AO Spine NA Course – Advanced Concepts in Cervical Spine

June 7, 2024 - June 8, 2024
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

This educational activity takes place over 1.5 days and is designed to provide the orthopedic spine surgeon and neurosurgeon with a comprehensive update on the latest state-of-the-art techniques in the management of cervical myelopathy/deformity which are now a major health problem in the United States. Cervical myelopathy is a condition where the spinal cord in the neck is compressed, affecting the signals from the brain to the body. It can be caused by aging, injury, infection, inflammation, tumors, or congenital narrowing of the spinal canal.

A distinguished faculty will present their experience, techniques and pearls of wisdom regarding current treatments and procedures. The goal of the activity is to provide an update to senior fellows and practicing surgeons along with topics of interest to their practice and the challenges they face. The course will have lectures, case discussions and hands-on synthetic exercises.

Event Summary

Tuition:
Level Name: Participant - Spine
Pricing Tier: Fellow
Tuition: $1,200.00
Level Name: Participant - Spine
Pricing Tier: Attending
Tuition: $1,500.00

Course Prerequisite(s):
No Prerequisites

Venue:
Marriott Downtown at CF Toronto Eaton Centre
525 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Phone Number: 416-597-9200

University of Toronto Surgical Skills Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital
600 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Phone Number: 416) 586-4800
www.uoftssc.com

Language(s):
English

Jointly Provided By:
AO North America

Professional Level Prerequisite(s):
- Fellow
- Practicing

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Provided by AO North America
CME

Continuing Education Credit: AMA

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) mission of AO North America (AONA®) is to provide comprehensive multidisciplinary needs based education to surgeons, fellows, and residents in the specialties of orthopedic, hand, craniomaxillofacial, spine, neurosurgery, and veterinary surgery in the areas of trauma (i.e., operative reduction and fixation), degenerative disorders, deformities, tumors, and reconstruction.

Expected results of AONA’s CME activities for surgeons, fellows, and residents are to:

• Increase their knowledge base and surgical skill level
• Improve competence by applying advances of knowledge in patient care in the areas of trauma, degenerative disorders, deformities, tumors, and reconstructive surgical techniques
• Address practice performance gaps by improving management of aspects of traumatic injuries and musculoskeletal disorders (i.e., pre-operative planning to post-operative care)

Learning Objectives

Upon completion, participants should be able to:

• Apply evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of cervical myelopathy.
• Select the most optimal intervention/treatment plan to address differences in patients, and relevant diagnoses made.
• Demonstrate procedural skills to successfully manage surgical treatment of patients with cervical myelopathy.
• Develop strategies to treat complications related to cervical myelopathy.

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Faculty

Bransford, Richard - Co-Chairperson
MD
Professor
Spine Fellowship Director
Department of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Department of Neurosurgery
Harborview Medical Center
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Rick Bransford is a board certified orthopedist and spine surgeon at the University of Washington working at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. He has been there since 2003 on faculty having done his residency there as well (1996-2001), a spine fellowship also at UW (2001-2002) and then going to Sydney, Australia for a Pediatric Orthopedic fellowship (2002-2003). He is currently a full professor, the spine fellowship director, and head of spine research. He has published about 90 peer-reviewed articles and been involved in over 30 book chapters. Rick grew up in East Africa and started observing surgery with his dad at the age of 6. He still returns to East Africa on a regular basis on a mission and humanitarian basis. Currently Rick is chair of AO Spine North America Education Committee, Chair of the AO TK Cervical Expert Group, and chair of the AO Spine Global Diploma Program. He is also a member of the AO Spine Trauma Knowledge Forum. He is chair-elect of the AO Spine International Education Commission with his term starting in July 2023.

Fehlings, Michael - Co-Chairperson
MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS
Professor of Neurosurgery
Co-Director UT Spine Program
Vice Chair Research, Department of Surgery
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

At the University of Toronto, Dr. Michael Fehlings is Vice Chair Research for the Department of Surgery, Co-Director of the Spine Program, the Robert Carreau-Charles Tator Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research, a Professor of Neurosurgery. Having established a multidisciplinary Spinal Program at Toronto Western Hospital, he combines an active clinical practice in complex spinal neurosurgery with a vibrant, translational-oriented research program. This research focuses preclinically on translationally relevant models of spinal cord and brain injury, including developmental brain injury, and clinically on disorders of the spine/spinal cord. He has developed cervical and thoracic models of spinal cord injury to facilitate translational research. The lab is currently working with induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and neural stem cells (NSCs) with a focus on combinatorial therapies as the most likely way in which stem cells will ultimately be used in a clinical setting. Dr. Fehlings is currently involved in clinical trials of therapies including the sodium blocker, Riluzole, and the use of stem cells in spinal cord injury. With over 1100 highly-cited publications, impacting clinical practice and research directions, he is established as a leading international expert investigating CNS repair and regeneration for brain and spinal cord injury. Dr. Fehlings' scientific impact has been recognized with numerous international awards and with appointments as a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

DeVine, John - Reviewer
MD
Professor
Chief of Spine Surgery
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia

Dr. John Devine is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief of Spine Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia. He is a graduate of F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and completed his orthopaedic residency at Madigan Army Medical Center. Dr. DeVine completed an orthopaedic spine fellowship at The Maryland Spine Fellowship in Baltimore MD. He specializes in conservative and surgical treatment for back and neck pain, degenerative disc disease, pediatric and adult deformity, spine trauma, spine tumors, and reconstructive spine surgery.

Harrop, James - Lecturer
MS, MD
Professor
Division Director, Spine and Peripheral Nerve Surgery
Neuroscience Enterprise Director of Quality Improvement
Departments of Neurological and Orthopedic Surgery
Jefferson Medical College
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Harrop is Professor of Neurological and Orthopedic Surgery at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. He is the Director of the Neurosurgery Department Spine and Peripheral Nerve Surgery Program and Neurosurgical Chief of the TJHU Spine Service. In addition he is the Neurosurgical director of the Delaware Valley Model SCI Center which is designated as one of the nation's 13 Model Spinal Cord Injury Centers by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He has recently completed his Masters in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. (MSHQS) He completed his neurosurgical residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, of which 6-month was a designated rotation in pediatric neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He also completed a combined neurosurgical and orthopedic spine fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in 2002. Dr Harrop’s actively involved in academic research and has over 700 peer-reviewed publications and over 150 chapters on spinal disorders. As well as his research is funded through numerous agencies including NIH, DOD, PICORI, NACTN. He is actively involved in numerous organizations and including PNS, CSRS, LSRS Jim and his wife, Elyse, enjoy traveling with their two children Matthew and Casey.
Jacobs, Brad - Lecturer
MD, FRCSC
Chair, Calgary Spine Program
Associate Professor
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta

Massicotte, Eric - Lecturer
MD, MSc, MBA, FRCSC
Associate Professor, University of Toronto
Medical Director of Back & Neck Program, Altum Health
Co-Director Multidisciplinary Metastatic Spine Clinic
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Massicotte has focused his academic neurosurgical career in Toronto since his faculty appointment in 2002. As an Associate Professor with the University of Toronto, he recently completed an MBA to further advance his role as medical director for Back & Neck at Altum Health a division of University Health Network (UHN). Special interest in education and patient outcome for better delivery of care his collaboration with multiple colleagues have contributed to over 70 publications in peer-reviewed articles and numerous international speaking engagements.

Moore, Tim - Lecturer
MD
Professor
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine
MetroHealth Medical Center
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Moore did his orthopaedic surgery residency at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, orthopaedic spine surgery fellowship at University of Wisconsin Madison and has worked at MetroHealth Medical Center since his fellowship. He specializes in degenerative cervical disorders, spine trauma and general orthopaedic trauma. He is Professor of Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery at Case Western University School of Medicine. He is an active member in CSRS, LSRS, NASS, OTA and is a fellow in AAOS.

Wilson, Jefferson - Lecturer
MD, PhD, FRCS(C)
University of Toronto
Associate Professor
St. Michael's Hospital
Neurosurgeon
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Jefferson Wilson is a surgeon-scientist at St. Michael’s Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto. He currently holds the Labatt Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery at Unity Health. Dr Wilson’s clinical practice is focused on the surgical management of complex disorders of the spine and spinal cord. He also leads a clinical research program investigating both traumatic and non-traumatic spinal cord injury, with a specific interest in the development of predictive models and algorithms to help guide treatment and forecast outcomes. His research has been supported through several grants from organizations including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, AOspine, Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation and the Cervical Spine Research Society. Dr. Wilson currently chairs a national evidence based spine surgery course for residents and fellows and serves on the editorial boards of Journal of Neurosurgery Spine.

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AO NA Disclaimer Information

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Some medical devices used for teaching purposes and/or discussed in AO North America’s educational activities may have been cleared by the FDA for specific uses only or may not yet be approved for any purpose. Faculty may discuss off-label, investigational, or experimental uses of products/devices in CME certified educational activities. Faculty have been advised that all recommendations involving clinical medicine in this CME activity are based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients.

All scientific research referred to, reported or used in this CME activity in support or justification of a patient care recommendation conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

Disclaimer:
AONA does not endorse nor promote the use of any product/device of commercial entities. Equipment used in this course is for teaching purposes only with the intent to enhance the learning experience.

The opinions or views expressed in this live continuing medical education activity are those of the faculty and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or recommendations of AO North America or any commercial supporter. The certificate provided pertains only to the participants’ completion of the course.

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Laboratory Waiver:
To participate in this surgical skills course, you will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to the course. In order to participate, AONA’s policy mandates that every individual must wear appropriate protective garments provided by AO NA during the lab sessions. Participants who do not sign the waiver and wear protective garments will not be allowed to participate in the laboratory sessions.

Human Anatomic Specimens:
This course will involve exposure to and contact with human anatomic specimens. These specimens are being utilized for purposes of teaching and learning and are to be treated with the utmost respect. Participants should be familiar with and understand the potential risks involved and will be required to observe all customary safety procedures.

Acknowledgment

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