20th Annual

New York City MIS, Endoscopy, Robotics, 3D Navigation, Augmented Reality, VR, and AI Spine Symposium

December 11 & 12, 2026

Friday, December 11, 2026

45 Rockefeller Plaza, 27th Floor · New York, NY

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	**Registration, breakfast & exhibits**
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	**Welcome & the value of innovation in spine surgery** *J Mocco, MD, MS*

Session 1 - Frameworks and Philosophy

8:15 AM – 8:25 AM	**MISS-INC: A classification for minimally invasive spinal surgery** *Roger Härtl, MD*
8:25 AM – 8:30 AM	**Discussion**
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	**Evolution as a spine surgeon: responsible adoption of new technology** *Neel Anand, MD*
8:40 AM – 8:45 AM	**Discussion**
8:45 AM – 8:55 AM	**My innovation journey: lessons learned** *Frank Phillips, MD*
8:55 AM – 9:00 AM	**Discussion**

Session 2 - Endoscopy: Approaches, Indications, and Honest Limits

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM	**Biportal endoscopy: how it's changed my practice and why you should consider incorporating it** *Gregory Basil, MD*
9:10 AM – 9:15 AM	**Discussion**
9:15 AM – 9:25 AM	**Transforaminal vs. interlaminar approaches for endoscopic lumbar discectomy** *Peter Derman, MD*
9:25 AM – 9:30 AM	**Discussion**
9:30 AM – 9:40 AM	**How I came to adopt endoscopic spine surgery as a deformity surgeon** *Kai-Ming Fu, MD, PhD*
9:40 AM – 9:45 AM	**Discussion**
9:45 AM – 9:55 AM	**Why I prefer tubular surgery over the endoscope** *Avelino Parajón, MD*

9:55 AM – 10:00 AM **Discussion**

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM **Panel: Where does endoscopy belong and where does it not?**

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM **Break & exhibits**

10:50 AM – 11:05 AM **Success, failure, and the secret to a balanced life**
Joseph Maroon, MD

Session 3 - Tubular Techniques: Beyond Standard Indications

11:05 AM – 11:15 AM **Tubular surgery for tethered cord, CSF leak repair, and other applications**
Ibrahim Hussain, MD

11:15 AM – 11:20 AM **Discussion**

11:20 AM – 11:30 AM **Tubular decompression in the lumbar spine: Latin American perspectives**
Marcelo Valacco, MD

11:30 AM – 11:35 AM **Discussion**

11:35 AM – 11:45 AM **Pro-decompression for degenerative spondylolisthesis with published SLI score**
Claudius Thomé, MD

11:45 AM – 11:50 AM **Discussion**

11:50 AM – 12:50 PM **Lunch & exhibits**

12:05 PM – 12:20 PM **Lunch Presentation: MDsim**

Session 4 - Motion Preservation and the Fusion Question

12:50 PM – 1:00 PM **Lumbar total disc replacement: where are we now?**
Hyun Bae, MD

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM **Discussion**

1:05 PM – 1:15 PM **ALIF vs. MIS TLIF: which is better?**
Massimo Balsano, MD

1:15 PM – 1:20 PM **Discussion**

1:20 PM – 1:30 PM **Large cages through the transforaminal corridor: TLIF nuances**
Luis Tumialán, MD

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM **Discussion**

1:35 PM – 1:45 PM **Evolution of lateral surgery**
Luiz Pimenta, MD, PhD

1:45 PM – 1:50 PM **Discussion**

1:50 PM – 2:00 PM **Interspinous spacers**
Jens Chapman, MD

2:00 PM – 2:05 PM **Discussion**

2:05 PM – 2:20 PM **How to stay relevant and healthy in this competitive environment**
Juan Uribe, MD

Session 5 - Deformity in the MIS Era

2:20 PM – 2:30 PM **Leveraging patient-specific devices for minimally invasive deformity surgery**
Andrew Chan, MD

2:30 PM – 2:35 PM **Discussion**

2:35 PM – 2:45 PM **MIS deformity**
Khoi Than, MD

2:45 PM – 2:50 PM **Discussion**

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM **Navigated MIS lateral surgery**
Paul Park, MD

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM **Discussion**

3:05 PM – 3:25 PM **Break & exhibits**

Session 6: Digital and Intelligent Systems

3:25 PM – 3:35 PM **Robotic spine surgery**
Mohamad Bydon, MD

3:35 PM – 3:40 PM **Discussion**

3:40 PM – 3:50 PM **My First 100 Robotic Cases & Lessons Learned**
Rod Oskouian, MD

3:50 PM – 3:55 PM **Discussion**

3:55 PM – 4:05 PM **Augmented reality in spinal surgery**
John O'Toole, MD, MS

4:05 PM – 4:10 PM **Discussion**

4:10 PM – 4:20 PM	**Current status of virtual reality in spine surgery** *Galal Elsayed, MD*
4:20 PM – 4:25 PM	**Discussion**
4:25 PM – 4:35 PM	**AI in spinal surgery** *Joseph Lombardi, MD*
4:35 PM – 4:40 PM	**Discussion**
4:40 PM – 4:50 PM	**AI is transforming education, research, and patient care – but who is guarding the science?** *Dino Samartzis, DSc*
4:50 PM – 4:55 PM	**Discussion**

Session 7 - Frontiers

4:55 PM – 5:05 PM	**Osteoconductive resorbable bone adhesive: the future of spinal repair?** *Kevin Foley MD*
5:05 PM – 5:10 PM	**Discussion**
5:10 PM – 5:20 PM	**Sphereplasty: a novel MIS technique to treat thoracolumbar vertebral compression fractures** *Giuseppe Barbagallo, MD*
5:20 PM – 5:25 PM	**Discussion**
5:25 PM	**Closing remarks**

Saturday, December 12, 2026

7:30 AM – 7:50 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

Hands-On Lab

Coffee and refreshments will be available in Griffis Faculty Club

7:50 AM – 8:00 AM **Lab Orientation & Safety**
Roger Härtl, MD

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Surgical Demonstrations & Rotating Stations (30 minutes per station)**
All Faculty

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch & exhibits**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **Continue Surgical Demonstrations & Rotating Stations (30 minutes per station)**
All Faculty

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM **Closing Remarks**
Roger Härtl, MD & Luiz Pimenta, MD, PhD

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