Implant Constructs for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Curves Equivalent Clinical and Radiographic Outcomes at 2 years. Published: Spine Deform. 2024 Dec 11.
22. **Kelly et al.** Impact of Surgical Upper Lumbar Changes on Unfused Lower Lumbar Segments in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis. Published: Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2024 Dec 11

# RESEARCH STUDIES

## PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS



PAUL SPONSELLER, MD



PETER NEWTON, MD



AMER SAMDANI, MD

## SELECTED NEUROMUSCULAR SCOLIOSIS STUDY

### A Prospective Database Registry Study

Grateful acknowledgement to all the sponsors of this research study.

Study primary investigator, **Paul Sponseller, MD** is the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics at Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Dr. Sponseller has been a member of the Harms Study Group since 2004.

827

OPERATIVE PATIENTS  
DATA COLLECTED

152

NON-OPERATIVE  
PATIENTS DATA  
COLLECTED

23

RESEARCH SITES &  
HOSPITALS  
PARTICIPATING

**Johnson & Johnson  
MedTech**



**GLOBUS  
MEDICAL**



**BIEDERMANN  
MOTEC**

100 YEARS OF INNOVATION

**stryker**<sup>®</sup>

## IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS STUDY

### A Prospective Database Registry Study

We are extremely grateful for the long-standing support from the primary sponsor of this research effort, **JNJ MEDTECH**. In addition, we are thankful for the support from all the sponsors of this study.

**Dr. Peter Newton**, the primary investigator of this database registry, continues to drive this large, high quality, comprehensive longitudinal series of operative outcomes in Idiopathic Scoliosis.

## NON-FUSION SCOLIOSIS STUDY

### A Prospective Database Registry Study

The aim of our Non-Fusion Idiopathic Scoliosis research is to critically evaluate Vertebral Body Tethering patient outcomes and further refine patient indications for this newer surgical treatment.

Study primary investigator, **Amer Samdani, MD**, Chief of Orthopedics at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia has been a member of the HSG since 2008.



# 2024 FISCAL YEAR REVENUE & SUPPORT

INDUSTRY/SOCIETY  
RESEARCH GRANTS

73%

CHARITABLE  
DONATIONS

11%

INVESTMENT  
INTEREST

5%

SPONSORSHIPS

7%

DATABASE

3%

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

1%

# FINANCIAL REPORT FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

79%

RESEARCH STUDIES &  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

15%

MANAGEMENT &  
GENERAL

5%

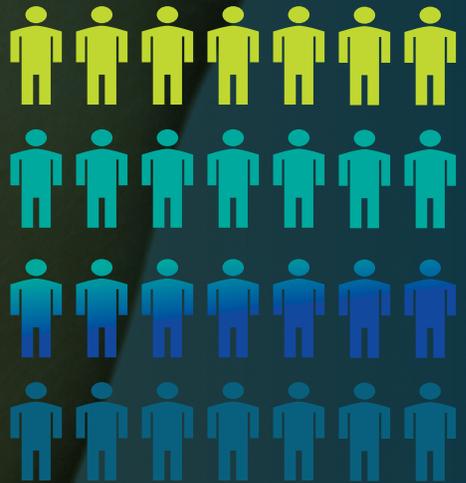
FUNDRAISING

1%

PATIENT EDUCATION

80%

EIGHTY  
PERCENT OF EVERY  
DOLLAR SPENT  
GOES DIRECTLY TO  
OUR MISSION AND  
OUR COMMITMENT



TO IMPROVING  
COUNTLESS  
CHILDREN'S LIVES

# INDUSTRY GRANTS

## DIAMOND:

\$450,000 - \$649,999

JNJ MedTech

## PLATINUM:

\$250,000 - \$449,999

Stryker Spine, inc

## GOLD:

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Medtronic Spinal  
Highridge Medical  
Orthopediatrics

## SILVER:

\$10,000 - \$99,999

Biedermann Motech  
Food & Drug Administration  
Pacira Pharm, Inc.  
Globus (Nuvasive)  
POSNA  
Washington University

CHU Sainte-Justine  
Astura Medical  
National Scoliosis Center

**Johnson & Johnson**  
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**stryker**<sup>®</sup>

**Medtronic**



HIGHRIDGE



100 YEARS OF INNOVATION



PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



Le centre hospitalier universitaire mère-enfant



National Scoliosis CENTER

# DONOR APPRECIATION

## BENEFACTOR:

\$50,000 and Above

Clements, David, MD

## PATRON:

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Goldfarb, Jeffrey & Stacey  
Newton, Peter & Cathy, MD

## FELLOW:

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Bachmann, Keith MD  
Blachford, Robert & Chris  
Sponseller, Paul & Amy, MD  
Tedesco, Frank  
Vitale, Michael, MD

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Cahill, Patrick & Megan, MD  
Larson, Noelle & Scott, MD

McLaughlin Family  
Poley, Dave  
Sayar, Kevin & Alison  
Upasani, Vidyadhar, MD

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Bauer, Jenn, MD  
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Cho, Robert & Marilan Luong  
Colmignoli, Monika  
Fletcher, Nicholas, MD  
Gabos, Peter, MD  
Glassman, Steven  
Glotzbecker, Michael

Gold, Samantha  
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Jain, Amit & Shruti, MD  
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Roy, Rita  
Sagan, Pamela  
Samdani, Amer, MD  
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Vorhies, John, MD  
Zadoretzky, Peter

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Coppes, Justin  
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Dimar II, John  
Fell, Jennifer  
Gohel, Shivani & Wudbhav Sankar  
Iremonger, Stephen  
Jin, Teresa  
Julian, Francis & Mary  
Karas, Nestor & Lilian  
Mattle, Benjamin  
Petfield, Joseph  
Saving Spines  
Vandse, Rashmi  
Walsh Engineering

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**AbbVie**

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Almeida III, Adriano  
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Amaral, Steve  
Arruda, Tony  
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Avelar, Nathan  
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Barrett, John  
Barrios Arenas, Jose  
Bartish, Charles  
Bellas, Jonathan  
Bernardes, John  
Bernardes, John  
Bhat, Prashanth  
Bieker, Arlene  
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Bowker, Stephen  
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Brownhill, Jamie  
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Burke, Matthew  
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Del Guercio, Benjamin  
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DosReis, Jack  
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Dozier, Jayden

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Easterbrooks, Christina  
Eloi, Antoine  
Encore DCS  
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Fell, Missy  
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Freeto, Tyler  
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Gandy, Brandon  
Geda, Summer  
Geedey, Kelly  
Chicas, Eleni  
Gibbens, Kristina  
Gilbert, Eve  
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Gowda, Prashanth  
Gowda, Nandini  
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Gutierrez, Andres  
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Katamneni, Sudhakar  
Kaur, Mannat  
Kejriwal, Kamal  
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Kidambi, Raja  
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Kitten, Richard

Kode, Divya  
Kommera, Praveen  
Koneru, Chetan  
Korecherla, Sapna  
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Krichman, Lauren  
Kruger, Karen  
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Tetreault, Brayden  
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Viveiros, Gary  
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Wallace, Brian  
Warren, Robert  
Whitnall, Alex  
Wiley, Christopher  
Will, Jana  
Wittle, David & Cindy  
Wolf, Rachel  
Yalamanchili,  
Ramakrishna  
Young, Adjimah

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BEYOND THE CURVE GALA

Join us at the **Keep Memory Alive Center** in Las Vegas, NV on **March 8, 2025!**

Together, we will celebrate **30 years** of groundbreaking scoliosis research by the **Harms Study Group!** If you can't attend the event, please consider **making a contribution** to support our efforts in advancing scoliosis education, research, and treatment, helping patients like **Emma** live healthier, happier lives.

Let's make a difference together!

[LEARN MORE](#)



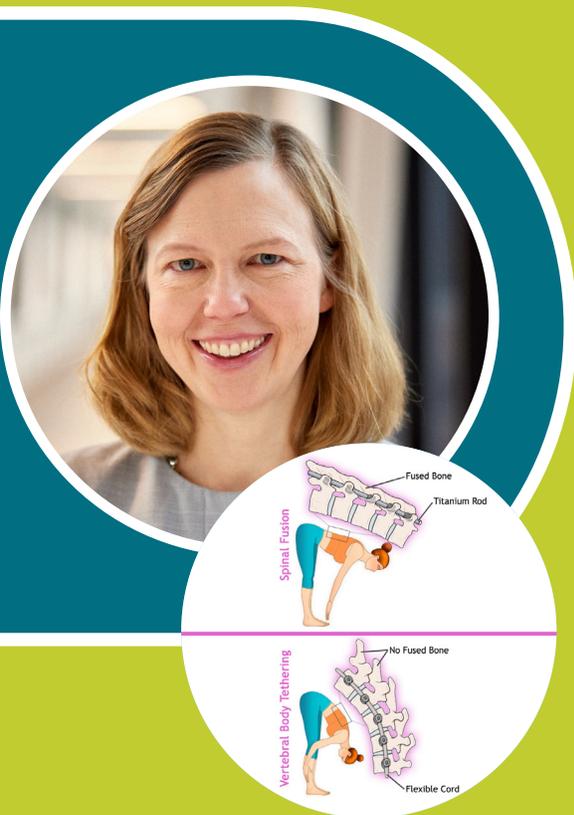
## SHARED DECISION-MAKING TOOL

Dr. Noelle Larson led a study on **Motion Sparing Spinal Growth Modulation versus Spinal Fusion & Development of Shared Decision-Making Tool**. This five-year study across seven HSC sites, collected 344 patient preference surveys from 2019 to 2022. This effort was funded by an FDA grant.

Findings showed:

- Appearance and motion were key decision factors.
- Fusion was preferred over non-fusion.
- Surgical candidates prioritized spinal motion and appearance.

Additionally, four HSC sites recorded 35 consultation videos using a surgeon-worn GoPro to capture discussions on fusion vs. motion-sparing surgery. The **Mayo Clinic Knowledge Evaluation Research (KER) Unit** analyzed these for the development of a **Shared Decision-Making Tool**. We are excited to release this tool in 2025.



# SSSF INFRASTRUCTURE



**MICHELLE MARKS**  
Executive/Research Director



**MATY PETCHARAPORN**  
Research/Database  
Manager



**HARVEY LY**  
Research/  
Development Manager/  
Media Specialist



**MARY DALUPANG**  
Research Assistant



**JULIA APPLEBAUM**  
Finance Manager



**SANDRA KAPOOR**  
Contracts  
Administration



**HALEY BALL**  
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**DEE FAABORG**  
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**TRACEY BASTROM**  
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**MARISSA FITZ-COY**  
Research Assistant



**SYDNEY BARNES**  
SPP Database Manager



**ALAN SANCHEZ**  
Admin. & Research  
Assistant, Community  
Manager



**DANIEL LUDWICK**  
Research Assistant



Supporting Discoveries in Scoliosis



Pioneering Research in Scoliosis



*Supporting Discoveries in Scoliosis*



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