



Saturday, September 26, 2026
USC Health Sciences Campus
Aresty Conference Center-Live
7:00 am-3:30 pm

9th Annual
USC Spine Symposium

Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

Presented By:
USC Spine Center
and USC Office of Continuing Medical Education



PROGRAM AGENDA

7:00 am **Registration Opens and Continental Breakfast**

7:50 am **Welcome Remarks**
*Michael Safaee, MD and
Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA*

Session I: Fundamentals of Spine Care

Moderator: Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA

8:00 am **Spine Injection Procedures:
Beyond the Epidural**
Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA

8:15 am **Impactful Spine Center Research**
Marc A. Abdou, MS

8:30 am **The Role of Pain Psychology**
Faye Weinstein, PhD

8:45 am **Current Concepts in Pain
Management**
Michael Bottros, MD

9:00 am **Preoperative Physical Therapy
for the Aging Spine**
Justin M. Derian, DPT

9:15 am **Questions and Answers**

9:30 am **Break**

Session II: Updates in Surgical Care and Technique

Moderator: Michael Safaee, MD

10:00 am **Cervical Spine Disease and
Motion Preservation**
Jeffrey C. Wang, MD

10:15 am **Approaches to Degenerative
Deformity Correction**
Raymond J. Hah, MD

10:30 am **Fusion Techniques for Lumbar
Radiculopathy: Indications Beyond
Decompression**
Mark J. Spoonamore, MD

10:45 am **MIS Spine Techniques
(Endoscopic, Tubular, etc.)**
John C. Liu, MD

11:00 am **Questions and Answers**

Keynote Address

Moderator: Michael Safaee, MD

11:15 am **Digital Twins in Spinal Deformity**
Christopher P. Ames, MD

12:00 pm **Lunch**

Session III: Future and Innovation in Spine Care

*Moderators: Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA
and Michael Safaee, MD*

1:00 pm **Non-Operative Management of
Axial Low Back Pain**
Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA

1:15 pm **The Aging Spine**
Constanza J. Cortes, PhD

1:30 pm **Mitigating Challenges and
Optimizing Outcomes in Spine
Surgery**
Patrick C. Hsieh, MD

1:45 pm **The Role of AI in Spine Surgery**
Kiran Alluri, MD

2:00 pm **Differential Aging in the
Degenerative Spine**
Michael Safaee, MD

2:15 pm **Questions and Answers**

2:30 pm **Case Discussions and Audience
Interactive Session**
All Speakers

3:15 pm **Closing Remarks**

3:30 pm **Adjourn**

FACULTY

COURSE DIRECTORS

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Michael Safaee, MD

Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Neurological Surgery

Gene Tekmyster, DO, MBA

Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF USC

Faculty

Marc A. Abdou, MS

Senior Clinical Researcher
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

John C. Liu, MD

Professor of Neurological and
Orthopaedic Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Neurological Surgery

Kiran Alluri, MD

Assistant Professor of
Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Mark J. Spoonamore, MD

Associate Professor of Orthopaedic
and Neurological Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Michael Bottros, MD

Professor of Anesthesiology
Department of Anesthesiology

Jeffrey C. Wang, MD

Professor of Orthopaedic and
Neurological Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Raymond J. Hah, MD

Associate Professor of Orthopaedic
and Neurological Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Faye Weinstein, PhD

Associate Professor of
Anesthesiology and Psychiatry
Department of Anesthesiology
and Psychiatry

Patrick C. Hsieh, MD

Professor of Neurological and
Orthopaedic Surgery
USC Spine Center
Department of Neurological Surgery

GUEST

Faculty

Christopher P. Ames, MD

Professor of Neurosurgery
and Orthopedic Surgery
Director of Spinal Deformity
and Spine Tumor Surgery
Co-Director, UCSF Spine Center
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Constanza J. Cortes, PhD

Assistant Professor
of Gerontology
The USC Leonard Davis
School of Gerontology
Los Angeles, CA

Joseph M. Derian, DPT

Assistant Professor of
Clinical Physical Therapy
USC Division of Biokinesiology and
Physical Therapy
Herman Ostrow School
of Dentistry of USC

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The USC Spine Symposium aims to provide information and education on the management of spinal disorders to clinical practitioners and researchers. The program is an all-day event with didactic lectures, group discussions and question and answer sessions with participants. Topics covered include the natural history of various spinal disorders, the diagnostics workup and imaging of spinal diseases, and medical and surgical treatment of commonly encountered spinal diseases in the clinical setting.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify appropriate workup, diagnostic options and imaging modalities for cervical, thoracic and lumbar spinal disorders.
- Examine non-surgical management and medical treatment options for spinal diseases including advanced interventional techniques.
- Assess the data and efficacy of surgical treatment of various spinal disorders.
- Examine complex surgical case management including intraoperative neuromonitoring, intraoperative imaging and anesthetic management.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course is intended for physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, internists, family practitioners, rheumatologists, neurologists, physiatrists, pain specialists, orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons and spine surgeons.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

CREDIT DESIGNATION

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The following may apply *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™* for license renewal: Registered Nurses may report up to 6.25 credit hour(s) toward the CME requirements for license renewal by their state Board of Registered Nurses (BRN). CME may be noted on the license renewal application in lieu of a BRN provider number.

Physician Assistants: The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants states that *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* accredited courses are acceptable CME requirements for recertification.

REGISTRATION

9th Annual USC Spine Symposium: Live Conference- September 26, 2026

Early-bird price for live registration ends September 22, 2026 at 12:00 pm, PDT.

After September 22, 2026: Register on-site on September 26, 2026, at the venue.

Tuition:

MD/DO

NP/PA/APP or RN/AH or PT

Resident/Fellow

Early-Bird

\$150

\$100

\$50

After September 22

\$175

\$125

\$50



Cancellation:

Cancellations must be received by the USC Office of CME (fax or email) by September 22, 2026, 12:00 pm PDT for a refund. A \$50 cancellation fee will be applied. In the event of course cancellation by conference organizers, registration fees will be fully refunded. USC will not refund any travel costs incurred.

Location:

Catherine and Joseph Aresty Conference Center, in the lower ground level of the Harlyne J. Norris Cancer Research Tower on the USC Health Sciences Campus 1450 Biggy Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Parking:

\$20 at Biggy Parking Structure (P8): 1334 Biggy Street Los Angeles, CA 90033. Parking is contactless and there will not be an attendant on duty. Follow the signs with these instructions: Park in any unmarked space. Text **BGGY to 25023**. Enter your license plate and payment details. The Office of CME does not control parking in USC structures and is not responsible for parking issues or citations on campus.

Register:

Mail: 1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Mail-in registration must be postmarked by September 22, 2026.

Online: keckusc.cloud-cme.com/spine2026 **Visa or Mastercard only**

Phone: (323) 442-2555 **American Express, Mastercard or Visa**

Email: usceme@usc.edu

NAME _____ DEGREE _____

MEDICAL LICENSE NUMBER _____

TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIALTY _____

EMAIL ADDRESS* _____

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION _____

SPECIAL DIETARY OR PHYSICAL NEEDS _____

We strive to accommodate dietary recommendations. Please note that not all food items may meet special requirements. Food items will be labeled for your convenience. *Registration confirmation and event reminder will be emailed.

Method of Payment:

No cash payment accepted.

Check (Check payable to USC. Check payment must be postmarked by September 22, 2026)

Credit Card (American Express by Fax/Phone/Mail only, Mastercard or Visa online)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNER _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION.



Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

Office of Continuing Medical Education
1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223
Los Angeles, CA 90033



9th Annual USC Spine Symposium
September 26, 2026

Live Conference

USC Health Sciences Campus
Aresty Conference Center
1450 Biggy Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
University
of Southern
California