

SPINEEFEST

University of Toronto Spine Program 18th Annual Spine Academic Day

Monday, June 1, 2026
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM



PD Dr. med. Klaus Schnake
Head, Centre for Spinal and Scoliosis Surgery
Malteser Waldkrankenhaus St. Marien, Erlangen,
Bavaria, Germany

BMO Education & Conference Centre
60 Leonard Ave



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8:00 - 8:30 AM Breakfast
8:30 - 8:45 Opening Remarks | Dr. Michael Fehlings & Dr. Albert Yee
Greetings from U of T | Dr. Peter Ferguson, Dr. Nir Lipsman, and Dr. Carol Swallow

SESSION I: THE TATOR-HALL VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE | Chair: Dr. Michael Fehlings
8:45 - 8:55 Remarks from Tator & Hall | Dr. Charles Tator & Dr. Hamilton Hall
8:55 - 9:00 Introduction to Keynote speaker (Professor Klaus Schnake) | Dr. Fehlings
9:00 - 9:45 Keynote | Tator-Hall Lecture: Thoracolumbar Spine Trauma: Insights from 15 years of AO Spine Knowledge Forum Trauma research | Dr. Klaus Schnake
9:45 - 10:00 Discussion
10:00 - 10:15 Research Projects (Elevator Pitch) Research Trainees
10:15 - 10:30 AM Coffee Break

SESSION II: SPINE TRAUMA AND SPINAL CORD INJURY | Chair Dr. Michael Fehlings
10:30 - 10:45 DCM vs CCS-- or a Continuum? Challenging Traditional Paradigms in Cervical Cord Injury | Dr. Karlo Pedro - New Faculty
10:45 - 11:00 The management of acute spinal cord injury: Optimizing outcomes | Dr. Jetan Badhiwala
11:00 - 11:15 Updates on the Management of Mild Traumatic and Non Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury" | Dr. Jeff Wilson
11:15 - 11:30 The Evolving Paradigm of Central Cord Syndrome: From Schneider's Original Description to Contemporary Understanding | Dr. Colby Oitment
11:30 - 11:45 Virtual Reality in Spine Surgery Education | Dr. Luke Reda
11:45 - 12:00 PM Coffee Break

SESSION III: SPINE SURGERY FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION SESSION | Chair: Dr. Albert Yee
12:00 - 12:10 Delivering the Royal College AFC Diploma Program in Spine Surgery at U of T | Dr. Albert Yee
12:10 - 12:20 From Concept to National Success: Developing a High-Impact Spine Surgical Skills Course | Dr. Stephen Lewis
12:20 - 12:30 Research Projects (Elevator Pitch) | Research Trainees
12:30 - 13:15 PM Lunch

SESSION IIII: RESEARCH TRAINEE PRESENTATIONS | Chair: Dr. Albert Yee

a. Invited Trainees

13:15 - 13:30 SMART Scheduling: Integrated Machine Learning and Optimization for Comprehensive Operating Room Management | Dr. Aazad Abbas
13:30 - 13:45 Returning Home After Spinal Cord Injury: Days at Home as a Measure of Recovery and Healthcare Value After Traumatic SCI | Dr. Chris Lozano
13:45 - 14:00 Regional Spinal Cord Identity of Neural Stem Cells Promote Optimal Synaptic Function and Motor Recovery Following Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury | Mr. William Brett McIntyre
14:00 - 14:15 Research Projects (Elevator Pitch) Research Trainees

b. Best Abstracts | Oral Presentations

14:15 - 14:30 Impact of Posterior Spinal Fusion for Neuromuscular Scoliosis on Hip Coverage: Three-Dimensional Comparison of Preoperative and Postoperative CT Scans | Dr. Nadav Rinott (1st Place- Clinical)
14:30 - 14:45 Fracture Prediction Using Deep Learning | Ms. Rachel Leung (1st Place- Basic Science)

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

2:45 - 3:00 PM Award Presentation & Closing Remarks | Drs. Fehlings and Yee