

The Spinal Research Foundation “Centers of Excellence” Award

Selection Process

The mission of The Spinal Research Foundation is to promote research and education in the field of spinal disorders. The Foundation has made a significant effort to identify spine-related research groups who embrace excellence in both research and education and in doing so contribute to the diagnosis and treatment of spinal disorders. The goal is to establish dozens of Regional Research Partners (RRP) to serve as role models for other researchers in the field of spinal health throughout the United States.

In addition, certain organizations have distinguished themselves as providers of both outstanding non-operative and surgical spinal healthcare. The Spinal Research Foundation identifies such entities through recommendations from previously identified centers, patient referrals and leadership in national subspecialty organizations. A combination of both lay and professional referrals is frequently compiled. The centers are then evaluated for their ability to engage in prospective investigations, the presence of a research support infrastructure and a judicious balance of non-operative and surgical interventions.

Finally, the screening process involves an evaluation of the credentials of the physicians at each organization including residency training, fellowship training, board certification and current practice standings with the State Board of Medicine. There is an assessment of peer-reviewed medical publications, invited lectures and extent of investigational grant support. An interview with a member of the Board of Directors of The Spinal Research Foundation is mandatory prior to final selection. A Selection Committee, comprised of the Director of Research, the Assistant Director of Research

and a Research Associate, compile the necessary information and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for final approval. A unanimous decision by the Board is required for an entity to receive the “Center of Excellence” award.

Developing a network of superior quality, research-aligned, education-oriented, and clinically-expert centers in a single cohesive network will enable the Spinal Research Foundation to prospectively accumulate patient outcomes data to validate contemporary spinal treatment and determine the optimal way to treat various spinal disorders free from commercial or personal bias.