

Division of Pediatric Orthopedics
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

12TH ANNUAL

Symposium on Scoliosis Through the Lifespan



June 18, 2026 8am–3pm

Vivian and Seymour Milstein Family Heart Center
173 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, 10032

Best in Class Non-Operative Management

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IRVING MEDICAL CENTER

**Children's Hospital
of New York**
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital



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Welcome from the Course Directors

Welcome, and thank you for joining us at the 12th Annual Symposium on Scoliosis Through the Lifespan: Best in Class Non-Operative Management. We have designed this course to cover a broad variety of topics and provide you with what you need to know about the latest advances in conservative scoliosis care. We're confident you'll find it educational and fun.

The course goal is to provide participants and faculty a forum for interaction and collaboration, so please don't hesitate to speak up, ask questions, and engage. During today's program, attendees will discuss the current literature and latest advancements in AI plus neuromonitoring, bracing, and physical therapy.

We hope you find the course valuable and welcome your feedback. Thank you for your continued support of the Columbia Orthopedics conservative spine care team!



William S. Campos
Operations Supervisor
CUIMC
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Amber Sentell Mizerik, PA-C
Chief Advanced
Practice Provider
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Chief, Pediatric Spine and
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Prachi S. Bakarania, DPT
Scoliosis & Spine Therapist
Director of PT
Spinal Deformity

Program Description and Objectives

This symposium offers an in-depth exploration of non-operative and advanced surgical intervention for patients with scoliosis. The program explores best surgical decision making surrounding pre-teen patients and also adult patients who might benefit from a minimally invasive approach. Participants will analyze the evolving roles of artificial intelligence and neuromonitoring in scoliosis surgery to gain a clear understanding of how these technological innovations impact intraoperative decision-making and enhance patient safety.

Additionally, the curriculum addresses vital clinical factors influencing comprehensive treatment planning and long-term care. Attendees will learn to assess foot biomechanics in patients with scoliosis to determine how structural abnormalities influence overall spinal alignment. The course also highlights how to recognize the clinical features of hypermobility to better develop interventions. Experts will also provide evidence-based postoperative management strategies designed to optimize recovery outcomes for patients undergoing scoliosis surgery.

This activity is designed for providers who treat patients with scoliosis and would like to provide best-in-class care for their patients.

Physical Therapists as well as physicians are strongly encouraged to attend.

At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be better able to:

- Identify key surgical considerations for managing preteen and juvenile patients with scoliosis, including indications for operative versus non-operative approaches.
- Describe the roles of artificial intelligence and neuromonitoring in scoliosis surgery and explain how these technologies may impact intraoperative decision-making and patient safety.
- Assess foot biomechanics in patients with scoliosis and determine how abnormalities may influence overall alignment and treatment planning.
- Apply evidence-based postoperative management strategies to optimize recovery outcomes in patients undergoing scoliosis surgery.
- Recognize clinical features of hypermobility in patients with scoliosis and integrate appropriate considerations into treatment planning.

Accreditation Statement

AMA Accreditation Statement

The Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Columbia University Program in Physical Therapy is approved by the New York State Department of Education Office of the Professions as a sponsor of continuing education for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

AMA Credit Designation Statement

Attendees may earn up to 4.0 CEUs for this course. Physical Therapists should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Columbia University Programs in Physical Therapy will be providing 4.0 CEUs for this course.

Program Faculty

Program Directors

Prachi Bakarania, DPT
Scoliosis & Spine Therapist
Director of PT, Spinal Deformity

Amber Sentell Mizerik, PA-C
Chief Advanced Practice Provider
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Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH
Ana Lucia Professor of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery,
Columbia University Medical Center
Chief, Pediatric Spine and Scoliosis Surgery
Co-Director, Division of Pediatric Orthopedics

Faculty

Kathryn Bacigalupo, PT, DPT, GTS, BSPTS-1 Certified Therapist
Director of Program Development
PhysioElements, Manhasset, NY

Prachi Bakarania, DPT, Schroth Barcelona C2-Cert.
Scoliosis Physical Therapist; Director of PT - Spinal Deformity
Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

Brianna R. Campbell, MSN, CPNP
Nurse Practitioner
Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

Gail Fennell, PT, SST
CT Scoliosis and Spine Rehab, Ridgefield, CT

Kelly Grimes, DPT, GCS, OCS
Physical Therapist at UC San Diego Health

Jeanne Halloran, PT, DPT
CT Scoliosis and Spine Rehab, Ridgefield, CT

M. Timothy Hresko, MD
Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Mary Miceli, DPT
Scoliosis/Spine PT, New York, NY

Eric Parent, PhD
Professor, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine - Physical Therapy
University of Alberta, Canada

Benjamin D. Roye, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Surgery
Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

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Abigail Smul, DPT
CUIMC Physical Therapy, New York, NY

Tricia St. Hilaire, MPH
Executive Director, Pediatric Spine Foundation
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Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH
Ana Lucia Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY

Rebekah Wallach, PT, DPT
CUIMC Physical Therapy, New York, NY

Speakers for the Non-Accredited Session

Andrew K. Chan, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery; Director,
Minimally Invasive Scoliosis Surgery
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY

Andrea Nikolov
Curvy Girls
Long Island, NY

Abigail Smul, DPT
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John Tunney, BOCPO
Orthotist/Prosthetist
OrthoPediatrics Specialty Bracing, New York, NY

Andreas Wuerschling, CEO
Kuca zdravlja d.o.o.
Zagreb, Croatia

James H. Wynne, CPO, FAAOP
Vice President, Director of Education, Resident Director
Boston Orthotics & Prosthetics, Boston, MA

Program Agenda

8:00 am	Breakfast & Sign In	
8:30 am	Welcome & Introduction	Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH
Session 1	Surgical Considerations	Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH <i>Moderator</i>
8:35 am	Surgical Consideration for the Preteen Juvenile Patient MAGEC rods and The Gray Zone	Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH
8:45 am	AI and Role of Neuromonitoring in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS) Surgery	Benjamin D. Roye, MD
8:55 am	Q&A	
9:02 am	Prehab/Posthab Surgical Considerations Across the Ages	Mary Miceli, DPT
9:12 am	Q&A	
Session 2	Research Advances	Brianna Campbell, NP <i>Moderator</i>
9:21 am	Physical Therapy and Mobilization Elements in Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Protocols for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis: A Scoping Review	Eric Parent, PhD, PT
9:31 am	GUIDE Rehab: Developing Consensus for Developing Targets and Ingredients for the Pediatric Patient with Scoliosis A Delphi Process	Prachi Bakarania, DPT
9:41 am	Role of Registries on Patient Care and Advocacy	Tricia St Hilaire, MPH*
9:51 am	Q&A	
9:58 am	Coffee Break	

Program Agenda

Session 3	PT Considerations: Co-Morbidities in Your Patient with Scoliosis	Prachi Bakarania, DPT <i>Moderator</i>
10:15 am	A Comprehensive Exam for Your Patient with Scoliosis	Kelly Grimes, DPT
10:25 am	Update on PT Considerations for Your Hypermobility Patient	Kathryn Bacigalupo, DPT
10:35 am	Q&A	
10:42 am	Benefits of Assessing Mechanics of the Foot in Your Patient with Scoliosis	Jeanne Halloran, DPT
10:52 am	Cervical Considerations in the Spine with Scoliosis	Gail Fennell, DPT
11:02 am	Q&A	
11:09 am	Gray Zone: Treating the Patient with the Small Curves and the Large Operable Curves—A PSSE Approach	Prachi Bakarania, DPT
11:19 am	Considerations for the Patient with Degenerative Scoliosis	Rebekah Wallach, DPT
11:29 am	Q&A	
Session 4	Big Picture: Improving Quality of Care for Our Patients	Amber Sentell Mizerik, PA-C <i>Moderator</i>
11:38 am	Mental Health Initiatives	Amber Sentell Mizerik, PA-C
11:48 am	Transitioning Care from Adolescents to Adulthood	Abigail Smul, DPT
11:58 am	Q&A	
12:05 pm	Addressing Adherence in Your Pediatric Scoliosis Patient (A Multidisciplinary/Family Approach)	Timothy Hresko, MD*
12:15 pm	Panel: The Many Factors Affecting Adherence in the Child with Scoliosis	Brianna Campbell, NP, Michael Vitale, MD, Prachi Bakarania, DPT
12:30 pm	Q&A	
12:37 pm	Lunch	

Program Agenda

Session 5	Horizons in Scoliosis Care: Innovation, Intervention, and the Patient Experience**	Abigail Smul, DPT <i>Moderator</i>
1:37 pm	Advances in Bracing	
1:39 pm	Advancements in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) & the Role of AI in Adult Scoliosis	Andrew K. Chan, MD
1:49 pm	My Life with Scoliosis—Lessons Learned	Andrea Nikolov, Curvy Girls
1:59 pm	Q&A	
Session 6	Advancements in Bracing**	John Tunney, BOCPO <i>Moderator</i>
2:08 pm	Bracing for the Patient with Hyperkyphosis (Scheuermann’s Disease)	James H. Wynne, CPO, FAAOP
2:18 pm	Bracing Small Curves and Large Inoperable Curves: the Gray Zone	John Tunney, BOCPO
2:28 pm	Innovation in Bracing for Adults	Andreas Wuerschling, CPO Croatia*
2:38 pm	Q&A	
Wrap Up		
2:45 pm	Final Thoughts & Discussion	Amber Mizerik, PA-C and Prachi Bakarania, DPT

*Indicates a virtual presenter

**Indicates sessions do not count toward CME credits

Disclosures

All those involved with the planning and delivery of this education will disclose all financial relationships in the past 24 months with ineligible companies. An ineligible company is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. For each financial relationship, disclosure will include the name of the ineligible company and the nature of the financial relationship(s). No others in control of content had any relevant relationships.

Michael G. Vitale, MD, MPH

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All of the relevant financial relationships listed have been mitigated.

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Columbia Pediatric Orthopedics and Spine



Scoliosis Care Booklet



Columbia Spine Disorders & Scoliosis

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