

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

SMISS Annual Forum **25**

OCTOBER 2-4, 2025

THE BELLAGIO | LAS VEGAS, NV

OCTOBER 2-4
Scientific Program

OCTOBER 4
Lab of the Future

New

PRESIDENT



Michael
Wang, MD, MBA

2025 ANNUAL FORUM DIRECTORS



Victor
Chang, MD



Brandon
Hirsch, MD



Elizabeth
Lord, MD



Jang W.
Yoon, MD

JOINTLY PROVIDED BY:



Forum Highlights

The **SMISS Annual Forum** gives you practical insights you can immediately use. Past attendees planned to make numerous changes including:

- “Better understanding of lateral approach options and use of motion preservation techniques”
- “Changes in surgical techniques to help create a more streamlined surgical workflow”
- “Incorporating biportal endoscopy into practice”
- “Enhanced my MIS TLIF thought process, deformity considerations, and am invigorated to initiate robotics and endoscopic”
- “Use better multimodal pain management”

DON'T MISS:

Business of Spine Surgery: Leveraging Your Value Beyond the OR

Surgery-adjacent: Regenerative Medicine, Basic Science, and Perioperative Considerations

Endoscopic Spine Surgery: Handling the Learning Curve and Advancing the Field

Motion Preservation: The Cutting Edge in Disc Replacement

SMISS Board of Directors

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Lab of the Future Directors

Gregory Basil, MD
Joshua Heller, MD
Gregory Mundis, Jr., MD
Jean-Pierre Mobasser, MD
Michael Wang, MD, MBA

Invited Faculty

Vivek Babaria, MD	Roger Härtl, MD	Scott Meyer, MD	William Taylor, MD
Hyun Bae, MD	Joshua Heller, MD	Jean-Pierre Mobasser, MD	Albert Telfeian, MD
Shay Bess, MD	Brandon Hirsch, MD	Isaac Moss MD, MAS, FRCS	Khoi Than, MD
Scott Blumenthal, MD	Christoph Hofstetter, MD	Praveen Mummaneni, MD	Luis Tumialan, MD
Victor Chang, MD	Meng Huang, MD	Venu Nemani MD, PhD	Juan Uribe, MD
Samuel Cho, MD	Richard Hynes, MD	Eric Nottmeier, MD	Alex Vaccaro, MD
Andrew Chung, MD	Sravisht Iyer, MD	Paul Park, MD	Sohrab Virk, MD
Peter Derman, MD	Adam Kanter, MD	Don Park, MD	Andrew Vivas, MD
Robert Eastlack, MD	Roland Kent, MD	Theresa Pazonis, MD	Corey Walker, MD
Kurt Eichholz, MD	Chris Kepler, MD	John Peloza, MD	Denise Walt, MD
Rick Fessler, MD	Patrick Kim, MD	Frank Phillips, MD	Theresa Williamson, MD
Kevin Foley, MD	Jin-Sung Luke Kim, MD, PhD	AJ Rush, III, MD	Michael Yang, MD
Ray Gardocki, MD	Sanjay Konakondla, MD	Stephen Ryu, MD, MS	Jang W. Yoon, MD
Steven Girdler, MD	Jean-Christoph Leveque, MD	Andrew Sama, MD	Elizabeth Yu, MD
Matt Gornet, MD	Philip Louie, MD	Alexander Satin, MD	Jack Zigler, MD
Rick Guyer, MD	Mohammad Macki, MD	Alok Sharan, MD	Martin Zomaya, MD
Daniel Hafez, MD	Hani Malone, MD	Michael Steinmetz, MD	



SMISS Lab of the Future:

Hands-on. High-tech. Ahead of the Curve.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4	
1:00–5:30 PM	Lab
5:30–6:30 PM	Happy Hour and Prize Presentations The Bellagio Resort & Casino

Step Into the Future of Spine Surgery

Are you looking to sharpen your skills with cutting-edge technology in a fast-paced, hands-on environment? Don't miss your chance to participate in the inaugural SMISS Lab of the Future.

This innovative, non-CME lab experience replaces the traditional cadaveric lab with immersive simulation-based training, empowering you to explore:

- **Robotics & Navigation**
- **Augmented & Virtual Reality**
- **Endoscopic Spine Surgery**
- **Skills Station Challenge** — A friendly competition with amazing prizes!

Why Participate?

- Rotate through 6 advanced technology stations with expert guidance
- Compete in optional interactive skills stations for fun prizes and bragging rights
 - Prizes include:
 - > Free 1-year membership to SMISS (\$395 value)
 - > Complimentary registration to the 2026 Annual Forum (\$775 value)
 - > Casino match play coupon
 - > \$200 MGM Rewards gift card
 - > 2 nights' stay hotel room credit at the Bellagio for the 2025 Annual Forum (\$1,150 value)
- Network with peers and faculty at the post-lab Happy Hour
- Complete fun pre-lab materials to maximize your experience and earn rewards

Participation is limited to 42 surgeons, so secure your spot early and be part of a new chapter in spine surgery education.

You don't want to just hear about it, you want to be part of it!

Registration fee: \$250

A limited number of grants are available. Click [here](#) to apply for a grant. Grant applications are due by July 24.

Early Career Surgeon Travel Grant

JULY

24

Applications Due

If you are a resident, fellow, or in your first 3 years of practice, apply today for a SMISS '25 Early Career Surgeon Travel Grant!

Choose your preferred path:

Option A: Attend at least two non-CME breakfast or lunch workshop events, 10 exhibit booths, and a networking dinner on Friday evening.

Option B: Attend the Lab of the Future on Saturday from 1–6:30 PM and 10 exhibit booths.

Selected recipients who complete their designated path will receive a \$595 travel grant and free SMISS membership for 1 year.

[Apply Here](#)

Apply by July 24; notifications sent by August 11.

JUNE

6

Submission Deadline

Call for Abstracts

Submit your Abstract Today!

The SMISS Annual Forum '25 is designed to enable surgeons, scientists, and researchers to present original clinical research results related to current or emerging techniques and technologies in Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery (MISS).

Visit www.smissmeeting.org to learn more.

Submission deadline: June 6; notifications sent by July 14.

[Submit Here](#)

Scientific Program

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Session 1: Business of Spine Surgery: Leveraging Your Value Beyond the OR Non-CME	
4:30–6:25 PM	
Introduction and Welcome	
Back to School: Does an MBA Make Sense for You?	
Leaving Academia for Independent Practice	
Be Your Own Boss: Starting Your Own ASC	
Technology Updates	
Mitigating Risk: What Spine Surgeons Should Know About Malpractice Lawsuits	
Private Equity and You (Taking a Big Bite Out of the Big Apple)	
Spine Surgeon By Day, Innovator by Night	
Surgeon as Administrator: Power Move or Selling Out?	
Efforts to Repeal the Ban on Physician Owned Hospitals	
Administrative Harm	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:30–8:20 AM	Company Breakfast Workshops
Session 2: Acquiring New Masteries Non-CME	
8:30–10:20 AM	
Turning the World Upside Down: Prone Lateral	
Taking the Endoscopy Plunge	
Reinventing the Wheel: MIS Deformity	
Technology Updates	
Suspension of Belief: Navigating Cages	
Avoiding the Elephant in the Room: ATP aka OLIF	
Surrendering to Machines: Robotics and Spine	
Spreading Your Wings: MIS TLIF at the ASC	
When Reality Just Isn't Enough: Augmented Reality	
Total Navigation: Why It's a Game Changer	
10:20–10:50 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibits

Concurrent Session 3: Motion Preservation: The Cutting Edge in Disc Replacement Non-CME	
10:50–12:25 PM	
Decision Making in Implant Selection for Cervical Disc Replacement	
Push It to the Limit: Cervical Disc Replacement in Spondylotic Patients	
Approach to Recurrent Pain After Cervical Disc Replacement	
Decision-Making and Strategies for Revision of Lumbar Disc Replacement	
AR and Navigation in Lumbar Disc Replacement: What are the Possibilities?	
Rapid Fire Case Debates in Lumbar Disc Disease	
Concurrent Session 4: Surgery-Adjacent: Regenerative Medicine, Basic Science, and Perioperative Considerations for Spine Cases Non-CME	
10:50–12:05 PM	
Stem Cells in Spine: Basic Science and Clinical Applications	
Doc, I want PRP: A Primer on Regenerative Medicine for the Spine Surgeon	
SPECT-CT in the Diagnostic Workup of Axial Spine Pain	
Metabolic Bone Considerations for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery	
Anterior Lumbar Exposures in the ASC, Keys to Success	
Awake Spine Surgery: What I've Learned	
Recent Advances in Neuromonitoring of the Lumbar Plexus	
12:25–1:15 PM	Lunch with Exhibits Lunch Workshops Early Career Surgeon Lunch Workshop
Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6: Free Papers (CME Accredited)	
1:15–2:35 PM	
2:35–3:05 PM	Refreshment Break

“Excellent, very educational.”
—2024 Attendee

Scientific Program *continued*

Session 7: Presidential Address, Keynote, and Awards Non-CME	
3:05–4:45 PM	
Presidential Address	
Keynote Presentation	
Acknowledgement of 2025 Research Grant Award Recipients	
Final Reports from 2023 Research Grant Award Recipients	
1-Year Update from 2024 Research Grant Award Recipients	
2025 Traveling Fellowship Recap and Awards	
Session 8: Endoscopic Spine Surgery: Handling the Learning Curve and Advancing the Field Non-CME	
4:45–6:30 PM	
Starting Up an Endoscopic Program: A \$10 Million Dollar Proposal	
Never Too Late to Learn Endoscopy: Perspectives from a Deformity Surgeon	
Pushing the Limits of Endoscopy	
Things I've Learned Through Cervical Endoscopy	
Future of Endoscopy and Where It Is Headed	
Technology Update	
Rapid Fire Debates in Spinal Endoscopy	
The Economics of Endoscopy	
Portal Wars: The Uni vs. Biportal Debate	
6:30–7:30 PM	Reception with Exhibits

*“Well done.
It is always interesting to
see the variety of practice
types and the emphasis
of the practices.”
—2024 Attendee*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:30–8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
Session 9: Surgeon Preservation (Things You Want to Know but Are Afraid to Ask) (CME Accredited)	
8:00–9:30 AM	
What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger	
Case Complication: A Patient Was Harmed	
I Was Sued and Lived to Tell the Tale	
I Failed Boards	
I Changed Jobs Early in My Career	
Your Body, Your Health	
Ergonomics	
Radiation Safety	
Juggling Academia, Clinical Care, Research, Leadership in National Societies and Family Life at Home	
Staying Sane	
Living Well	
Concurrent Sessions 10 & 11: Free Papers (CME Accredited)	
9:30–10:30 AM	
10:30–12:00 PM	Women in Spine Brunch
10:30–11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
Session 12: Lateral Surgery Non-CME	
11:00–12:25 PM	
Complications and Pitfalls	
Luiz Pimenta, MD Lateral Spine Surgery Innovation Award	
Approach Side Choice: How to Choose a Side and Managing Complications Pseudohernia, Thigh Pain, Hematoma	
Complications Happen: Quad Palsy, Vascular Injuries, Bowel Injured	
Neuromonitoring in Anterolateral Lumbar Interbody Fusion—How Should We React to Signal Changes?	
Deformity and Advanced Techniques	
Revision TLIF and Prone Lateral	
Lateral Corpectomy: TL Junction and Beyond	
Multilevel Lateral for Deformity: Where Are We Today?	
Addressing the Focal Problem vs. Correcting the Larger Deformity	
Expandables and Surface Tech in Lateral Interbody Fusion	
1:00–6:30 PM	Lab of the Future

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Registration

Scientific Program Registration Fees

Registration Type	Early By September 5	Onsite After September 5
Surgeon	\$775 (member) \$900 (non-member)	\$875 (member) \$1,000 (non-member)
Advance Practice Providers	\$425 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$525 (member) \$675 (non-member)
Resident/Fellow/Medical Student	\$425 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$525 (member) \$675 (non-member)
Surgeon-Emerging Country*	\$475 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$475 (member) \$575 (non-member)

*Practice in Lower or Lower-Middle Income Country as defined by the World Bank

Optional Lab of the Future Registration fees

Lab registration is an optional add-on with Annual Forum scientific program registration.

Registration Fee: \$250

“Fantastic course.”
—2024 Attendee

Register Here



Hotel Accommodations



LOCATION

The Bellagio | 3600 S Las Vegas Blvd | Las Vegas, NV 89109



RESERVATIONS PROCEDURE

Make your reservations by:
September 5, 2025

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

Or call toll-free: 888-987-6667



ROOM RATES

Wednesday, October 1st and Thursday, October 2nd
Resort Room: \$219
(+taxes and daily resort fee)

Friday, October 3rd and Saturday October 4th
Resort Room: \$492
(+taxes and daily resort fee)

The discounted rates may not be available after September 5th or if our room block sells out. Please reserve your room early to ensure availability.



CME Information

Learning Objectives

As a result of this activity, the participant should be better able to:

- Discuss the business and administrative aspects of spine surgery including evaluating various career pathways and understanding how to mitigate legal and financial risks related to private equity and malpractice in spine surgery.
- Explore innovations and new techniques in minimally invasive spine surgery including prone lateral approaches, augmented reality, robotics, and endoscopy, and how to effectively incorporate them into clinical practice.
- Evaluate advances in motion preservation and regenerative therapies.
- Identify strategies for managing professional challenges, enhancing ergonomics and radiation safety, coping with legal and personal adversity, and maintaining physical and mental wellness.

Target Audience

This course is designed for orthopaedic and neurological surgeons, fellows, and residents.

Joint Providership

This program is jointly provided by Medical Education Resources, Inc. and SMISS.



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

Physician Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Medical Education Resources (MER) and SMISS. MER is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Physician Credit

MER designates this live activity for a maximum of 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Medical Education Resources ensures balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all our educational activities. In accordance with this policy, MER identifies conflicts of interest with its instructors, content managers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of an activity. Conflicts are resolved by MER to ensure that all scientific research referred to, reported, or used in a CME activity conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, and analysis. MER is committed to providing its learners with high-quality CME activities that promote improvements or quality in health care and not the business interest of an ineligible company.

FDA (United States)

Some drugs and medical devices demonstrated during this course have limited FDA labeling and marketing clearance. It is the responsibility of the physician to be aware of drug or device FDA labeling and marketing status.

Commercial Support

Various medical companies have been invited to exhibit and provide grants for this course. Full disclosure of financial and other support will be provided in the course materials.

“Love this meeting!”
—2024 Attendee

Disclaimer

SMISS, MER, and BroadWater disclaim any and all liability for injury or other damages resulting to any individual attending a scientific meeting and for all claims that may arise out of the use of techniques demonstrated therein by such individuals, whether these claims shall be asserted by a physician or any other person.

For Information or Assistance

Society for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery c/o BroadWater | (630) 681-1040 | rgiven@broad-water.com | www.smissmeeting.org