



## AO Spine NA Course - Principles and Treatment in Spinal Disorders

 May 29, 2026 - May 30, 2026  
La Jolla, California, USA

AO Spine North America Principles courses are intended to address the additional training needs and practice gaps of the orthopaedic and neurological spine residents. This course is designed to offer residents the opportunity to learn the AO principles of anatomic reduction of fracture fragments; stable fixation to ensure proper healing while allowing the surrounding tissue to strengthen; atraumatic surgical technique to preserve the blood supply to the bone fragments and soft tissue; and early, pain-free mobilization so the patient can be returned to function as soon as possible as they apply to spinal surgery. The course will also provide basic exposure to spinal disorders from expert teaching faculty from both orthopaedic and neurological spine surgery.

The modular course format will focus on the spine patient in a conceptual, case study and practical exercise format. Participants in small groups will rotate through each module over the 2-day period.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Enrollment in the Course is limited to orthopaedic and neurological surgery residents.

Method of payment is required at time of registration for late cancellation / no-show fee



## Event Summary

### Tuition:

Level Name: Participant - Spine

Pricing Tier: Resident

Tuition: \$0.00

### Course Prerequisite(s):

No Prerequisites

### Venue:

Hyatt Regency La Jolla

3777 La Jolla Village Drive

San Diego, CA, USA

Phone Number: 858-552-1234

[lajolla.hyatt.com](http://lajolla.hyatt.com)

### Language(s):

English

### Directly Provided by:



### Professional Level Prerequisite(s):

- Residency Year 1
- Residency Year 2
- Residency Year 3
- Residency Year 4
- Residency Year 5
- Residency Year 6
- Residency Year 7
- Residency Year 8
- Fellow

## CME

### Continuing Education Credit: 13.00



- AO North America is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Designation Statement** - AO North America designates this live educational activity for a maximum of 13.00 **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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:

- Perform a complete neurological assessment and identify potentially unstable spinal injuries
- Order appropriate imaging
- Classify the injury according to fracture morphology, instability, and neurological status
- Describe the best operative and non-operative treatment option for each patient based upon the available evidence
- Reduce / Decompress / Stabilize appropriately
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of the principles of bone and soft tissue healing
- Identify the anatomic and biomechanical issues in a spinal fixation
- Collaborate in the rehabilitation plan for the patient
- Identify and manage post-injury and post-operative complications
- Apply psychomotor skills developed during practical exercises into surgical practice

## Agenda

### Day 1

**Friday, May 29, 2026 - 08:00 - 16:30 - (includes breaks, travel-time and meals)**

Schedule	Title	Moderator	Faculty	Room
08:00 - 08:30	Welcome / Course Objectives / AO Spine / Pre-Assessment		Spina, N Zhou, H	
08:30 - 08:40	Travel to Modules			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA		Daffner, S Dailey, A	
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 1: OC-C1 Dislocation			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 2: C2 Fracture (Odontoid)			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE A; CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 3: Cervical Facet Dislocation			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY		Eleswarapu, A Theologis, A	
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 1: Adult Deformity Principles			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 2: Thoracolumbar Kyphosis			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 3: Degenerative Scoliosis with Back and Leg Pain			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA		Karamian, B Menga, E	
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 1: T12 B2 Injury without Deficit			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 2: L1 A3 Injury with Conus Medullaris Syndrome			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 3: T6 C2 Injury			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB		Agochukwu, U Bivona, L Wolinsky, J	
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - A. Cervical Lateral Mass Screws			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - B. C2 Pedicle Screws			
08:40 - 10:10	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - C. C1 Lateral Mass Screws			
10:10 - 10:30	Coffee Break / Travel to Modules			
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA	Daffner, S Dailey, A		
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 1: OC-C1 Dislocation			
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 2: C2 Fracture (Odontoid)			
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE A; CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 3: Cervical Facet Dislocation			
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY	Eleswarapu, A Theologis, A		
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 1: Adult Deformity Principles			
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 2: Thoracolumbar Kyphosis			

10:30 - 12:00	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 3: Degenerative Scoliosis with Back and Leg Pain	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA	Karamian, B Menga, E
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 1: T12 B2 Injury without Deficit	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 2: L1 A3 Injury with Conus Medullaris Syndrome	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 3: T6 C2 Injury	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB	Agochukwu, U Bivona, L Wolinsky, J
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - A. Cervical Lateral Mass Screws	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - B. C2 Pedicle Screws	
10:30 - 12:00	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - C. C1 Lateral Mass Screws	
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch	
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch Lecture: Intradural Tumors	Wolinsky, J
13:00 - 13:10	Travel to Modules	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA	Daffner, S Dailey, A
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 1: OC-C1 Dislocation	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 2: C2 Fracture (Odontoid)	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE A; CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 3: Cervical Facet Dislocation	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY	Eleswarapu, A Theologis, A
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 1: Adult Deformity Principles	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY - Case 2: Thoracolumbar Kyphosis	
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13:10 - 14:40	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA	Karamian, B Menga, E
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13:10 - 14:40	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 3: T6 C2 Injury	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB	Agochukwu, U Bivona, L Wolinsky, J
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - A. Cervical Lateral Mass Screws	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - B. C2 Pedicle Screws	
13:10 - 14:40	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - C. C1 Lateral Mass Screws	
14:40 - 15:00	Coffee Break / Travel to Modules	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA	Daffner, S Dailey, A

15:00 - 16:30	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 1: OC-C1 Dislocation	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE A: CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 2: C2 Fracture (Odontoid)	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE A; CERVICAL TRAUMA - Case 3: Cervical Facet Dislocation	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE B: ADULT DEFORMITY	Eleswarapu, A Theologis, A
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15:00 - 16:30	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA	Karamian, B Menga, E
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15:00 - 16:30	MODULE C: THORACOLUMBAR TRAUMA - Case 3: T6 C2 Injury	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB	Agochukwu, U Bivona, L Wolinsky, J
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - A. Cervical Lateral Mass Screws	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - B. C2 Pedicle Screws	
15:00 - 16:30	MODULE D: CERVICAL SPINE LAB - C. C1 Lateral Mass Screws	

## Day 2

**Saturday, May 30, 2026 - 07:30 - 14:10 - (includes breaks, travel-time and meals)**

Schedule	Title	Moderator	Faculty	Room
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE		Agochukwu, U Eleswarapu, A	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: L4 Disk Herniation			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Degenerative and Isthmic Spondylolisthesis			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE		Bivona, L Menga, E	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: C5/6 Disk Herniation with Radiculopathy (anterior and posterior options)			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Cervical Stenosis with Myeloradiculopathy			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Multilevel Cervical Stenosis with Myelopathy and Kyphosis			
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION		Dailey, A Wolinsky, J	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 1: Hematogenous Osteomyelitis			

07:30 - 08:55	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 2: Metastatic Tumor	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 3: Primary Tumor	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB	Daffner, S Karamian, B Theologis, A
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - A. Lumbar Pedicle Screws	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - B. Thoracic Pedicle Screws	
07:30 - 08:55	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - C. Pelvic Fixation	
08:55 - 09:05	Travel to Modules	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE	Agochukwu, U Eleswarapu, A
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: L4 Disk Herniation	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Degenerative and Isthmic Spondylolisthesis	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE	Bivona, L Menga, E
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: C5/6 Disk Herniation with Radiculopathy (anterior and posterior options)	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Cervical Stenosis with Myeloradiculopathy	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Multilevel Cervical Stenosis with Myelopathy and Kyphosis	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION	Dailey, A Wolinsky, J
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 1: Hematogenous Osteomyelitis	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 2: Metastatic Tumor	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 3: Primary Tumor	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB	Daffner, S Karamian, B Theologis, A
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - A. Lumbar Pedicle Screws	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - B. Thoracic Pedicle Screws	
09:05 - 10:30	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - C. Pelvic Fixation	
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break / Travel to Modules	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE (with lunch)	Agochukwu, U Eleswarapu, A
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: L4 Disk Herniation	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Degenerative and Isthmic Spondylolisthesis	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE (with lunch)	Bivona, L Menga, E

10:50 - 12:15	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: C5/6 Disk Herniation with Radiculopathy (anterior and posterior options)	
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10:50 - 12:15	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 3: Primary Tumor	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB (with lunch)	Daffner, S Karamian, B Theologis, A
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - A. Lumbar Pedicle Screws	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - B. Thoracic Pedicle Screws	
10:50 - 12:15	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - C. Pelvic Fixation	
12:15 - 12:25	Pick up Lunch/Travel to modules	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE	Agochukwu, U Eleswarapu, A
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 1: L4 Disk Herniation	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 2: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE A: LUMBAR DEGENERATIVE DISEASE - Case 3: Degenerative and Isthmic Spondylolisthesis	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE B: CERVICAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASE	Bivona, L Menga, E
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12:25 - 13:50	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 1: Hematogenous Osteomyelitis	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 2: Metastatic Tumor	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE C: TUMOR / INFECTION - Case 3: Primary Tumor	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB	Daffner, S Karamian, B Theologis, A
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - A. Lumbar Pedicle Screws	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - B. Thoracic Pedicle Screws	
12:25 - 13:50	MODULE D: LUMBAR SPINE LAB - C. Pelvic Fixation	

13:50 - 14:10

Post Assessment Test / Closing Remarks

Spina, N  
Zhou, H

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## AO NA Disclaimer Information

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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.

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## Acknowledgment

### In-Kind Support

AO North America gratefully acknowledges in-kind support for equipment and technical staff from J&J MedTech.

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