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President's Message

As I look back on the past year as the 21st President of the North American Spine Society, I am amazed by all of the different issues that arise, almost on a daily basis, and affect our organization, our members and ultimately our patients. Given the many issues that need quick solutions, I am convinced that none of the many accomplishments could occur without the outstanding staff and dedicated, volunteer physicians. When people ask me what NASS has done over the past year, I usually say that I am not sure I have enough time to answer the question appropriately. To start, NASS' membership has grown to 4,397, with more than 350 new applications for membership this year and only 12 requests for resignation. The Member Services staff has been able to make this happen under the leadership of Member Services Council Chair, Stuart Weinstein, MD. Please take a look at the additional strides that NASS has made during 2006.

Education and Meeting Services

The Annual Meeting, five major courses, Spine Across the Sea with the Japanese Spine Research Society, Spring Break and the Korean American Spine Society Inaugural meeting took place in 2006. The Education Council, led by Co-Chairs Ray Baker, MD, and Ken Burkus, MD, and the Education Department staff, led by Christina Wolf, have been very active throughout the year. The new Director of Meeting Services, Nancy Olson, along with her staff, have been a great help with the logistics for all of the aforementioned events.

Member Services

In addition to the membership growth and services mentioned above, the Member Services Council includes a healthy publishing program. Guided by the Publications Oversight Committee and carried out by Publications Department staff headed by Pamela Towne, NASS' publishing program has grown to 17 Contemporary Concepts, four CME Case Studies, 14 books, nine CD-ROMs, 31 brochures, approximately 500 Web pages and two periodicals: *SpineLine™* and *The Spine Journal*.

Public Education

NASS initiated several public relations campaigns under the direction of Public Education Council Chair Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD, with the help of new Marketing & Communications Director, Frank Kocich. NASS generated substantial media coverage on pregnancy-related back pain, preventing falls, driving safety, backpack safety and The Couch Potato Workout book.

Research and Clinical Care

The Research Council was led by Michael Heggeness, MD, PhD, with the administrative help of the Research Department, headed by Pam Hayden. More than \$200,000 was awarded to five recipients for research grants and clinical traveling fellowships. The Clinical Care Council made the leap towards integrating evidence-based medicine into NASS programs through training, publications and more, under the leadership of Jerome Schofferman, MD, the Council Chair, as well as Pam Hayden and the Clinical Care staff. Large-scale collaborative clinical guideline development began with a meeting with ten other specialty groups.

Advocacy

The Advocacy Department raised more than \$60,000 for SpinePAC at the Annual Meeting. Advocacy efforts have been led by Jeff Wise, MD, as well as Jackie Kocinski and the Advocacy Department staff. NASS' representative in Washington, DC, Julie Perry, continues to work with the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, an organization representing 11 organizations and over 200,000 physicians, to work on Medicare reform, professional liability reform and patient safety issues.

President's Message

Ethics

An extensive Disclosure Policy was developed for all members of NASS, under the leadership of Stan Herring, MD, of the Disclosure Task Force, as well as the staff led by Laura Scott Wade. Full disclosure is now accepted as a standard for submission of papers, scientific studies for oral presentations and for serving on any and all committees or elected positions. The Disclosure Task Force has also made recommendations to the Board for actions against members who have breached NASS' ethical guidelines.

Socioeconomic Affairs

Greg Przybylski, MD, and Charlie Mick, MD, the Council Co-Directors of the Socioeconomic Affairs Council, helped NASS make significant advancements for professional practice issues. The seven spine related recommendations that NASS was involved in at the RUC meeting last fall, were accepted without change or comments by the full RUC and were forwarded to CMS. Two surgical procedures that had been bundled for reimbursement were unbundled, through the work of NASS members, allowing for increased reimbursement.

Spine Masters Institute

The planning and development for SMI has continued to move forward. Jim Finnerty was hired as the Manager of SMI and Executive Director, Eric Muehlbauer, directed Finance, Administrative and other department staff in their efforts for the project. It is anticipated that the SMI will open in the spring of 2007; courses have already been scheduled for next year. Fundraising for the Institute is still actively underway: an Audit Committee has been formed under the direction of Robert Gatchel, PhD, to help oversee the funding and operation of the facility. The generous contributions of six industry partners: Kyphon, Stryker, Zimmer, Medtronic, Synthes Spine and Blackstone Medical, have raised more than \$3.5M for the Spine Masters Institute.

Though we have done quite a bit during 2006, we still have much to accomplish. NASS has to continue to grow, adapt to change and stay proactive for members and patients. This is a wonderful organization and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President. I am eternally grateful for all of the hard work of the dedicated physicians and staff members.



Joel M. Press, MD
President

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Education

21st Annual Meeting

September 26-30, 2006, Seattle, Washington

The Annual Meeting continues to demonstrate NASS' ability to provide high-quality continuing medical education for its members. Nearly 800 abstracts were submitted for consideration. A total of 81 oral paper presentations, 81 special interest poster presentations and 163 posters were featured over the four-day period. Final attendance for the meeting exceeded 3,000 participants.

Abstracts Categories	Total # Abstracts Submitted	Total # Accepted Abstracts
Anatomy/Physiology	21	9
Biomechanics/Basic Science	178	57
Diagnostics/Imaging	60	17
Epidemiology	22	12
Ergonomic/Industrial	1	0
Nonoperative Treatment	30	18
Surgery	461	212
Total	773	325

Scientific Program Committee

Thank you to the following members of the 2006 Scientific Program Committee who are responsible for the educational development of the meeting:

President:	Joel M. Press, MD
2006 Program Co-Chair:	Patrick J. Connolly, MD
2006 Program Co-Chair:	Heidi Prather, DO
2007 Program Co-Chair:	Ray M. Baker, MD
2007 Program Co-Chair:	Michael R. Zindrick, MD
2005 Program Co-Chair:	Jerome Schofferman, MD
2005 Program Co-Chair:	Jeffrey C. Wang, MD
Education Council Co-Director:	Ray M. Baker, MD
Education Council Co-Director:	J. Kenneth Burkus, MD
CME Committee Co-Chair:	George S. Miz, MD
CME Committee Co-Chair:	Michael L. Reed, DPT, MSc, OCS



Scientific Program Reviewers

Thank you to the following members of the 2006 Scientific Program Reviewers who are responsible for grading close to 800 abstracts for the 21st Annual Meeting:

William A. Abdu, MD; Uri M. Ahn, MD; Venu Akuthota, MD; David L. Bagnall, MD; Ray M. Baker, MD; Sigurd Berven, MD; William J. Beutler, MD; Paul B. Bishop, DC, MD, PhD; Jay E. Bowen, DO; Dahari Brooks, MD; Frank P. Cammisa, Jr., MD; Andrew Cappuccino, MD; Allen L. Carl, MD; Eugene J. Carragee, MD; Larry H. Chou, MD; David B. Cohen, MD, MPH; Patrick J. Connolly, MD; Stephen S. Cook, MD; Arnold A. Crisciello, MD; Bryan W. Cunningham, MSc; William W. Deardorff, PhD; Denis J. DiAngelo, PhD; Gordon D. Donald, MD; Ronald G. Donelson, MD; Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD; Lisa A. Ferrara, MS, PhD; John G. Finkenberg, MD; John C. France, MD; Lawrence W. Frank, MD; Shannon P. Goossen, LMT, AP, CMTPT; Matthew F. Gornet, MD; Hamilton Hall, MD; Carol Hartigan, MD; Cameron B. Huckell, MD; Louis G. Jenis, MD; Kenneth J. Kopacz, MD; Adam LaBore, MD; Gerard A. Malanga, MD; Richard E. Manos, MD; Anthony J. Matan, MD; Geoffrey M. McCullen, MD; George S. Miz, MD; Conor O'Neill, MD; Nathaniel R. Ordway, MS, PE; Rajan Perakash, MD; Christopher T. Plastaras, MD; Heidi Prather, DO; Frank Rand, MD; William J. Richardson, MD; Jerome Schofferman, MD; Curtis W. Slipman, MD; Jeffrey M. Spivak, MD; Scott G. Tromanhauser, MD; Stuart M. Weinstein, MD; F. Todd Wetzel, MD; Kirkham D. Wood, MD; Eric Woodard, MD; Warren Wulff, MD; Kenneth S. Yonemura, MD; Jeffrey L. Young, MD; Joe P. Zuhosky, MD

Exhibits

Attendees had the opportunity to view the latest technology, products and services from more than 189 companies in the Technical Exhibit Hall. NASS' exhibit area continues to grow as an increasing number of companies find the NASS Annual Meeting to be invaluable for promoting and demonstrating their products. More than 3,100 exhibitors were in attendance, a substantial increase over 2005. Despite the fact that more companies are merging and acquiring each other, the exhibit floor continues to thrive.

Symposia

Symposia are a very popular feature of the Annual Meeting. They covered various topics on surgical and medical/interventional issues: SPORT Study; Complications in Spine Care Management; Ethics and Spine Care in 2006; Degenerative Cascade; Back Pain in Pregnancy and Children – When to Intervene; Advances in Spine Imaging; Science of the Spine; and Cervical Radicular Pain: Contemporary Care and Controversies.

Premeeting Courses and Technique Workshops

NASS also offered a varied selection of premeeting courses in response to previous success and demand:

- Coding Update 2007: Essentials and Controversies of Operative and Nonoperative Spine Care Coding
- Fundamentals in Evidence-Based Medicine for Authors: Searching the Literature, Rating the Evidence and Assessing the Grades of Recommendation for Your Presentations and Publications
- Adjacent Segment Degeneration: Novel Technology and the Preservation of the Adjacent Segment
- Your Innovative Idea: Technology Development Options
- Clinical Research: Doing it Legally, Ethically and Scientifically
- Protect Your Patients (and Yourself): Clinical and Legal Scenarios in Patient Safety
- Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner Utilization and Reimbursement in Spine Practice

Technique Workshops are always a popular feature of the Annual Meeting. Topics included:

- Lumbar Spinal Injections
- Cervical Spine Stabilization
- Interbody Fusion Technologies
- Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

21st Annual Meeting Corporate Supporters

The North American Spine Society would like to thank the following corporate supporters for their generous contributions:

Alphatec—Hotel Room Key Cards

DePuy Spine, a Johnson & Johnson Company—Presidential Guest Speaker; Keynote Speaker

Kyphon Inc.—Pens

Stryker Spine—Tote Bags

Synthes Spine—*The Spine Journal*TM Proceedings Supplement; 2006 Resident Fellow Travel Scholarships

Zimmer Spine—2007 Calendar; Pad Folio

21st Annual Meeting Corporate Educational Grants

NASS thanks the following companies for their support of the technique workshops:

Abbott Spine

DePuy Spine, a Johnson & Johnson Company

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Medtronic

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Richard Wolf Medical Instruments Corp.

Stryker Spine

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Zimmer Spine

Education

Spring Break 2006: Back to the Evidence

March 8-11, San Diego, California

The third annual Spring Break meeting focused solely on evidence-based medicine. Dennis Turk, PhD, was the invited speaker and laid the ground work for the meeting. This meeting was a great educational success and was very well attended. Evaluation results were the highest of the Spring Break meetings to date. The speakers were well-versed in their topics and presented the information in an accessible format.

Spring Break Program Committee

Paul A. Anderson, MD, Co-Chair
Stanley Herring, MD, Co-Chair
Venu Akuthota, MD
Ray Baker, MD
Alexander J. Ghanayem, MD
Larry T. Khoo, MD
Gerard Malanga, MD
Joel M. Press, MD
K. Daniel Riew, MD
Brian R. Subach, MD, FACS

Spine Across the Sea 2006

July 31–August 3, Maui, Hawaii

Spine Across the Sea was held at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua in Maui, Hawaii with a total of 351 attendees. The meeting was NASS' fourth joint sponsorship with the Japanese Spine Research Society. The program committees from both NASS and JSRS worked together to ensure that the faculty and moderators were balanced between the two societies. The four symposia covered Biomaterials in Spinal Reconstruction; Laminoplasty: Three Decades Later; Post-Surgical Neurologic Dysfunction; and Spine Injuries in Sports. Each day began with a general session and concurrent sessions were held in the afternoon. The program included a total of 119 abstracts and 69 posters. We also held a traditional Hawaiian luau for attendees and their guests which was a great success. Site selection will begin shortly to secure the meeting space and location for the next meeting in 2009.

Spine Across the Sea Program Committee

Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD, Overall Chair
Alexander J. Ghanayem, MD, 2006 Chair
J. Kenneth Burkus, MD, 2009 Chair
Susan Dreyer, MD
Naresh P. Patel, MD
Kenneth S. Yonemura, MD

Japanese Spine Research Society Program Committee

Joji Mochida, MD, Chair
Yutaka Nohara, MD
Toshihiko Taguchi, MD
Kazuo Yonenobu, MD
Muneto Yoshida, MD

KASS Inaugural Meeting

August 11-12, Copper Mountain, Colorado

The Korean American Spine Society met for their inaugural meeting in Copper Mountain, Colorado. Casey K. Lee, MD, is the president of this Society and was instrumental in bringing it to fruition. The evaluation results were very good, but the sample size was 22 respondents, with all but two being faculty. This year the meeting was open to Korean American orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons. Next year the meeting will be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Coding Update 2006

These courses provided physicians and their staff with an understanding of the implications and effects of proper coding and contract negotiation techniques to assist in obtaining appropriate reimbursement.

The NASS Coding Update 2006 Ski Course was held January 27-28 at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado. Faculty included course program chair Greg Przybylski, MD, Charles Mick, MD, Tom Faciszewski, MD, Bill Mitchell, MD, Alex Curcin, MD, and Chris Kaufmann, MD. The NASS Coding Update 2006 City Course was held March 31-April 1 in Boston, Massachusetts. Faculty for Boston included Greg Przybylski, MD, Charles Mick, MD, Bernie Pfeifer, MD, Bill Mitchell, MD, Alex Curcin, MD, and Chris Kaufmann, MD.

Both courses were well attended and received highly positive evaluations by attendees for strong content and faculty. A third Coding Update premeeting course was held at the NASS Annual Meeting in October to introduce the new codes for the coming year.

Regional Hands-on Courses 2006

Lumbar Spinal Injections *(February 17-18, MERI, Memphis, TN)*

This course sold out within a few months of being publicized. There were 35 attendees and eight faculty, including two new faculty members who brought fresh perspectives to the course. The evaluations showed that the course was well received and the faculty were rated very highly.

Lumbar Spinal Injections *(March 3-4, OLC, Rosemont, IL)*

This course also sold out extremely quickly. The faculty scored very highly and the course was very well received. The evaluations revealed a need for an injections course with discography which has been planned for our 2007 schedule.

Advanced Lumbar Spine Surgery: Minimally Invasive Surgery & Motion Preservation *(June 16-17, MERI, Memphis, TN)*

This course was cancelled because of a lack of interest. The course had been scheduled for different dates originally and then had to be moved based on lab availability.

Cervical Fixation *(June 23-24, OLC, Rosemont, IL)*

This course was also cancelled due to lack of interest and faculty availability. Most of the faculty had already committed to another cervical course, which was scheduled in conflict with the NASS course.

CME Committee

Composed of at least five NASS members who may make proposals, for and on approval by the Board, and plan for NASS designated instructional courses, this committee is responsible for interpreting needs assessment and development of needed courses to increase the capabilities of spine professionals through the use of educational courses. They review all other requests for course support, oversee faculty selection and educational forums, recommend symposia for the annual meeting and have oversight responsibility for domestic educational courses to ensure ACCME guidelines are followed. This committee also has the primary responsibility for examination of all proposals for collaboration on educational efforts among and between different educational entities, both domestic and international. It reviews proposals and make recommendations to the board for consideration. This group has the primary responsibility for liaison with other entities and provides oversight of these conferences to help ensure ACCME guidelines are followed.

George Miz, MD, Co-Chair
Mike Reed, DPT, OCS, MTC, Co-Chair
Alex Ghanayem, MD
Larry T. Khoo, MD

Sohail Mirza, MD
Jeffrey Petersohn, MD
Harvinder Sandhu, MD
Astaire Selassie, MD

Christopher Standaert, MD
Brian Subach, MD
Alexander Vaccaro, MD

Clinical Care

Clinical Guidelines

NASS has adopted an evidence-based development methodology, incorporating levels of evidence and grades of recommendation. All NASS guideline developers are trained in evidence analysis as a requirement of participation. NASS began their foray into evidence-based guidelines with the development of *Diagnosis and Treatment of Degenerative Lumbar Spinal Stenosis* in 2006. NASS also stimulated a collaborative guideline project with multiple society involvement to potentially develop a first guideline on the topic of *Diagnosis and Management of Lumbar Radiculopathy*. The next two guideline topics under development for NASS in 2007 will be *Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Spine Surgery* and *Degenerative Spondylolisthesis*.

Evidence-based Guideline Development Committee: Degenerative Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

William C. Watters, III, MD, Chair
 Jamie Baisden, MD
 Thomas Gilbert, MD
 D. Scott Kreiner, MD
 Daniel Resnick, MD
 Christopher Bono, MD
 Gary Ghiselli, MD
 Michael Heggeness, MD, PhD
 Daniel Mazanec, MD
 Conor O'Neill, MD
 Charles Reitman, MD
 William O. Shaffer, MD
 Jeffrey Summers, MD
 John Toton, MD

Performance Measures and Pay-for-Performance

NASS is a member of the AMA-convened Physicians' Consortium for Performance Improvement: the primary body developing performance measures for physicians. NASS has co-lead organization status for the development of all spine measures with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons and American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. In this forum, NASS voices its positions on issues related to performance measures and pay-for-performance that may affect spine care providers. In 2006, NASS was added to the Consortium work plan to develop performance measures for degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis in 2007. NASS also commented on draft Consortium measures for osteoporosis, perioperative care (antibiotic prophylaxis and deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis) and provided significant comments on draft measures for the National Committee on Quality Assurance Back Pain Recognition Program.

NASS Representative (AMA-convened Physicians' Consortium for Performance Improvement)

David A. Wong, MD, MSc

Performance Measure Advisory Committee

David A. Wong, MD, MSc, Co-Chair
 Charles A. Mick, MD, Co-Chair
 William C. Watters, III, MD
 Daniel K. Resnick, MD
 Stanley A. Herring, MD
 Christopher P. Kauffman, MD
 Nikolai Bogduk, MD
 Way Yin, MD
 Aleksandar Curcin, MD, MBA
 Ray Baker, MD

Evidence-based Medicine Training

An online, self-directed evidence-based medicine and evidence analysis training program has been produced in conjunction with the University of Alberta's Centre for Health Evidence (CHE). The program is based on content from the *Users' Guides to the Medical Literature*. CHE has consolidated all of these resources onto a desktop customized for NASS. The training takes 15-30 hours to complete, depending on user knowledge and computer ability. Users receive continuing medical education credit for completion. Currently, all NASS clinical guideline developers have been trained and training has been opened to relevant NASS committees. It is anticipated that the program will be opened to the general membership in the near future.

Patient Safety

The Patient Safety Committee continues to administer the NASS Spine Safety Alert Program, which monitors a variety of government resources for patient safety-related notices that may be useful to NASS members and distributes them via e-mail and member publications. Its new publication, *Navigating Nonherbal Supplements*, also was released to members in 2006.

Patient Safety Committee

David A. Wong, MD, MSc, Co-Chair

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David R. Chandler, MD

Robert Cantu, MD

Research

Data Collection

NASS volunteers and staff spent significant time examining how NASS might begin a data collection project and continue to examine this important issue.

Compendium of Outcome Instruments for Assessment & Research of Spinal Disorders, 2nd Edition

NASS released the second edition of this popular publication in 2006.

Editor:

Robert J. Gatchel, PhD

Contributors:

William W. Deardorff, PhD

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Donna D. Ohnmeiss, PhD

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William C. Welch, MD

Research Grants and Awards

Each year NASS gives research grants and fellowships to applicants with the highest quality, spine-related submissions. NASS determined it would award one to two Young Investigator grants each year as part of its established awards process beginning in 2007. In 2006, four grants and two fellowships were awarded:

Research Grants

- The Minimal Clinically Important Difference (MCID) for Spinal Disorders: Finding the Threshold of Clinically Significant Change—*Vedat Deviren, MD*
- Local Delivery of Small Inhibitory (siRNA) and Radiation Therapy to Treat Metastatic Spine Tumors—*Daniel M. Sciubba, MD*
- Cell Senescence and the Human Intervertebral Disc—*Helen E. Gruber, PhD*
- The Regulation of Gene Expression by Compressive Stress in the Nucleus Pulposus—*Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD*

Clinical Traveling Fellowships

Richard C. Rooney, MD

Stephen Pirris, MD

Research Project Management Committee

Paul A. Anderson, MD, Chair

William C. Welch, MD

William W. Deardorff, PhD

Siavash S. Haghghi, DVM, PhD

Michael G. Fehlings, MD, PhD

Michael D. Smith, MD



“The research grant process continues to work well. The new young investigator grants will help to direct funds to new researchers, at a time in their career where it can have the most impact.”

Michael H. Heggeness, MD, PhD
Research Council Director

Research Fund Donors

NASS would like to thank the following contributors for their leadership and generosity in contributing to the advancement of spine care through the NASS research funds.

Annual Research Fund (ARF): July 29, 2005 - December 31, 2006

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Research

Spine Research Foundation (SRF): July 29, 2005 - December 31, 2006

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Michael L. Reed, DPT, MSc, OCS, MTC
Lisa Rinaldi
Kermit T. Wiltse

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Orthofix Inc.
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The Century Club (\$1,000–\$9,999)
Allez Spine, LLC
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Orthopaedic Research & Education Foundation (OREF) Partners in Spine:

July 29, 2005 - December 31, 2006

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 Alan L. Longert, MD
 Ross D. Lynch, MD
 Marc I. Malberg, MD
 James H. Maxwell, MD
 Gregory R. Misenhimer, MD
 Richard J. Nasca, MD
 Orthopaedic Surgeons Network of
 Arizona:
 Gustavo J. Armendariz, MD
 David S. Bailie, MD
 Glen R. Bair, MD
 James G. Beauchene, MD
 Robert A. Berghoff, MD
 John K. Bradway, MD
 J. Keith Braun, MD
 Michael J. Brennan, MD
 Stephen G. Brown, MD
 Brad R. Bruns, MD
 Gary L. Busenkell, MD
 David Camarata, MD
 Peter J. Campbell, MD
 Thomas R. Carter, MD
 Anikar Chhabra, MD
 Kent H. Chou, MD
 Richard L. Collins, MD
 Matthew M. Conklin, MD
 Charles M. Creasman, MD
 Scott Croft, MD

John H. Crothers, MD
 Richard H. Daley, MD
 J.F. James Davidson, MD
 Michael D. Dersam, MD
 Haagen A. Diener, MD
 Marc Dinowitz, MD
 Michael S. Domer, MD
 Sherwood K. Duhon, MD
 Danton S. Dungy, MD
 Jonathan R. Fox, MD
 Neal I. Gimbel, MD
 Joseph L. Haber, MD
 Terry Happel, MD
 Randall R. Hardison, MD
 Douglas P. Hartzler, MD
 Ralph T. Heap, MD
 Peter H. Herwick, MD
 Steve R. Kassman, MD
 Dwight S. Keller, MD
 Daryl L. Kirkby, MD
 Jonathan Landsman, MD
 Mark J. Leber, MD
 Evan Lederman, MD
 Michael T. Lee, MD
 E. Michael Lucero, MD
 Maxwell S. MacCollum, III, MD
 John H. Mahon, MD
 Zoran Maric, MD
 Richard C. Martin, MD
 William R. Martin, III, MD
 Craig R. Metzger, MD
 Curtis D. Miller, MD
 Stephen Milliner, MD
 Peter W. Mitchell, MD
 Richard Morgan, MD
 Daniel J. Mullen, MD
 Eric Novak, MD
 David M. Ott, MD
 Duane D.H. Pitt, MD
 Steven L. Porter, MD
 Beth Anne Purdy, MD
 Stephen W. Ripple, MD
 Marc J. Rosen, MD
 Vincent J. Russo, MD
 William A. Salyer, MD
 David W. Sanders, MD
 Larry J. Sanders, MD
 Ronald Sandler, MD

Thomas J. Schenk, MD
 S. Gary Serbin, MD
 Kipling P. Sharpe, MD
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 Maxwell Thomas, MD
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 Francis K. Tindall, MD
 Kishore Tipimeni, MD
 David Van De Wyngaerde, MD
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 Gary L. Waslewski, MD
 Gary M. Weiner, MD
 Janet E. Whirlow, MD
 Gregory R. White, MD
 Michael A. Wilmink, MD
 Ralph V. Wilson, MD
 Robert L. Wilson, MD
 Delwyn J. Worthington, MD
 Gerald N. Yacobucci, MD
 Jon D. Zoltan, MD
 J. Talley Parrott, MD
 Charles D. Pence, MD
 Eric D. Phillips, MD
 Mitchell Reiter, MD
 William O. Samuelson, MD
 Edward Santos, MD
 Dr. & Mrs. Philip Schneider, MD
 Arnold M. Schwartz, MD
 Jeffrey S. Silber, MD
 Michael L. Swank, MD
 Tony Y. Tannoury, MD
 Michael Vives, MD
 Jerald P. Waldman, MD
 Hansen A. Yuan, MD

Advocacy

Advocacy and the National Association of Spine Specialists

Recognizing the need to influence the debates that shape health care policy, NASS established the National Association of Spine Specialists—an IRS-designated 501(c)(6) trade association. The association advocates in the legislative and regulatory arenas for public policies that protect members' ability to practice medicine and give patients access to the specialists and technologies that they require.

All members of the North American Spine Society are members of the Association (unless they opt-out), with a portion of member dues allocated to advocacy efforts. In addition, Association membership is open to patients and spine industry, whose representatives recognize that the success of their business depends on their clients' need for their products and services.

2006 NASS Advocacy Committee Members

Jeffrey J. Wise, MD, Chair
 Claude M. Borowsky, MD
 Craig C. Callewart, MD
 Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD
 Tom Faciszewski, MD
 John G. Finkenberg, MD
 James A. Ghadially, MD, FRCS(C)
 Perry L. Haney, MD, DC
 William C. Madauss, MD
 Charles A. Mick, MD
 Joel M. Press, MD
 Gregory J. Przybylski, MD
 Raj D. Rao, MD
 Jose E. Rodriguez, MD, FACS
 William A. Sims, MD
 Alexis M. Waguespack, MD

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Advocacy Committee Chair	Jeffrey J. Wise, MD
Secretary	Hallett H. Mathews, MD
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Past President	David A. Wong, MD, MSc, FRSC(C)
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At-Large Member	Heidi Prather, DO
Chair of Socio-Economic	Gregory J. Przybylski, MD
Co-Chair of Socio-Economic	Charles A. Mick, MD
Industry Representative	Diana Bogard, Medtronic Sofamor Danek
Industry Representative	Dennis Stripe, Stryker Spine

SpinePAC

SpinePAC is the political action committee fund that the Association uses to support federal legislative candidates who champion policies that benefit spine care patients and the professionals who treat them. SpinePAC is funded by contributions from individuals in the spine care field, specifically NASS members and employees of corporate member companies. During the 2006 election cycle, SpinePAC contributed \$152,740 to candidates for federal office—59.4% Republican and 40.6% Democrat. Of the 96 candidates who received SpinePAC funds for their 2006 elections, nearly 90% were successful in their campaigns.

Washington, DC Office/Alliance of Specialty Medicine

The Washington Office remains a key component of NASS' advocacy operation. NASS continues to be an active member of the Washington-based Alliance of Specialty Medicine: a nonpartisan coalition of 11 medical societies representing over 200,000 specialty physicians in the United States. The Association is represented in the Alliance by the Washington office staff who work with other member organizations to promote fair Medicare physician reimbursement, medical liability reform and improved quality reporting legislation among other issues. NASS had record attendance at the Alliance-sponsored legislative fly-in in the fall of 2006. Attendees participated in a fundraiser for Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) and met with lawmakers and Congressional staff on Capitol Hill. As of last year, NASS co-chairs the Alliance's PAC workgroup, organizing fundraising efforts and advising member organizations on how to distribute PAC contributions.

Health Policy

Medicare reform continues to be at the top of NASS' legislative agenda. In March of 2006, MedPAC projected a 5% cut to Medicare physician reimbursements beginning January 1, 2007. That next month, NASS members flew to Washington, DC, to take part in NASS' Capitol Hill Days. Attendees participated in policy discussions with colleagues and key Congressional staff. Members of NASS also met with their members of Congress and staff to discuss the impact of Medicare cuts on their patients' access to quality specialty care. During this event, Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) was presented with NASS' 2005 Legislator of the Year award for her work to fix the physician reimbursement system.

Throughout the years NASS advocacy leaders and staff continued to urge members to contact their representatives in Washington for support in blocking Medicare cuts. In December, after hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls from NASS members to lawmakers, Congress blocked the scheduled cuts and established bonus payments for physicians who participate in the Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). PQRI provides a 1.5% bonus payment for physicians who report on three or more quality measures on at least 80% of their Medicare claims between July 1 and December 31, 2007.

While Medicare physician reimbursement remains our chief legislative priority, many other issues impact our members. Last year, articles in *SpineLine*TM covered a variety of topics from medical liability alternatives to physician ownership. These articles educated members and provided updates on the progress of legislation with the potential to affect their practice and patients. The Advocacy Department continues to track a limited number of state health policy issues. In order to maximize our resources and share information on state-level developments, the Advocacy staff met regularly with government relations staff from other medical societies; this provided very valuable information for our members.

Grassroots Activity

The Advocacy Department built on its 2005 expansion of NASS' grassroots advocacy network, the Spine Advocates Program, by adding several features last year. The Program started sending a monthly newsletter, the Spine Advocates Update, to members providing updates on health policy issues being discussed at the state and federal levels. Participants in the program also received action alerts when an issue was being debated in their state or federal legislatures. These alerts prompted members to contact their lawmakers and provide talking points to show the impact of these issues on physicians and patients in their district.

Newsletters and alerts were sent through an online tool designed to help facilitate communication between policymakers and the public: NASS' Legislative Action Center (www.capwiz.com/spine). This site was added in the spring of 2006 and has proven to be a valuable tool, which allows our members to educate their lawmakers about NASS' key issues and ask for support on legislation that places our members' ability to practice medicine at risk. As a key part of the Advocacy booth at the 2006 Annual Meeting, attendees used the Legislative Action Center to contact Congress about looming Medicare cuts; NASS members and their patients used the Legislative Action Center to send letters and emails to 104 legislators in 2006.

NASS Advocacy relies on its members to lead our efforts by participating in our grassroots advocacy program, contributing to SpinePAC and advocating for sound health policies. These leaders demonstrate their passion for their patients, profession and the quality of health care in this country.

Socioeconomic Affairs

Practice Management

The Practice Management Committee monitored the practice environment and activities of NASS members, and provided members and other interested parties with information about the state of spine care practice. To this end, the Committee conducted a membership survey to nationally examine the most challenging issues facing spine care practices today. The study aimed to identify the issues affecting business efficiency and long term survival, which may not be obvious on the surface but nonetheless pose serious threats if not properly defined and resolved. Generating more than 450 responses, survey respondents cited malpractice rates, hospital relations and reimbursement rates as the most significant external forces impacting spine care practices today. The most frequently cited responses for internal forces affecting spine care practices are staff productivity, cost to maintain infrastructure and lack of qualified staff. Respondents also indicated that NASS' production of additional educational materials made available via e-mail, internet and print would be most helpful in addressing these challenges. The Practice Management Committee is currently working on future materials to help meet these needs.

The Committee also continues to develop practice management articles for publication in each issue of *SpineLine*[™]. In late 2006, the Practice Management Committee began development of a practice management course to be held in conjunction with the Coding Update Course at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. The course will focus on improving practice efficiency through the use of appropriate EMR systems, optimizing practice productivity through time management and physician extenders, as well as understanding techniques to maximize revenue through marketing, collections, contracts and billing.

Operative and Nonoperative Coding Committees

The Operative and Nonoperative Coding committees continued to monitor, review and comment on spine related coding and reimbursement issues, effectively representing the concerns of NASS members. The Coding Committees' 2006 activities included:

- Development and submission of a coding Q&A column for each issue of *SpineLine*[™]
- Review and response to NASS member inquires relating to correct coding
- Review and update of the 2007 NASS Common Coding Scenarios publication
- Consideration and development of proposed coding applications for presentation at CPT Editorial Panel Meetings
- Assessment and comment on edits proposed through the National Correct Coding Initiative
- Evaluating and drafting comments on spine related polices and regulations developed by CMS and private insurers.

Operative Coding Committee

William Mitchell, MD, Chair
(NASS AMA/CPT representative)
David Cohen, MD
Aleksandar Curcin, MD
Christopher DeWald, MD
Mina Foroohar, MD
William Horton, MD
Christopher Kauffman, MD
Donna Lahey, MD
Robert Levinthal, MD
Gregory Przybylski, MD
Robert Takacs, MD

Nonoperative Coding Committee

David O'Brien, MD, Chair
Ray Baker, MD, Vice Chair
Eric Graham, MD
W. Bonner Guilford, MD
Phillip Kim, MD
Charles Mick, MD
Kevin Pauza, MD
Christopher Standaert, MD
Jeffrey Summers, MD
Claire Tibiletti, MD

Practice Management Committee

Aleksandar Curcin, MD, Chair
William T. Barrick, MD
John D. Fisk, MD
Brian Foley, MD
Vicenta C. Gaspar-Yoo, MD
Annette Grady, CPC, CPC-H
Jae Y. Lim, MD
James Reynolds, MD
Barton L. Sachs, MD
Thomas Schuler, MD
Robert J. Takacs, MD
Sridhar V. Vasudevan, MD
Jerald P. Waldman, MD

AMA CPT and RUC Activities

NASS Socioeconomic Affairs Council continued to actively participate in the CPT/RUC process to protect and grow reasonable reimbursement for services provided by physicians providing spine care. Charles A. Mick, MD, Socio-Economic Affairs Council Co-Director, continued to serve on the AMA Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC) while Claire Tibiletti, MD, served as NASS RUC Advisor. William Mitchell, MD, served as the CPT Advisor for NASS. Collectively, Drs. Mick, Mitchell and Tibiletti were highly effective in the codes and values they brought to the process, successfully representing the interests of NASS members.

From 2005-2006, NASS Socioeconomic Affairs leadership advocated on behalf of members to ensure fair and proper reimbursement for all surgical procedures being reviewed as part of the AMA CMS 5-year review. Of the seven recommendations made by NASS and accepted by the RUC, five were accepted by CMS. The two RVU recommendations not accepted by CMS were 22612, Lumbar Spine Fusion, which had been recommended to increase from the 2005 value of 20.97 to 22.00 and 63048, Remove Spine Lamina add-on, which had been recommended to increase from the 2005 value of 3.26 to 3.55. In the fall of 2006, NASS representatives presented to a CMS refinement panel that was examining the value of the two spine procedures that the CMS did not accept. NASS was successful in its presentation; in the final rule published in late 2006, CMS accepted the panel's recommendation that both of these codes increased in value. These high volume codes directly impact reimbursement of the membership.

In other 2006 highlights, NASS Socioeconomic Affairs leadership facilitated the CPT Editorial Panel for the elevation of three IDET codes from Category I to Category III. A Category III NASS code proposal was also accepted for Spinous Process Distraction Device Insertion (X-Stop). NASS also presented the RVS recommendations for three new Total Disc Arthroplasty codes that had been elevated from Category III to Category I in late 2005 at the AMA RUC meeting.

Socioeconomic Affairs leadership continued to review and comment on National Correct Coding Initiative edits relating to spine (i.e., reporting of the same spinal procedures performed in contiguous spinal regions through the same skin incision). NASS also collaborated with AANS/CNS to reverse the NCCI edit to bundle arthrodesis codes 22612 and 22630.

International Initiatives

World Spine Society

The World Spine Society (WSS), which was founded by a unanimous vote during the August 2003 WSII meeting in Chicago, Illinois, has been thriving since its inception and is quickly gaining momentum. Though the Society is financially supported and staffed by the North American Spine Society, it has its own Executive Committee and Board of Directors, as well as a rapidly growing membership. The World Spine Society continues to hold World Spine meetings every 18 months to two years: WSIII was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 31-August 3, 2005; and WSIV, which was planned during 2006, is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, July 31-August 1, 2007. In addition, the World Spine Society publishes an international World Spine Journal online, which has been available to all for almost two years and Chairman Edward C. Benzel, MD, calls "the crown jewel of the Society." The purpose of this e-Journal, which will transition to members-only access in Fall of 2007, is to make research and information easily accessible for WSS members around the world.

World Spine Society Executive Committee

Chair	Edward C. Benzel, MD, USA
Vice Chair	Luiz H. M. Pimenta, MD, PhD, Brazil
Secretary	Dewei Zou, MD, China
Treasurer	Mehmet Zileli, MD, Turkey
Chairman Emeritus	Mario Brock, MD, Germany
Member-at-Large	Jean-Charles Le Huec, MD, France
Member-at-Large	Visit Vamvanij, MD, Thailand
Member-at-Large	Alexander G. Hadjipavlou, MD, Greece
Chief Executive Officer	Eric J. Muehlbauer, MJ, CAE, USA

World Spine Society Board of Directors

Jean-Jacques Abitbol, MD, USA
 M. Idris Ali, MD, Bangladesh
 Ziad M. Al-Zoubi, MD, Jordan
 Kathleen H. Baker, RN, BSN, MBA, CCRN, USA
 Eric E. Buchser, MD, Switzerland
 Deyu Chen, MD, China
 Andrew J. Cole, MD, USA
 Thomas J. Errico, MD, USA
 Fang Li, MD, China
 Arvind Jayaswal, MD, India
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 Hiroshi Nakagawa, MD, PhD, Japan
 Yutaka Nohara, MD, Japan
 V. Radchenko, MD, Ukraine
 Andrzej Radek, PhD, Poland
 Yuri A. Shulev, MD, Russia
 Vo Van Thanh, MD, PhD, Vietnam
 Luiz Roberto Vialle, MD, Brazil
 Sarel J. (Charl) Vorster, MD, South Africa

SCRUBBs— Spine Care Relief United Beyond Borders

Spine Care Relief United Beyond Borders (SCRUBBs) is a philanthropic program dedicated to improving the availability and quality of spine care for patients living in resource-challenged countries. The SCRUBBs project was created in 2004 by then-President, Thomas J. Errico, MD. The goal of the program is to fulfill its mission by sponsoring medical mission trips, organizing NASS volunteers to donate their time in surgery, granting funds to existing relief organizations and coordinating donations of supplies and equipment. Led by Dr. Andrew Moulton, SCRUBBs has already participated in several relief trips since its inception, including a trip to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and several trips to Blantyre, Malawi, Africa. The current primary focus of the SCRUBBs spine team is the Beit Trust/CURE Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi, which the team visited to perform complex spine surgeries and to train the surgeons there—most with an orthopedic surgery background—to perform spine cases themselves; it is our hope that the CURE Hospital will become a spine center for the entire region. Dr. Jim Harrison, Chief of the CURE Hospital, has said, “The SCRUBBs team has made a palpable impact on the lives of so many of our patients, as well as on the doctors and nurses here. We are extremely grateful for the assistance given by this organization.” Other SCRUBBs goals include translating selected NASS patient education brochures into languages spoken by many of SCRUBB’s patients and serving as a conduit between companies, relief organizations and hospitals in need of instrumentation and equipment.

SCRUBBs Board of Directors

Andrew Moulton, MD, Chair

Tom Errico, MD, SCRUBBs founder

J.J. Abitbol, MD

Tom Faciszewski, MD

Lisa Ferrara, PhD

Astaire Selassie, MD

Chet Sutterlin, MD

Kenneth S. Yonemura, MD

Member Services

Membership Statistics

NASS welcomed 409 new members in 2006, bringing the total membership to 4,397. The current membership is comprised of 22 specialties, with orthopedic surgery (55.1%), neurosurgery (21.3%), physiatry (11.2%) and anesthesiology/pain management (5.7%) comprising the majority of members. Although NASS has members in 45 countries, membership is primarily based in North America (95.6%).

Membership Review Committee

David R Lange, MD, Chair
 W. Daniel Bradley, MD
 Bernard A. Cohen, PhD
 Gregory Graziano, MD
 Todd J. Harbach, MD
 Donna D Ohnmeiss, PhD
 Bernard C Randolph, MD
 James B Reynolds, MD
 Peter M. Sorini, MD



“NASS welcomed its 4,000th member in 2006 and continues to grow! And that growth includes medical and surgical physicians in many specialty areas that deal with clinical practice and research in various spinal conditions. This

multidisciplinary nature of NASS is represented at all levels of the organization starting with the constituency, moving up through committees, and finally to the board of directors itself. NASS is one of only a few organizations that can truly boast accomplishments in education and advocacy as a direct consequence of its diverse membership.”
 Stuart Weinstein, MD

NASS Recognition Awards

Each year awards are presented at the NASS Annual Meeting to individuals who were nominated for their outstanding contributions to NASS and the field of spine care. The awards are named for past NASS leaders who exemplified excellence and dedication.

2006 Winners:

Henry Bohlman, MD (Lebanon, NH): Wiltse Award for excellence in leadership and/or clinical research in spine care
Vijay Goel, PhD (Cleveland, OH): Farfan Award for outstanding contributions in spine-related basic science research
Hansen Yuan, MD (Dallas, TX): Selby Award for contributing greatly to the art and science of spinal disorder management through service to NASS

Recognition and Awards Committee

Scott Haldeman, MD, Chair	Heidi Prather, DO
Michael Fehlings, MD, PhD, FARCSC	Jeffrey A. Saal, MD, FACP
Ziya L. Gokaslan, MD, FACS	Vincent C Traynelis, MD
Timothy Albert Holt, MD	Hansen A. Yuan, MD
Stephen Pledger, MD	

Spine Health 2006

NASS kicked off its fifth annual Spine Health patient education campaign with a focus on helping “couch potatoes” everywhere to get moving! As part of the 2006 Spine Health campaign, NASS introduced a new book entitled *The Couch Potato Workout: 101 Exercises You Can Do At Home*, written by Dr. Joel M. Press, NASS President and Medical Director of the Center for Spine, Sports and Occupational Rehabilitation at the acclaimed Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. This fun paperback book featured helpful tips and interesting facts on how to incorporate exercise into your daily routine with ease. All proceeds from the sale of the book were used to support rehabilitation research at NASS and RIC.

The Spine Journal[™]

The Spine Journal (TSJ) Editor-in-Chief Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD, oversaw another year of growth. TSJ published 742 pages in 2006 along with two supplements: a special focus issue on cervical myelopathy and the NASS Annual Meeting proceedings. The number of submissions continues to rise and although the rejection rate is up, issues are filled several months in advance.

Outstanding Paper Awards

The Spine Journal awarded three Outstanding Paper Awards in 2006. The winning manuscripts were published in the November/December issue:

Surgical Science Winner

“Surgical treatment for unstable low-grade isthmic spondylolisthesis in adults: a prospective controlled study of posterior instrumented fusion compared with combined anterior-posterior fusion”

Justin Swan, MD, Eric Hurwitz, PhD, Farbod Malek, MD, Erica van den Haak, BS, Ivan Cheng, MD, Todd Alamin, MD and Eugene Carragee, MD

Basic Science Winner

“Osteogenic differentiation of adipose-derived stromal cells treated with GDF-5 cultured on a novel three-dimensional sintered microsphere matrix”

Francis H. Shen, MD, Qing Zeng, MD, Qing Lv, MS, Luke Choi, MD, Gary Balian, PhD, Xudong Li, MD, PhD, Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD

Medical & Interventional Science Winner

“Are first-time episodes of serious LBP associated with new MRI findings?”

Eugene Carragee, MD, Todd Alamin, MD, Ivan Cheng, MD, Thomas Franklin, MD, Erica van den Haak, BS, Eric Hurwitz, CD, PhD

Editorial Board

Two new Deputy Editors joined the TSJ Executive Board: Paul M. Arnold, MD, succeeded outgoing Special Features Editor David Fardon, MD, and Paul Bishop, DC, MD, PhD, was appointed to the Medical/Interventional Editor position to succeed Scott Haldeman, DC, MD, PhD. They join Basic Science Editor Jeffrey C. Wang, MD, Orthopedic Surgery Editor Eugene Carragee, MD, and Neurosurgery Editor Daniel K. Resnick, MD.

TSJ is fortunate to have a distinguished editorial board of expert reviewers. Among them is Glenn Rechtine, MD, recipient of the 2006 TSJ Outstanding Reviewer Award. Dr. Rechtine, a founding Associate Board member, has never declined an invitation to review, has consistently completed reviews promptly and provides thorough guidance for authors.

***The Spine Journal* Executive Editorial Board**

Editor in Chief

Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD

Managing Editor

Joy E. Kenyon

Deputy Editors

Jeffrey C. Wang, MD

Eugene J. Carragee, MD

Paul M. Arnold, MD

Scott Haldeman, DC, MD, PhD

Daniel K. Resnick, MD



“It is imperative that *The Spine Journal* be the most reliable repository of communication of clinical and preclinical randomized, controlled scientific trials related to spine care and health.”

Charles L. Branch, Jr., MD
Editor-in-Chief,
The Spine Journal

Member Services

SpineLine™

After six-plus years, Stuart M. Weinstein, MD, has stepped down as Editor in Chief of *SpineLine*. Dr. Weinstein created this one of a kind clinical/news publication in 1999 and turned it into one of NASS' highest rated member benefits in a few short years. Eric Truumees, MD, a long-time member of the *SpineLine* Editorial Board and several other NASS committees, was appointed to succeed Dr. Weinstein effective January 1, 2007.

Jeff Wang, MD, continued in his role as Section Editor (surgical topics) for the ever-popular Curve/Countercurve and was joined by Heidi Prather, DO, who will oversee medical/ interventional topics.

Several Editorial Board members contributed to the Literature Review column, another highly-rated section offering commentary on current spine literature. Paul Arnold, MD, provided commentary on neurosurgical articles; Jonathan Grauer, MD, reviewed orthopedic surgical literature; Robert Gatchel, PhD, commented on pain management articles; Paul Kaplan, MD, reviewed PM&R topics; and Ted Dreisinger, PhD, provided commentary on biomechanics.

Throughout the year, Michael Schaufele, MD, and Scott Boden, MD, reviewed and commented on the top abstracts presented at the NASS Annual Meeting. Several other board members contributed content and/or reviewed manuscripts including Jim Youssef, MD, Paul Slosar, MD, Jeffrey Goldstein, MD, John Finkenberg, MD, Alex Ghanayem, MD, and Eldin Karaikovic, MD. The full Editorial Board convened during the Annual Meeting in Seattle to develop the 2007 editorial schedule.

SpineLine's 2006 editorial calendar included an impressive array of timely, high-quality content, compelling debates and pertinent spine news such as:

- "Can Artificial Disc Replacement Live Up to its Promise?"
- "Severe Cervical Stenosis: Operative Treatment or Continued Conservative Care?"
- "Performance Measurement and Pay-for-Performance: The Next Wave"
- "Steroid Use in the Management of Spinal Cord Injury"
- "Radiation Safety for Spine Providers"
- "Biological Therapies for Disc Degeneration"
- "Medical or Surgical Treatment for Type II Odontoid Fracture?"
- "Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring of the Spinal Cord and Nerve Roots"
- "Spinal Stenosis with Degenerative Lumbar Scoliosis: Fusion versus Decompression Alone"
- "Biologics for Disc Degeneration: The Promise and Pitfalls of Molecular Therapies"
- "Long-Term Opioid Therapy vs. Exercise/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Refractory Chronic Low Back Pain"

SpineLine Editorial Board

Stuart M. Weinstein, MD, Medical Editor

Alexander R. Vaccaro, MD, Deputy Medical Editor

Section Editors

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Paul M. Arnold, MD

David L. Bagnall, MD

Scott D. Boden, MD

Arthur G. Collins, MD

Aleksandar Curcin, MD

Linda Park D'Andrea, MD

Robert J. Gatchel, PhD

John G. Finkenberg, MD

Michael D. Freeman, PhD, DC, MPH

Alexander J. Ghanayem, MD

Kenneth B. Heithoff, MD

Michael Johnson, MD

Paul E. Kaplan, MD

Eldin E. Karaikovic, MD, PhD

Michael McBeth, MD

A. Eugene Pennisi, MA

Michael K. Schaufele, MD

Paul J. Slosar, MD

Jeffrey M. Spivak, MD

John F. Toton, MD

Eric Truumees, MD

Jeffrey C. Wang, MD

Jim A. Youssef, MD

NASS Director of Publications

Pamela Towne

Publications Assistant

Kelly Dattilo

Advertising Coordinator

Jessica Vander Naald

Member Services

Contemporary Concepts in Spine Care

Contemporary Concepts in Spine Care is a series of referenced reviews on contemporary issues in spine care, presented in the context of historical development and providing rationale that leads to current practice. Each review discusses, criticizes and references relevant scientific data, suggests future studies and makes general recommendations for current practice. Each paper is published in *The Spine Journal*[™] and as part of the Contemporary Concepts print and electronic series. Individual titles and/or the complete set are available for purchase to spine providers (members receive a discount) who look to NASS for well-referenced statements on specific spine care treatments and procedures.

The series now includes:

- Arthroscopic Microdiscectomy
- Bone Grafting Alternatives in Spinal Surgery
- Cervical Myelopathy: Current Diagnostic and Treatment Strategies
- Intervertebral Cages for Degenerative Spinal Diseases
- Lumbar Disc Arthroplasty
- Lumbar Discography
- Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections
- Lumbar Zygapophysial (Facet) Joint Injections
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Use in Patients with Low Back Pain or Radicular Pain
- Management of Postprocedural Discitis
- Nonoperative and Operative Treatment of the Osteoporotic Spine
- Open Discectomy as Treatment for Herniated Nucleus Pulposus of the Lumbar Spine
- Percutaneous Vertebral Augmentation
- Psychotropic Medication in Chronic Spinal Disorders
- Radiographic Assessment for Patients with Low Back Pain
- Return to Play Criteria for the Athlete with Cervical Spine Injuries Resulting in Stinger and Transient Quadriplegia/paresis
- Rheumatoid Arthritis of the Cervical Spine
- Spine Rehabilitation: Secondary and Tertiary Nonoperative Care

The Contemporary Concepts program falls under the direction of the Contemporary Concepts Committee, which is responsible for recommending appropriate topics, recruiting authors and reviewing and approving manuscripts. The Committee met during the 2006 Annual Meeting in Seattle to develop new topics, identify the leading experts and invite them as potential authors. Thank you to the 2006 Contemporary Concepts Committee members.

Contemporary Concepts Committee

Darrel Brodke, MD, Chair

Heidi Prather, DO

Neil Berrington, MD

Keith W. Harvie, DO

Public Education Task Force

The Public Education Task Force oversees development of NASS patient education materials. In 2006, the Task Force produced three new brochures, started development of two others and reviewed existing brochures for potential updates. The Committee also met during the Annual Meeting in Seattle to review and evaluate new topics for brochures, as well as revisions to current brochures.

The patient education series now includes a total of 32 brochure titles, which are available in in print form to spine providers for use with their patients. Patients may also view (and download) each brochure on the NASS Web site at www.spine.org. Top selling print versions are Herniated Lumbar Disc, Herniated Cervical Disc and Spinal Fusion, which are also among the most visited pages on www.spine.org.

Public Education Task Force

Alexander Ghanayem, MD, Chair
 Dion J. Arthur, MD
 Kevin Deitel, MD
 Russell DeMicco, DO
 Teri Holwerda, RN, MSN
 George Van Huffman, MD
 Donna Ohnmeiss, PhD
 Gerard Varlotta, DO

Professional Conduct & Ethics

The NASS Professional Conduct & Ethics Committee, led by Stanley A. Herring, MD, continued its mission to review cases of possible ethical misconduct in relation to expert witness testimony, as well as other ethical disputes. The Committee has written and promoted expanded sections of the NASS Code of Ethics, and participated in the creation of stringent Disclosure Guidelines related to Conflicts of Interest. In their article in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of *SpineLine*[™], launching the new Disclosure Guidelines, Dr. Herring and Dr. Sohail Mirza wrote, "We are not aware of any spine publication or organization, or in fact any other professional medical organization, that requires disclosure of financial conflicts in the detail and clarity embraced by the NASS policy. Consistent enforcement of this policy will establish NASS as a leader dealing directly and openly with this important issue." These guidelines, which can be viewed in the *SpineLine* article mentioned above and on the NASS Web site, apply to NASS' educational meetings, committee meetings, Board meetings and all NASS publications.

Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee

Stanley A Herring, MD, Chair
 Paul A. Anderson, MD
 Scott Boden, MD
 Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD
 Craig S Rabb, MD
 Mike Reed, DPT
 F. Todd Wetzel, MD
 Kenneth S. Yonemura, MD

Disclosure Task Force

Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD
 Tom Faciszewski, MD
 Richard Guyer, MD
 Stan Herring, MD
 John Kostuik, MD
 Sohail Mirza, MD
 Joel Press, MD
 Harvinder Sandhu, MD

Archives

The Archives Task Force collects historic documents and artifacts for the creation of a NASS museum that is dedicated to the history of spine care. The committee also collects *Signature Edition* books, a special collection of books that are signed by the authors related to spine care and education.

Spine Masters Institute

Spine Masters Institute: Advancing Spine Care to New Levels

The Year of Construction

In early 2005, the North American Spine Society (NASS) purchased the structure and surrounding land for the new site of the Spine Masters Institute and NASS' headquarters: 7075 Veterans Boulevard in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

NASS hired CB Richard Ellis to act as the owner's representative to evaluate construction companies and plans. Olivieri Architects was selected as the architecture firm and construction manager, while Simonds Designs was chosen for interior design on the project. Four bids were secured for construction, with Berglund Construction Company selected to build out the structure.

The structure was gutted on advice of the construction manager and engineering consultants; the mechanical, plumbing and electric systems were obsolete. In 2006, the architectural plans were complete, the interior demolition was completed and a mass of construction workers diligently worked to erect the new headquarters for the North American Spine Society and the most technologically advanced medical facility for spine care education and research—the Spine Masters Institute.

"There were countless on-site meetings in a construction trailer, with below zero temperatures outside, where critical decisions were made to keep the project moving forward," recalls Eric Muehlbauer, NASS Executive Director.

The 40,000 sq. ft. structure is situated on 4.5 acres and is strategically located close to Interstate US-55; the proximity to the highway will simplify logistics and raise awareness of NASS as drivers pass the vertebral-inspired design on the roof. Additionally, both O'Hare and Midway airports are easily accessible and a Marriott hotel property is adjacent to the site.

The Spine Masters Institute (SMI) was conceived by the NASS Development Team, with the support of the NASS Board of Directors, to advance spine education for physicians and medical associations worldwide.

Lead members of the SMI Board

Jean-Jacques Abitbol, MD, SMI Board Chairman, Joel M. Press, MD, 2006 NASS President and SMI Vice Chairman, and Eric J. Muehlbauer, NASS Executive Director, formed the board and management team to generate donations and sponsorships, and oversee the construction, staffing and equipment needs of the Spine Masters Institute.

Additional members of the SMI Board

2nd Vice Chairman	Richard Guyer, MD
At Large Representative	Volker Sonntag, MD
At Large Representative	David Wong, MD
At Large Representative	John Kostuik, MD
At Large Representative	Tom Errico, MD
At Large Representative	Stan Herring, MD,
Industry Representative	David Miller, Medtronic
Industry Representative	Dennis Stripe, Stryker
Industry Representative	Scott Lynch, Zimmer
Industry Representative	Karen Talmadge, Kyphon Inc.
Ex Officio Staff	Christina Wolf, NASS



Spine Masters Institute

The Spine Masters Institute has a special commitment to the spine care industry. The Institute will work to create a progressive atmosphere:

- Offering the highest quality courses for the spine care industry
- Ensuring timely and forward-thinking industry responses to major spine and technological issues
- Developing courses of outstanding benefit to the industry
- Enhancing the long-term integrity of the industry

This impressive facility will serve the needs of NASS members, as well as the entire spine care industry both nationally and globally. The SMI board and management team continue to work with NASS members, medical organizations and business leaders to acquire pledges, sponsorships and donations to raise the monies necessary to fund this state-of-the-art facility.

Special thanks to the corporate sponsors and individuals who have pledged their support to the project:

Spine Master (\$1,000,000)

Kyphon Inc.

Stryker

Zimmer

Cornerstone Circle (\$250,000 to \$499,999)

Medtronic

Synthes Spine

Bricks and Mortar Club (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Blackstone Medical

Planners Club (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Jean-Jacques Abitbol, MD

Thomas J. Errico, MD

Richard D. Guyer, MD

Hallett H. Mathews, MD

Joel M. Press, MD

Foundation Club (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

K2M, LLC

Members Club (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Dion J. Arthur, MD

Ray M. Baker, MD

Jeffrey A. Baum, MD

Edward C. Benzel, MD

Christopher M. Boxell, MD

J. Kenneth Burkus, MD

Jason D. Cohen, MD

Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach, MD, JD

John P. Kostuik, MD

Don A. Kovalsky, MD

Isador H. Lieberman, MD, FRCSC, MBA

Charles A. Mick, MD

Pierce D. Nunley, MD

John G. Peters, MD

Greg J. Przybylski, MD

Merrill W. Reuter, MD, PhD, FACS

K. Daniel Riew, MD

Philip L. Schneider, MD

Jeffrey T. Summers, MD

Jerald P. Waldman, MD

Edgar N. Weaver, Jr., MD, FACS

Stuart M. Weinstein, MD

Jeffrey J. Wise, MD

*Donor list as of December 29, 2006



Financials

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

ASSETS	2006	2005
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,213,484	\$ 904,786
Accounts receivable - net	330,051	368,979
Pledges receivable - net of discount	47,755	-
Other receivables	101,676	129,220
Prepaid expenses	159,862	169,521
Inventory - net	154,477	131,329
Total current assets	\$ 2,007,305	\$ 1,703,835
Investments		
U.S. Government and Government Agency securities	\$ 489,670	\$ 201,089
Corporate stocks	980,925	1,083,987
Mutual funds	452,899	188,321
Total investments	1,923,494	1,473,397
Long-term pledges receivable - net of discount	130,785	-
Property and equipment - net	8,561,540	4,883,529
Total assets	\$ 12,623,124	\$ 8,060,761
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,083,519	\$ 690,301
Accrued expenses	245,215	271,390
Deferred revenue	1,348,455	527,338
Short-term financing	950,000	250,000
Current portion of mortgage payable	166,668	166,668
Total current liabilities	4,793,857	1,905,697
Mortgage payable - net of current portion	2,069,443	2,236,110
Total liabilities	\$ 6,863,300	\$ 4,141,807
Net assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 3,964,583	\$ 2,682,553
Temporarily restricted	418,540	-
Permanently restricted	1,376,701	1,236,401
Total net assets	5,759,824	3,918,954
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 12,623,124	\$ 8,060,761

Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2006			Total	2005
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted		Total
INCOME					
Dues and fees	\$ 1,735,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,735,100	\$ 1,468,508
Sales of publications and advertising	149,034	-	-	149,034	179,022
Contributions and sponsorships	1,295,579	418,540	140,300	1,854,419	1,394,282
Annual meeting & educational programs	5,930,680	-	-	5,930,680	5,278,371
Investment income (loss)	53,141	-	-	53,141	(305,911)
Royalties	139,994	-	-	139,994	81,287
World Spine Society	-	-	-	-	277,878
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	12,800
Total income	\$ 9,303,528	\$ 418,540	\$ 140,300	\$ 9,862,368	\$ 8,399,037
EXPENSES					
Member services	\$ 693,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 693,671	\$ 692,729
Publications	1,016,480	-	-	1,016,480	1,199,766
Grants and awards	249,632	-	-	249,632	146,764
Research and scientific affairs	428,625	-	-	428,625	421,711
Annual meeting and education	3,723,822	-	-	3,723,822	3,527,586
Advocacy	1,156,687	-	-	1,156,687	1,161,795
World Spine Society	47,190	-	-	47,190	504,936
Spine Masters Institute	88,027	-	-	88,027	-
Fundraising and development	49,397	-	-	49,397	38,148
Management and general	567,967	-	-	567,967	623,293
Total expenses	\$ 8,021,498	\$ -	-	\$ 8,021,498	\$ 8,316,728
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS					
	\$ 1,282,030	\$ 418,540	\$ 140,300	\$ 1,840,870	\$ 69,509
Beginning of year	2,682,553	-	1,236,401	3,918,954	3,849,445
End of year	\$ 3,964,583	\$ 418,540	\$ 1,376,701	\$ 5,759,824	\$ 3,918,954

Financials

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	2006	2005
Cash flows from operating activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 1,840,870	\$ 69,509
<i>Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:</i>		
Depreciation and amortization	194,068	225,946
Increase (decrease) in reserve for bad debts	(18,550)	34,881
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	32,612	363,488
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	921	-
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) decrease in receivables	(93,518)	96,442
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	9,659	(1,815)
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(23,148)	8,210
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	1,393,218	321,373
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses	(26,175)	100,363
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	821,117	(154,121)
Net cash provided by operating activities	4,131,074	1,064,276
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	948	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,196,553	1,424,244
Purchase of investments	(1,679,262)	(1,407,096)
Additions to property and equipment	(3,873,948)	(4,086,736)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(4,355,709)	(4,069,588)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from mortgage note	-	2,500,000
Proceeds from short-term financing	700,000	250,000
Principal payments on mortgage	(166,667)	(97,222)
Net cash provided by financing activities	533,333	2,652,778
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	308,698	(352,534)
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of year	904,786	1,257,320
End of year	1,213,484	904,786
Supplemental information		
Unrelated business income taxes paid	21,047	13,000