



# Spine Division Update

Harvey Smith, MD



### Spine Faculty



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Vincent Arlet, MD



Amrit Khalsa, MD



Comron Saifi, MD



Michael Murray, MD

The academic year has been one of continued growth for the spine division.

*Clinical Growth:* Over the past year Dr. Amrit Khalsa joined our division. Dr. Khalsa joined us from Hahnemann, and has already established a significant practice at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and Radnor.

*Research:* Our division has been established as a leader in both basic science and clinical spine research. Our translational research is conducted in partnership with the Translational Musculoskeletal Research Center at the VA, developing the first *in vivo* large animal tissue-engineered total disc replacement. Our clinical research division is led by Dr. Comron Saifi who has established an outcomes registry for our complex deformity patients as well as all adult spine patients. This is a large undertaking and he has made significant strides with marked academic output in terms of manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations. Dr. Murray is conducting a number of comparative effectiveness research projects demonstrating the value of MIS surgery. Dr. Khalsa is continuing his research interests in evaluating cost-effectiveness and risk adjustment models in spine surgery. Dr. Arlet continues his role as an international thought leader in complex spinal deformity.

*Academic Productivity:* Penn Ortho Spine has been represented in over 30 peer-reviewed publications, abstracts and presentations. Our faculty chair committees at North American Spine Society, and have organized Instructional Course Lectures at national and international meetings. The Philadelphia Spine Summit meeting organized in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University is now entering its sixth year and is now one of the largest regional spine meetings.

*Outreach Surgery:* Under the leadership of Dr. Arlet, Penn Spine maintains an ongoing outreach program in Trinidad managing complex spinal deformities; this program has received national and international recognition. Dr. Khalsa maintains an ongoing outreach program in South America. The spine fellows participate in the outreach program.

*Spine Fellowship:* Our spine fellowship is entering its fourth year of partnership with the Shriners Hospital of Philadelphia. Our complex spinal deformity fellowship is unique in offering a combined adult and pediatric complex deformity experience.