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## 10 Spine Surgeon Practice Leaders to Know Featured

Written by [Laura Miller](#) | January 11, 2012

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Here are 10 spine surgeon leaders of their spine-focused practices.

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**Robert J. Banco, MD (The Boston Spine Group).** Dr. Banco is president of The Boston Spine Group and an associate clinical professor in the orthopedic surgery department at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. During his career, he has authored more than 150 publications and took part in 12 FDA IDE studies. He has received more than \$1 million in grants for his medical research, which has focused on the outcomes for spinal fusion, bone morphogenic protein and bone graft substitute as well as image guided surgery. Dr. Banco is a member of the North American Spine Society, Society of Lateral Access Surgery and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dr. Banco earned his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and completed his residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. His additional training includes a spine fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital, where he previously spent 10 years as spine section chief.

**Dennis Crandall, MD (Sonoran Spine Center, Mesa, Ariz.).** Dr. Crandall is the founder and medical director of Sonoran Spine Center as well as on the faculty for the Banner Orthopedic Surgery Residency program. He also serves as an attending spine surgeon at Children's Rehabilitative Services Scoliosis Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix. During his career, Dr. Crandall has been a spine consultant for the athletes at Arizona State University. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Crandall founded the Sonoran Spine Research and Education Foundation to fund college scholarships for students with spinal deformities, spinal research projects and educational seminars. He also developed new spinal instrumentation for deformity correction. Dr. Crandall earned his medical degree at St. Louis University, where he also completed his orthopedic surgery residency. His additional training includes a fellowship at the University of Maryland in College Park.

**Francis Denis, MD (Twin Cities Spine Surgeons, Minneapolis).** Dr. Denis is the president of Twin Cities Spine and a member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Scoliosis Research Society and Orthopaedic Trauma Hospital Association. He has a professional interest in treating patients with deformities and trauma. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Denis has authored several publications on his research, which also focuses on deformities and trauma. He has given presentations at several professional society meetings. Dr. Denis earned his medical degree at Paris University and completed his residency training at New England Medical Center in Boston and Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. His additional training includes scoliosis fellowships at Children's Hospital in Boston and Twin Cities Scoliosis Center.

**Edward J. Dohring, MD (Spine Institute of Arizona, Scottsdale).** Dr. Dohring is the medical director of Spine Institute of Arizona and treats a spectrum of spinal disorders. During his career, Dr. Dohring has participated in several research projects and pioneered an artificial disc replacement procedure. He also performs minimally invasive surgical techniques. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Dohring has published several articles and book chapters about spinal disorders and is a member of North American Spine Society and World Spine Society. He holds a

residency teaching post at Midwestern University/Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Phoenix Integrated Orthopedic Residency Program. Dr. Dohring earned his medical degree at Yale Medical School in New Haven, Conn., and completed additional spine training at the Spine Institute of New England in Burlington, VT.

**E. Hunter Dyer, MD (Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, Charlotte, N.C.).** Dr. Dyer is the president of Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates. He has a special interest in transsphenoidal surgery, skull based surgery and endoscopic spine surgery. During his career, he has served as chief of neurosurgery for Presbyterian Hospital and as a delegate of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons to the Council of States Neurological Studies. Dr. Dyer earned his medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. His additional training includes a fellowship in pituitary and skull base surgery at L'Hospital Foch in Paris.

**Mark Hartman, MD (Total Spine Specialists, Huntersville, N.C.).** Dr. Hartman is a founding physician at Total Spine Specialists with a professional interest in minimally invasive spine surgery, trauma and tumor care. He is training in microendoscopic disc surgery and reconstructive spine surgery. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, North American Spine Society and Cervical Spine Research Society. Dr. Hartman earned his medical degree at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and completed his residency at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C. His additional training includes a spine fellowship at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

**Stephen H. Hochschuler, MD (Texas Back Institute, Plano).** Dr. Hochschuler is co-founder of Texas Back Institute and former president of the Spine Arthroplasty Society. During his career, he has served as chairman and sat on the board of directors for SpineMark. He also founded the spine division at Veterans Administration in Dallas and served as a clinical instructor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He is a founding member of the American Board of Spinal Surgery and chairman of the Texas Back Institute Holdings Corporation. Dr. Hochschuler earned his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in Boston and completed his orthopedic residency at the University of Texas Southwestern School in Dallas. He also spent time in the United States Air Force.

**Rick Sasso, MD (Indiana Spine Group, Carmel).** Dr. Sasso is a founding member and president of Indiana Spine Group. He also serves as co-medical director of the St. Vincent Spine Center and chief of spine surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine. He has a professional interest in treating patients with spinal disorders and abnormalities and is involved in the research and development of spinal implants. He has developed techniques for minimally invasive spine surgery and instrumentation used during these procedures. Dr. Sasso is a member of North American Spine Society, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Scoliosis Research Society. He earned his medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis and completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. His additional training includes spine surgery fellowships at Northwestern University in Chicago, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and St. Gallen in Switzerland.

**Thomas Schuler, MD (Virginia Spine Institute, Reston).** Dr. Schuler founded Virginia Spine Institute in 1992 and now serves as president of the practice. He also serves as a spine consultant for the Washington Redskins and other elite athletes. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Schuler is president of the Spine Research Foundation, which seeks to improve spine healthcare throughout America. Dr. Schuler is a member of the American College of Spine Surgery, American College of Orthopaedic Surgery, North American Spine Society and Young President's

Organization. Dr. Schuler earned his medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. His additional training includes a spine surgery fellowship at Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles.

**Paul Slosar, Jr., MD (SpineCare Medical Group, Daly City, Calif.).** Dr. Slosar is the president of SpineCare Medical Group and medical director of the Spine Care Institute of San Francisco. He also serves as assistant director of surgical fellowship and surgical research at The San Francisco Spine Institute. Dr. Slosar is on the board of directors for the American Board of Spine Surgery and an editorial board member of the Spine Research Foundation. He is a member of the North American Spine Society, Society for Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Slosar has published articles in peer-reviewed journals based on his research. Dr. Slosar earned his medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. His additional training includes a spine surgery fellowship at The San Francisco Spine institute/SpineCare Medical Group.

*If you would like to recommend a spine surgeon leader or practice to highlight in future weekly lists, please e-mail Laura at [laura@beckersasc.com](mailto:laura@beckersasc.com).*

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**Jaelyn McDaniel**

Congratulations Dr. Lieberman! We are so proud to have you as part of our Spine practice!

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