

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

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Neel Anand, MD            | Brian Kwon, MD           |
| Hyun Bae, MD              | Sheeraz Qureshi, MD, MBA |
| Isaac Moss, MD, MAS, FRCS | Stephen Ryu, MD          |
| Gregory Mundis, Jr., MD   | Michael Wang, MD         |
| Paul Park, MD             |                          |

## Annual Forum Directors

Victor Chang, MD  
Brandon Hirsh, MD  
Elizabeth Lord, MD  
Jang W. Yoon, MD

## International Directors

Jin-Sung Luke Kim, MD, PhD  
Yoshihisa Kotani, MD, PhD

## 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            | Andrew Vivas, MD       |
| Peter Derman, MD     | Adam Kanter, MD            | Don Park, MD             | Corey Walker, MD       |
| Robert Eastlack, MD  | Roland Kent, MD            | Theresa Pazonis, MD      | Denise Walt, MD        |
| Kurt Eichholz, MD    | Chris Kepler, MD           | John Pelozo, MD          | Theresa Williamson, MD |
| Rick Fessler, MD     | Patrick Kim, MD            | Frank Phillips, MD       | Michael Yang, MD       |
| Kevin Foley, MD      | Jin-Sung Luke Kim, MD, PhD | AJ Rush, III, MD         | Jang W. Yoon, MD       |
| Ray Gardocki, MD     | Sanjay Konakondla, MD      | Stephen Ryu, MD, MS      | Elizabeth Yu, MD       |
| Steven Girdler, MD   | Jean-Christoph Leveque, MD | Andrew Sama, MD          | Jack Zigler, MD        |
| Matt Gornet, MD      | Philip Louie, MD           | Alexander Satin, MD      | Martin Zomaya, MD      |
| Rick Guyer, MD       | Mohammad Macki, MD         | Alok Sharan, 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<br>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



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.



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](http://www.smissmeeting.org) to learn more.

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

**Submit Here**

# Scientific Program

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Session 1: Business of Spine Surgery: Leveraging Your Value Beyond the OR</b> <b>Non-CME</b> |  |
| 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     |
| <b>Session 2: Acquiring New Masteries</b> <b>Non-CME</b> |                                 |
| 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 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Concurrent Session 3: Motion Preservation: The Cutting Edge in Disc Replacement</b> <b>Non-CME</b>  |   |
| 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   |   |
| <b>Concurrent Session 4: Surgery-Adjacent: Regenerative Medicine, Basic Science, and Perioperative Considerations for Spine Cases</b> <b>Non-CME</b> |   |
| 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<br>Lunch Workshops<br>Early Career Surgeon Lunch Workshop |
| <b>Concurrent Sessions 5 &amp; 6: Free Papers</b><br>(CME Accredited)  |   |
| 1:15–2:35 PM   |   |
| 2:35–3:05 PM   | Refreshment Break   |

“Excellent, very educational.”  
—2024 Attendee

# Scientific Program *continued*

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Session 7: Presidential Address, Keynote, and Awards</b><br><b>Non-CME</b>                                     |                                |
| <b>3:05–4:45 PM</b>   |                                |
| 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  |                                |
| <b>Session 8: Endoscopic Spine Surgery: Handling the Learning Curve and Advancing the Field</b><br><b>Non-CME</b> |                                |
| <b>4:45–6:30 PM</b>   |                                |
| 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  |                                |
| <b>6:30–7:30 PM</b>   | <b>Reception with Exhibits</b> |

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

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>7:30–8:00 AM</b>  | <b>Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall</b> |
| <b>Session 9: Surgeon Preservation (Things You Want to Know but Are Afraid to Ask) (CME Accredited)</b>  |  |
| <b>8:00–9:30 AM</b>  |  |
| <b>What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger</b>  |  |
| 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  |  |
| <b>Your Body, Your Health</b>  |  |
| Ergonomics   |  |
| Radiation Safety   |  |
| Juggling Academia, Clinical Care, Research, Leadership in National Societies and Family Life at Home     |  |
| Staying Sane   |  |
| Living Well  |  |
| <b>Concurrent Sessions 10 &amp; 11: Free Papers (CME Accredited)</b>                                     |  |
| <b>9:30–10:30 AM</b>   |  |
| <b>10:30–12:00 PM</b>  | <b>Women in Spine Brunch</b>                 |
| <b>10:30–11:00 AM</b>  | <b>Refreshment Break</b>                     |
| <b>Session 12: Lateral Surgery</b><br><b>Non-CME</b>   |  |
| <b>11:00–12:25 PM</b>  |  |
| 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   |  |
| <b>1:00–6:30 PM</b>  | <b>Lab of the Future</b>                     |

FOLLOW SMISS ONLINE | Connect at [www.smissmeeting.org](http://www.smissmeeting.org) or any SMISS social media outlet.   



# Registration

## Scientific Program Registration Fees

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

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*“Love this meeting!”*  
—2024 Attendee

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## 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](mailto:rgiven@broad-water.com) | [www.smissmeeting.org](http://www.smissmeeting.org)