

THE 21ST ANNUAL

State of Spine Surgery Think Tank

JUNE 25–27, 2026

★ San José del Cabo, Mexico ★

JW Marriott Los Cabos
Beach Resort & Spa

★ Preceded by ★

The Investment and
Innovation Summit

JUNE 24, 2026



Frank
Phillips, MD

FOUNDER &
CHAIR



Todd Albert, MD

CO-FOUNDERS



Alex Vaccaro,
MD, PhD, MBA



Hyun Bae, MD

DIRECTORS



Greg Mundis
Jr., MD



Phil Louie, MD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE



Ahilan
Sivaganesan, MD





This course fills quickly, and hotel rooms sell out fast—register early to avoid the waitlist.

REGISTER TODAY!

Dear Colleagues:

You're invited to a spine surgery meeting unlike any other.

The **State of Spine Surgery Think Tank** moves beyond traditional lectures and exhibits to focus on meaningful discussion, practical insights, and real-world challenges facing spine surgeons today.

Designed for engagement and relevance, the program features:

- Interactive, discussion-driven sessions where your questions and perspectives matter
- Timely topics focused on today's healthcare environment, emerging technologies, and improving outcomes
- A collaborative setting with surgeons, device leaders, and healthcare executives

Join us a day early for the **Innovation & Investment Summit**, a half-day pre-meeting that brings together spine company CEOs, investors, strategics, and world-renowned surgeons to explore cutting-edge innovation and investment opportunities.

Set at the exceptional **JW Marriott Resort in Cabo**, this promises to be a productive and memorable event. We hope you'll join us.

Best regards,

Frank Phillips, MD
FOUNDER & CHAIR

Todd Albert, MD
CO-FOUNDER

Alex Vaccaro, MD, PhD, MBA
CO-FOUNDER

LEADERSHIP & INVITED FACULTY AND SPEAKERS

Founder & Chair

Frank Phillips, MD

Co-Founders

Todd Albert, MD
Alex Vaccaro, MD,
PhD, MBA

Program Directors

Hyun Bae, MD
Greg Mundis Jr., MD

Program Committee

Phil Louie, MD
Ahilan Sivaganesan, MD

Invited Faculty*

Todd Allen, MD
Neel Anand, MD
Neil Badlani, MD
Sigurd Berven, MD
Evalina Burger, MD
Brandon Carlson, MD, PhD
Peter Derman, MD
Robert Eastlack, MD
Jeff Goldstein, MD
Munish Gupta, MD
Roger Härtl, MD
Hamid Hassanzadeh, MD
Serena Hu, MD
Chevy Iyer, MD
Safdar Khan, MD
Han Jo Kim, MD
Nate Lee, MD

Ronald Lehman Jr., MD
Greg Lopez, MD
Francis Lovecchio, MD
Hani Malone, MD
Isaac Moss, MD
Dan Park, MD
Kees Poelstra, MD, PhD
Sheeraz Qureshi, MD
Zac Ray, MD
Stephen Ryu, MD
Harvinder Sandhu, MD
David Skaggs, MD
Raj Sethi, MD
Alex Thomas, MD
Juan Uribe, MD
Michael Vitale, MD

Invited Speakers

Jim Becker
Chief Executive Officer
triasMD

Roger Strode
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Robin Young
Founder & Publisher
RRY Publications

Keynote Speakers

Scott Becker
Founder, Publisher, &
Chief Content Officer
McGuireWoods

Dana Jacoby
Chief Executive Officer
Vector Medical Group

David Seda
Global Marketing
Medtronic

*Additional faculty to be added prior to the meeting. Faculty subject to change.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Scott Becker
Founder, Publisher, &
Chief Content Officer
McGuireWoods

SCOTT BECKER is a distinguished entrepreneur, investor, and legal professional who has built a remarkable career at the intersection of healthcare, media, and law. As the founder and publisher of Becker's Healthcare, a leading healthcare media company, and a longtime partner at McGuireWoods, a top AmLaw firm, Scott has established himself as an authority in his field.

With a mission to provide valuable insights and strategies for entrepreneurs and business leaders, Scott draws upon his extensive experience to help others navigate the complexities of building and scaling successful

ventures. His expertise spans across various industries, including healthcare, private equity, and venture capital, where he has made significant investments and contributes as an active investor.

Scott currently resides in the Chicago suburbs, Palm Beach Gardens, and Deer Valley. When he's not working on his business endeavors, he can be found pursuing his passions for golf, tennis, fitness, skiing, writing, and speaking.

To learn more about Scott Becker and his insights on entrepreneurship, business growth, and investing, connect with him through Becker's Healthcare, McGuireWoods, or through sbecker@beckerstrategygroup.com.



Dana Jacoby
Chief Executive Officer
Vector Medical Group

DANA JACOBY is a national thought leader regarding the future of healthcare. Her work consulting on billions of dollars in merger and acquisitions make her one of the most sought-after healthcare and business specialists in the country.

Dana's experience bridges both large corporate healthcare companies as well as individual providers. This has included positions with General Electric Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, and Allergan. Her work has included integration strategies, market analysis, design implementation, and service delivery in medical practices, hospitals, and health systems in nearly every state in the United States and internationally in Asia, Europe, and Canada.

She is a regular Keynote Speaker at major national medical society meetings and consultants extensively throughout the field of healthcare.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



David Seda
Global Marketing
Medtronic

DAVID leads product marketing for Clinic software at Medtronic Cranial and Spine Technologies (CST). He also leads the Data and AI Council developing strategy and roadmap deliverables. Previously at Microsoft, he was General Manager of AI Product Marketing for Microsoft's AI portfolio. David has held executive positions at GE Healthcare, Hewlett Packard, Cisco and Calix.

He spent 11 years at Apple as an engineer and head of Communications reporting to the CEO. David was a guest lecturer at the Helsinki School of Economics in Finland. He served on the Board of Trustees at Graceland University in Iowa.

He holds an MBA from Texas Tech University, and degrees in Computer Science, Economics and Business Management.



INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION SUMMIT : JUNE 24, 2026

PRE-MEETING: INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION SUMMIT

The ½ day Summit aims to unite promising early and mid-stage spine companies with top investment firms and corporate development executives.

Hear from leading bankers, VCs, and business development experts regarding how they identify the best investment opportunities in the field of spine surgery.

Plus, you'll hear from C-suite executives and board members from ten of the most innovative and disruptive spine companies, each of which is seeking to raise capital.

No other program offers such access to investment experts and leaders of emerging companies, all packed into an afternoon Summit.

PROGRAM | 1:30–5:45 PM*

The Summit program is currently being developed but will include a combination of presentations by emerging and mid-size companies, panels including C-suite executives from the major spine companies, and presentations by experts in the medical device investment space.

LAST YEAR'S TOPICS INCLUDED:

The Financing and M&A Environment for Spine Start-ups

- Investment banker

Panel: What are *Investors* Looking for to Finance Spine Start-ups?

- Panel of venture capital, investment bankers and private investors

Spine Company Presentations

- 6 Early and mid-stage company presentations (10 minutes each)

Investment Snapshots

- 4 Early and mid-stage company presentations (5 minutes each)

Panel: What are *Strategics* Looking for to Finance or Acquire Spine Start-ups?

- Panel of decision makers from spine strategics

*** Immediately following the program, a reception will be held for Summit attendees.**

MAIN PROGRAM: JUNE 25–27, 2026

PROGRAM DAYS & TIMES	
Thursday, June 25	7:30 AM–3:40 PM
Friday, June 26	7:30 AM–12:30 PM
Saturday, June 27	7:30 AM–12:00 PM
SPECIAL SESSION	
Saturday, June 27	12:30–2:15 PM

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The topics are a sample of those to be covered:

Low Back Pain into the Future

- State of the art diagnostic workup? Identifying the elusive pain generator
- What “pain doc” interventions work and have quality data to support?
- What is the evidence that spine surgery is an effective treatment for low back pain?

Safety in Spine Surgery

- What is this all about?
- Safely adopting innovative spine and enabling technologies

Lumbar Disc Arthroplasty: 25 Years In—Slowest Adoption of Technology in Spine?

- Overview of long-term global data
- Why lumbar arthroplasty still hasn’t scaled in the U.S.
- Cut the TDR BS, ALIF is simple, reproducible and cost-effective

MIS/Endoscopy

- Where does endoscopy shine and truly outperform legacy techniques
- Tubular vs. endoscopic decompression for lumbar stenosis
- Dual portal: Same morbidity as tubular decompression. Uniportal is the game changer

What’s New?

- Adult spinal deformity
- Evaluation of cervical myelopathy
- Politics

Navigating Gray Zones in Cervical Arthroplasty: Who Might Benefit?

- Contact sport athletes
- Hybrid constructs
- Beyond radiculopathy

State of Spine Practice

- Private Equity. How it works: The good, the bad and the ugly
- Bigger is better
- Alternative payment models

Spine Robotics: The Art of Pressing ‘Confirm’ for \$1.2 Million

- Accuracy vs. efficiency vs. outcomes vs. cost
- Robotic complications and failure modes
- Future directions

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Deformity

- It's 2026—What is new in alignment targets of the spine
- Can we make deformity surgery recovery easier
- How I plan a deformity surgery—coronal plane / sagittal plane
- Managing the lumbosacral spine
- The use of SPECT CT to limit surgery in adult deformity

AI in Spine Surgery: Promise, Peril, and Proof

- AI and big data in medicine
- Applications of AI in spine surgery
- AI: The Peril: Bias, black boxes, and blind trust

The Ambulatory Surgery Center

- What are the critical elements of successful ASC strategy?
- Is the march towards ultra-lean ASCs a Sisyphean trap?

Revisiting The TLIF Workhorse

- TLIF restores lordosis, does not subside and fusion heals if you know how to do it
- Less invasive vs. endoscopic TLIF which is a marketing tool and flat back machine!

Biologics in Spine

- An evidence-based approach to osteobiologics in the spine
- Are bioactive implants the next frontier

Personalized Spine Surgery: The Future?

- Surgeon specific rods
- Personalized interbodies

Sideways: Surgeon or the Machine?

- Single position lateral fusion

Risk Factors for ASD

- The MIS approach has “solved” ASD
- Real spine deformity surgeons need real surgical solutions to mitigate ASD risks?

Surgeons' Lives Matter

- I'm burning out or know someone who is. How do I get myself out of this?
- What are the most valuable lessons I've learned since fellowship?
- How to chase happiness

Debates

- CDR is the holy grail
- Patient-specific implants

Keynotes

- State of Spine
- Practice models for the future: challenges and wins
- Where does AI in medicine surgery take us?

REGISTRATION

Register early, as space is limited and fills quickly!

Fast, Easy, and Secure Online Registration:
broadwater.regfox.com/stateofspine26

PRE-MEETING	
Investment and Innovation Summit Fee	\$195

MAIN MEETING	
Surgeons	\$745
Fellows, Residents, & Allied Health	\$425
Representatives of Non-Exhibiting Company	\$2,250
Representatives of Financial/Investment Company	\$425
Late Registration Fee <i>(after June 1)</i>	\$50

Registration fee includes all scientific sessions, meeting materials, and related social events.

Cancellations and Refunds

- Cancellations must be received in writing by May 22nd to receive a full refund. **No refunds will be provided after May 22nd.**
- Other costs incurred by the registrant, such as airline or hotel penalties, are the responsibility of the registrant.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

If the course is canceled or an emergency prevents the course from being held, registration fees will be refunded in full. Hotel, airfare, and other expenses will be the registrant’s responsibility.

Attendance

The course chair reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone whose presence is considered to be incompatible with course objectives.

Questions
Contact **Alyssa Doherty** adoherty@broad-water.com
P 630-681-1040

For Exhibit Or Corporate Support Registration
Contact **Christy Gill** cgill@broad-water.com

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

JW Marriott Los Cabos Beach Resort & Spa | San José del Cabo, Mexico



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Discounted rates are available until **May 8th** or until the block sells out.

Room Rates*	
Resort View:	\$338
Ocean View:	\$371
Ocean Facing:	\$410
Ocean View (Casa Maat):	\$681

**plus applicable taxes*

Features

- Cutting edge resort designed by world-renowned architect Jim Olsen
- Beachfront location where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean
- Luxury spa facilities and golf course
- Wide range of culinary options

To Book Your Reservation

Register for the meeting and the **booking link will be included in your confirmation email**. Rooms will sell out quickly. Register today!

Invited Faculty or those traveling on grants, please contact Alyssa Doherty at adoherty@broad-water.com for housing details.

Hotel Cancellations

Cancellations made 45 days before the arrival date or less, will incur in a cancellation fee for the full stay. Cancellations will be charged to the credit card provided as guarantee.

Casa Maat

In addition to the JW Marriott, attendees may also choose to stay at Casa Maat, a boutique hotel located on the same property as the JW Marriott. Casa Maat offers a more intimate, residential-style experience while providing full access to the resort amenities. A limited number of rooms have been secured for our group and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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