

## 23rd Annual Meeting, October 14-18, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Speciality Booths

### Honor Roll of Donors

NASS' Honor Roll of Donors acknowledges the leadership and generosity of those who have contributed to the advancement of spine care through the NASS Research Funds.

### Exercise: The Backbone of Spine Treatment

Developed by the NASS Exercise Task Force, this interactive display showcases a NASS-produced exercise video and patient education brochure. Discuss exercises and try a few with a physical therapist and exercise physiologist or watch the ongoing live demonstrations.

### Attendee Resources

#### Evidence-Based Medicine Online Training Room

Evidence-based medicine has become integral to the culture of medicine, affecting not only medical providers, but becoming increasingly required by outside entities such as payers, regula-

tory bodies and accrediting organizations. NASS, in conjunction with the University of Alberta's Centre for Health Evidence (CHE), has developed an online, interactive educational program based on content from the Users' Guides to the Medical Literature. This course is designed to help you improve your ability to find, appraise and use evidence appearing in the health sciences literature. The course will be delivered using an Internet desktop – a virtual classroom – developed by CHE and customized specifically for NASS. Training takes about 15-30 hours to complete and is free for members. Participants will receive up to 30 hours of CME credit upon completion. Availability is limited and the course will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In order to provide more opportunities to either begin or continue training in NASS' online EBM program, NASS will have an EBM training room available for use at the upcoming

Annual Meeting in Toronto. The room will be available to all registered online EBM training program participants from Tuesday, October 14 – Friday, October 17, 2008 (7:30 AM-5:30 PM, each day). Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't forget your laptop! Anyone wishing to register for the online training should contact Karen James at [kjames@spine.org](mailto:kjames@spine.org).

### Special Events NASS Research Grants, Young Investigator Grants and Research/Clinical Traveling Fellowships

Honor your fellow colleagues as NASS presents this year's NASS Research Grants, Young Investigator Grants and Research/Clinical Traveling Fellowships to those who have made advancements in spine care and research. The awards will be presented on Friday, October 17 at 10:30 AM.

## Annual Meeting Hotels

#### ■ Fairmont Royal York Headquarter Hotel

100 Front Street West (two and a half blocks from the convention centre)  
\$253 CDN single/double  
\$323 CDN deluxe single/double

#### ■ Cosmopolitan Toronto

8 Colborne Street (four blocks from the convention centre)  
\$250 CDN deluxe single/double  
\$299 CDN lakeview king

#### ■ Hilton Toronto

145 Richmond Street West (five blocks from the convention centre)  
\$242 CDN single/double

#### ■ InterContinental Toronto Centre

225 Front Street West (attached to the North building of the conference centre)  
\$259 CDN single/double  
\$319 CDN junior suite  
\$358 CDN club king

#### ■ Pantages Suites

200 Victoria Street (eight blocks from the convention centre)  
\$250 CDN single/double  
\$299 CDN ambassador king single/double

#### ■ Renaissance Toronto

One Blue Jays Way (one and a half blocks from the convention centre)

\$245 CDN single/double

#### ■ Residence Inn

##### Toronto Downtown

255 Wellington Street West (two blocks from the convention centre)  
\$239 CDN single/double

#### ■ Sheraton Centre Toronto

123 Queen Street West (six blocks from the convention centre)  
\$244 CDN single/double  
\$294 CDN club single/double

#### ■ Westin Harbour Castle Toronto

1 Harbour Square (ten blocks from the convention centre)  
\$259 CDN single/double

## 2008 NASS Annual Meeting Information Special Events

### Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception marks the official start of the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, from 6:00–8:30 PM in the Concert Hall at the Fairmont Royal York.

### The Spine Journal Outstanding Paper Awards, First Ever Editors' Choice Award

Join us as we present the inaugural Editors' Choice Award and *The Spine Journal* Outstanding Paper Awards. The Outstanding Paper Awards and Editors' Choice Award will be presented on Thursday, October 16, from 10:25–10:53 AM from the main podium, Constitution Room, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

### NASS Advocacy Luncheon

Friday, October 17th, Noon—1:00 PM  
Summit Room, North Building Level Two, Metro Toronto Convention Centre

You don't have to visit Washington, DC, to make a difference in health care policy! In the coming year, health policy decisions that threaten specialty care will be debated by your representatives in Washington. Join us to learn about the health care reforms that are expected to occur in the next Congress/Administration and learn how you can address these concerns right now in your own backyard. There will be an opportunity for attendees to provide input on the priorities within NASS' advocacy agenda during this important legislative cycle.

Please stop by the Advocacy Booth to obtain more information and confirm your luncheon attendance.

## Three Opportunities to Present in 2009

Visit the 2009 Abstract Submission Center on the NASS Web site ([www.spine.org](http://www.spine.org)) to submit your abstract to any of our three upcoming meetings in 2009. This submission site, operated by Community of Science, will allow you to easily submit your abstracts to the NASS Spring Break, Spine Across the Sea and 24th Annual Meeting.

### Spring Break April 23-25, 2009

#### Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

For the first time, NASS will be accepting abstracts for this high-energy interactive meeting focusing on the gold standard of treatment and the new technologies vs. the new reality of cost-effective health care. Detailed meeting information will be available online in December 2008. **Submission Deadline: November 21, 2008**

### Spine Across the Sea July 26-30, 2009

#### Maui, Hawaii

This unique meeting, presented by NASS and the Japanese Society for Spine Surgery and Related Research, is offered every three years and includes oral and poster scientific presentations as well as symposia. The conference will provide physicians with an opportunity to share current information and concepts relating to spinal problems. **Submission Deadline: January 9, 2009.**

### 24th Annual Meeting November 10-14, 2009 San Francisco, CA

Submit abstracts, symposia, premeeting courses and special interest group (SIG) proposals for the NASS 24th Annual Meeting. NASS offers the highest level of education available for the multidisciplinary spine care community. Detailed information regarding the scientific program, registration and housing will be available online in May 2009. **Submission Deadline: February 11, 2009**

## Member Services Returns with New Gifts & Publications

Membership information, publications and NASS logo items are available in the Member Services Area (located in the Constitution foyer). NASS staff members are present to answer questions about the membership application process and benefits. Various publications are available for viewing and purchase at the NASS store. In addition, NASS logo polo shirts, golf accessories, children's t-shirts, ties and lapel pins will be available.

Visit the NASS Job Connection, NASS' career recruitment service, located next to Member Services. Job seekers can search by specialty or geographic location free of charge.

### Member Services Hours of Operation Are:

October 15 .... 6:30AM–5:00PM

October 16 .... 6:30AM–5:00PM

October 17 .... 7:00AM–5:00PM

### In Memoriam

**HAL MORGENSTERN, PHD**  
Ann Arbor, MI

**ERIC A. THOMAS**  
Albuquerque, NM

**STEPHEN H. NOEL, MD**  
Dakota Dunes, SD

# Big Changes for *The Spine Journal*

## Impact Factor in 2010

The North American Spine Society continues to be a significant driving force in the field of spine care and research. And nowhere is our presence felt more than in NASS' scientific publication, *The Spine Journal (TSJ)*, which continues to bring spine care research and treatment to the forefront of the medical community.

The journal's impact has been increasingly recognized, and now it will be quantified. In 2010 *TSJ* will be among the journals listed in Thomson Scientific Institute of Science Information's *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*.

## How the Impact Factor works:

An impact factor is calculated over a three-year period. Essentially, it is the average number of citations in a year, given to manuscripts in a journal that were published during the two previous years. In the case of *TSJ*, articles from 2007 and 2008 were indexed. Thomson will compile the information and in its 2010 *JCR*, *TSJ*'s 2009 impact factor will be published.

Having an impact factor will give *TSJ* the opportunity to regularly evaluate its relevance in the field of spine care – to declare its significance to its readers. Authors seeking an avenue to showcase their contribution will have a clearer idea of where we rank among other journals. As NASS' reputation for fostering the highest-quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care continues to become evermore evident, we are confident that more and more physicians will look to *TSJ* to reach those in the medical community who seek clinical guidance.



## Expanding to Monthly

Beginning in January, *TSJ* will publish monthly; expanding its already widespread coverage of research and treatment related to the spine and spine care. The journal editorial board, joined by *TSJ* and NASS staff, is excited about the potential the expansion has for the field of spine care, and the influence *TSJ* has on it. With more space and more frequency, subscribers will receive a wider range of in-depth research articles focusing on basic science and clinical investigations, as well as the illuminating case studies *TSJ* audiences have enjoyed these last eight years.

With more pages to fill, researchers and authors will have more opportunities to submit their work. And doubling the number of issues will mean shorter publication timelines. The ever-increasing number of submissions has led to a backlog of quality papers submitted to *TSJ*. This backlog led to NASS' decision to publish 12 issues annually. With shorter intervals between issues, time-sensitive research can reach audiences faster.

The journal will continue to publish accepted papers online at [www.thespinejournalonline.com](http://www.thespinejournalonline.com). In many cases papers are available online months prior to being published in the journal – a service *TSJ* and its publisher, Elsevier Science, will continue to provide for *TSJ* subscribers.

In addition to clinical studies and case reports, *TSJ* publishes major reviews of specific topics by acknowledged authorities, technical notes, teaching editorials and other special features. Letters to the editor-in-chief are welcome and encouraged.

## Changing of the Guard

This fall, we bid a fond farewell to Dr. Charles Branch as *TSJ*'s editor-in-chief and welcome the resulting changing of the guard. Long-time *TSJ* editorial board member Dr. Gene Carragee will take the reigns, filling the *TSJ* top spot in 2009. Carragee has acted as *TSJ*'s orthopedic surgery deputy editor since 2004. He will be promoted to editor-in-chief in October at NASS' 23rd Annual Meeting in Toronto.

Carragee is currently a professor and vice chairman of Stanford University School of Medicine's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He also holds the director post at Stanford's Orthopaedic Spine Clinic.

First licensed in California in 1984, Carragee has dedicated his career to furthering the quality of spine care in the United States and abroad. While much of his time has been spent at Stanford, as an officer in the US Army's Civil Affairs Command in the mid-1990s Carragee served on several US and UN initiatives in Vietnam. His work there earned him two Medical Service Awards and the UNTAC/UNESCO Award – a UN Service Medal.

Since 1997, Carragee has been on NASS' governing editorial boards, first with *Spine* as an advisory board member, then continuing as one of *TSJ*'s original associate members. He has been reviewing *TSJ* manuscripts since the journal's inception in 2001. In that time, he also received a number of NASS accolades for his own research, including 13 Outstanding Paper, Poster and Research Awards.

Although Dr. Branch will be missed as *TSJ*'s Editor-in-Chief, we look to his future as NASS' president. He will take over the Society's top spot in October.

# Thank You! NASS 2008 Research Fund Donors

NASS would like to thank and acknowledge the leadership and generosity of those who have contributed to the advancement of spine care through the NASS research funds.

## Corporate Contributors

*As of July 31, 2008*

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(\$50,000-\$74,999)

■ Medtronic Spinal & Biologics  
Annual Research Fund

### The Premiere Club

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■ DePuy Spine, A Johnson & Johnson Company  
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### The Heritage Club

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■ Synthes Spine

Annual Research Fund

### The Century Club

(\$1,000-\$9,999)

■ ArthroCare Corporation  
Spine Research Endowment Fund

■ Life Instrument Corporation  
Annual Research Fund

## Annual Research Fund (ARF)

The Annual Research fund collects money to support research projects each year from applications selected by NASS' Research Project Management Committee.

*July 20, 2007-August 31, 2008*

### Leaders' Circle (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Karen D. Talmadge, PhD

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### Spine Research Endowment Fund (SREF)

To ensure future funding, the Spine Research Endowment Fund was established in 1996. As an endowment, the principal remains untouched. Once the fund reaches \$2 million, the interest income accrued each year on the prin-

cipal will supplement the amount funded by the Annual Research Fund, essentially doubling the average amount that NASS distributes each year.  
*July 20, 2007-August 31, 2008*

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 (\$20,000-\$24,999)  
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## Medtronic Spinal & Biologics \$50,000 Challenge Grant Don't miss this opportunity to instantly double the value of your gift to the Annual Research Fund!

NASS is pleased to announce that Medtronic Spinal & Biologics has issued a \$50,000 challenge grant in support of the NASS Annual Research Fund. Medtronic Spinal & Biologics will match—dollar for dollar to \$50,000—all individual contributions to the NASS Annual Research Fund through December 31, 2008. Medtronic's Dr. Karen Talmadge, Chief Science Officer, Kyphon Products, is kicking off the challenge with her own \$1,000 donation. Please make your gift to the NASS Annual Research Fund today. Gifts may be dedicated online or through forms available on the NASS Web site at <http://www.spine.org/Pages/Philanthropy/DonateNow/Default.aspx>.

*NASS retains full control of research award selection. Specific individuals or corporations do not have influence over the selection of recipients.*

# Spine Safety Notices

The North American Spine Society is committed to quality patient care through promotion of patient safety and prevention of medical errors. NASS monitors a variety of government and other resources for patient safety related notices that may be useful to our members. Information from these notices is also archived on the NASS Web site at <http://www.spine.org/Pages/PracticePolicy/ClinicalCare/SpineSafetyAlerts/Default.aspx>. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.

DRUG/DEVICE/OTHER	EXPLANATION
<b>ORANGE ALERT: REVISIONS TO PRESCRIBING INFORMATION</b>	
Duragesic® (fentanyl) Transdermal System	Modifications have been made to the <b>BOXED WARNING</b> and <b>WARNINGS</b> sections of Duragesic® (fentanyl) Transdermal System labeling. The revised sections indicate that, in addition to the existing list of contraindications, because serious or life-threatening hypoventilation could occur, Duragesic® is contraindicated in the management of intermittent pain (eg, use on an as needed basis [prn]). The revised <b>WARNINGS</b> also advise that Duragesic® patches are intended for transdermal use (on intact skin) only. Do not use a Duragesic® patch if the seal is broken or the patch is cut, damaged or changed in any way. Avoid exposing the Duragesic application site and surrounding area to direct external heat sources, such as heating pads or electric blankets, heat or tanning lamps, saunas, hot tubs and heated water beds, while wearing the system. Avoid taking hot baths or sunbathing. There is a potential for temperature-dependent increases in fentanyl released from the system resulting in possible overdose and death. MedWatch link: <a href="http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm">http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm</a>
Halcion® (triazolam)	Modifications have been made to the <b>WARNINGS</b> section of Halcion® (triazolam) tablets labeling. The revised section addresses the risk of sleep disturbances and severe anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions. Because sleep disturbances may be the presenting manifestation of a physical and/or psychiatric disorder, symptomatic treatment of insomnia should be initiated only after a careful evaluation of the patient. The failure of insomnia to remit after seven to 10 days of treatment may indicate the presence of a primary psychiatric and/or medical illness that should be evaluated. Complex behaviors such as “sleep-driving” have been reported. These events can occur in sedative-hypnotic-naïve as well as in sedative-hypnotic-experienced persons. Rare cases of angioedema involving the tongue, glottis or larynx have been reported in patients after taking the first or subsequent doses of sedative-hypnotics, including Halcion®. Some patients have had additional symptoms such as dyspnea, throat closing or nausea and vomiting that suggest anaphylaxis. MedWatch link: <a href="http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm">http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm</a>
Ultram ER® (tramadol HCl) Extended-Release Tablets	Modifications have been made to the <b>WARNINGS</b> section of Ultram ER® (tramadol HCl) Extended-Release Tablets labeling to address serotonin syndrome risk. The revised labeling indicates that the development of a potentially life-threatening serotonin syndrome may occur with use of tramadol products, including ULTRAM ER®, particularly with concomitant use of serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs, SNRIs, TCAs, MAOIs and triptans, with drugs which impair metabolism of serotonin (including MAOIs) and with drugs which impair metabolism of tramadol (CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 inhibitors). This may occur within the recommended dose. Serotonin syndrome may include mental-status changes (eg, agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (eg, tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular aberrations (eg, hyperreflexia, incoordination) and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (eg, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). MedWatch link: <a href="http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm">http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/SAFETY/2008/feb08.htm</a>