

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating



Years of Scoliosis Research



Message From Our President



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. Our mission? 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? Our patients and families have 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 March, we gathered 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.

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. We will gather to review our strategic plan and vision for the next five pivotal years and review roles of AI and modern data infrastructure as pillars of our organization. Our Executive Director, **Michelle Marks**, captains this ship with grace, poise, and servant leadership to the organization and is celebrating 29 years with the organization. Her 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 2025 and what we hope to accomplish in 2026 and beyond. continue to drive innovation and expand our understanding of spinal deformity care.



With gratitude,

Suken Shah, MD

President,
Setting Scoliosis Straight

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TWO DIVISIONS OF OUR ORGANIZATION:

NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION

Setting Scoliosis Straight

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RESEARCH GROUP

Harms Study Group

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Message From **Our Executive Director**

Dear Scoliosis Family,

In 2025, we proudly celebrated our 30th anniversary—an important milestone that reflects three decades of dedication to advancing scoliosis research and improving outcomes for patients worldwide. Having been part of this journey for most of those 30 years, the occasion held deep personal meaning for me. In the early 2000s, I supported this collaborative group of surgeons as it evolved into a formal study group and later helped establish our nonprofit organization.

Over the years, I have watched our mission come to life through the unwavering commitment of surgeons, researchers, donors, industry partners, and patient advocates. Witnessing this collective effort has been one of the greatest gifts of my career.

As I reflect on our 30-year impact, I am profoundly grateful for the community of supporters who joined us at our anniversary gala and helped raise more than \$1 million to advance the vital research efforts of the Harms Study Group. This investment strengthens one of the most influential collaborations in spine research, empowering surgeons and scientists to generate the evidence needed to refine treatment, improve surgical techniques, and ultimately enhance the lives of individuals affected by scoliosis.

While I am inspired by how far the field has come, I am equally energized by the work that lies ahead. We remain committed to supporting high quality research, fostering global collaboration, and investing in the next generation of spine leaders.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this remarkable journey and for helping us continue to drive innovation and expand our understanding of spinal deformity care.



With gratitude,

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

Michelle Marks, PT, MA

Executive Director,
Setting Scoliosis Straight



The Non-Profit Foundation



A scoliosis diagnosis can change a family's world in an instant. Questions, uncertainty, and difficult treatment decisions quickly follow. Since 2008, the **Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation (SSSF)** has been there to help families navigate that journey with knowledge, compassion, and hope.

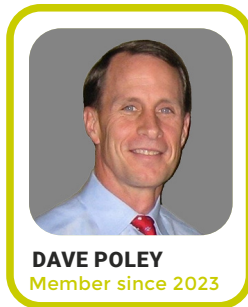
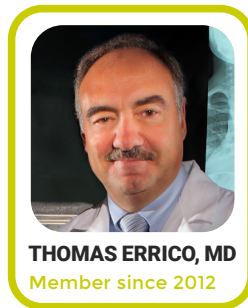
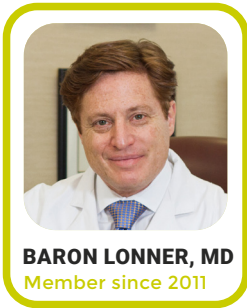
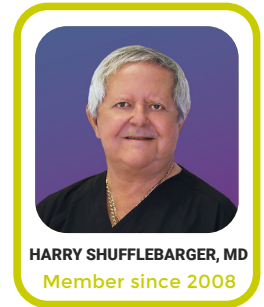
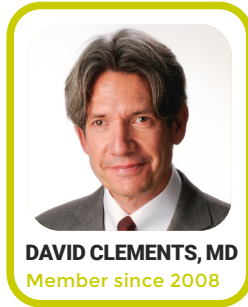
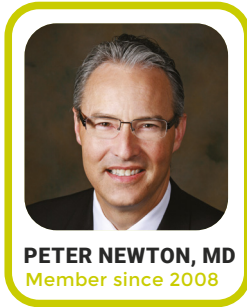
Through education, advocacy, and community, SSSF empowers patients and caregivers with trusted, evidence-based information and a network of support from those who truly understand the scoliosis experience.



At the core of this work is research. As the philanthropic partner of the Harms Study Group (HSG), SSSF raises critical funds to advance clinical research that improves treatment and outcomes for children living with scoliosis—today and for generations to come.

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.



[LEARN MORE](#)

SCAN QR CODE
To Learn More About
Our Board Members





Celebrating 30 Years of Research

Beyond the Curve Gala



The **Beyond the Curve Gala** marked a truly unforgettable milestone as we celebrated 30 years of progress, perseverance, and hope within the scoliosis community. Set against the stunning backdrop of Las Vegas, the evening was filled with inspiration, connection, and shared purpose. It was a magical night—one that honored how far we’ve come and ignited excitement for what lies ahead.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the gala exceeded all expectations, surpassing our ambitious \$1 million fundraising goal. This remarkable achievement will directly support life-changing research, education, and advocacy efforts—ensuring that the **Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation** can continue advancing scoliosis care for the next 30 years and beyond.

Forever Grateful

We are deeply grateful to the patients and families who joined us and courageously shared their journeys, reminding us why this work matters. We also extend heartfelt thanks to the surgeons whose dedication to research and innovation continues to improve outcomes worldwide, as well as to our industry partners whose collaboration and support make progress possible.

A special thank you goes to our gala sponsors, whose leadership made this night a success—especially our Double Diamond Sponsor, Russell Powers of Johnson & Johnson, and our Diamond Sponsor, Markku Biedermann of Biedermann Motech. Their commitment to the scoliosis community is both impactful and inspiring.

We are also profoundly thankful to Larry Ruvo for his extraordinary generosity in donating the iconic Keep Memory Alive Event Center as our venue. His support helped create an atmosphere that was as meaningful as it was memorable, making Beyond the Curve a night we will cherish for years to come.

Together, we moved beyond the curve—honoring 30 years of impact while laying the foundation for the next generation of discovery, hope, and brighter futures for children living with scoliosis.



**Johnson & Johnson
MedTech**

 **BIEDERMANN
MOTEC**
100 YEARS OF INNOVATION

Medtronic **Proprio** 

 **ORTHOFIX®**

 **OrthoPediatrics**

 **HIGHRIDGE**

 **NATIONAL
SPINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**

Educational Resources

What We Provided For The Community

Free Webinars

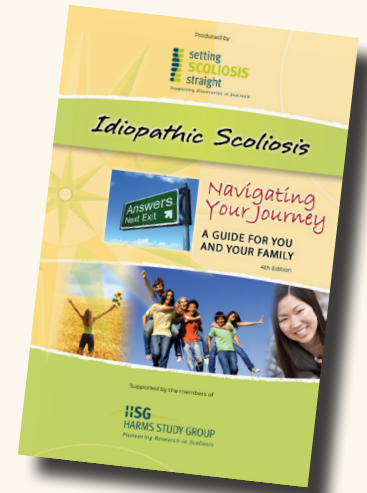
In 2025, our educational webinar series united the voices of patients and surgeons to educate, inspire, and strengthen the scoliosis community. Through four **Patient Webinars (PW)** and two **Surgeon Webinars (SW)**, we delivered accessible, evidence-based insights on treatment options, life after surgery, and the latest research advancements. These virtual events provided reassurance to families navigating complex decisions while fostering meaningful dialogue within the medical community. Together, they expanded our reach and deepened our commitment to empowering everyone impacted by scoliosis.

2025 Webinars	Live Attendees	Recorded Views
PW1	112	1,189
PW2	52	274
PW3	92	1,739
PW4	96	741
SW1	62	111
SW2	80	145

SCAN QR CODE

To View Our Recorded Webinar Playlist

LEARN MORE



Scoliosis Handbook

Our free handbook equips patients and families with clear, comprehensive information about available treatment options, empowering them to make informed decisions and confidently navigate every step of their scoliosis journey—from diagnosis through recovery.

- ✓ Bracing
- ✓ Posterior Spinal Fusion
- ✓ Vertebral Body Tethering

8,894

Free Digital Downloads

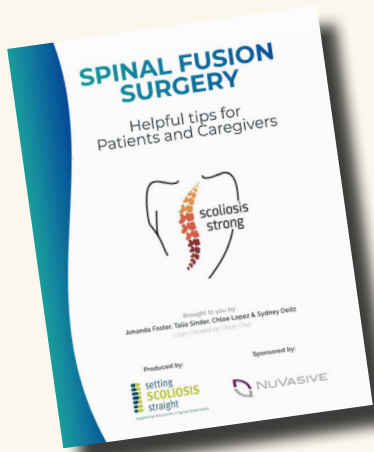
2,000

Hardcopies Sold to Hospitals Between 2024-2025

CLICK BUTTON

To Learn How to Download Our Scoliosis Handbook

LEARN MORE



Helpful Tips Booklet

Our practical tips for patients and caregivers have become a trusted resource, helping families prepare for surgery day, navigate their hospital stay, manage recovery at home, and understand what to expect in the days and months following surgery.

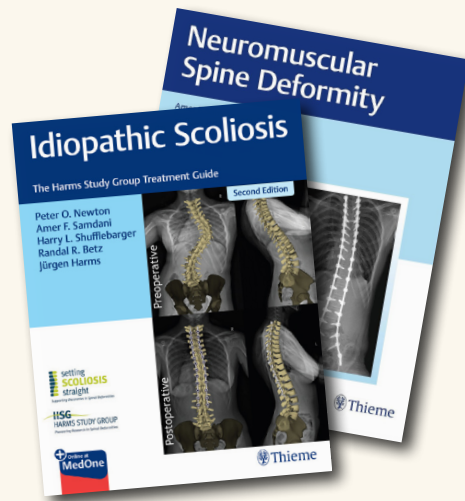
- ✔ Tips & Tricks
- ✔ What to Expect
- ✔ Advice from Real Patients



Free Digital Downloads

SCAN QR CODE

To Learn How to Download Both Scoliosis Handbooks



HSG Textbooks

This comprehensive textbook is essential reading for orthopaedic and neurosurgical residents, fellows, and researchers. Young spine surgeons embarking on their careers and senior surgeons who wish to remain current on new techniques for treating AIS will also benefit from this resource.

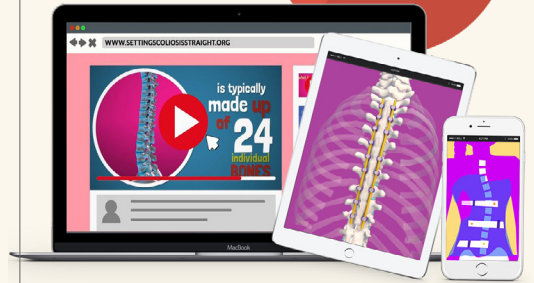
- ✔ Innovative Topics
- ✔ Long-Term Clinical Outcomes
- ✔ A Wealth of Illustrations

Rated 4.5/5



SCAN QR CODE

To Learn How to Purchase These Textbooks



Video Handbook Library

Our extensive video library offers evidence-based information for patients, families, and healthcare providers, helping answer questions and provide education on a wide range of scoliosis-related topics.

- ✔ Animated Infographic Videos
- ✔ Patient & Surgeon Interviews
- ✔ Webinar Recordings

6,127 Subscribers

955.8K Total Views

SCAN QR CODE

To Visit Our YouTube Channel



Patient Outreach

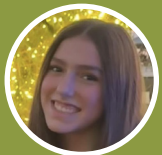
Creating Meaningful Connections



Georgia Karas



Diya Baldawa



Sosie Downes



Simrena Atwal



Divya Paruchuri

Volunteers are the True Heroes

In 2025, our work would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. They generously volunteered their time, energy, and personal stories to help advance our mission in countless ways. Throughout the year, they created inspiring content across our social media platforms, helping us connect with and support thousands of scoliosis patients and families around the world, and assisted us in preparing for our unforgettable 30th Anniversary Gala. Some were able to join us in celebrating, further strengthening our community.

To all of our incredible volunteers—THANK YOU! We are deeply grateful for your passion, commitment, and unwavering support.

Social Media Reach

Followers	Reach	Impressions
16K	368K	541K



Patient Advisory Committees

In 2025, we launched two Patient Advisory Committees to deepen our focus on patient-centered research and support. Our **Patient Research Advisory Committee** is assisting in ensuring patient's questions, concerns and outcomes are key components of our current and future research efforts.

Our **Patient Support Committee** provides connection and support for newly diagnosed patients navigating their scoliosis journey. We are grateful for the dedication of our committee members and excited about the impact this collaboration will have on advancing care.

Patient Research Advisory Committee:



Amanda Kopelman



Emma Yuguchi



Christian D'Andrea

Patient Support Committee:



Dickie Davis



Traci Miele



Jenny Loo



Scoliosis Talks Podcast

Launched in 2025, **Scoliosis Talks** is a video and podcast series dedicated to sharing real stories and meaningful conversations about life after scoliosis treatment. Each episode explores important topics ranging from mental health and resilience to the latest research developments—bringing together authentic patient experiences and expert insight.

The goal of this series is to provide trusted information, encouragement, and meaningful guidance to patients and families navigating their scoliosis journey.

Special thanks to our incredible **Season One** sponsors, **Dickie & Rick Davis**, for helping make these conversations possible.

5

Numbers of Platforms

761

Total Views

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

To Watch Our Podcast

LEARN MORE



Scoliosis Strong Stories

Scoliosis Strong Stories is our video interview series dedicated to amplifying the voices of scoliosis patients from around the world. Each episode features a powerful personal story, followed by thoughtful Q&A discussions that foster connection and shared understanding within our community. We believe every patient's journey is unique—and every voice has the power to inspire, educate, and offer hope to others navigating scoliosis, treatment decisions, surgery, and life beyond diagnosis.

We invite you to visit our website to watch the full episodes and read our large library of patient stories.

16

Total Interviews

11,963

Total Interview Views

148

Patient Stories

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

To Watch Our Series

LEARN MORE



Parent Perspectives & Stories

We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new Parent Stories section on the website—shining a light on the powerful voices of parents who have walked alongside their children through the scoliosis journey.

We recognize that parents need support just as much as their children, and we hope this new section offers comfort, connection, and guidance to families navigating similar experiences.

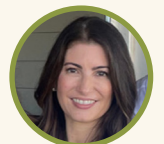
Parent Stories:



Joelle Downes



Jyoti Baldawa



Lilian Karas



Cristine Nguyen



Amy Szoke

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

To Read Parent Stories

LEARN MORE



The Research Group

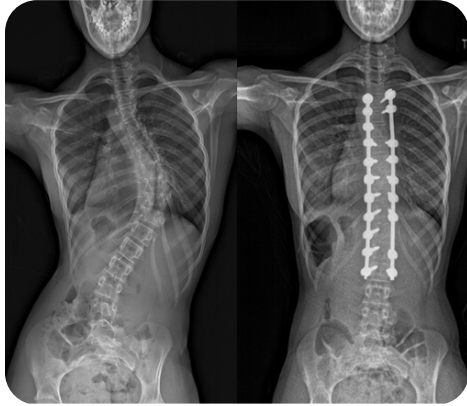


Founded in 1995, the Harms Study Group (HSG) is a distinguished collective of surgeons committed to advancing care for children and adolescents with scoliosis and other spinal conditions. Through comprehensive, multi-center, prospective research studies, HSG brings together leading experts to investigate critical clinical questions surrounding treatment approaches, surgical techniques, and best practices.



With 45 dedicated surgeon members across 30 research sites, HSG represents the gold standard in multi-center spinal research, known for the rigor and quality of its data collection and analysis. Every study is driven by a singular purpose: to improve patient outcomes, refine surgical care, and spark innovation in the treatment of scoliosis worldwide.

Research Studies

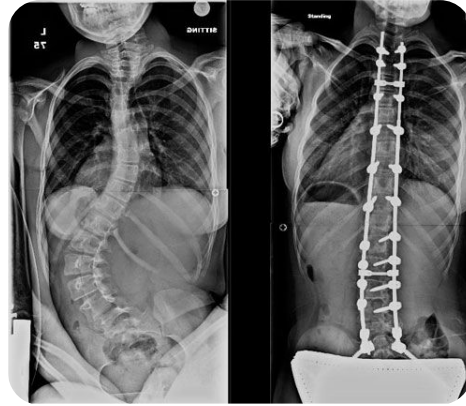


Idiopathic Scoliosis Study

A Prospective Database Registry Study

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

Study primary investigator, **Peter Newton, MD**, is the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

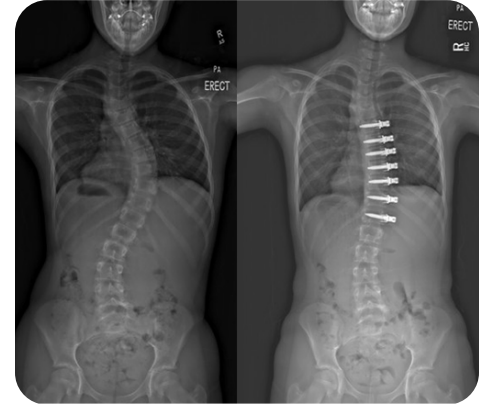


Neuromuscular Scoliosis Study

A Prospective Database Registry Study

Grateful acknowledgement to all the sponsors of this research study.

Study primary investigator, **Paul Sponseller, MD** dedicated forty plus years as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics at Johns Hopkins Children's Center.



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.

Prospective Database	
Operative Patients	7,751
Non-Operative Patients	940
Research Sites	22
10 Years Post-Op Patients	679

Prospective Database	
Operative Patients	833
Non-Operative Patients	152
Research Sites	18

Retrospective Database	
Operative Patients	481
Research Sites	11
Prospective Database	
Operative Patients	554
Research Sites	13

HSG Members

 **PAST SRS PRESIDENT**

 **PAST POSNA PRESIDENT**

Burt Yaszay, MD
Seattle Children's Hospital, Washington



Jennifer Bauer, MD
Seattle Children's Hospital, Washington



Bob Cho, MD
Shriner's Pasadena, California



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



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



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



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



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



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



Noelle Larson, MD
Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota



Mark Erickson, MD
Children's Hospital Colorado, Denver



Sumeet Garg, MD
Children's Hospital Colorado, Denver



Munish Gupta, MD
Washington University St. Louis, Missouri



Daniel Hoernschemeyer, MD
University of Missouri Health Care



Amer Samdani, MD
Shriners Hospitals for Children Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Josh Pahys, MD
Shriners Hospitals for Children Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Steven Hwang, MD
Shriners Hospitals for Children Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



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



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



Daniel Sucato, MD
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital



Jaysson Brooks, MD
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital



Lawrence Haber, MD
Ochsner Health Center for Children New Orleans



HSG MENTEES

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

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Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nashville, TN

John Vorhies, MD
Stanford Childrens Health Los Gatos, CA

AU



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Charlottesville, Virginia



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Scoliosis Lawrenceville,
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Maryland



Caglar Yilgor, MD
Koc University,
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Institute, Palm Beach, Florida



Amit Jain, MD
Johns Hopkins
Hospital Baltimore,
Maryland

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Hospital Cincinnati, Ohio

Dennis Wenger, MD
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San Diego, California



Stephen Goerge, MD
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Hospital Miami, Florida

Juergen Harms, MD
Ethianum Klinik
Heidelberg, Germany

Research Achievements

Transforming the Future of
Scoliosis Care

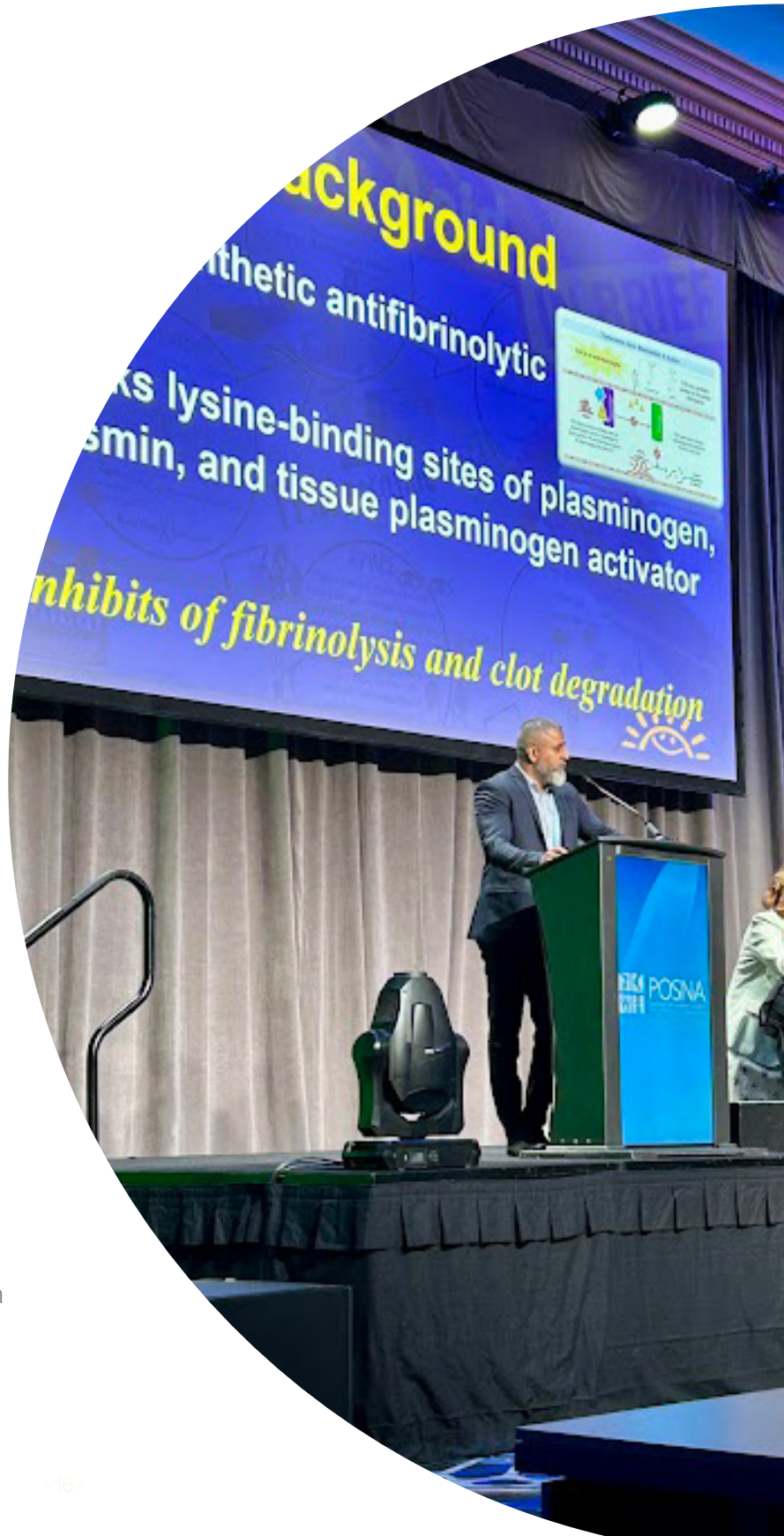
The **Harms Study Group** maintained a strong and visible presence this year at five major international scientific meetings and educational courses. These prestigious gatherings provide a global platform for surgeons and researchers to present new findings, exchange ideas, and advance collaborative learning. By sharing high-quality research and engaging with peers from around the world, HSG continues to help shape best practices and elevate the standard of care for patients living with scoliosis.



Presented **27** scientific findings at prominent society meetings



Published **32** manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals



Scientific Publications

1. Sponseller et al. **Associations of overweight status with spinal curve correction and complications in patients undergoing vertebral body tethering: a multicenter retrospective review.** Published: Spine Deform. 2025 Jan
2. Bauer et al. **Compensatory thoracic curve correction in lumbar anterior vertebral body tether (VBT) versus lumbar posterior spinal fusion (PSF).** Published: Spine Deform. 2025 Mar.
3. Shah et al. **Optimal Selection of Lower Instrumented Vertebra Can Minimize Distal Junctional Kyphosis After Posterior Spinal Fusion for Thoracic Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis.** Published: Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2025 Mar
4. Newton et al. **Severe (>100 Degrees) Thoracic Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis - A Comparison of Surgical Approaches.** Published: Global Spine J. 2025 Apr
5. Larson et al. **Representation and Race in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Research: Disparities in Curve Magnitude and Follow-Up.** Published: Global Spine J. 2025 Apr
6. 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. 2025 May
7. Larson et al. **Outcomes and complications of vertebral body tethering by patient gender.** Spine Deform. 2025 May
8. Glotzbecker et al. **Left-sided thoracic curves in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: are the outcomes different?** Published: Spine Deform. 2025 July
9. Bachmann et al. **Impact of preoperative lumbosacral takeoff flexibility on postoperative correction following spinal fusion for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: a new consideration for selective thoracic fusion.** Spine Deform. 2025 Jul
10. Larson et al. **Posterior spinal fusion outcomes for moderate adolescent idiopathic scoliosis in boys and girls: Should we counsel them the same?** Spine Deform. 2025 Sep.
11. Louer & Yaszay et al. **Anterior release is not needed to restore kyphosis in moderate AIS with hypokyphosis.** Spine Deform. 2025 Sep
12. Anari et al. **Coronal and Sagittal Balance Following Posterior Spinal Fusion for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis.** J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2025 Sep
13. Cahill et al. **Do Cerebral Palsy Scoliosis Patients With Postoperative Complications Have Worse CPCHILD Scores 2 Years After Surgery?** Published: J Pediatr Orthop. 2025 Oct
14. Hwang et al. **In Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis, Do All Instrument-Related Complications Require Revision Surgery?** Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2025 Oct
15. Hariharan et al. **Impact of Surgical Upper Lumbar Changes on Unfused Lower Lumbar Segments in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis.** Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2025 Oct



Arun Hariharan, MD at 2025 POSNA



HSG Meeting at 2025 IMAST



16. Hariharan et al. **Spinal Fusion in Patients with GMFCS IV or V Cerebral Palsy: Durable Correction and Lasting Quality of Life Improvements: Five-Year Multicenter Outcomes.** J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2025 Nov

17. Larson et al. **Rod options to outcomes: comparing sagittal correction in pediatric posterior spinal fusion by rod size and material.** Spine Deform. 2025 Nov

18. Lonner et al. **Fusion versus Non-fusion Surgery for Pediatric Idiopathic Scoliosis: Preferences of Patients, Caregivers, and Patient-Caregiver Dyads.** Global Spine J. 2025 Nov

19. Newton et al. **3D Sagittal Parameters Can Guide the Indications for Anterior Release in Thoracic AIS $\geq 70^\circ$.** Global Spine J. 2025 Nov

20. Kelly et al. **Three-Dimensional Analysis of Disc and Vertebral Height and Their Role in Kyphosis Creation in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis.** Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2025 Dec

21. Hariharan et al. **Saving Fusion Levels in Lenke 1/2AR Curves: Can We Stop Short of the Last Substantially Touched Vertebra (LSTV)?** Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2025 Dec

22. Hwang et al. **Preoperative evaluation and optimization of scoliosis.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

23. Miyanji et al. **Perioperative blood loss management.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025

24. Murphy et al. **Halo gravity traction and temporary internal distraction.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025

25. Shah et al. **Selective thoracic fusion in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025

26. Jain et al. **Management of thoracolumbar curves in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

27. Lenke et al. **Posterior column and three column osteotomies for pediatric scoliosis.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

28. Larson et al. **Traditional & enabling methods for spinal instrumentation.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

29. Brooks et al. **Going anterior for the surgical management of pediatric scoliosis: Indications and technique pearls.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

30. Sponseller et al. **Pelvic fixation strategies in pediatric spinal deformity.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

31. Samdani et al. **Anterior non-fusion treatment for scoliosis.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

32. Anari et al. **Neuromonitoring considerations in pediatric scoliosis surgery.** Seminars in Spine Surgery Vol. 37, No. 4 Dec. 2025.

HSG Participation at Scientific Meetings

International Meeting on Advanced Spine Techniques (IMAST)
Scotland, April 2025

International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis (ICEOS)
France, November 2025

Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)
Charlotte, NC, September 2025

Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA)
Las Vegas, NV, May 2025

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)
San Diego, CA, March 2025

Special Awards

Congratulations to our HSG Members for winning Best Paper Awards at ICEOS & SRS Meetings this year!

1. John Vorhies, MD won the Akbarnia Award for Best Paper at the ICEOS Meeting

Does Open Triradiate Cartilage Lead to Poor Outcomes Among Cerebral Palsy Patients Undergoing Spinal Fusion?

2. Mel Boyer, PhD & Daniel Hoernschemeyer, MD won the Hibbs Best Clinical e-Poster Award at the SRS Meeting

Growth Modulation Does Not Improve 3D Axial Rotation After VBT: A 3D Multi-Center Analysis



John Vorhies, MD at 2025 ICEOS



Mel Boyer, MD (middle) at 2025 SRS & Dan Hoernschemeyer, MD (circle)

2025

Fiscal Year

Financial Report

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

77%
Research & Studies

14%
Fundraising

8%
Management & General

1%
Patient Education



REVENUE & SUPPORT

50%
Industry/Society
Research Grants

39%
Charitable
Donations

7%
Investment
Interest

2%
Sponsorships

2%
Database
Hosting



78%

of every dollar directly supports our mission to improve the lives of children with scoliosis

Industry Support

The **Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation** and the **Harms Study Group** are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our industry partners. Their generous funding and collaborative engagement are essential to advancing our research, education, and outreach efforts. Without their partnership, the progress we make each year would not be possible.

We sincerely thank our industry partners for their continued commitment and shared dedication to improving the lives of children affected by scoliosis. We look forward to strengthening these collaborations in the years ahead as we work together to advance treatment, innovation, and patient care for future generations.

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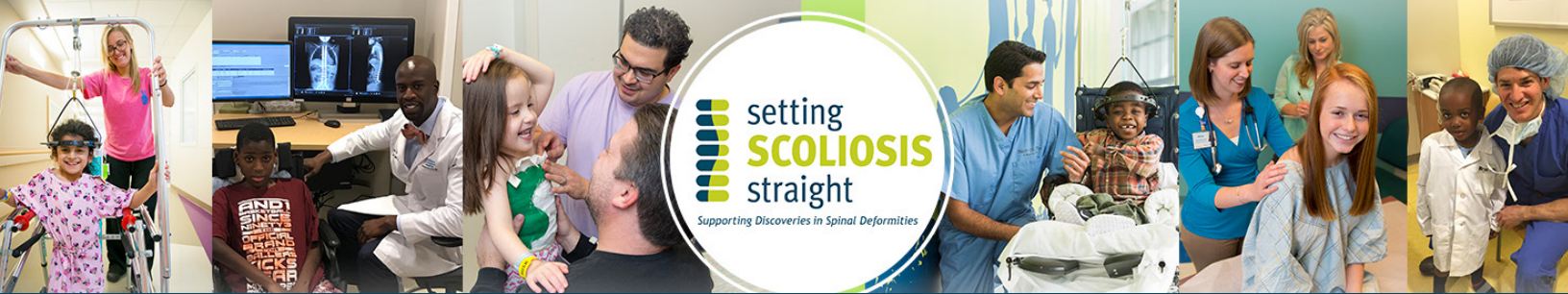
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In Memory of Harry Shufflebarger, MD



The scoliosis community lost a giant this year. **Dr. Shufflebarger** was a pioneer, mentor, and visionary leader who devoted his life to advancing spinal care. His legacy is defined by groundbreaking innovation, unwavering dedication to his patients, and selfless service to the **Harms Study Group & The Cutting Edge Course**. He shaped not only the field of spinal deformity surgery, but also the generations of surgeons he mentored along the way.

We will deeply miss his wisdom, his humor, and his steadfast commitment to improving the lives of children with scoliosis.

Rest in peace, Dr. Shufflebarger.

“ *The knowledge gained and wonderful memories of times shared together will continue on. He was a sweet man and will be missed.* ”

- Peter Newton, MD

“ *As a sounding board, he was direct, frank and virtually always right. If he didn't like something, he would tell you; and, if he did like it, he would nod, smile and say “uh, huh.” This Yoda-like feedback was inspirational. We will miss you dearly, Harry!* ”

- Suken Shah, MD





Surgeon Performance Program

Program Summary (2025)

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.

We have also partnered with POSNA to develop the first **POSNA Surgeon Quality Improvement Database (SQID)** powered by Setting Scoliosis Straight.

Patient Database Volume	
IS Fusion	20,426
IS Non-Fusion	1,266
Neuromuscular	1,698

Benefits:

- Participation is Free!
- Automated Dynamic Dashboard Reporting
- QI Registry Modules
- The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and 10 Self-Assessment Examination (SAE) Credits



Risk Adjusted Dashboard Report



We currently have

290

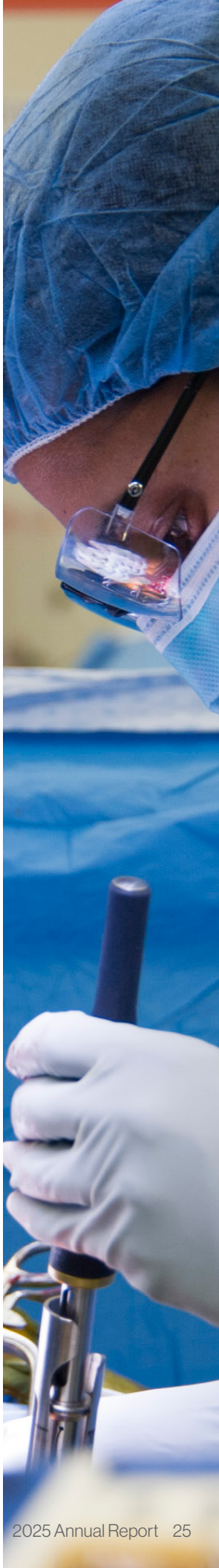
surgeons participating in this program

If you are interested in participating in this free program, please contact SPP for more information.

sppassistant@ssshsg.org



This program would not be possible without the generous support from **Medtronic**



Looking Ahead

"Strategic Goals for 2026"

- ✔ EXPAND FUNDING FOR MULTI-CENTER RESEARCH INITIATIVES
- ✔ LAUNCH OUR NEW AI RESEARCH TOOL
- ✔ GROW AMBASSADOR AND PATIENT ADVISORY ENGAGEMENT
- ✔ STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain committed to building on the momentum of the past year while expanding our impact in meaningful and measurable ways. Our focus will be on strengthening patient-centered research, expanding accessible education resources, deepening engagement within our global scoliosis community, and increasing sustainable funding to support long-term innovation. By aligning our efforts with the evolving needs of patients, families, and surgeons, we aim to accelerate discoveries, improve outcomes, and ensure that every child facing scoliosis has access to the highest standard of care.

Your generosity makes this work possible. Please consider making a donation to help us advance research, empower families, and continue transforming the future of scoliosis care.

DONATE NOW



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We couldn't do what we do without this passionate & amazing team



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Thank You **Ambassadors!**

Peer-to-Peer Fundraisers Over \$500



Sophia F.



Ryan G.

Thank you to our incredible ambassadors for going above and beyond to support the work of SSSF through your fundraising efforts. Because of patients and advocates like you, thousands of children affected by scoliosis will benefit from the research, education, and resources you are helping make possible.



Jack F.



Phoebe F.

Your dedication, generosity, and passion are truly changing lives. We simply could not do this work without you.

From the bottom of our hearts—and on behalf of patients and families around the world—thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us.



Natalie J.



Ethan S.

- **Sophia P2P Fundraiser** = \$3,076
- **Ryan P2P Fundraiser** = \$1,530
- **Jack P2P Fundraiser** = \$1,128
- **Phoebe P2P Fundraiser** = \$615
- **Natalie & Ethan Rally Up Fundraiser** = \$600



Supporting Discoveries in Scoliosis



Contact Us

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