



21st Annual Meeting
Korean American Spine Society
July 9-11, 2026
Preliminary Program

THURSDAY, JULY 9

1:30 pm Registration and Meet & Greet

Session 1: Advances in Degenerative Spine Surgery, with Case Presentations

- 2:00 – 2:04 Welcome
- 2:05 – 2:14 Motion Preservation in the Cervical and Lumbar Spine: When to Refuse to Fuse
- 2:15 – 2:24 Approaches for Thoracolumbar Pathology: Staged versus Single-Setting Surgery
- 2:25 – 2:34 How and Why I Use Navigation, Robotics, and AI-Assisted Spine Surgery
- 2:35 – 2:44 Discussion
- 2:45 – 2:54 Minimally Invasive Approach for Deformity Correction
- 2:55 – 3:04 Revision Spine Surgery Using Novel Techniques
- 3:05 – 3:14 Impact of Biologics and Bone Health Optimization Strategies
- 3:15 – 3:29 Discussion

Session 2: Complication Management - Do Not Do What I Did, with Case Presentations

- 3:30 – 3:39 Failure of New Technology: When Innovation Backfires
- 3:40 – 3:49 Infection After Spine Surgery: Salvage Strategies
- 3:50 – 3:59 Lessons Learned from My Implant Failure and Pseudarthrosis
- 4:00 – 4:09 Neurological and Vascular Complications: How to Avoid the Worst-Case Scenario
- 4:10 – 4:29 Discussion

4:30 Refreshment Break and Meet & Greet

Session 3: Abstracts

- 5:00 Abstracts
- 6:00 Adjourn and Welcome Reception
- 7:00 Early Career Surgeon Dinner



21st Annual Meeting of KASS | July 9-11, 2026

FRIDAY, JULY 10

6:00 am Coffee with Meet & Greet

Session 4: The Business of Spine Surgery: Reimbursement Models, Practice Management, and Cost Containment

6:30 – 6:34	Welcome
6:35 – 6:44	Understanding the Modern Reimbursement Models: How Do These Models Affect My Surgical Decision-Making Process?
6:45 – 6:54	Managing Denials, Prior Authorizations, and Payer Audits
6:55 – 7:04	Negotiating with Hospitals and Industry Partners (Implant Pricing, Vendor Contracts, Service Line Agreements, and Gainsharing Programs)
7:05 – 7:14	Discussion
7:15 – 7:24	Cost Drivers in Spine Surgery: Where the Money Really Goes (Implants, Length of Stay, Readmissions)
7:25 – 7:34	Building a Sustainable Spine Practice in Cost-Constrained Environment with ASC Utilization
7:35 – 7:44	Discussion

Session 5: Career Development in Spine Surgery (Family Welcome Session)

7:45 - 7:54	Avoiding Burnout and Building Career Longevity: It Is a Marathon, Not a Sprint.
7:55 – 8:04	Choosing Your Career Path: Academic, Private, or Hybrid. Would I Do It Differently?
8:05 – 8:14	Mentorship, Leadership, and Partnership: Building a Professional Network
8:15 – 8:24	Work-life integration and Balance: Role of Family and Support Systems
8:25 – 8:35	Discussion

8:35 Family Breakfast with Meet & Greet



21st Annual Meeting of KASS | July 9-11, 2026

Session 6: Invited International Faculty – Korean Spine Surgeons

- 9:30 – 9:39 Evolution of Endoscopic Surgery in Korea: Techniques, Outcomes, and Global Impact
- 9:40 – 9:49 Case discussion: When to perform anterior decompression/fusion vs. laminoplasty vs. laminectomy/fusion for management of OPLL
- 9:50 – 9:59 Panel discussion: Spine surgery training in Korea – Differences/similarities and opportunities for collaboration
- 10:00 – 10:09 Discussion
- 10:10 – 10:19 Video presentation of key steps to uniportal endoscopic fusion
- 10:20 – 10:29 Video presentation of key steps to biportal endoscopic lumbar decompression
- 10:30 – 10:39 Video presentation of key steps to endoscopic cervical procedure or thoracic discectomy
- 10:40 – 10:49 Discussion

Session 7: Non-CME Tech Talks

- 10:50 Non-CME Tech Talks
- 11:40 Presidential Address
- 11:50 Closing Comments and Adjourn

Afternoon **Optional Group Activities**

- 6:30 Annual Dinner**



21st Annual Meeting of KASS | July 9-11, 2026

SATURDAY, JULY 11

6:45 am Breakfast with Meet & Greet

Session 8: Endoscopic Spine Surgery – Newest Techniques and Outcomes

- 7:30 – 7:37 Case-based discussion/debate: Is endoscopic decompression better than tubular MIS decompression? 5min each – Endo vs. Tubular
- 7:38 – 7:45 Advancing endoscopic practice: What is the learning curve to expanding indications, ways to accelerate the learning curve, and common pitfalls to avoid?
- 7:46 – 7:53 Management of complications after endoscopic procedure
- 7:54 – 8:03 Discussion
- 8:04 – 8:35 Long-term outcomes of selective decompression in multilevel spondylosis: Does the minimalist option provide durable benefit?
- 8:36 Non – CME Industry Talks
- 9:00 KASS Business Meeting**
- 9:05 Refreshment Break with Meet & Greet**

Session 9: Management of Complex Spine, Deformity, and Spinal Oncology

- 9:35 – 9:44 Deformity – Which radiographic parameters and goals are the most useful for guiding surgical planning?
- 9:45 - 9:54 Deformity – Do you always have to correct the deformity? Indications and pitfalls for selective fusion in the setting of deformity.
- 9:55 – 10:04 Oncology – Separation surgery vs maximal resection for spinal metastasis
- 10:05 – 10:14 Oncology – Management of pathologic fractures with moderate instability: Surgery vs IR procedure (kyphoplasty)?
- 10:15 – 10:24 Discussion

Session 10: Closing Session

- 10:25 Open Discussion on What KASS Should Look Like in the Next 10 Years
- 11:00 Closing Remarks and Adjourn**