



SRS NEWS

February 2005

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January President's Report to SRS

Follow-up of the SRS Annual Meeting

Congratulations to the Program Committee for a very successful meeting. There was a lot of positive feedback. Our Argentina hosts were exceptional in providing a great venue. Paul McAfee and his committee have successfully put a video production of the entire meeting (including discussions) on the SRS web site, which may be accessed by clicking on the Annual Meeting Webcast tab on the home page. If you have not visited the site, I would encourage you to do so. For the first six months, this will be entirely free. We are trying to learn how much activity it generates and what is the interest of the membership in this learning format.



Annual Meeting in October 2005

I'd like to bring your attention to a change in the actual days of the Annual Meeting next October in Miami. The meeting will begin with precourses on Thursday, October 27, instead of Wednesday as in prior years. The annual meeting itself will be on Friday, Saturday, and half the day Sunday until noon, October 28-30. Please note that the annual banquet will be held on Saturday evening October 29th. The scientific program on Sunday will include many of the Hibbs award papers.

A precourse on the Pediatric Immature spine chaired by Steve Tredwell and Larry Lenke and cosponsored by POSNA will be very indepth and generate stimulating discussion on this very difficult area of patient care.

The Adult Spinal Deformity Program precourse, chaired by Keith Bridwell, Steve Glassman, Steve Ondra, and Steve Mardjetko, will include a format of debates, panel discussions and electronic participant voting on the most current controversial topics surgeons are dealing with in management of the adult with spine deformity.

2004-05 Committees

Committee activity for this year is very engaged. Committee members have been participating in conference calls and are focusing on goals. The committee chairmen will be reporting to the Board in February and we will plan to disseminate some of this progress in a future newsletter. If you are not involved in a committee and would like to be, please forward a letter to Tressa Goulding and consideration will be given for current needs or when new appointments are made in the fall of 2005.

Grant Opportunities

There are several new grant opportunities through the SRS. In contrast to previous years, where there was just one type of grant, there are now new options that range from start-up grants to fully-funded two-year grants. I'd encourage you to visit the SRS web site to see if any of these grants would be useful to you in pursuit of your research. There is available money that will go unused if appropriate proposals are not received. For those who are interested, the Research Committee now has members who have offered to mentor young researchers.

Corporate Sponsorship

We would like to acknowledge the corporate support the SRS received in 2004. A list of companies and their levels of support is included in this newsletter. These are the total dollars that the companies have contributed in support of education and research activities of our society. In the past, the companies have been acknowledged for support of specific meetings (the annual meeting, IMAST, etc.), but we wished to acknowledge them for their total support over the entire year. These companies have been extremely generous and this partnership has allowed numerous opportunities to be offered by the society that otherwise would not be possible.

Membership Survey

An annual membership survey will be sent out early this spring. It is extremely important that we get feedback from every single member of the SRS. This is your opportunity to direct the future of your society. A lot of hours of thought were put into the survey, and we're hopeful it reflects some of the questions and comments you may have.



Mission Statement

The Mission of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) is to foster optimal care of the patient with any disorder that may affect the shape, alignment or function of the spine, throughout life. The SRS accomplishes this through education, research, advocacy and ethical practice.

Secretary's Report

Thomas R. Haber, MD

The Society enters 2005 with sustained growth in membership and financial security. Increased revenues were realized from the scientific meetings, endowments, donations and contributions. The revenues have enabled the society to increase its ability to fund research and education. As a result of the Society's strong financial status, all members are encouraged to apply for grants involving both clinical and bench research. Two new categories of grants have been made available including the small exploratory grant and the new investigator grants with up to \$10,000 and \$25,000 respectively. Please contact Peter Newton, MD for additional information.

The Society continues to improve its ability to govern and manage the SRS in the best interests of its members. To that end, the consulting firm of Tecker Associates has been hired to propose and instruct new management techniques and governance to the Board.

The Global Regional Course program has become a vital topic of discussion at recent board meetings. The goal of these courses will be to foster education in spinal care throughout the world and generate interest in the SRS. Physicians in many areas of the world may find it difficult to attend continuing education activities such as the SRS Annual Meeting or IMAST. Funds have been designated to support these regional courses, with the first one scheduled for August 25-27, 2005 in Korea.

The length of term for council chairs has been increased to four years with the first year of the term serving as chair elect. The function of the council chair will be to oversee several committees and to serve as a means of direct communication to the Board. If committee chairs are unable to attend a scheduled meeting, then the council chair may serve as a knowledgeable representative in his/her place. The proposal will be made by the Board to amend the SRS bylaws accordingly.

The SRS will conduct a survey of the membership in 2005. The survey will consist of a multiple choice questionnaire reflecting the memberships' opinions, concerns, needs, importance of various issues, and future goals of the society. The questionnaire will reflect the consensus of the membership on pertinent topics at present and direct the Society's course in the future. Announcements concerning the mailing of questionnaire will be made to alert the membership as to its arrival. The questionnaire will be longer than usual, however it is a **one time event** and will not be repeated.

The Patient Based Outcome Committee has completed the Neuromuscular Outcomes Instrument. The instrument is undergoing initial testing for reliability and sensitivity. Any members wishing to take part in this project should contact Jeff Thomson, MD for a copy of the instrument.

Treasurer's Report

The financial status of the Scoliosis Research Society continues to look bright due in large part to wise fiscal decisions in the past and good financial counsel from EDI, our management organization. The annual meeting and the IMAST meetings were both profitable venues that have allowed us to broaden our horizons financially. We hope to increase the amount of money directed toward research projects while at the same time expanding our teaching influence through regional meetings in areas of the world which may not otherwise have been able to support a financially profitable meeting.

Through reinvestment of our interest in our OREF endowment funds we have increased the principle which we hope to further grow through generous giving on the part of members and associates in the coming years. Our goal of a ten million dollar endowment by the year 2010 is an attainable goal which will allow us to fund larger research projects and more expansive teaching efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard E. McCarthy
Treasurer

SRS Education Committee Announces the 2005 Traveling Fellows

The Education Committee announced the 2005 SRS Medtronic Sofamor Danek Traveling Fellows at the SRS 39th Annual meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina this past September.

The committee reviewed all applications and graded them on the basis of sponsors, research, academic activities, presentations and reasons for wishing to be a Traveling Fellow. Grades were then compiled to determine the top three. Although all applications were excellent, Matthew B. Dobbs, MD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Charles T. Mehlman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, and Suken Shah, Alfred I DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington were selected.

The 2005 Traveling Fellows will visit spine facilities in Asia this spring, with Senior Traveling Fellow and SRS Past President, Donald P.K. Chan, MD, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville.

2004 Corporate Support

The SRS is pleased to acknowledge those companies who have provided financial support throughout the past year. This support has come in the form of gifts and grants to the Annual Meeting, IMAST, Global Outreach Scholarships for the Annual Meeting, the Edgar Dawson Scholarship Fund, SRS Traveling Fellowships, and the Research Endowment Fund. We sincerely appreciate each of these companies, who are helping the SRS fulfill its goals of providing education and fostering research.

Diamond Level:	DePuy Spine and Medtronic Sofamor Danek
Platinum Level:	Synthes Spine
Silver Level:	Kyphon and Stryker Spine
Bronze Level:	Blackstone Medical, Interpore Cross International, micomed, NuVasive and Zimmer Spine
Donor Level:	Aesculap, EBI Spine, Osteotech, Spinal Concepts, Spine Next, Spineology and Trans1, Inc.

Coding Report

The CPT Editorial Panel met in November 2004 and one topic on their agenda was kyphoplasty. We understand a new code may be available to use effective July 1, 2005. In the meantime, continue to bill 22899 (unlisted procedure, spine) or S2362 (kyphoplasty, one vertebral body, unilateral or bilateral injection) and S2363 (....each additional vertebral body) depending on the payor.

Effective January 1, 2005, codes are available to report laminoplasty. Use 63050 to report cervical laminoplasty, with decompression of spinal cord, two or more vertebral segments. If your procedure includes reconstruction of the posterior bony elements (either by bone graft or fixation devices) use 63051 instead.

Finally, the newest procedure available is the artificial disc. As with any new technology or treatment, reimbursement for this procedure may be a challenge. At this time there is no CPT code for a total disc arthroplasty or placement of an artificial disc. We understand there should be Category III CPT codes effective July 1, 2005. In the meantime, report 64999 (unlisted procedure, nervous system). This code would represent the entire procedure, from exposure to closure.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. West, III, M.D.

2005 SRS Tutorial Schedule

Registration is now open for the 2005 Tutorials. The schedule is on the Web site in the "Members Only" area. You may register online, by fax or by mail.

New Web Features and Content

The Web Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Coe, and the E Communications Committee, chaired by Paul McAfee, have been working hard to make the SRS website more valuable for members, patients and non-member physicians.

New features include an *Online Education* section showcasing a video of a Lumbar Total Disc Replacement surgery. The webcast with all presentations and discussions from the annual meeting and course in Buenos Aires can also be accessed through the Online Education button or from the home page. Plans are to continue adding videos of future SRS meetings and courses, as well as additional surgical procedures. After a trial period to develop the section and generate interest, it will be free to members with password login and available to non-members on a "pay per view" basis.

To help you with scheduling educational activities, we have added a Spine Related Meetings calendar. We have populated this with as many meetings and courses as we were able to find, but would welcome information on any that aren't listed. Online abstract submission is available for the 40th Annual Meeting in Miami, USA, the IMAST meeting in Banff, Canada and the SRS Asia Pacific Spine Congress in Jeju, Korea.

Finally, the site continues to offer online M&M reporting and dues payments, information on SRS research grants (including application forms), SRS position statements and white papers, the Bracing Manual, abstracts from the 2002-2004 annual meetings, Risser Cotrel casting techniques, and other information of interest to patients and physicians. The Physician Locator allows patients to search for an SRS member physician by geographic location, name or country. If you are not included in the Locator and wish to be added, please send an email to info@srs.org.

The Web Committee is dedicated to making the SRS site a valuable resource for members, patients and non-member physicians. Your feedback, ideas, suggestions and concerns are encouraged, and may be sent to the SRS office via email at info@srs.org.

Research Grant Mentor Program

The Research Grant committee is happy to announce that a new research mentor program has been established. This program was designed to help aid young researchers. The duties of the mentor may include reviewing grant applications before they go to the committee or similarly offering help in the revision process. The committee would like to thank the following members who have offered to be a mentor:

Todd J. Albert, MD
Richard Nasca, MD
Kenneth Cheung, MD
Jeffrey Owen, PhD
Matthew Dobbs, MD
Matthew Songer, MD
John Emans, MD
Jeffrey Stambough, MD
Siavash S. Haghighi, MD
Ian A. Stokes, PhD
Yutaka Hiraizumi, MD, PhD
Theodore A. Wagner, MD
Panagiotis Korovessis, MD
Michael J. Yaszemski, MD, PhD
Isador H. Lieberman, MD

You will find these member's contact information and area(s) of expertise on the Research page of the SRS Web site under "Research Mentors".

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Amy Miller in the SRS office.

Research Grants

The SRS offers three types of grants: Small Exploratory, New Investigator and Standard Research. These grants are available to all individuals interested in spinal deformity research. The applications are available on the SRS Web site and are due in the SRS office April 1, 2005.

SRS Research Endowment Fund

One again, the Board of Directors and OREF Committee would like to thank the SRS Fellows who continue to support spinal deformity research by donating to the Scoliosis Research Endowment Fund.

Over \$19,000.00 has been collected so far, by the SRS office in 2005 (this amount does not include donations that were sent to the OREF office directly). We are off to a great start, but we need to do more. As members, we have all benefited from the research that has helped us to be better able to care for our patients. Our goal is to have one hundred percent participation from all SRS Fellows.

The Following SRS Fellows have continued to show their support to the Research Endowment fund by including a donation with their 2005 membership dues payment*:

Michael C. Ain, MD
Paul Robert Alongi, MD
M. Darryl Antonacci, MD
Haruhito Aoki, MD
Mark Bernhardt, MD
Kevin C. Booth, MD
J. Kenneth Burkus, MD
Craig C. Callewart, MD
J. Martin Carlson
Michael Paul Chapman, MD
Kenneth MC Cheung, MD
Matthew Barrett Dobbs, MD
Michael J. Elliot, MD
John B. Emans, MD
Jonathan E. Fuller, MD
Daniel Gelb, MD
James J. Harms, MD
Charles E. Johnston, II, MD

Michael D. Kasten, MD
Reginald Quentin Knight, MD
Patricia N. Kostial, BSN RN
Douglas A. Linville, MD
John P. Lubicky, MD
John W. McClellan, III, MD
Joji Mochida, MD
Stephen J. Parazin, MD
Dale E. Rowe, MD
Richard M. Schwend, MD
Ritsu Shiba, MD
Peter B. Slabaugh, MD
Brian G. Smith, MD
Yoshiharu Takemitsu, MD
Mario Turi, MD
Bruce E. Van Dam, MD
H. Randal Woodward, MD

*The above list may not include donations that were sent directly to the OREF office, those members will be recognized in a future edition of the SRS newsletter.

Join the list of donors by making a 2005 donation the Research Endowment Fund today! Donations can be made in any amount; a \$100.00 minimum is preferred.

SRS Endowment Fund Drive

The Board of Directors is asking for 100% participation from all members of the SRS. We need every member's support in order to provide continued funding for spinal deformity research projects. If you haven't already donated or pledged to the SRS Endowment Drive, please do so now. Donations should be sent to:

SRS Endowment Fund

C/O OREF
6300 N. River Rd, Ste 700
Rosemount, IL 60018

You may contact Gene Wurth or Robin Mueller at OREF (1-847-698-9980) if you have questions or want more information on donation options.

SRS to Exhibit at the AANS/CNS Section meeting

The SRS will exhibit at the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 9-12, 2005. The purpose of the exhibit is to raise awareness about SRS meetings and membership to over 350 neurosurgeons and related medical professionals who attend this section meeting. Please contact the SRS office if you are attending the meeting or live in the area and are interested in volunteering at the exhibit. Volunteers talk to potential members about the opportunities available for education and fellowship. The exhibit will be staffed full-time by society staff. To volunteer, please call 1-414-289-9107 or send an email to info@srs.org.

Future Meetings

12th IMAST

Banff, Alberta, Canada
July 7 - 9, 2005

SRS Asia Pacific Spine Congress

Hotel Lotte, Jeju Island, Korea
August 25 - 27, 2005

SRS 40th Annual Meeting and Courses

Miami, Florida, USA
October 27 - 30, 2005

SRS 41st Annual Meeting and Course

Monterey, California, USA
September 13 - 16, 2006

Morbidity and Mortality Committee

The Morbidity and Mortality Committee has submitted to Spine the focused review podium presentation from the last Annual Meeting entitled "Complications in Spinal Fusion for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis in the New Millennium. A Report of the Scoliosis Research Society Morbidity and Mortality Committee." The paper has been provisionally accepted for publication in the SRS Specialty Issue of Spine to be published in September of this year. Thank you to all of the SRS members that submitted data that was analyzed for this study. The comprehensive M & M report for all 2003 cases that was presented at the Business Meeting in Buenos Aires is available on the "Members Only" section of the SRS web site (www.srs.org), for your review.

Morbidity and Mortality data collection for 2004 will continue until the end of March 2005. If you have not yet completed your data submission for 2004, now is the time to get this completed. M & M data is required per SRS bylaws annually for Candidate Members and every three years for Active Members. Also, don't forget to add complication data for those patients who may have developed complications since the original case submission. Additional complication data can be entered until the end of April 2005.

By the time this you read this, the 2005 data M & M collection page should be online. The algorithm is nearly exactly the same as the 2004 algorithm, with the only changes being the addition of "Kyphoplasty" and "Vertebroplasty" to the "Minimal Access Surgery Performed?" menu. Remember, please try to submit your M & M case data as contemporaneously as possible to the performance of the case.

Jeffrey D. Coe, M.D.
Chair, Morbidity and Mortality Committee



2005 SRS Calendar

March 15, 2005 Abstract Deadline Asia Pacific Spine Congress	October 26, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting Loews Miami, Florida
April 1, 2005 Research Grant Application Deadline	October 27, 2005 SRS CME courses Loews, Miami, Florida
July 7 - 9, 2005 IMAST Fairmont Banff Spring Hotel Banff, Alberta, Canada	October 28 - 30, 2005 SRS 40 th Annual Meeting Loews, Miami, Florida
August 25 - 27, 2005 SRS Asia Pacific Spine Congress Hotel Lotte Jeju Island, Korea	

Vision Statement The SRS will increase its recognition domestically and internationally as the leading source of information and knowledge on spinal disorders affecting all patients, regardless of age.

Strategic Plan

- 1.0 Goal Communication:** Articulate and communicate to all appropriate audiences the nature and scope of the SRS and what its members do.
- 2.0 Goal Education:** Develop and support a comprehensive education program designed for members, other health care providers, patients and the public.
- 3.0 Goal Research:** Foster, promote and coordinate basic science and clinical research designed to improve patient care.
- 4.0 Goal Financial Viability:** Assure that the SRS maintains sound financial base.
- 5.0 Goal Membership Recruitment:** Expand the membership base of the SRS to include those professionals who are qualified and committed to the mission of the SRS, while retaining quality of the membership.
- 6.0 Goal Advocacy and Health Policy:** Advocate practice activities and health policy initiatives designed to foster quality patient care.
- 7.0 Goal Member Participation:** Increase opportunities for member participation in the activities of the SRS.
- 8.0 Goal Goal International Presence:** Maintain and strengthen the SRS leadership position internationally.

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Robert M. Bernstein, MD

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Morbidity & Mortality

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Patient Based Outcomes

Jeffrey D. Thomson, MD

Terminology

John Dimar, MD

Coding

James L. West, III, MD

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Timothy Kuklo, MD

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Daniel H. Chopin, MD

IMAST

Lawrence G. Lenke, MD

Web Site

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3D Spinal Classification

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Ken Janowski, *Education Manager*

Amy Miller, *Administrative Assistant*