

Spinal Research Foundation’s “Regional Research Partners” Selection Process

The Spinal Research Foundation’s mission is to promote research and education in the field of spinal disorders. The Foundation has made a significant effort to identify spinal health care organizations who embrace excellence in both research and education. The purpose is to establish regional research partners to serve as role models for other health care organizations so as to improve the overall quality of spinal health care and spinal research throughout the United States. The Spinal Research Foundation identifies outstanding centers of non-operative and/or operative spinal health care. This is accomplished through recommendations from previously identified centers, patient referrals, and recommendations by other spinal specialists. A combination of both lay and professional referrals is utilized. The centers are then evaluated for their dedication to excellence in spinal health care, to continuing medical education, as well as to active involvement in spinal research programs.

The Spinal Research Foundation’s screening process involves an evaluation of the credentials of the physicians at each center including evaluating their education residency training, fellowship training, board certification, and current practice standings with the State Board of Medicine. There is an assessment of medical publications, lectures, and leadership status in national organizations. An interview with a member of the Spinal Research Foundation’s Board of Directors is mandatory prior to final selection. Finally, the Spinal Research Foundation’s Selection Committee votes for acceptance and a unanimous decision is required for acceptance into the “Regional Research Partners” represented by the Spinal Research Foundation.

The surgeons who comprise the centers included in this come from both academic and private practice settings with the ability to treat patients with the most advanced surgical and nonsurgical techniques. They are also able to perform outcome studies, outcome data collection, as well as conduct IRB approved research approved research programs.

Developing a network of superior quality research oriented, education oriented, and clinically oriented centers in a cohesive network will enable the Spinal Research Foundation to prospectively accumulate patient outcomes data to validate contemporary spinal treatment and determine the optimal way to treat spinal disorders. The centers with the appropriate caliber surgeons, non-operative physicians, research personnel, and educational focus, are deemed Spinal Research Foundation’s Regional Research Partners. This will enable them to help educate other health care providers and guide them in the best appropriate treatment options and techniques. Furthermore, this process allows us to identify the physicians who are willing to dedicate their time and efforts to furthering the cause of the Spinal Research Foundation.