

# University of Toronto Spine Program

*About Us*

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# Program ID

## Inception

2008



## Integration

Department of Surgery:  
( Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery)

Research Efforts:  
(Clinical & Fundamental).



## Vision

Innovation and excellence in the delivery of spine care with a unique collaborative program of clinical expertise, research, teaching, and education.



## Leadership

### Co-Directors:

Dr Michael Fehlings, Professor of Neurosurgery  
Dr Albert Yee, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery



## External Review 2007

Potential Dominant International Force  
Spine Clinical care,



## Visual ID

Website Newsletter,  
Social Media (twitter)



## Membership

Faculty (clinical and Research)  
Program Council  
Education Committee  
Research Committee



# Multidisciplinary Faculty

Henry Ahn MD PhD

Margarete Akens Dr med vet PhD

Carlo Ammendolia DC PhD CCRF

Leodante da Costa MD MSc

James Drake BSE MB BCh MSc FRCSC

Mark Erwin PhD DC

Mahmood Fazl MD FRCSC

Michael Fehlings MD PhD FRCSC FACS FCAHS FRSC (Co-Director)

Peter Ferguson MD MSc FRCSC

Joel Finkelstein MD MSc FRCSC

Michael Ford MD FRCSC

Howard Ginsberg MD PhD FRCSC

Stephen Lewis MD MSc FRCSC

Barry Malcolm MD FRCSC MBA

Eric Massicotte MD MSc FRCSC

Cindi Morshead BSc PhD

Meaghan O'Reilly PhD

Farhad Pirouzmand MD MSc FRCSC

Raja Rampersaud MD FRCSC

Arjun Sahgal BSc MD FRCSC

Molly Shoichet PhD FRSC

Alexander Velumian PhD

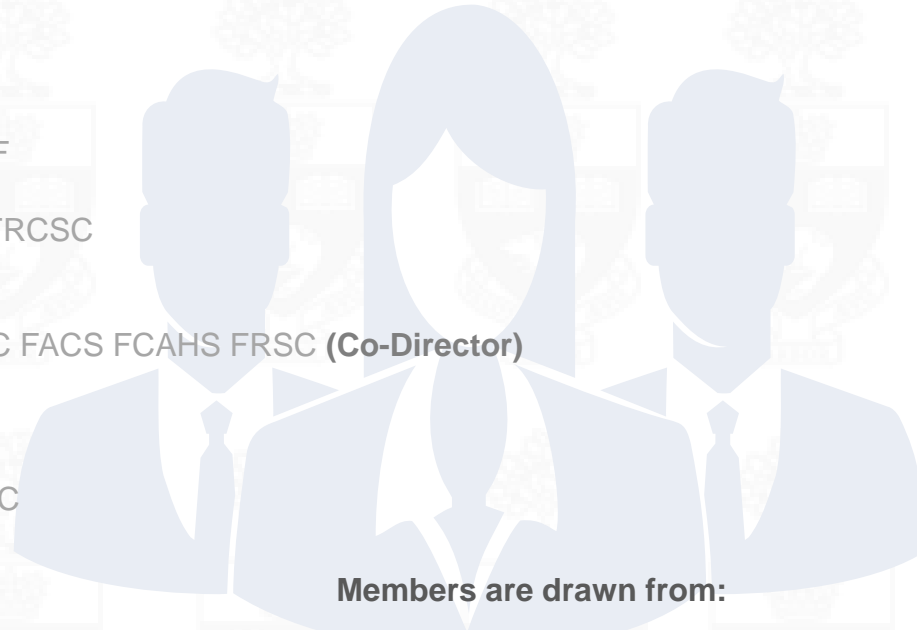
Cari Whyne PhD

Jefferson Wilson MD PhD FRCSC

Albert Yee MD MSc FRCSC (Co-Director)

Karl Zabjek BSc MSc PhD

Reinhard Zeller MD FRCSC



## Members are drawn from:

Neurosurgery and neuroscience, ; Orthopaedic Surgery, Physical Therapy, Health Policy Management and Evaluation, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, Medical Sciences, Psychiatry, Radiation Oncology, Medical Imaging, Medicine, Molecular Genetics, and Pediatrics.

# Collaboration & Outreach

## Citywide Affiliated Hospitals & Research Institutes

- UHN (KRI, PM Cancer Center, Techna, TGHRI, TRI);
- SHSC (SRI),
- SMH (Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, - Keenan Research Center for Biomedical Science
- MSH (LT RI)

## Local & Global Spine Societies

CSS, AOSpine, CSRS, SRS

## Public Health Sector

MOHLTC, TAHSN, LHIN



UofT Spine Program

## Local & Global Clinical Trials

RISCIS, EPOSO, LSS, ISPIRE,

## Research Foundations

ONF, Christopher & Dana Reeves Foundation, Rick Hansen Foundation, wings for life foundation

# Main Affiliated Spine Hospitals

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[Toronto Western Hospital](#)



[Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre](#)

**St. Michael's**

[St. Michael's Hospital](#)

**SickKids**

[Hospital for Sick Children](#)

# Strategic Highlights

## Strategic Planning 2017

- Leadership in education and scholarship
- Optimizing clinical practice and resources in a changing environment
- Advancing spine research and innovation



## Strategic Planning 2014

- Integrating spine care
- Integrating translational research
- Fostering outreach
- Strengthening education offerings



## External Review 2013

Drs. Allan Levi, Gunner Anderson

- Clinical Care: Increased GOV resources towards spine surgeons / elective surgery, Improved triage for acute trauma cases & call schedule
- Research: training & mentorship, data sharing & central REB
- Education: rotation & 2 years fellowship W/ Spine focused area



## Strategic Planning 2010

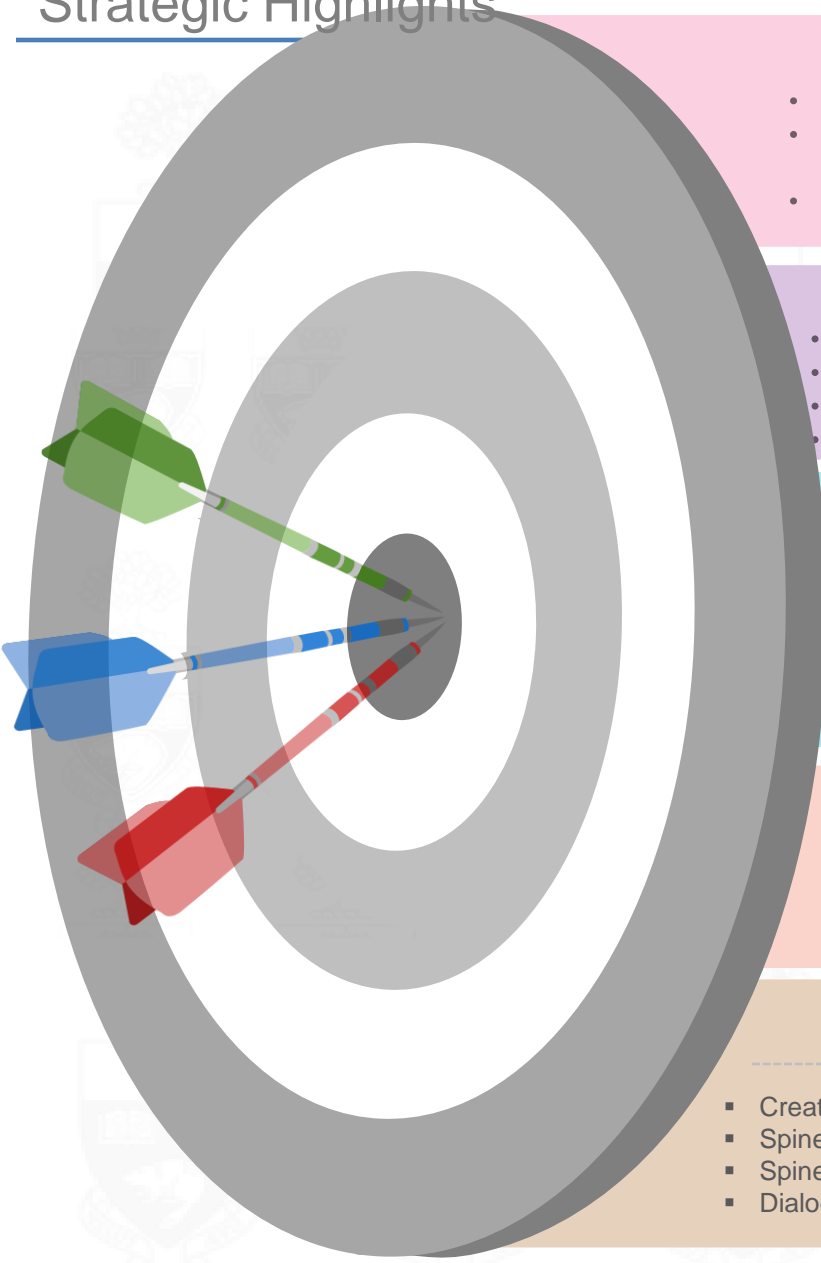
- Improving research, foster collaboration and information exchange, harmonize streamline process, funding & commercialization opportunities.
- Advancing Spine UT spine program to becoming a Centre



## External Review 2007

Drs. Ed Benzel, Gunner Anderson & Hartley Stern

- Create clinical database for all op and non- op
- Spine fellowship program
- Spine division/Program w/ empowered Co-Leaders
- Dialogue W/ MOHLTC & LHIN for improved spine care access



# Accomplishments

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Hospital-Based Visiting Professorship
- SpineFEST & Tator-Hall Lectureship
- Fellow Journal Club
- Surgical Skills courses (Fellows, Residents)
- RC exam Prep course residents
- UofT-GTA Spine Rounds
- UofT & China Symposium:
- Tator-Turnbull SCI Symposium

## ADVOCACY & GLOBAL IMPACT

- Guideline on SCI, DCM
- Time is Spine
- UofT SpineLINK to enhance access for Acute SI at provincial level

## MEMBERS

- Program Council
- Research Committee
- Education Committee
- Fellowship Working Group
- Academic Event Planning Committees

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

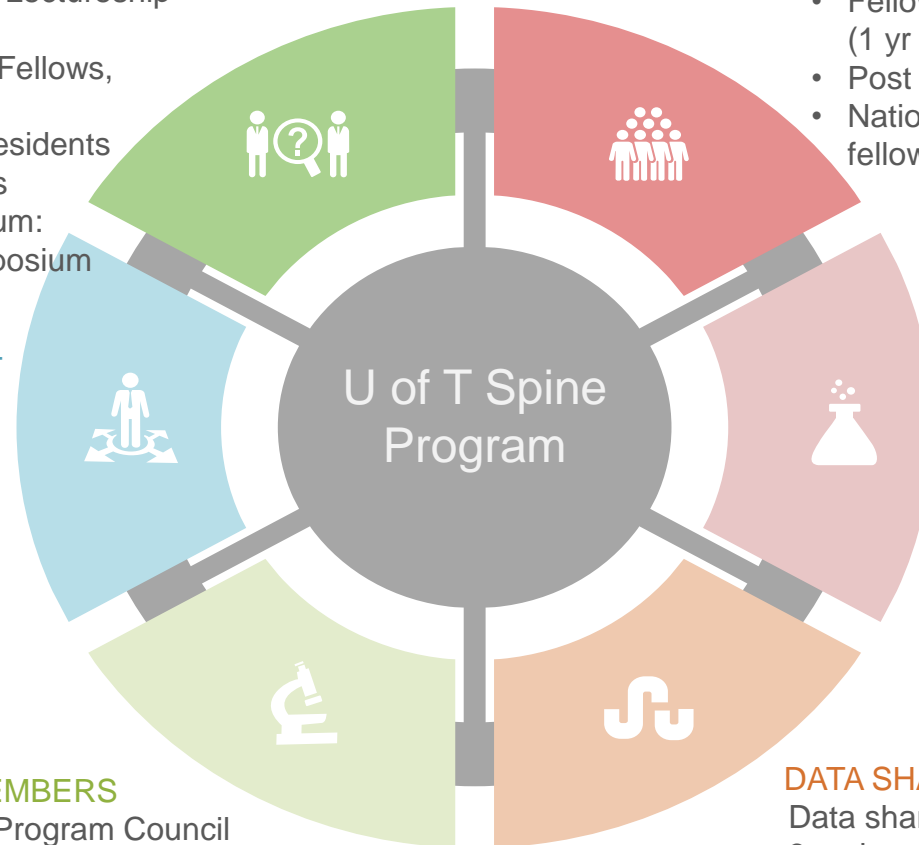
- Fellowship clinical and research (1 yr & 2 yr with subspecialty)
- Post Graduates
- National Competency-Based fellowship training education

## RESEARCH

- Surgeon Scientist Training Program (residents)
- Research fellowship

## DATA SHARING

Data sharing agreement w / 3 main spine hospitals & international centers.  
Riluzole in Spinal cord Injury Study (RISCIS)



# Activities Highlights

## Annual SpineFEST Academic Day

Event	Date	Keynote Speaker	University	Talk Title
SpineFEST	June 19, 2009	Dr. J. Wang	Jeffrey C. Wang, MD Chief, Orthopaedic Spine Service Professor of Orthopaedics and Neurosurgery UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center	"Kinetic MRI Evaluation of the Cervical and Lumbar Spine"
SpineFEST	June 25, 2010	Dr. Edward C. Benzel	Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Cleveland Clinic. He also holds a faculty appointment, Professor of Surgery, at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University (CCLCM of CWRU).	"Development of a Provincial Spine Care Pathway for Saskatchewan"
SpineFEST	June 24th 2011	Dr. Jens Chapman	Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, HansJoerg Wyss Endowed Chair of Spine Surgery, University of Washington	Surviving Cranio-Cervica Injuries
SpineFEST	June 15th 2012	Dr Jean Dubouset	French National Academy of Medicine, . Deformity orthopaedic surgeon- retired professor from University of Paris.	"Importance of the 3D in Spinal pathology, Balance and Treatments"
SpineFEST	June 24th, 2013	Dr Alexander Vaccaro	Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Professor of Neurosurgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	"Medical Errors, Root Cause Anyalysis"
SpineFEST	June 23rd, 2014	Dr. Kenneth Cheung	Jessie Ho Professor in Spine Surgery and the Head of the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, The University of Hong Kong, and the President of The Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons.	"Degeneration and the ageing spine: challenging traditional beliefs"
SpineFEST	Monday 8th, 2015	Dr. Wilco Puel	neurosurgeon and clinical epidemiologist at the Leiden University Hospital (LUMC) and Medical Centre-The Hague (M The Netherlands	"Societal impact & added value of spine surgery"
SpineFEST	June 13th, 2016	Dr Daniel Riew	Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Co-Chief of Spine Division, and Director of Cervical Spine Surgery at Columbia Medical Center	"The Post-operative Patient with Persistent or Recurrent Symptoms"
SpineFEST	June 12th, 2017	Dr Zoher Ghogawala	Chair of Neurosurgery at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center and a Professor of Neurosurgery at Tufts University School of Medicine.	The Search for Truth in Spinal Surgery



# Activities Highlights

## Quarterly Hospital-Based Visiting Professorship

Event	Date	Visiting Professor	University	Talk Title	Hosting Hospital
Visiting professorship	October 16th, 2009	Dr. Satoshi Tani	Tokyo, Japan Jikei University	"Japanese Ways in Spinal Surgery"	SMH
Visiting professorship	October 22nd, 2010	Dr. Charles E. Johnston	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children	"Cervical Spine Abnormalities in Children"	HSC
Visiting professorship	September 9th, 2011	Dr Thomas R Oxland	Prof of Orthopaedics & Mechanical Engineering, University of British Colombia	"The Biomechanical Aspects of Spinal Cord Injury"	SBK
Visiting professorship	May 11th, 2012	Mauro Alini from Switzerland		"Cells for IVD regeneration: Which ones, when and how"	MSH
Visiting professorship	Novmeber, 16th, 2012	Dr Charles Fisher-Vancouver	Associate Professor and Direcotr of the Fellowship and Clinical Research Program in the Division of Spine, Dept of Orthopaedics, University of British Colombia	"The Changing face of Spine Oncology: Contemporary Management and an Innovative Research Model"	TWH
Visiting Professorship	April 25th, 2013	Dr. Alexander Rabchevsky	University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Centre	"Novel Targets for Spinal Cord Injury Therapeutics: Bioenergetic and Autonomic Dysfunctions"	TWH
Visiting professorship	October 18th 2013	Dr Alwin Crawford	University of Cincinnati Medical Center	"The Spine in Skeletal Dysplasia"	HSH
Visiting professorship	April 28th, 2014	Dr David Choi	"The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery		
Visiting professorship	November 21st, 2014	Dr Robert Dunn	Capetown, South Africa	"TB or not to be - spondylodiscitis and beyond"	SBK
Visiting Professorship	October 5th 2015	Professor Yu Liang	Deputy chief, Director Spine Division Dept. of Orthopedics Ruijin Hospital, School of Medicine JiaoTong University Shanghai	"MIS-TLIF for the treatment of spondylosisthesis: Basic techniques and relevant research"	SMH
Visiting Professorship	November 19th 2015	Prof Stefan Parent (Ste Justine-Montreal)	Professor. Dpt of Aurgery, University of Montreal	"A Predictive Model of Progression for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis based on 3D Spine Parameters at the Initial Visit"	HSC
Visiting Professorship	April 4th 2016	Dr John Kostuik	member of our Board of Directors since January 2004, and a co-founder of the K2M (Baltimore)	"The History of Spine Deformity from Ancient India to Today"	TWH

## Contacts

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