



# 2009

## North American Spine Society Committees

Committee	Responsibilities
Ethics Committee	Advises NASS leadership on the latest research regarding issues of disclosure, ethics and professionalism, including the regular maintenance and revision of NASS' policies in these areas. The Committee also stimulates information, articles, papers and education for the membership on issues of ethics and professionalism in spine care. The Ethics Committee oversees the activities of two subordinate bodies, the COI Review Board and the Professional Conduct & Ethics Committee.
Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee (PCEC)	Stimulates information, articles, papers and education for the membership on ethical issues in spine care. Reviews complaints of unethical behavior and makes recommendations to the board on ethics-related issues.
Conflict of Interest Review Panel	Assists members and the Board in determining if a member has a Conflict of Interest (COI), and whether said COI would materially interfere with the proposed task or assignment of that member. In the event there is a complaint regarding a COI, the committee serves in an advisory capacity and may make recommendations to the PCEC. The committee also helps to vet nominees for the presidential line, Board and certain committee chairs.
Section Development Committee	Stays abreast of topics affecting NASS' sections; supporting efforts and fostering growth of these entities.
Spine Biologics and Basic Research Section	Provides unbiased, comprehensive evaluation of biological treatments for spinal conditions from a scientific perspective. Stimulates educational courses for the presentation and dissemination of practical applications of biological treatments in all stages of research and clinical usage. May also stimulate and/or collaborate on position statements regarding aspects of the science or clinical applications of biological treatments. Provides a forum for review and discussion of activities in this area.
Motion Preservation Section	Provides a forum for the discussion and dissemination of information regarding motion preservation and stabilization technologies, including non-fusion and non-traditional methods. May stimulate or collaborate on position papers and/or educational content.
Rehabilitation Interventional & Medical Spine (RIMS) Section	This section is charged with development of NASS' intellectual capabilities in the titled areas. It identifies spine physician and allied health education needs. Designs educational efforts to instruct in necessary areas. Identifies enduring education materials for physicians and patients that may aid in improving spine treatments or understanding of spine treatments. Oversees activities of the Exercise Task Force.
Exercise Task Force	A multidisciplinary task force charged with evaluating and consolidating all existing NASS exercise-related publications and educating spine care providers and patients about the role exercise can play in promoting spine health and reducing back pain.

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<b>Health Policy Council</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Director: Charles A. Mick, MD</b></span>	
National Association of Spine Specialists/ Advocacy Committee	Creates NASS position statements on national health care policy and advocates for high quality, cost effective care for patients with spinal disorders.
Professional, Economic and Regulatory Committee (PERC)	Directs NASS' socioeconomic activities. Directs NASS' interaction with payers including: reviewing and commenting on coverage policies through appointed groups or subject matter experts; developing policy statements to advocate for NASS' position on clinical and practice issues (including reimbursement, coverage and the provision of quality spine care); and forming relationships between NASS and key payers to ensure NASS is involved in all decisions affecting spine care. Manages NASS' regulatory activities including: setting and tracking NASS' regulatory priorities in conjunction with the Health Policy Council and Advocacy Committee; overseeing the Medical and Surgical Committees (including CPT and RUC activities); and educating the membership about the regulatory environment and increases their participation in the process.
Medical Coding	Reviews and assesses use and effectiveness of medical spine-related procedures to determine NASS' position on CPT code promotion
<b>Education Council</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Director: Venu Akuthota, MD</b></span>	
Continuing Medical Education Committee	Responsible for interpreting needs assessment and developing continuing medical education activities to increase the capabilities of spine professionals. Examines all proposals for collaboration on educational efforts with other educational entities.
Annual Meeting Program Committee	Develops the Annual Meeting Program content within ACCME guidelines.
Hands-On Programming Committee	Responsible for interpreting needs assessment and developing continuing medical education activities, with hands-on and/or lab components, to increase the capabilities of spine professionals. The Hands-On Programming Committee reports to the CME Committee and will make recommendations for programming that will be ultimately be approved by the CME Committee and Education Council Director.
International Education Committee	Provides educational programming to our international contingency through: meetings focused on abstract and symposia presentations; online forums and regionalized courses. Interprets needs assessment and development of educational activities to improve competency and enhance performance in the international arena.
Resident and Fellow Education Committee	Reviews and advises the board on issues related to spine care fellowships and residencies. Oversees compliance to Residency Match Program.
Spine Across the Sea Committee	Develops the Spine Across the Sea Program content within ACCME guidelines.

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Spring Break Committee	Develops the Spring Break Program content within ACCME guidelines.
Allied Health Education Committee	Interprets needs assessment and development of activities to increase the skills of allied health providers through the use of educational courses. Manages faculty selection for educational activities. Proposes and participates in symposia, SIGs and track sessions for the Annual Meeting. Oversees allied health educational forums to ensure ACCME guidelines are met. The committee reports to the CME Committee and makes recommendations for programming that must be approved by the CME Committee and Education Council Director.
Education Publishing Committee	Comprised of chairs of the publications committees, ie, <i>SpineLine</i> , <i>The Spine Journal</i> , <i>Contemporary Concepts</i> , Patient Education and PR Task Force.
Contemporary Concepts Committee	The <i>Contemporary Concepts</i> editorial board determines topics of current relevance in the spine care community that would benefit from a review article with historical perspective and rationale for current practices.
Patient Education Committee	Determines topics and develops print and electronic materials that will benefit spine care physicians and their patients by increasing the understanding of spine disorders and conditions and their treatment options and possible risks/side effects.
Public Affairs Committee	Develops and provides oversight of NASS public information efforts targeting consumers, NASS members and the broader spine community. Activities include promotion of NASS' mission through web site content, promotional campaigns, and other print, electronic or broadcast opportunities.
SpineLine Editorial Board	The <i>SpineLine</i> editorial board determines the editorial calendar for this bi-monthly clinical news magazine, solicits authors, writes articles and reviews manuscripts prior to publication.
The Spine Journal Executive Editorial Board	<i>The Spine Journal</i> editorial board follows a formal peer-review process for the evaluation of manuscripts prior to publication. The Editor-in-Chief & Deputy Editors also provide editorial direction for the publication.
<b>Research Council</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Director: William C. Watters, MD</b></span>	
Evidence Compilation & Analysis Committee	Oversight of the evidence compilation and analysis activities under this arm of the Research Council. Membership is comprised of the Evidence Compilation and Analysis Director from the Board and chairs of the following committees: Patient Safety, Performance Measurement, Evidence-based Guidelines and Contemporary Concept on Manipulation, Mobilization and Massage Task Force.
Patient Safety Committee	Responsible for development and oversight of all NASS patient safety activities and education.

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Performance Measurement Committee	Engages in policy formation and advice, program review, member education and represents NASS in appropriate forums in which these activities take place, with the exception of the AMA Consortium.
Evidence-Based Guideline Development Committee	Responsible for guideline activities including development and revision of NASS guidelines and review of others' guidelines.
<i>Contemporary Concepts: Manipulation, Mobilization &amp; Massage</i> Task Force	Development of a <i>Contemporary Concepts</i> paper on the topics of manipulation, mobilization, massage and other therapeutic modalities.
Clinical Research Development Committee	Oversight of the research activities under this arm of the Research Council. Membership is comprised of the Clinical Research Development Director from the Board and chairs of the following committees: Research Survey Review, Research Project Management, Outcome Compendium Task force, Nomenclature DDD Task Force, Registry Subcommittee and Professional Society Coalition on Lumbar Fusion Outcomes.
Research Survey Review Committee	Reviews and approves, in conjunction with the Research Council Director, requests to survey the NASS membership through the formalized review process and manner established by NASS.
Research Project Management Committee	Oversees research grant and fellowship applications, processes and makes funding recommendations to the Board. Committee can be no larger than eight volunteers including Chair.
Outcomes Compendium Task Force	Identifies and reviews outcome instruments to be included in the <i>Compendium of Outcomes Instruments</i> publication.
Nomenclature DDD Task Force	Responsible for defining and clarifying nomenclature related to degenerative disc disease.
NASS Registry Subcommittee	Lead the investigation into and eventual implementation of a NASS Registry.
Professional Society Coalition on Lumbar Fusion Outcomes	Made up of representatives from AAOS, AANS/CNS, SRS and NASS. The primary objectives of the task force are analysis of existing, relevant data sources; development of additional/improved data sources and to communicate/collaborate with CMS regarding their goals and the combined societies' efforts to assist them in achieving these goals relative to identifying appropriate evidence.