CSS
Canadian Spine Society
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Surgery
University of Toronto
Spine Program

WELCOME TO THE

2026

Spine Fellows Course

University of Toronto Spine Program and the Canadian Spine Society

November 12-13, 2026

University of Toronto Surgical Skills Centre

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Level 2 Suite 250-1

600 University Avenue, TORONTO ON



Stephen Lewis
MD MSc FRCSC
Chair



Christopher Nielsen
MD FRCSC
Co-Chair



Ken Thomas
MD MHSc FRCSC
Co-Chair



Welcome!

On behalf of the University of Toronto Spine Program, the Canadian Spine Society, and my co-chairs Dr. Christopher Nielsen and Dr. Ken Thomas, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Second Annual National Canadian Spine Fellow Cadaver Course.

During this 2-day course, you will engage in a high-impact curriculum designed to bridge advanced theory with hands-on mastery. The course features focused, practical lectures followed by four intensive 90-minute cadaver lab sessions. Working in small groups of four fellows per cadaver with dedicated guidance from experienced spine surgeons, you will gain comprehensive, practical experience across a full spectrum of procedures:

Exposures & Fusions: Anterior and lateral lumbar approaches and fusion techniques.

Fixation: Posterior instrumentation spanning all levels of the spine - from occipital and cervical to thoracic, lumbar, sacral, and pelvic.

Decompression & Osteotomies: Advanced surgical techniques and complex deformity correction.

Thanks to the generous support of our major industry partners, you will also have direct access to and demonstration of the latest innovations in spine implant technology.

Our goal is for this course to serve as a vital springboard for your training and career, providing you with the technical confidence to approach complex procedures while building lasting professional connections. We are excited to learn, work, and collaborate with you.

Dr. Stephen Lewis, Course Chair, University of Toronto Spine Program

Dr. Christopher Nielsen, Course Co-Chair, University of Toronto Spine Program

Dr. Ken Thomas, Course Co-Chair, University of Calgary Spine Program

Dr. John Street, President, Canadian Spine Society

Learning Objectives*

1. Describe key spinal anatomy, alignment and biomechanics relevant to surgical planning and technique.

2. Perform essential fixation and fusion techniques across cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral, and pelvic regions using anterior, lateral, and posterior approaches.

3. Apply advanced surgical strategies, including interbody fusion and various osteotomies (posterior column, pedicle subtraction, vertebral column), for deformity correction.

4. Select and adapt surgical techniques based on patient anatomy and clinical indications to optimize outcomes and minimize complications.

* This course is not CME accredited



Faculty

Course Chair:
Stephen Lewis, MD MSc FRCSC

Course Co-Chairs:
Christopher Nielsen, MD FRCSC
Ken Thomas, MD MHSc FRCSC

University of Toronto Spine Program Faculty:
Colby Oitment, BSc MD MSc (C) FRCSC
Frank Jiang, BSc, MDCM MSc FRCSC
Simon Harris, MD
Carlo Santaguida, MD FRCSC
Albert Yee, MD MSc FRCSC

Become a member of the CSS

If you are not already a CSS member we invite you to join us.

CSS Canadian Spine Society

The application process is simple and you will receive a lot of great benefits. We have memberships available for surgeons, non-surgeons and corresponding surgeons (those practicing outside of Canada). Fellows and Residents can become members at no cost and first year practicing surgeons now receive a 50% discount on their first term. Contact the CSS at registration@spinecanada.ca to apply.

Scan to learn more about the Canadian Spine Society

Thank you to our industry partners for their support of this course:

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2027 SPINE WEEK
16 – 20 May • Montréal, Canada
spineweek.org

NOV 12 DAY 1	GROUP A	GROUP B
0700 - 0745	Breakfast and Registration	Breakfast and Registration
0745 - 0900	**LECTURE:** ALIF, LLIF, OLIF MAM Medical Presentation	**LECTURE:** ALIF, LLIF, OLIF MAM Medical Presentation
0900 - 1030	**LAB:** ALIF, LLIF, OLIF	**LECTURE:** Occipito-Cervical Instrumentation Medtronic Presentation
1030 - 1215	**LECTURE:** Thoracic / Lumbar / Pelvic Fixation Medtronic Presentation	**LAB:** Occipito-Cervical Instrumentation
1215 - 1300	Lunch	Lunch
1300 - 1500	**LAB:** Thoracic / Lumbar / Pelvic Fixation	**LECTURE:** Spinal Osteotomies Surgical Planning Bioventus Presentation
1500 - 1645	**LECTURE:** Lumbar Anatomy PLIF / TLIF Bioventus Presentation	**LAB:** Spinal Osteotomies
1645	Closing Remarks / Feedback	Closing Remarks / Feedback
1800	**BANQUET EVENING AT JOEY EATON CENTRE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS** 1 Dundas Street West, Toronto	

NOV 13 DAY 2	GROUP A	GROUP B
0700 - 0800	Breakfast and Registration	Breakfast and Registration
0800 - 1000	**LECTURE:** Occipito-Cervical Instrumentation Depuy Synthes Presentation	**LAB:** ALIF, LLIF, OLIF
1000 - 1200	**LAB:** Occipito-Cervical Instrumentation	**LECTURE:** Thoracic / Lumbar / Pelvic Fixation Depuy Synthes Presentation
1200 - 1300	Lunch	Lunch
1300 - 1500	**LECTURE:** Spinal Osteotomies Surgical Planning VB Spine Presentation	**LAB:** Thoracic / Lumbar / Pelvic Fixation
1500 - 1645	**LAB:** Spinal Osteotomies	**LECTURE:** Lumbar Anatomy PLIF / TLIF VB Spine Presentation
1645	Closing Remarks / Feedback	Closing Remarks / Feedback