



NASS 24TH ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10-14, 2009 . SAN FRANCISCO, CA

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
November 12, 2009 at 9:00 am EST
North American Spine Society
Lindsay Law Murphy
(202) 494-6580 llaw@spine.org

The North American Spine Society and *The Spine Journal* Announce 2009 Outstanding Paper Award Winners, Editors' Choice Award

San Francisco, CA - The North American Spine Society (NASS) and *The Spine Journal* (TSJ) today announced the 2009 Outstanding Paper Award (OPA) winners at NASS' 24th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. NASS created the OPAs in 1989 to recognize excellence in unpublished research in spine care, taking into consideration three major disciplines: Basic Science, Surgical Science and Medical & Interventional Science. *The Spine Journal*, which publishes the winning papers, began co-sponsoring the awards in 2001.

Submissions for OPA consideration are accepted from any spine care professional. All submissions are reviewed by a committee with representation from TSJ and NASS. All entries are considered for publication in TSJ. OPA winners receive \$10,000 and the winning articles will be published in the January issue of TSJ.

2009 Outstanding Paper Award winners include:

Outstanding Paper – Medical & Interventional Science

Challenging the cumulative injury model - Positive effects of greater body mass on disc degeneration: *Tapio Videman, MD, DMedSci; Laura E. Gibbons, PhD; Jaakko Kaprio, MD, PhD; Michele C. Battié, PhD*

Outstanding Paper - Surgical Science

Analysis of instrumentation/fusion survivorship without reoperation following primary posterior multiple anchor instrumentation and arthrodesis for idiopathic scoliosis: *Marc A. Asher, MD; Sue Min Lai, PhD; Douglas Burton, MD*

Outstanding Paper - Basic Science

BMP-2 used in spinal fusion with spinal cord injury penetrates intrathecally and elicits a functional signaling cascade: *Anton E. Dmitriev, PhD, MSc; Suzanne Farhang, BSc; Ronald A. Lehman Jr, MD; Geoffrey S. Ling, MD, PhD; Aviva J. Symes, PhD*

Additionally, NASS and TSJ today presented the second annual **Editors' Choice Award** to Anne G. Copay, PhD; Steven D. Glassman, MD; Brian R. Subach, MD; Sigurd Berven, MD; Thomas C. Schuler, MD; Leah Y. Carreon, MD, MSc for their paper: *The minimum clinically important difference in lumbar spine surgery patients: a choice of methods using the Oswestry Disability Index, MOS Short Form 36, and Pain Scales.*

Last year's 23rd Annual Meeting in Toronto marked the first time NASS and *TSJ* offered an Editors' Choice Award to recognize the top-rated paper of a volume year. All manuscripts printed in 2008 were in contention for this year's award, decided by *TSJ* deputy editors and the editor-in-chief. The winning paper was published in the November/December 2008 issue of *TSJ*.

About NASS

The North American Spine Society (NASS) is a multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidence-based, and ethical spine care by promoting education, research, and advocacy. NASS is comprised of more than 5,500 members from several disciplines including orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, physiatry, neurology, radiology, anesthesiology, research, physical therapy and other spine care professionals. For more information, visit www.spine.org.

About *The Spine Journal*

The Spine Journal, the official journal of NASS, is an international and multidisciplinary journal that publishes original, peer-reviewed articles on research and treatment related to the spine and high-quality, ethical, evidence-based spine care, including basic science and clinical investigations. For more information, visit www.thespinejournalonline.com.

About NASS' 24th Annual Meeting

NASS' 24th Annual Meeting is being held in San Francisco, November 10-14, 2009, at the Moscone Center South. For more information, or to view press releases related to the meeting, please visit [NASS' Annual Meeting Web site](#).