



CME opportunity

# Pittsburgh Spine Summit

August 7-9, 2025  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by:  
Allegheny Health Network Neuroscience Institute  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



NEUROSCIENCE  
INSTITUTE

Register online at [cme.ahn.org](http://cme.ahn.org)

## Conference overview

The Pittsburgh Spine Summit is an annual meeting devoted to advancing the field of spine surgery through the exposition of relevant spine surgical skills, advanced technologies and complications from master spine surgeons. The program is designed for senior-level residents and early-career spine surgeons from both Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Surgery backgrounds. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and other physicians involved in the care of patients with spinal disease are also encouraged to attend. This will be an in-person hands-on laboratory and didactic event, with the option for attendees to participate in the didactic portion virtually.

The course will consist of:

- Lectures from world-renowned invited faculty discussing their most complicated cases
- Presentation of standard and advanced approaches for the thoracolumbar and cervical spine
- Hands-on cadaver dissection sessions which will expose attendees to and reinforce their knowledge in the latest technology in minimally invasive surgical techniques
- Interactive case review sessions with invited faculty

Every year a host of preeminent surgeons take the stage to discuss their most thought-provoking lessons gained from their surgical experience. Past keynote speakers have included Volker Sonntag, MD; Hansen Yuan, MD; Arthur Steffe, MD; Edward Benzel, MD; and Hamilton Hall, MD.

Intended Audience: neurosurgeons, orthopaedic spine surgeons, residents, medical students, basic science researchers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and others interested in the latest advances in spine surgery.

## Conference objectives

At the end of this course, attendee will be able to

- Practice complex surgical techniques
- Perform implant techniques
- Perform robot assisted procedures
- Describe osteobiologics and usage
- Demonstrate and apply advanced spinal techniques

## CME accreditation

This conference will provide a total of 5.25 hours of education.

Friday: 2.75 | Saturday: 2.50

### Accreditation

Allegheny General Hospital is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Allegheny General Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 5.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### Disclosure Statement

In accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the policy of Allegheny General Hospital, presenters must disclose all relevant financial relationships, which in the context of their presentation(s), could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest, (e.g., ownership of stock, honorarium, or consulting fees). Any identifiable conflicts will be resolved prior to the activity. Any such relationships will be resolved prior to the activity. Any such relationships will be disclosed to the learner prior to the presentation(s).

AHN CME Website

<https://cme.ahn.org>

## **Program Agenda**

### **Thursday, August 7**

#### **Sponsored Resident Surgical Skills Day (Non-CME)**

- 11:00 a.m.      Registration and Sponsored Lunch: Resident and Fellow Support, **Mary Dempsey**  
12:00 –           Hands on Resident Skills Competition  
4:00 p.m.         Reception, Meet the Masters, Hyde Park Steakhouse

### **Friday, August 8**

#### **Sponsored Resident Lectures and Hands-On Cadaver Lab (Non-CME)**

- 6:45 a.m.        Registration  
7:00 a.m.        Breakfast and Sponsored Lecture, **Jeffrey Dick, MD**  
7:30 a.m.        Cadaver Lab Morning Session  
10:45 a.m.       Sponsored Lunch Lecture **Brian Asmussen/Jennifer Serafin**, Magovern Conference Center  
11:30 a.m.       Cadaver Lab Afternoon Session

#### **Official Spine Summit Kickoff**

- 1:35 p.m.       Welcome and Introduction, **Boyle Cheng, PhD**  
1:40 p.m.       Spine Surgery Complications Competition (**CME**), **Daniel Altman, MD/Alexander Yu, MD**  
Complications Talk 1      **John France, MD**  
Complications Talk 2      **Jeffrey Dick, MD**  
Complications Talk 3      **Jakob Godzik, MD**  
Complications Talk 4      **Douglas Orr MD**  
Complications Talk 5      **Douglas Beall, MD**  
2:30 p.m.       Break and Visit Exhibits  
2:50 p.m.       Spine Surgery Complications Competition Continued (**CME**)  
Complications Talk 6      **James Billys, MD**  
Complications Talk 7      **Rani Nasser, MD**  
Complications Talk 8      **Stephen Pirris, MD**  
Complications Talk 9      **Paul Arnold, MD**  
Complications Talk 10      **Don Moore, MD**  
6:30 p.m.       Spine Summit Opening Reception, The Rivers Casino – Fort Pitt Room

**Saturday, August 9**

7:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Cadaver Lab Workshop: Hands on With New Technologies, **Center For Surgical Arts Lab**

**New Technology Lunch Session – Moderator: Alexander Yu, MD, (Non-CME)**

11:30 a.m. State of Spine, **Robin Young, PhD**  
11:45 a.m. Supporting Clinical Trials, **James Ryaby, PhD**  
12:00 p.m. Neuromodulation, **TBD**  
12:15 p.m. The Future Business of Spine, **Marc Viscogliosi**  
12:30 p.m. **TBD, Shawn Adams, MD**  
12:45 p.m. Mechanisms of Action Behind P15, **Jerome Connor, PhD**

1:00 p.m. Break and transition to Auditorium

**Motion Preservation – Moderator: Alexander Yu, MD/Daniel Altman, MD (CME)**

1:20 p.m. An Update on Long-Term Clinical Trial Outcomes for Cervical Motion Preservation Devices, **Gordon Mao, MD**  
1:30 p.m. Cervical Deformity, **Rani Nasser, MD**  
1:40 p.m. Posterior Devices, **Daryn Cass, MD**  
1:50 p.m. PJK: Hybrid?, **John France, MD**  
2:00 p.m. Rod Bending, **Jeffrey Dick, MD**  
2:10 p.m. Segmental Plaining and Hybrid Cervical Surgery, **Ryan Johnson, MD**  
2:20 p.m. Sagittal Balance in View of the Era of Motion Preservation, **Douglas Orr, MD**

2:30 p.m. Break and Visit Exhibits

**Endoscopic Spine from A to Z – Moderator: Ryan Sauber, MD (CME)**

2:50 p.m. The Role of MIS Procedures in Maximally Invasive Spine Surgery, **John France, MD**  
3:00 p.m. Starting an Endoscopic Practice, **Ryan Sauber, MD**  
3:10 p.m. Midcareer Surgeons Can Join the Endoscopic Spine Surgery Wave, **Stephen Pirris, MD**  
3:20 p.m. Biomechanics of Endoscopic Spine, **Lisa Ferrara, PhD**  
3:30 p.m. Who Wore it Best (Injections)?, **Douglas Beall, MD**  
3:40 p.m. Total Eclipse of the Disc, **Matthew Myntti, PhD**  
3:50 p.m. Panel Discussion

4:00 p.m. Break and Visit Exhibits

**Degenerative Disk Disease: – Moderator: Douglas Orr, MD (CME)**

4:20 p.m. Single Site Experience, **Alexander Yu, MD**  
4:30 p.m. Research Coop, **Robin Young, PhD**  
4:40 p.m. PnD in Spinal Applications, **Brett Schlifka, MD**  
4:50 p.m. Intradiscal Therapies for the Future, **Chad Stephens, DO**  
5:00 p.m. Pathomechanics of Early-Stage Lumbar Intervertebral Disc Degradation Leading to Discogenic Pain,  
**Thomas Hedman, PhD**

5:10 p.m. Closing Remarks, **Boyle Cheng, PhD**

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Closing Reception, The Warhol Museum

## Conference Director



**Boyle Cheng, PhD**  
Director of Translational Research  
Neuroscience and Orthopaedic Surgery  
Allegheny Health Network

## Conference Co-directors



**Alexander Yu, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery  
Allegheny Health Network



**Daniel T. Altman, MD**  
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Allegheny Health Network

## Invited Faculty



**Paul Arnold, MD, FACS, FAANS**  
Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery  
Carle Illinois College of Medicine  
Urbana, Illinois



**Jakub Godzik, MD**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Douglas Beall, MD**  
Clinical Radiology of Oklahoma  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



**Ryan Johnson, DO**  
Carle Neuroscience Institute  
Urbana, Illinois



**James Billys, MD**  
University of Florida  
Tampa, Florida



**Gordon Mao, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Indiana University Health Neuroscience Center  
Indianapolis, Indiana



**Daryn Cass, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Neurological Surgery  
Loyola University  
Chicago, Illinois



**Don Moore, MD**  
Associate Professor Orthopaedic Surgery  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri



**Jeffrey C. Dick, MD**  
Expert Physician Evaluations  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



**Rani Nasser, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Cincinnati, Ohio



**Lisa Ferrara, PhD**  
Hypoid Ventures, LLC  
Hendersonville, North Carolina



**Douglas Orr, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Orthopaedic  
Surgery Cleveland Clinic, Center for  
Spine Health Cleveland, Ohio



**John France, MD**  
Professor and Vice Chairman  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, West Virginia



**Stephen Parris, MD**  
Neurological Surgery  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida



**Brett Schlifka, DO, FACS**  
Neurological Surgery  
Jupiter Medical Center  
Jupiter, Florida



**Robin Young, PhD**  
Publisher Emeritus  
Orthopedics This Week  
Portland, Oregon



**Chad Stephens, DO**  
Interventional Pain Management and Sports Medicine  
Nobile Pain Management & Sports  
Southlake, Texas

## Allegheny Health Network Faculty



**Jody Leonardo, MD**  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Director, Residency Program



**Ryan Sauber, MD**  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery



**Daniel Myers, MD**  
Department of Neurosurgery



**Matthew Shepard, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery



**Michael Patterson, MD**  
Anesthesiology/Pain Management



**Alexander Whiting, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery



**Richard Prostko, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery



**Chen Xu, MD**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery

For more information or to register, email:

[Michele.birgelen@ahn.org](mailto:Michele.birgelen@ahn.org)

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## Notes