



SPINE20 6th Annual Summit
Scientific Program





"Sustainable Spine Care for All"



Venue

Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI) at Tygerberg Hospital
Address: Francie van Zijl Drive, Parow, Cape Town

Detailed Information

www.spine20.net

Click [HERE](#) to Register Online



الجمعية السعودية
للمعوق الفقري
SAUDI SPINE SOCIETY



WELCOME ADDRESS

Greetings esteemed guests,

South Africa is a land defined by its rich diversity, abundant opportunities. Embracing the spirit of Ubuntu, I'm because we are, the nation celebrates interconnectedness and mutual respect, values that are deeply woven into its identity. As South Africa assumes the G20 Presidency, it is poised to contribute meaningfully to global discussions, championing practical solutions that enhance well-being for all. In this same spirit, SPINE20 2025 brings together more than 30 professional spine care-related societies from around the world on a shared mission.

We welcome you to a nation celebrated for its diversity, opportunity, culture, heritage, and heartfelt hospitality as we host the 6th Annual Summit of SPINE20, a global spine alliance think tank. Founded in 2019, SPINE20 is dedicated to advancing spine care on a global scale by advising G20 countries on policies aimed at reducing the burden of spine disease. SPINE20 initiatives focus on promoting optimal spine health, advancing cutting-edge research, fostering innovative treatment pathways, and ultimately improving spine care and treatment.

The theme of SPINE20 2025, "Sustainable Spine Care for All," aligns with the G20 theme of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability, and the calls for a transformative approach that blends innovation, accessibility, and long-term viability in spine health. It emphasizes the need for cost-effective, evidence-based strategies that address today's challenges while securing the future of healthcare delivery. By focusing on sustainability, the conference aims to bridge the gap between pioneering research and practical application, ensuring that quality spine care is available to every community, regardless of economic or geographical barriers. This progressive vision seeks to build resilient healthcare systems that prioritize patient well-being and foster continuous improvement for generations to come.

Hosted by the South African Spine Society in collaboration with over 30 international professional spine care-related societies, this year's Summit promises to be a landmark event. On behalf of the Executive and Scientific Program Committees of SPINE20, we are honored to welcome distinguished experts and professional societies from around the globe to SPINE20 2025. We eagerly look forward to your participation this October as we unite to advance spine wellness and care worldwide, especially in underserved communities, and work together to alleviate the burden of spine disease.

For the latest news and updates, please visit www.spine20.net

SPINE20 – 2025

Hosting Society

South African Spine Society (SASS)

Meeting Chairperson

Ian Vlok

Scientific TF Chair

Koji Tamai

SPINE20 Executive Board

EUROSPINE

Thomas R. Blattert
Pierre Côté

German Spine Society (DWG)

Markus Arand
Karsten Wiechert

North American Spine Society (NASS)

William Sullivan
Eric Muehlbauer

Saudi Spine Society (SSS)

Ahmed Alturkistany
Sami I. Aleissa

Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI)

Harvinder S. Chhabra

Brazilian Spine Society (BSS)

Cristiano Menezes

Indonesian Spine Society (ISS)

Bambang Darwono

Italian Spine Society (SICV & GIS)

Giuseppe Costanzo

South African Spine Society (SASS)

Ian Vlok

SPINE20 Speaker

Sami I. Aleissa



Ian Vlok

**Chairperson, SPINE20 – Cape Town
October 10 –11, 2025**



The Group of Twenty

The Group of Twenty, or the G20, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. The G20 brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent. Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 90% of the Gross World Product (GWP), 80% of world trade, two-thirds of the world population, and approximately half of the world's land area. Throughout the year, representatives from G20 countries gather to discuss financial and socioeconomic issues.

Historically, the G20 was established in 1999 at the level of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, and it convened for high-level discussions on macro-financial issues. Following the 2008 global financial crisis, the G20 was elevated to include the leaders of member countries.

The first G20 Leaders' Summit took place in Washington D.C. in November 2008. Consonantly, the G20 agenda expanded beyond macro-financial issues to include socio-economic and development issues.

The Presidency of the G20 rotates between member countries every year and plays a leading role in setting the agenda and organizing the Leaders' Summit, which is attended by the G20 Heads of State or Government. At the Summit, the leaders issue a declaration, or communiqué, based on policy discussions at meetings held throughout the year. In the run-up to the Summit, the Presidency hosts several meetings featuring Ministers, senior government officials, as well as civil society representatives. At the government level, the G20 work is organized around the Finance and Sherpa Tracks, while civil society assembles through Engagement Groups.



G20 Members include: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Several official engagement groups—such as Business 20 (B20), Youth 20 (Y20), Labour 20 (L20), Think 20 (T20), Civil 20 (C20), Women 20 (W20), Science 20 (S20), and Urban 20 (U20)—along with many non-official engagement groups representing diverse interests, carry out activities throughout the year. These efforts aim to provide G20 leaders with concrete recommendations on a broad range of issues during the Annual Summit.

Under its 2025 Presidency, South Africa has launched the G20 Social, a platform aimed at broadening participation and inclusivity by actively engaging civil society. Building on the initiative introduced during Brazil's Presidency, G20 Social South Africa seeks to deepen the dialogue between citizens, organizations, and policymakers—ensuring that diverse voices contribute meaningfully to the agenda and help shape the outcomes of the G20 Cape Town Summit



South Africa's G20 Presidency theme is **Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability**

The 2025 G20 Cape Town Summit is scheduled to take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on 17–18 November 2025, marking the first G20 Summit hosted by South Africa.

G20 South Africa has identified three main agenda priorities for its 2025 Presidency:

- Inclusive economic growth, industrialization, employment & inequality
- Food security
- Artificial intelligence, innovation & sustainable development

SPINE20 Initiative

Spine disorders—stemming from various pathologies and trauma—are the leading cause of disability worldwide, placing a significant burden on individuals, families, health systems, and national economies. The resulting pain, loss of productivity, and impaired function demand urgent action. There is a pressing need for advocacy, education, and evidence-based government policies to deliver value-based spine care, emphasizing standardized practices rooted in the best available evidence while also controlling healthcare costs.

SPINE20 is a global advocacy initiative founded in 2019 by the Saudi Spine Society (SSS), EUROSPINE, the North American Spine Society (NASS), and the German Spine Society (DWG). Its mission is to improve spine care worldwide by recommending impactful policies to G20 countries and beyond. These recommendations aim to reduce the burden of spine disorders through multiple avenues: promoting better spine health, advancing research, supporting innovation, and strengthening rehabilitation and treatment pathways with backing from governments and stakeholders.

Functioning as a global think tank, SPINE20 brings together experts to support governments with the knowledge and tools needed to enhance spine care systems. This includes organizing year-round activities, forming focused task forces, and developing evidence-based policy recommendations for presentation at G20 platforms.

The ultimate goal of SPINE20 is to optimize spine care globally, improving outcomes for patients and communities by influencing health agendas at the highest levels.

Since its inception, SPINE20 has held annual meetings aligned with G20 Summits:

- 2020 – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2021 – Rome, Italy
- 2022 – Bali, Indonesia
- 2023 – New Delhi, India
- 2024 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2025 – Cape Town, South Africa (scheduled for October 10–11, 2025)



How can SPINE20 help in alleviating the burden of spine diseases and disabilities

Serve as a resource

for governments and larger institutions (national or international) in spine-related healthcare and prevention.

Advocate

for the prevention of spinal disorders, e.g., exercise and education.

Stimulate innovation

to promote spine health.

Advanced spine research

through advocacy for funding to improve our ability to care for patients.

Facilitate access to spine care treatment and rehabilitation

to improve function and prevent disability among people with spine disorders.

What sets SPINE20 apart from other medical societies?

Opening doors for international advocacy

Few other medical society groups have been so proactively engaged in fostering this kind of international advocacy.

Improving spine health care on a global scale

SPINE20's advocacy could result in significant benefits for patients, health services, and communities as we strive to deliver our mission.



SPINE20

CAPE TOWN · OCTOBER 10-11, 2025



Mission

Optimize treatment in the global community to ensure patients have access to the best spine care possible in their respective regions.



Vision

A world where appropriate spine care helps minimize global disability and dramatically improve the lives of those suffering from spine problems, so their families and communities can thrive.



Objectives

The Societies will further the mission of the SPINE20 initiative as they seek to:

- a. Training all health-care partners involved in spine care around the world on evidence-based spine care.
- b. Educating patients, families, and communities about evidence-based spine care and how to access it.
- c. Enhancing local support and economic conditions for spine practitioners by adopting sound spine health policies within health ministries and governmental programs across the globe.
- d. Improving global research funding for spine care, including public health, prevention, treatment alternatives, and prevention of disability from spinal disorders.
- e. Serving as a resource for governmental agencies and Sherpas through an extensive global network of spine societies to establish improved access and spine care globally and within each society's home country.
- f. Improving access to spine care specialists globally through advocacy within the global community and within the Societies' home countries.
- g. Establishing a minimum standard for training of care and prevention of spinal disorders globally for all health care partners, including nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists, osteopaths, exercise physiologists, general practitioners, surgeons and other spine specialists

SPINE20 Annual Summits

Scientific Programs

The SPINE20 Scientific program adopts a format of multiple symposia. Over the course of the two-day event, attendees can expect seven symposia and one Education session, tackling crucial topics in spine care. Furthermore, the program will feature several keynote lectures delivered by esteemed experts from diverse backgrounds.

SPINE20 symposia are structured around specific domains identified as crucial for addressing global spinal issues, selected through a Delphi procedure involving multidisciplinary spine experts from around the world. Each symposium will feature evidence-based presentations and panel discussions. The final session of the meeting will focus on discussing the proposed recommendations arising from the Summits. Additionally, SPINE20 conducts an annual educational session to address current challenges in spine education and deliberate on necessary critical actions.

Target Audiences

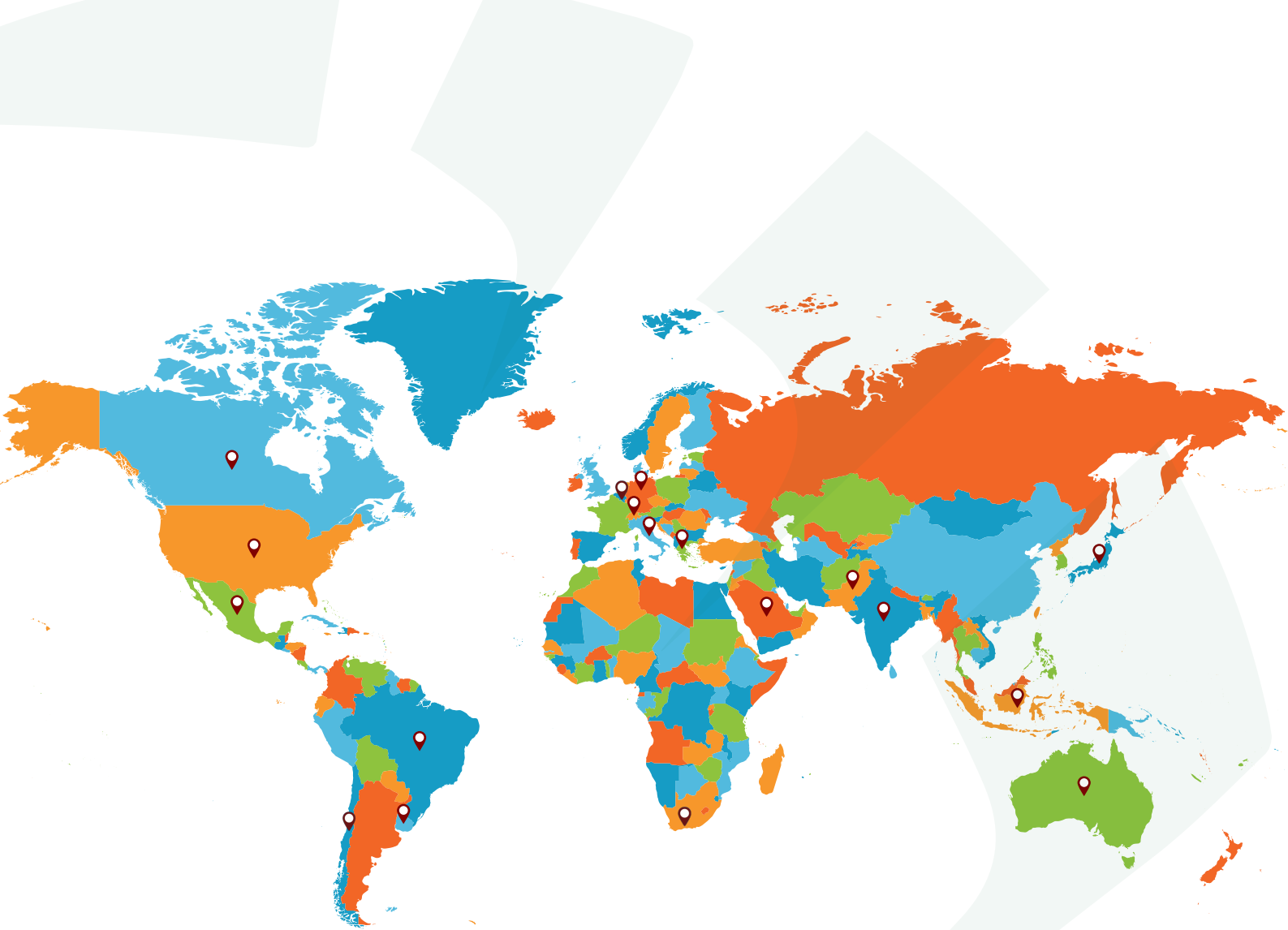
- Spine Practitioners
- Global Spine leaders
- Health Economists
- Public Health Leaders
- Health Strategic planners
- Spine Industrial Leaders and Investors
- Government Health Officials and Legislators
- Non-Government Organizations Interested in Spine Health

Recommendations & Publications

The approved recommendations from each SPINE20 Summit are published annually in a peer-reviewed open-access journal, ensuring accessibility for individuals and organizations interested in spine health.

The scientific programs and recommendations documents for previous SPINE20 summits are accessible at: www.spine20.net





SPINE20 Summits Collaborating Societies



Over 30 Partner societies from around the world are collaborating in SPINE20 Summits

FOUNDING SOCIETIES

North American Spine Society
(NASS)



EUROSPINE



GERMAN SPINE SOCIETY(DWG)



Saudi Spine Society(SSS)



الجمعية السعودية
للعمود الفقري
SAUDI SPINE SOCIETY
HOSTED 2020

HOSTING SOCIETIES FOR SPINE20 ANNUAL SUMMITS (2020 TO 2024)

ITALIAN SPINESOCIETY
(SICV & GIS)
2021



INDONESIAN SPINE
SOCIETY (ISS)
2022



ASSOCIATION OF SPINE
SURGEONS OF INDIA
2023



BRAZILIAN SPINE SOCIETY
(BSS)
2024



SOUTH AFRICAN SPINE
SOCIETY (SASS)
2025



PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR
SPINE SURGERY &
RELATED RESEARCH



AUSTRALIAN
PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION



ASOCIACION MEXICANA
DE CIRUJANOS DE
COLUMNA AMCICO



SAUDI ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY



HELLENIC SPINE SOCIETY



SOCIETY OF SPINE
SURGEONS OF PAKISTAN



SOCIEDAD
IBEROLATINOAMERICAN
A DE COLUMNA - SILACO



WORLD FEDERATION OF
CHIROPRACTIC



THE INDONESIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND
REHABILITATION



INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND
REHABILITATION



SPINAL CORD SOCIETY



SPINE SOCIETY DELHI
CHAPTER



SOCIETY OF INDIAN
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS



SPINE SOCIETY OF
BELGIUM
(SSBE)



RENÉ PERDRIOLLE
ACADEMY FOR SCOLIOSIS
STUDY



CHILEAN SPINE SOCIETY
AND SPINE COMMITTEE
OF CHILEAN
ORTHOPAEDIC AND
ORTHOPAEDIC SCHOT



NINA FOUNDATION



THE ABILITY PEOPLE
the ability people
The wind beneath your wheels



INDIAN HEAD INJURY
FOUNDATION



WORLD SPINE CARE



JAPANESE ASSOCIATION
FOR PATIENTS WITH
SPINAL LIGAMENT
OSSIFICATION

THE SPINAL CORD INJURY
ASSOCIATION



THE ASSOCIATION OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY
(APD)



AMAR SEVA SANGAM



CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA



AFRICAN CHIROPRACTIC
FEDERATION



CHANDIGARH SPINALREHAB



NSPINE



SPINE20 - 2025

Committees



SPINE20 6th Annual Summit Scientific Program Taskforce Committee



Ian Vlok, South Africa

Chairperson, SPINE20 – Cape Town



Koji Tamai, Japan

Chairperson, Scientific Program & PRC Taskforces



Pierre Côté, Canada

Chairperson, Call for Action-Oriented sessions

Hosting Country Members



Almero Oosthuizen

Provincial Government of
the Western Cape



Bridget Bromfield

Chiropractic Association
of South Africa



Danella Lubbe

Chiropractic Association
of South Africa



Francois Theron

Muelmed Rehabilitation
Center



Quinette Louw

Stellenbosch University



Mufudzi Chihambakwe

African Chiropractic
Federation



Neerasha Ramsamy

Thrive Family Wellness



Robert Dunn

University of Cape Town

International Members



Alexandre Fogaça
Brazil



André Andújar
Brazil



André Bussièrès
Canada



Bambang Darwono
Indonesia



Carlo Ruosi
Italy



Carlos Tucci
Brazil



Cristiano Menezes
Brazil



Dilip Patro
India



G. . Balamurali
India



Giuseppe Costanzo
Italy



Hana Alsobayel
Saudi Arabia



Johan Van Lerbeirghe
Belgium



Jörg Franke
Germany



Karsten Wiechert,
Germany



Katherine Wright
USA



Kazuya Kitamura
Japan



Komal Kamra
India



Lisa Roberts
UK



Luís Miguel Duchén,
Bolivia



Marcelo Risso
Brazil



Marcello Ferraro
Italy



Marco Campello
USA



Markus Arand
Germany



Michael Piccirillo
Switzerland



Muhammed T. Sohail
Pakistan



Paulo Pereira
Portugal



P. Ramasubramanian
India



Ratko Yurac
Chile



Robert Meves
Brazil



Sanjay Wadhwa
India



Sarvdeep Dhatt
India



Suhail Assiri
Saudi Arabia



Una Dilip Patro
India



William Sullivan
USA

SPINE20 Committees

Margareta Nordin†, France
*In Memoriam - Founding
SPINE20 Speaker*



Sami Aleissa, Saudi Arabia
SPINE20 Speaker



Eric Muehlbauer, USA
Chair, Global Engagement



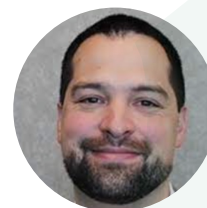
Thomas Blatter, Germany
Chair, Strategic Planning



Marco Campello
Co-Chair, Steering Committee



Harvinder S. Chhabra
Chair, Partnership Advisory Board



Jeremie Larouche, Canada
Chair, Education Committee



Sabina Choinski
USA



Ana Lgia Gil Espuny
Brazil

SPINE20 6th Annual Summit

Keynote Lectures

Mike Hutton

Consultant Spine Surgeon & 'Getting it Right First Time' (GIRFT) Clinical Lead for Spinal Services

Wouter DeGroot

Technical Advisor at WHO Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability and Rehabilitation

Karen Walker-Bone

Director of Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Monash University

Speakers

Allan van der Meulen

Almero H Oosthuizen

André Bussi  res

Ari Seirlis

Brad Beira

Carlos Tucci

Cristiano Menezes

Darren Sweidan

Deon Kotze

Eric Muehlbauer

Francois Theron

Graeme Meintjes

Harvinder Singh Chhabra

Ian Vlok

James Middleton

Jeremie Larouche

Johan Van Lerbeirghe

Kazu Kitamura

Ko Hashimoto

Koji Tamai

Lisa Roberts

Madelein Bester

Marco Campello

Mike Coscia

Mufudzi Chihambakwe

Nadia le Roux

Pierre C  t  

Quinette Louw

Raj Rampersaud

Rajani Mullerpatan

Robert Neil Dunn

Sami Aleissa

Scott Haldeman

Thomas Blattert



Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI) at Tygerberg Hospital

ACCREDITATION

NORTH AMERICAN SPINE SOCIETY

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) CREDIT

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of the North American Spine Society and SPINE20. The North American Spine Society is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The North American Spine Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 9.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The American Medical Association has determined that physicians not licensed in the US to participate in this CME activity are eligible for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR CME

You may submit your evaluation electronically and print your CME certificate directly from the NASS website after the meeting concludes on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 16:40 SAST (Cape Town, South Africa Time). Visit www.spine.org/cme to claim education credit and to print CME certificates. Contact education@spine.org with questions.



SPINE20 - 2025

Scientific Program



6th SPINE20 Annual Summit – Cape Town

The SPINE20 Cape Town meeting, held under the theme “Sustainable Spine Care for All,” aims to provide a dynamic and collaborative platform where leading experts in spine health can gather to exchange insights, engage in high-level discussions, and develop impactful policy recommendations. These recommendations will be tailored to promote equitable and sustainable spine care globally and will be disseminated to international health authorities to inform and influence health policy decisions. The overarching goal is to ensure that spine care becomes accessible, efficient, and integrated into broader public health agendas.

This year’s program will feature four focused symposia addressing key challenges and innovations in spine care, along with a dedicated educational session aimed at capacity-building and professional development.

A notable addition to this year’s agenda is the introduction of “Call for Action” sessions. These sessions are designed to revisit previously published SPINE20 recommendations, assess their progress and relevance, and explore practical strategies for their adoption. Conducted in a panel discussion format, these sessions will bring together multidisciplinary experts to examine how best to bridge the gap between evidence-based recommendations and their implementation by policymakers and healthcare decision-makers around the world.

Symposia & Sessions

Symposia		Chairpersons		
Sustainable spine care for all		I. Vlok SASS	T. Blattert EUROSPINE	K. Kamra TSF
Public Health		R. Dunn SASS	C. Tucci BSS	C. Rousi SICV&GIS
Capacity Building in Spine Care: Specific Reference to Spinal Cord Injury		M. Campello NASS	K. Kitamura JSSR	Balamurali G. SCS
Back at work: Policies and practices to improve spine health among workers		L. Roberts EUROSPINE	S. Assiri SSS	Y. Ratko CSOS
Call for Action Sessions		Speakers		
Call for action: Panel 1 Chairperson: Pierre Côté	P. Côté EUROSPINE	A. Oosthuizen Provincial Government of the Western Cape		
Call for action: Panel 2 Chairperson: Danella Lubbe	R. Mullerpatan MGM School of Physiotherapy	JV. Lerbeirghe Spine Society of Belgium		
Call for action: Panel 3 Chairperson: André Bussièrès	Q. Louw Stellenbosch University	A. Oosthuizen Provincial Government of the Western Cape	P. Côté EUROSPINE	André Bussièrès World spine Care
				Lisa Roberts EUROSPINE
Education Session		Chairperson: Jeremie Larouche		

Time Zone: SAST (South Africa Standard Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

DAY 1 | FRIDAY OCTOBER 10, 2025

08.00 – 09.00 Registration and Working Coffee

09:00 – 09:40	Introduction - SPINE20 2025 Opening	
	Chairpersons: Thomas Blatter (EUROSPINE) Eric Muehlbauer (NASS) Sami Aleissa (SSS)	

09:00 – 09:05	Opening Tribute: Remembering Prof. Margareta Nordin	<i>Eric Muehlbauer</i>
09:05 – 09:10	Welcome address by hosting county	<i>Ian Vlok</i>
09:10 – 09:15	Welcome address by SPINE20 speaker	<i>Sami Aleissa</i>
09:15 – 09:20	SPINE20 purpose and projects overview	<i>Thomas Blatter</i>
09:20 – 09:25	Partner Societies of SPINE20	<i>Harvinder Chhabra</i>
09:25 – 09:30	SPINE20 2025 program development	<i>Koji Tamai</i>
09:35 – 09:40	Lessons learned from SPINE20 2024	<i>Cristiano Menezes & Carlos Tussi</i>
09:40 – 09:50	Plenary Lecture by Western Cape Provincial Minister of Health and Wellness <i>Mireille Mary Wenger</i>	

09:50 – 10:00 Coffee Break

10.00 – 11.30 Symposium 1	Sustainable spine care for all	
	Chairpersons: Ian Vlok (SASS) Thomas Blatter (EUROSPINE) Komal Kamra (TSF)	
10:00 – 10:05	Overview of symposium & introduction	<i>Ian Vlok</i>
10:05 – 10:25	Keynote: Getting it Right the First Time (GIRFT) and the British Spine Registry, From conception to impact	<i>Mike Hutton</i>
10:25 – 10:40	Discovery Health. The impact of an incentivized healthcare program: Benefit to the patient, doctor and funder	<i>Deon Kotze</i>
10:40 – 10:55	The World Spine Care Initiative: What does it cost for successful primary and rural spinal care	<i>Scott Haldeman</i>
10:55 – 11:10	ZLTO. The zero-cost design to impact the underprivileged and how it impacts healthcare	<i>Allan van der Meulen</i>

Time Zone: SAST (South Africa Standard Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

11:10 – 11:25	Canadian Low Back Regional Assessment Centers – the impact on spinal care	<i>Raj Rampersaud</i>
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11:25 – 11:30	Panel Discussion	Moderator: Chairpersons Panelists: All Speakers
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11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11.45 – 13.15 Symposium 2	Public Health Chairperson: Robert Dunn (SASS) Carlos Tucci (BSS) Carlo Ruosi (SICV&GIS)
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11:45 – 11:50	Introduction	<i>Robert Neil Dunn</i>
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11:50 – 12:00	Tuberculosis and HIV. What is the current public health impact?	<i>Graeme Meintjes</i>
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12:00 – 12:15	Tuberculosis of the spine. Are we getting better at treating it? Current Consensus Data	<i>Robert Neil Dunn</i>
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12:15 – 12:30	The impact of spinal pain on non-communicable diseases, Is it a risk factor and vice versa?	<i>Scott Haldeman</i>
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12:30 – 12:45	A Conservative Care Spinal Program from a private South African funder – did it bring change?	<i>Darren Sweidan</i>
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12:45 – 13:00	Rural public private healthcare partnership - the road to a successful model	<i>Nadia le Roux & Madelein Bester</i>
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13:00 – 13:15	The Lancet Backpain Commission conservative care guidelines. What was the impact thereof ?	<i>Quinette Louw</i>
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13:15 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.15 Symposium 3	Capacity Building in Spine Care: Specific Reference to Spinal Cord Injury Chairpersons: Marco Campello (NASS) Kazu Kitamura (JSSR) Balamurali G (SCS)
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14:00 – 14:05	Overview of symposium & introduction to Capacity Building	<i>Marco Campello & Kazu Kitamura</i>
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14:05 – 14:25	The Dr. Margareta Nordin Memorial Keynote Lecture Is Referral to Rehabilitation a Right or a Luxury? Aligning Policy with WHO Rehabilitation 2030 Call for Action	<i>Wouter DeGroot</i>
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14:25 – 14:35	An Analysis of the Rehabilitation Workforce in South Africa	<i>Quinette Louw</i>
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Time Zone: SAST (South Africa Standard Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

14:35 – 14:45	Changing Demographics of Spinal Cord Injuries: The Rise in Non-Traumatic Causes Including TB and Degenerative Myelopathy	<i>Francois Theron</i>
14:45 – 14:55	The Role of Patient Organizations: A Case Study of the QuadPara Association of South Africa	<i>Ari Seirlis</i>
14:55 – 15:05	The ISCoS Spinal Cord Injuries Standards Toolkit supporting service planning and delivery in Low and middle-income countries(LMICs)	<i>James Middleton</i>
15:05 – 15:20	Panel Discussion	Moderator: Chairpersons Panelists: All Speakers
15:20 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15.45 – 17.00 Symposium 3	Back at work: Policies and practices to improve spine health among workers Chairpersons: Lisa Roberts (EUROSPINE) Suhail Assiri (SSS) Yurac Ratko (CSOS)	
15:45 – 15:50	Overview & introduction to occupational health symposium	<i>Heinrich Rix</i>
15:50 – 16:05	Keynote: Preventing work disability caused by low back pain	<i>Karen Walker-Bone</i>
16:05 – 16:15	Improving the spine health of healthcare workers	<i>Lisa Roberts</i>
16:15 – 16:25	Occupational health in '3D-jobs: Dirty, Dangerous and Demanding'	<i>Brad Beira</i>
16:25 – 16:35	Staying active at work: Strategies to combat sedentary working	<i>Ko Hashimoto</i>
16:35 – 17:00	Panel Discussion	Moderator: Chairpersons Panelists: All Speakers
17:00	End of Day One – Closing Remarks	



Time Zone: SAST (South Africa Standard Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

DAY 2 | SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2025

08:00 – 09:00 Registration and Working Coffee

09:00 – 10:15 Education Committee Session

Chairpersons: Jeremie Larouche

09:00 - 09:05 Introduction *Jeremie Larouche*

09:05 - 09:30 Physical Literacy as a cornerstone non-surgical strategy for low back pain *Brad Beira*

09:30 - 09:40 Q & A Faculty

09:40 - 10:05 Long-term sustainability of in-country surgical education – The Sign Spine initiative *Mike Coscia*

10:05 - 10:15 Q & A Faculty

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 Call for Action: Panel 1

Chairpersons: Pierre Côté

10:45 – 11:00 What are “Calls for Action” and “Why we need them”? *Pierre Côté*

11:00 – 11:30 How do we engage government to create change *Almero H Oosthuizen*

11:30 – 11:45 Discussion All Panelists

10:45 – 11:45 Call for Action: Panel 2

Chairpersons: Danella Lubbe

11:45 – 12:00 Case study 1 from India *Rajani Mullerpatan*

12:00 – 12:15 Case Study 2 from Belgium *Johan Van Lerbeirghe*

12:15 – 12:30 Case Study 3 from South Africa *Qhayiya Magaqa*

12:30 – 12:45 Discussion All Panelists

Time Zone: SAST (South Africa Standard Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 Symposium 5	Call for Action: Panel 3 Chairpersons: André Bussièrès	
14:00 – 14:10	Assessment	<i>Quinette Louw and collaborators</i>
14:10 – 14:20	Engagement	<i>Almero H Oosthuizen and collaborators</i>
14:20 – 14:30	Framework for Action	<i>Pierre Côté and collaborators</i>
14:30 – 14:40	Implementation Plan	<i>André Bussièrès, Mufudzi Chihambakwe and collaborators</i>
14:40 – 14:50	Evaluation Plan	<i>Lisa Roberts, Marco Campello and collaborators</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Discussion	All Panelists
15:00– 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 16:30	Discussion and Voting on Recommendation of SPINE20 2025 Moderators: Koji Tamai Pierre Côté	
15:30 – 15:45	The process for developing recommendation	Koji Tamai
15:45 – 16:30	Voting session	Koji Tamai & Pierre Côté
16:30 – 16:35	SPINE20 – Cape Town Closing Speech	Ian Vlok
16:35 – 16:40	Welcome to 7th SPINE20 – USA 2026	Eric Muehlbauer
16:40	End of Day Two	

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SPINE20 is a global initiative aimed at improving spine care by advocating evidence-based policies to G20 countries and beyond. Its mission is to reduce the burden of spine disorders, promote optimal spine health, support spine-related research, accelerate innovation, and enhance access to quality spine care through strategic government engagement and policy development.





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