Although the ability to evaluate MRI studies is critical to the delivery of effective spine care, most spine specialists learn this skill in an informal fashion during training and in clinical practice. As a result, we may not have an understanding of the science and physics behind MR imaging and the various pulse sequences that are available for obtaining the scans. Many of us prefer to read our patients’ MR imaging studies ourselves rather than rely solely on the “official” radiologist’s report. We learn to make preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative decisions based on those readings. However, unlike radiologists who are trained to evaluate MRI studies in a systematic fashion, we may be more likely to evaluate the images in a less organized manner and to rely on our anatomic expertise and experience, which may not be the most effective method.

This webinar series will help teach spine specialists how to systematically evaluate and interpret MR imaging studies of the spine. Although there are many courses that focus on MR imaging of the spine, this series is distinctive in that it is given by spine surgeons and radiologists specifically for spine specialists. As such, it is more clinically oriented than other educational opportunities. It also provides an excellent reference for radiologists and others such as physical medicine and rehabilitation clinicians, rheumatology physicians, and medical musculoskeletal care specialists who evaluate MR images of the spine and who would like to gain a better appreciation of the associated clinical aspects.

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Define and recognize the normal MRI anatomy of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.
- Cite and apply the rationale for use of the most common MRI pulse sequences used in the spine.
- Describe the most commonly seen pathologic findings in the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.
- Utilize a systematic approach to evaluate MR imaging studies.
- Correlate the imaging findings on spine MRI with those on other imaging modalities.

Agenda
- Welcome & Introduction – Khanna (5 minutes)
- Basic MRI Physics and Pulse Sequences for Clinicians – Carrino (15 minutes)
- MRI Spine Anatomy – Carrino (15 minutes)
- A Systematic Approach to Image Evaluation – Khanna (25 minutes)
- Correlation of MRI with Other Imaging Modalities – Carrino (20 minutes)
- Discussion/Q&A – All faculty (10 minutes)