

SMISS Annual Forum 26

THE BELLAGIO | LAS VEGAS, NV

Past Wisdom, Future Vision.

SEPT
10-12
2026

September 10-12
Scientific Program

September 12
Lab of the
Future



Neel
Anand, MD



Gregory
Basil, MD



Alexander
Butler, MD



David
Gendelberg, MD



Joshua
Heller, MD, MBA

PRESIDENT

2026 ANNUAL FORUM DIRECTORS

JOINTLY PROVIDED BY:



Forum Highlights

The SMISS Forum gives you practical insights you can immediately use.

Past attendees planned to make numerous changes including:

- “Focus on more MIS and Endoscopic”
- “Changes to my approach in surgical technique”
- “Organizing my academic practice to be more effective”
- “I will be paying extra attention to lumbar lordosis and will likely be incorporating trying out some of the other surgeons tricks in surgery”
- “I will be actively learning percutaneous endoscopic techniques to offer my patients”
- “I would like to push harder to incorporate robotics into my practice”

DON'T MISS:

Stabilizing Chaos:
Minimally Invasive Solutions
For Spinal Trauma

Capture Your Value:
Surgeon Compensation and ASC's
Endoscopy Under Siege: Managing
the Challenges and Challengers

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Frank Phillips, MD

David Polly, MD

Kris Radcliff, MD

Gilad Regev, MD

Jerry Robinson, MD

AJ Rush, III, MD

Stephen Ryu, MD

Rajiv Sethi, MD

Shalin Shah, MD

Ayush Sharma, MD

Grant Shifflet, MD

Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH

Ahilan Sivaganesan, MD

Bill Taylor, MD

Nick Theodore, MD

Luis Tumialán, MD

Timur Urakov, MD

Juan Uribe, MD

Alexander Vaccaro, MD, PhD, MBA

Andrew Vivas, MD

Corey Walker, MD

Michael Wang, MD, MBA

Timmy Wang, MD

Joshua Woodward, MD

Hao Hua Wu, MD

Mark Xu, MD

Michael Yang, MD

Jang Yoon, MD

Elizabeth Yu, MD

SMISS Lab of the Future: A Cutting-Edge Hands-On Experience

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

1:00–6:00 PM
Bellagio Hotel & Casino

Lab of the Future

1:00–1:41 PM	Rotation 1	3:48–4:29 PM	Rotation 4
1:41–1:46 PM	Transition	4:29–4:34 PM	Transition
1:46–2:27 PM	Rotation 2	4:43–5:15 PM	Rotation 5
2:27–2:32 PM	Transition	5:15–5:20 PM	Transition
2:32–3:31 PM	Rotation 3	5:20–6:00 PM	Rotation 6
3:31–3:43 PM	Refreshment Break	6 PM	Adjourn
3:43–3:48 PM	Transition		

Step Into the Future of Spine Surgery

Are you looking to sharpen your skills with cutting-edge technology in a fast-paced, hands-on environment? Don't miss your chance to participate in the SMISS Lab of the Future.

This innovative, non-CME lab experience replaces the traditional cadaveric lab with immersive simulation-based training, empowering you to explore:

- Robotics & Navigation
- Endoscopic Spine Surgery
- Augmented & Virtual Reality

Why Participate?

- **Hands-On Exposure to Emerging Technologies**—Engage directly with next-generation surgical platforms, navigation systems, robotics, and advanced simulation tools in a structured, faculty-guided environment.
- **Practical, High-Yield Learning**—Rotate through focused stations designed to deliver actionable techniques, workflow optimization strategies, and pearls you can immediately integrate into clinical practice.
- **Future-Focused Skill Development**—Evaluate evolving technologies side-by-side, ask candid questions of expert faculty, and position your practice at the forefront of minimally invasive spine surgery.

Participation is limited to 30 surgeons, so secure your spot early and be part of a new chapter in spine surgery education.

You don't want to just hear about it, you want to be part of it!

Registration fee: \$250

A limited number of grants are available. Click [here](#) to apply for a grant. Grant applications are due by July 24.



Applications
Due

Early-Career Surgeon Travel Grant

If you are a resident, fellow, or in the first 3 years of practice, apply today for our SMISS '26 Early Career Surgeon Travel Grant

Choose your preferred path:

Option A: Attend at least two non-CME breakfast or lunch workshop events on Friday, visit at least 10 exhibit booths, and attend the Early-Career Surgeon Reception on Thursday night (6:15–7:15 pm at the Bellagio).

Option B: Attend the SMISS Lab of the Future on Saturday from 1:00–6:00pm and visit at least 10

exhibit booths. Complimentary lab registration provided (\$250 value). Must be willing to stay for the entire lab.

Receive a \$595 travel grant as well as free SMISS membership for 1 year.

[Apply Here](#)

Apply by May 18; notifications sent by June 22.



Submission
Deadline

Call for Abstracts

Submit abstracts relating to current and emerging techniques and technology in MISS

Residents, fellows, and surgeons less than 3 years post-fellowship are encouraged to submit abstracts for consideration for the Early Career Best Paper Award.

[Visit to learn more](#)

Submission deadline:
May 18; notifications sent by June 22.

Scientific Program

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Session 1: Stabilizing Chaos—Minimally Invasive Solutions for Spinal Trauma	
4:15–6:10 PM	
The Often-Neglected Lumbosacral Junction	
Spinal Solutions for Pelvic Fractures	
The Role of Ultrasound: Preserving Segments in SCI	
Getting Fancy with Lateral Corpectomies	
Trauma: The Robot’s Next Frontier	
The Case Against MIS	
8 Screws, Zero Drama: Treating the Ankylosed Spine	
Less Exposure, More Control: MIS Techniques for Unstable Burst Fractures	
Stabilization Without Sacrifice: Motion-Preserving Fixation of C1 Fractures	
Past Wisdom, Future Vision—A Chat with SMISS Founders	

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:00–7:50 AM	Company Breakfast Workshops
Session 2: Fusion, Motion and Muscle	
8:00–9:00 AM	
MIS TLIF: Easy to Learn, Difficult to Master	
LLIF as a Workhorse: Indirect Decompression and Alignment	
MIS TLIF vs LLIF: Moving Past the Obvious	
Avoiding Early Failure in Lumbar MISS	
Biologics in Lumbar MISS: What Actually Changes Outcomes?	
Debate – Personalized Interbody Implants: Fad or Future?	
9:00–9:30 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibits



Session 3: Capture Your Value—Surgeon Compensation and ASC’s	
9:30–10:30 AM	
Current Trends in Spine Surgeon Reimbursement	
Business Basics: Essentials for ASC Success	
Physician Owned Hospitals: What Does the Future Hold?	
Awake Spine Surgery: Current State of the Art	
ALIFs and LDA in the ASC	
It’s a Team Sport! ASC Efficiency and Workflow	
Outpatient Outcomes: Better Than the Hospital?	
Session 4: MIS Deformity	
10:30–11:40 AM	
It’s About the Philosophy, Not the Incision	
Once you cross that line, you’ve left MIS behind	
The Necessity and Advancement for Posterior Instrumentation Systems for MIS Correction of Adult Spinal Deformity	
Stand-Alone or Standing on Thin Ice? The Case for Stand-Alone Laterals in ASD	
MIS-specific nonunion risk, construct stiffness vs fusion biology, and early recognition	
Adopting Protocols and Strategies for MIS Deformity Correction	
Is MIS deformity possible in the community?	
Systems Based Value of MIS Deformity	
11:40 AM–12:40 PM	Lunch with Exhibits Lunch Workshops
Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6: Free Papers	
12:45–2:10 PM	
2:10–2:40 PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibits

“Excellent meeting”
—2025 Attendee

Scientific Program *continued*

Session 7: Keynote, Presidential Interview, Research & Recognition

2:40–4:15 PM

- Keynote Interview
- Presidential Interview
- Acknowledgement of 2026 Research Grant Award Recipients
- Final Reports from 2024 Research Grant Award Recipients
- 1-Year Update from 2025 Research Grant Award Recipients
- 2026 SMISS Traveling Fellowship Recap and Awards

Session 8: Endoscopy

4:20–6:00 PM

- How My Practice Evolved from Simple to Complex Endoscopy
- Cervical Foraminotomy: How It's Changed the Way I View the ACDF Procedure
- Walking Backwards: How I Learned Endoscopy with the Major Goal of Treating Thoracic Pathology
- Lumbar Foraminal Stenosis: I Did It So You Don't Have to
- Why Endoscopy is 'Under Siege'
- Pain Management and Endoscopy: Let's Not Dance Around the Issue
- Social Media and Endoscopy: A Marriage Made in Heaven or the Wrong Road to Take?
- Reimbursement and Endoscopy: It's More Complex Than You Think
- Confessions of a Convert—from Uniportal to Biportal Endoscopy
- In Korea, 'Uniportal vs. Biportal'—Why Endoscopy is King
- Advanced Biportal Endoscopy—Where We Are Headed
- My Experiences of Endoscopy in Iraq—A Model for Adoption
- Real World Endoscopy Experience in the Community

6:00–7:00 PM

Reception with Exhibits



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00–7:30 AM

Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

Session 9: Education

7:30–8:30 AM

- The Challenges of Teaching and Learning MIS
- I Did All Open Surgery in Training—Now What?
- The Ethics of the Learning Curve
- Advancing the Field: Research and Industry Partnership
- Real World Performance Enhancement for Surgeons
- Workplace Hazards and Ergonomics
- Must-Do's for Maximizing Career Longevity

Concurrent Sessions 10 & 11: Free Papers—Rapid Fire

8:30–9:40 AM

9:40–10:10 AM

Refreshment Break with Exhibits

Session 12: Non-OP/Diagnostic

10:10 – 11:30 PM

- Spect CT—How I Use It and Why It's So Critical in Multi-Level Pathology
- MRI Spect—The Modern, Non-Invasive Discogram—How It's Changed My Practice
- Why Advanced Imaging May Actually Lead to Less Rather than More Surgery—A Case for Basivertebral Ablation
- Patient Quality of Life Modeling and AI—How Objective Outcome Assessment Leveraging AI Has the Potential to Create a Paradigm Shift
- AI and Robotics—The Parallels Between Autonomous Driving and Autonomous Surgery - "Cars Will Never Drive Themselves"
- The Robot Will Never Take Our Place—An Argument Against Full Surgical Automation
- AI in the Clinic—Is the Value Proposition There or Is It "Lost in Translation?"
- Gary Kasparov vs. Deep Blue—Who Wins in a Fight Between Surgeon and AI?

Session 13: Enabling Tech

11:30 AM–12:40 PM

- Navigation in 2026: Accuracy, Trust, and Verification
- Robotics Beyond Screw Placement, Workflow, Precision, and Adoption
- Preoperative Planning: Visualization vs. Prediction
- Debate: Augmented Reality: Tool or Toy?
- Robotics and Endoscopy: Incremental Value or Added Cost?
- From Devices to Intelligence: Data as the Enabler

1:00–6:00 PM

Lab of the Future

Registration

Scientific Program Registration Fees

Registration Type	Early By August 14	Onsite After August 14
Surgeon	\$775 (member) \$900 (non-member)	\$875 (member) \$1,000 (non-member)
Advance Practice Providers	\$425 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$575 (member) \$575 (non-member)
Resident/Fellow/Medical Student	\$425 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$575 (member) \$675 (non-member)
Surgeon-Emerging Country*	\$475 (member) \$575 (non-member)	\$575 (member) \$575 (non-member)
Active Duty Military	\$0	\$0
Military Personnel (Guard, Reserve, Retiree)	\$350	\$350
Lab of the Future	\$250	\$250

*As defined by the World Bank. List can be found [here](#).

Optional Lab of the Future Registration Fees

Lab registration is an optional add-on with Annual Forum scientific program registration.

Cost: \$250

For registration and hotel details and a complete list of course policies, visit smss26.eventscribe.net

“Well-balanced meeting”
—2025 Attendee



Hotel Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate for SMISS attendees and exhibitors at the Bellagio Hotel & Casino.



Location

Bellagio Hotel & Casino | 3600 S Las Vegas Blvd | Las Vegas, NV 89109



Reservations Procedure

Make your reservations by:
August 14, 2026

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

Or call toll-free: 888-987-6667



Room Rates

Wednesday, September 8 & Thursday, September 9

Resort Room: \$219

(+taxes and daily resort fee)

Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12

Resort Room: \$419

(+taxes and daily resort fee)

The discounted rates may not be available after September 5th or if our room block sells out. Please reserve your room early to ensure availability.



CME Information

Learning Objectives

As a result of this activity, the participant should be better able to:

- Explore innovations and new techniques in minimally invasive spine surgery including augmented reality, robotics, and endoscopy, and how to effectively incorporate them into clinical practice.
- Apply evidence-based protocols and surgical strategies for MIS deformity correction in clinical practice.
- Describe the rationale, advances, surgical tips, and complications associated with current MISS techniques.
- Describe current best practices for various MISS emerging technologies including robotics and AI
- Analyze surgeon compensation structures within MISS and ASC settings.

Target Audience

This course is designed for orthopaedic and neurological surgeons, fellows, and residents.

Physician Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Medical Education Resources (MER) and SMISS. MER is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Physician Credit

MER designates this live activity for a maximum of 9 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Medical Education Resources insures balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all our educational activities. In accordance with this policy, MER identifies conflicts of interest with its instructors, content managers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of an activity. Conflicts are resolved by MER to ensure that all scientific research referred to, reported, or used in a CME activity conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, and analysis. MER is committed to providing its learners with high-quality CME activities that promote improvements or quality in health care and not the business interest of a commercial interest.

FDA (United States)

Some drugs and medical devices demonstrated during this course have limited FDA labeling and marketing clearance. It is the responsibility of the physician to be aware of drug or device FDA labeling and marketing status.

Commercial Support

Various medical companies have been invited to exhibit and provide grants for this course. Full disclosure of financial and other support will be provided in the course materials.

Disclaimer

SMISS, MER, and BroadWater disclaim any and all liability for injury or other damages resulting to any individual attending a scientific meeting and for all claims that may arise out of the use of techniques demonstrated therein by such individuals, whether these claims shall be asserted by a physician or any other person.

*“Great discussions
and updated materials
reviewed”
—2025 Attendee*
