



Department of Spine Update

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The Spine Section of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania had another excellent year. In 2015 the spine section boasted 2,133 patient visits with 429 surgical cases.

Vincent Arlet, MD, chief of the Spine service, presented at a number of events and courses in 2015 including the French Spine Society; the European Spine Journal/AO Spine Meet the expert forum on Spine Osteotomies in Barcelona, Spain; the Depuy Synthes Spine Course; and the Inaugural Philadelphia Spine Summit where both he and fellow Penn Orthopaedics spine surgeon Harvey E. Smith, MD served as course directors. Dr. Smith also presented at the AAOS instructional course

lecture in Las Vegas, NV and was named chair of the Biologics Committee for the Association for Collaborative Spine Research Subspecialty Group Meeting in Miami, FL.

The Spine service was also the recipient of numerous grants in 2015. These include grants to study the Impact of Pre-Culture and In Vivo Remobilization on Engineered Disc Replacement; and the Regeneration of the Intervertebral Disc using Notochord-Derived Cells and Mesenchymal Stem Cells. 2015's grants also included a career development award for Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development Service of the VA Office of Research and Development.