

# Dr. Ronjon Paul Visits Australia to Share Benefits of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Speak at SSA Annual Scientific Meeting



**Naperville, IL – June 7, 2011** P. Ronjon Paul, MD, a spinal surgeon with DuPage Medical Group and Edward Hospital, recently shared his expertise in minimally invasive surgery (MIS) with physician peers in Australia. He spoke at the Spine Society of Australia's (SSA) 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting and met directly with surgeons eager to learn and adopt MIS procedures into their practices. During the April 15-19 visit with Australian spine surgeons, Dr. Paul presented case examples, lectured, and attended two surgeries. He met with surgeons in Melbourne, Brisbane, and on the Gold Coast. Much of the emphasis of the presentations was on indications and avoidance of complications. Spine surgeons in Australia have been rapidly adopting MIS surgery, like their peers in the United States.

"The surgeons seemed open and eager to learn," said Dr. Paul. "They were very appreciative of receiving information that was candid and scientific, but also personal with regards to incorporating MIS into an established practice. The opportunity to help foster minimally invasive surgery abroad was a real honor." Dr. Paul spoke about his initial experiences with MIS surgery, described how he adopted it into his practice, cited case examples, and discussed common patient indications. "I described how my early skepticism turned into enthusiasm over my first year working with the procedure," said Dr. Paul. "The cases provided examples of significant deformity and spondylolisthesis reduction on a wide array of patients. I also discussed complication avoidance."

There are many benefits with MIS surgery. Recovery for patients can be quicker than traditional "open" surgeries that typically involve more tissue disruption and larger incisions to access the spine. This can lead to earlier release from hospitals and the return to normal activities such as standing and walking. "MIS procedures offer a safe and effective, less invasive alternative to traditional or open spine surgery," said Dr. Paul. "They provide greater access to the spine, better visualization during surgery, less tissue disruption and related blood loss, and as a result, the potential for faster recovery times. And, with success, the best part is patients are no longer suffering from back and leg pain."

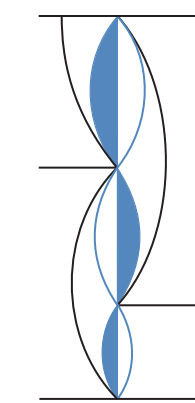
Dr. Paul has established himself as an expert in the area of MIS spine surgery, and was among the first surgeons in the Midwest with experience performing the eXtreme Lateral Interbody Fusion (XLIF®) procedure. Through his efforts, The Spine Center of DuPage Medical Group along with Edward Hospital has become a national teaching center for MIS spinal surgery with surgeons visiting regularly to observe Dr. Paul performing procedures. He has taught over 200 neurosurgeons and spinal surgeons from around the United States, as well as Asia and Europe and has presented similar talks at teaching centers in the United Kingdom.

## Surgeon Background

Dr. Paul brings a well known reputation for excellent outcomes and cutting-edge experience to DuPage Medical Group. Board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, he has become a leader in the field of reconstructive cervical and lumbar spinal surgery with an emphasis on minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Paul has a rapidly growing reputation in the area of "lateral access surgery" to the lumbar spine. Dr. Paul has been an award-winning researcher in genetic tissue engineering for degenerative disc disease and other spinal disorders. He has published his findings in major medical journals and presented at many national and regional medical conferences. He has become a favorite among the area's physicians and families and has treated patients from throughout the Chicagoland area and as far away as Asia.

Dr. Paul serves as medical director of the Spine Center of DuPage Medical Group and is Chair of the Spinal Surgery Section at Edward Hospital. He is also a member of the North American Spine Society, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a teaching member for the Society of Lateral Access Surgery. He is a charter member of the Lumbar Spine Research Society and is a member of the charter class of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. He is affiliated with Good Samaritan and Edward Hospitals.

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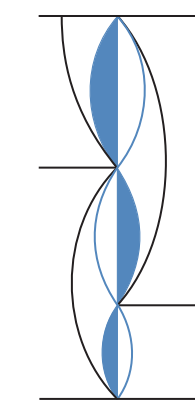
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