



## AO Spine NA Seminar - Managing Complications: Clinically, Ethically, and Legally



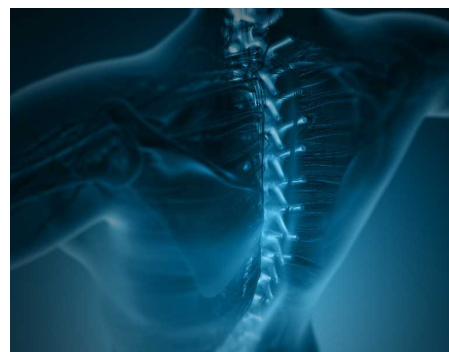
October 6, 2023 - October 7, 2023  
Jacksonville, Florida, USA

Adverse events in spinal surgery happen. Some of these are avoidable and can be attributed to the surgical team and others are merely risks from the procedure. Whether it is preoperative, intraoperative, or postoperative, surgeons need to know how to deal with these complications.

**During this course, a panel of experts will cover complications from clinical, legal, ethical, and psychological perspectives. Topics will include:**

- Clinical approaches to complications
- Avoiding compensable events
- Risk management
- How to prepare for the worst
- Talking with the family

This course has limited enrollment and is open to practicing orthopedic spine surgeons and neurosurgeons. The goal of this course is to discuss in a closed confidential environment the seriously adverse complication cases everyone hears about and never wants to live through.



### Event Summary

**Tuition:**

Level Name: Participant - Spine  
Pricing Tier: Attending  
Tuition: \$950.00

**Course Prerequisite(s):**

No Prerequisites

**Venue:**

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville  
Riverfront  
225 East Coastline Drive  
Jacksonville, FL, USA  
Phone Number: 1-904-588-1234  
www.hyatt.com

**Language(s):**

English

**Directly Provided by:**



**Professional Level Prerequisite(s):**

No Prerequisites

## CME

### Continuing Education Credit: 14.25



- 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 14.25 **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:

- Identify factors that contribute to spinal complications
- Utilize appropriate diagnostic tools to assess complications
- Evaluate the effect of complications on patient health and productivity
- Implement a plan for communication with patients, care givers, risk management and, if necessary, legal counsel
- Identify optimal treatment options and manage treatment to minimize the impact on patient outcomes
- Manage challenges related to complications from a legal perspective
- Apply strategies for communication with patients and care givers
- Recognize and manage legal and ethical obligations related to complications

## Faculty



### Devine, John - Co-Chairperson

MD  
Professor  
Chief of Spine Surgery  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Medical College of Georgia  
Augusta University  
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.



### Schuster, James - Co-Chairperson

MD, PhD  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Sarcoma Treatment Team Member  
Director of Neurotrauma  
Educational Director  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Schuster is Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania and Chief of the Neurosurgery Service at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where he is the Director of Neurotrauma. His clinical and research interest include spinal oncology and spinal trauma.



### Bransford, Richard - Education Advisor

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.



### Agochukwu, Uzundu - Lecturer

MD  
Professor  
Program Director, Orthopaedic Surgery Residency  
Co-Director, Spine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University  
Augusta, Georgia

Dr. Agochukwu is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon specializing in spine surgery. He graduated from Louisiana State University, and received his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Madigan Army Medical Center. During his military service, he was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he had the privilege of taking care of service men and women, to include Army and Air Force elite Special Operation Units. He then completed a spine fellowship in Augusta, Georgia. His clinical interest and research focus centers on minimally invasive spine surgery, motion preservation surgery, as well as deformity and complex spine revision surgery.

**Cheng, Joseph - Lecturer**

MD, MS  
 Frank H. Mayfield Professor and Chair  
 Director, Neurosurgery Spine Fellowship  
 Department of Neurosurgery  
 University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Dr. Cheng completed his Neurosurgical training at the Medical College of Wisconsin along with a post-residency Fellowship in Complex Spinal Surgery. During that time, he has also received a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University with a special emphasis in spinal biomechanics and modeling. His research interests include healthcare policy, outcomes science, spinal biomechanics and modeling, spinal deformity, and minimally invasive spinal techniques. Dr. Cheng is a respected educator and has received a number of awards including being named the 2011 ACS/AANS Health Policy Scholar. He is a fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and American College of Surgeons (ACS) and an active member and leader of many other professional organizations including the AANS/CNS Trauma Section, American Medical Association, AO Foundation, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, North American Spine Society, Wisconsin State Medical Society, and the Tennessee Neurosurgical Society. He is the past Chairperson for the AANS/CNS Joint Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves. Dr. Cheng is currently the Frank Mayfield Professor and Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati, along with being Director of the Neurosurgery Spine Fellowship.

**Chutkan, Norman B - Lecturer**

MD  
 Dr  
 Director of Education  
 The CORE Institute  
 Professor  
 University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix  
 Phoenix, Arizona

**France, John - Lecturer**

MD  
 Vice Chairman and Chief of Spine Surgery  
 Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
 West Virginia University  
 Morgantown, West Virginia

Dr John France is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery at West Virginia University where he also serves as vice chairman of Orthopaedic surgery and chief of spine surgery. He has been at West Virginia University since 1995 after serving as an Orthopaedic surgeon in the United States Air force at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas. His undergraduate degree was from the University of Pennsylvania, medical degree for the University of Pittsburgh, he stayed at the University of Pittsburgh as a General Surgery intern then went to the State University of New York in Buffalo for Orthopaedic residency, and finally did his spine fellowship at the University of Colorado. He is currently an active member and serves on and as chair of committees in the AAOS, SRS, CSRS, OTA, and NASS. He began as AO Trauma faculty in 1993 then was involved in AO Spine from its onset in the mid 1990's. His involvement in the AO has been extensive serving on and as chair of various national and international committees as well as serving as faculty for innumerable courses. He is currently chair of the international faculty development committee. His current practice still includes a significant amount of complex trauma in addition to his tertiary spine practice.

**Linkous, Timothy - Lecturer**

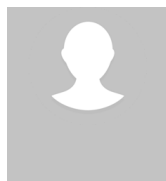
JD  
 Senior Partner and Founder  
 Linkous Law, PLLC  
 Morgantown, West Virginia

Mr. Linkous is the owner of a law firm which focuses on the representation of healthcare providers and healthcare institutions. For the past 25 years, he has successfully represented healthcare providers in multiple contexts, including civil litigation, regulatory matters, peer review, HIPAA compliance, risk management, EMR implementation, contracts, business litigation, and many others. The majority of this representation is in the context of defending healthcare providers in medical professional liability civil actions, and Mr. Linkous has tried numerous cases to verdict using the latest trial technology. Originally from Morgantown, West Virginia, he earned a BA in Political Science and a BA in Education from Denison University, and he received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from West Virginia University, graduating with honors and distinction from both institutions. He enjoys exploring the outdoors and spending time with his wife, Kendra, and their four children.

**Wood, Kirkham - Lecturer**

MD  
 Professor  
 Stanford University  
 Department of Orthopaedics  
 Palo Alto, California

Dr. Wood is a professor of Spine surgery at Stanford University. Trained at Albany Medical School; residency at the University of Pittsburgh, and a two year basic science and clinical spine fellowship at the Twin Cities Spine Center and University of Minnesota. He stayed on as faculty, until 2003 when he became chief of spine service at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. In 2015, he became Professor of Spine Surgery at Stanford University, in Palo Alto, CA.

**Woodard, Eric - Lecturer****MD****Chief of Neurosurgery  
New England Baptist Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts**

Dr. Eric J. Woodard is currently Chief of the Section of Neurosurgery at New England Baptist Hospital (NEBH). In this role he oversees the activities of the Section and is Director of the Neurosurgery spine fellowship. He is a member of numerous professional societies including the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and the Joint section of the AANS/CNS for Spine and Peripheral nerve. He has also served extensively over the last 20 years as faculty, Board member, foundation trustee, and Chairman of the board of AOSpine North America. Dr. Woodard has been a member of the editorial board for The Journal of Spinal Disorders & Techniques and Spine Universe, and is a reviewer for The New England Journal of Medicine and Neurosurgery. Dr. Woodard earned his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University, and completed his Neurological surgery residency at Emory University in Atlanta. His additional training includes a fellowship in complex spine surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee under Dr. Sanford Larson. Prior to joining the Baptist he was Chief of the Division of Spinal surgery in Neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Woodard's past and present research interests include spinal cord injury, adult spinal deformity, disc replacement, and intra-operative imaging. In addition to his work at NEBH, Dr. Woodard was formerly chief medical officer of InVivo Therapeutics, Inc., a medical device company focused on finding solutions for patients with spinal cord injury. He also serves as Chairman of the medical adviser board for Vallum Corporation and as scientific adviser for Launchpad medical LLC.

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## Acknowledgment

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### Educational Grant

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