



# NASS 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 10-14, 2009 . SAN FRANCISCO, CA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11/19/09

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## North American Spine Society Concludes 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Francisco

*Conference attracts record attendance*

BURR RIDGE, Ill. — The North American Spine Society (NASS), a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to advancing the highest quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care, held its 24th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Nov. 10-14, 2009 at the Moscone Center South. NASS hosted a record setting crowd of 3,973 attendees from 52 countries and showcased 290 exhibiting companies.

This year's program featured 119 podium presentations; 94 focused paper presentations; 173 e-posters; nine symposia led by world-renowned spine experts; eight pre-meeting workshops, including technique workshops, led by distinguished faculty; eight dynamic Special Interest Group discussions; and sessions for allied health professionals. Attendees also enjoyed dynamic presentations by renowned author David McCullough and Stephen Ondra, MD - a NASS member and senior policy advisor on health affairs in the Obama administration.

The following are highlights from NASS' 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

**11/10/09**

### North American Spine Society Launches New Patient Education Web Site

*KnowYourBack.org a leading source for information related to back pain*

The North American Spine Society (NASS) is pleased to announce the launch of its new consumer Web site. Launched at NASS' 24th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, [www.knowyourback.org](http://www.knowyourback.org) continues the Society's dedication to providing patients with credible health information related to the causes, treatment and prevention of neck and back disorders. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/10/09**

### North American Spine Society Responds to Health Care Reform Efforts on Capitol Hill

The North American Spine Society (NASS), as a member of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, recently sent a letter to House leaders in response to key provisions within H.R. 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act" and H.R. 3961, the "Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act." [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

### Ray Baker, MD, Elected President of the North American Spine Society

Ray Baker, MD, today began his term as 2009-2010 President of the North American Spine Society (NASS). Baker is the first anesthesiologist in NASS' history to serve as President. The transfer of presidency took place at the Society's 24th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**Spinal cord injuries are complicated by ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament**

Results of a multicenter study demonstrated an alarmingly high prevalence of ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament (OPLL) in spinal cord injuries without bone injury. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**Surgery yields good results in patients with symptomatic cervical spondylotic myelopathy**

Surgery is an effective treatment option for patients with symptomatic cervical spondylotic myelopathy (CSM), according to results of a multicenter, prospective cohort study. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**ACDF procedure probable cause of postoperative dysphagia**

Although dysphagia is common after anterior cervical decompression and fusion (ACDF), few prospective studies have examined its severity and incidence. Further, those studies that have been performed have been limited by the lack of a control group or a retrospective design. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**Allograft shape does not influence clinical outcomes after ACDF**

Researchers have found that lordotically shaped allografts did not increase cervical/sagittal alignment or improve outcomes. What was important was maintaining a consistent segmental sagittal alignment or increasing segmental lordosis. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**Balloon kyphoplasty an effective and safe early treatment for acute vertebral compression fractures**

Results of the international, multicenter, randomized controlled clinical study, the Fracture Reduction Evaluation (FREE) trial, showed that balloon kyphoplasty improved patients' quality of life and reduced back pain and disability. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/11/09**

**North American Spine Society Announces 2009 Recognition Award Winners**

The North American Spine Society (NASS) today announced the 2009 Recognition Award Winner recipients. NASS established three awards to recognize unique and outstanding contributions to the field of spine care and research: The Leon Wiltse Award, the Henry Farfan Award, and the David Selby Award. All of the awards were named for founding members of NASS who not only made outstanding contributions to the field of spine care and research, but also played key roles in the early success of the Society. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/12/09**

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

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. [View the full press release.](#)

**11/13/09**

**NASS Awards 2009 Research Grant and Clinical Traveling Fellowship Winner**

The North American Spine Society (NASS) today announced the recipients of the 2009 research funding grants and fellowship awards. Based on the recommendations of the NASS Research Project Management Committee, \$54,993.86 was awarded at NASS' 24th Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

[View the full press release.](#)

NASS will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL on October 5 – 9, 2010.

**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](http://www.spine.org).

**About NASS' 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

NASS' 24th Annual Meeting was 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](#).