



# Spine Division

Vincent Arlet, MD



## Spine Faculty



Vincent Arlet, MD



Harvey Smith, MD



Andrew Milby, MD



Comron Saifi, MD



Michael Murray, MD

The new academic year has seen lots of positive changes for the spine division.

### **Recruitment:**

Three additional Spine surgeons came onboard our busy Spine Division. Dr. Milby who is a former resident from Penn came back after a one year spine fellowship at Emory. Dr. Milby is currently working at the VA, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and Radnor. His research and clinical interests lie in degenerative spine disorders. Dr. Michael Murray left his successful private practice at Christiana in Delaware to start a new Practice at Penn Chester County Hospital. His research and clinical interest lie in minimal invasive spinal surgery and degenerative spine disease. Dr. Comron Saifi, a graduate from Columbia, finished his Spine fellowship at Rush and is interested in degenerative spinal conditions and spinal deformities. Dr. Saifi works primarily at Pennsylvania Hospital and at Yardley.

With now five spine surgeons in the orthopedic division, we cover the whole spectrum of spine surgery from minimally invasive surgery to complex spinal reconstruction, including adult and pediatric spinal deformities, spinal tumors, and treatment of cervical diseases with motion sparing technologies such as cervical disc replacement or laminoplasty. Our referral for revision spinal surgery coming from outside the Penn system has also increased dramatically and our clinical activity is forecasted to double in the year to come.

### **Spine trauma coverage:**

In partnership with our neurosurgical colleagues, we now cover spine emergencies including fractures, emergent tumors and infections. This has had a huge impact on the education of our residents who so far had limited exposure to spine trauma. Dr. Harvey Smith, our Orthopedic Spine Trauma

Program Director, has begun to implement protocols for spine fractures in partnership with the Presbyterian Trauma ICU and our neurosurgical colleagues.

### **Research:**

Under the leadership of Dr. Smith, grants of several million dollars have allowed sustained research on the degeneration and regeneration of the human disc. This research is being conducted at the VA and will hopefully mitigate the need for complex spinal procedures in the near future.

### **Academic Productivity:**

Fifteen peer review publications, abstracts and presentations have come from the spine division. Penn Orthopedics is now represented in most national and international spine societies. The Philadelphia Spine Summit meeting organized with our colleagues from Jefferson is now entering its fourth year and attracts spine surgeons from all over the region.

### **Outreach Surgery:**

Surgery to treat pediatric and adult patients with spinal deformities is still ongoing in Trinidad and Tobago. With more than 100 complex spinal deformities treated in Trinidad, our outreach experience is well recognized nationwide and internationally.

### **Spine Fellowship:**

This was the first year that we combined our Spine fellowship with the Shriners Hospital of Philadelphia. Our complex spine deformity fellowship exposes the fellow to pediatric deformity for 6 months at Shriners and adult spine for another 6 months at Penn. Our two Spine fellows, Dr. Nissim Ackshota and Dr. Burhan Muhammad, are each in their second year of spine fellowship at Penn.