Welcome
- Our Mission -

Our fellowship will provide the necessary education to achieve competence as a specialist in surgery of the spine, including operative and nonoperative care as well as a broad-based education in spinal disorders.

The educational program will consist of both academic and technical components.

- Thomas Cha, MD, MBA
MGH/BWH Fellowship Director
Fellowship Overview
Clinical Experience

Structure of Fellowship
- MGH – 2 fellows
- BWH – 1 fellow
- 3 x 3 month rotations followed by 3 x 1 month rotations

Call Coverage
- MGH and BWH are Level I trauma centers
- Weekly call alternating with neurosurgery

MGH – 999 bed (Tertiary care); Newton Wellesley Hospital
BWH – 793 bed (Tertiary care); Faulkner Hospital
# Clinical Experience

## Rotation Schedule

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<th>Fellow 1</th>
<th>Fellow 2</th>
<th>Fellow 3</th>
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<td>MGH 1</td>
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# Clinical Experience

## MGH Schedule

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<td>Kim</td>
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<td>Tobert</td>
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# Clinical Experience

## BWH Schedule

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Education

Didactic Program

- MGH – Monday morning conference (Faculty lecture, M+M, Indications conference)
- BWH – Spine Tumor Board
- Thursday – Departmental Grand Rounds
- Friday – Combined campus conference – (Journal club, attending lectures, case conferences, research meetings)

History of CDA

- 1960's - Fernström Intracorporal Endoprosthesis
  - Ulf Fernström implanted the 1st artificial disc in 1966
  - Stainless steel ball bearing (intact anulus)
  - Inserted 191 lumbar & 13 cervical spheres
  - High failure rate
    - Adjacent-segment hypermobility
    - Device subsidence
    - Device migration

- As a result disc arthroplasty took back seat to cervical fusion

Slide from a recording of a Friday Zoom MGH/BWH Orthopaedic Spine Attending Lecture
Life Outside Fellowship
Alumni - Map

Where are they now?
Our Faculty
Our Faculty
Dr. Hershman graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University College of Medicine, where he received his medical degree. He completed his orthopaedic residency at the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases. He continued his specialization in spine by completing the world-renowned fellowship in complex spine and spinal deformity surgery at Washington University in St. Louis.

Previously, Dr. Hershman practiced in South Florida, specializing in the surgical management of cervical myelopathy, complex spine and spinal deformity in the adult and geriatric patient. He has specific interests in revision surgery, minimally invasive techniques to treat spinal deformity, and the surgical and non-surgical management of spinal conditions in osteoporotic patients. His research interests include deformity outcomes and osteoporosis, and myelopathy.

Dr. Hershman is an active member of the prestigious Cervical Spine Research Society, the Scoliosis Research Society, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery. He is currently involved in many ongoing research studies. Dr. Hershman has published numerous peer-reviewed papers and his research has been presented both nationally and internationally.
Christopher Bono, MD

Vice Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr. Bono obtained his medical degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) Health Science Center at Brooklyn (now SUNY Downstate Medical Center). He completed his orthopaedic residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Medical School (now Rutgers New Jersey Medical School). Dr. Bono completed his spine surgery fellowship at the University of California, San Diego.

Previously, Dr. Bono practiced at the Boston Medical Center. He specializes in cervical and lumbar spinal stenosis, cervical myelopathy, cervical and lumbar disc herniations, and lumbar spondylolisthesis. Dr. Bono has particular interest in the management of cervical and lumbar degenerative disorders. His research interests include outcomes and database analyses.

Dr. Bono is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He is past president of the North American Spine Society (2015-16) and continues to be active in a number of committees.

Dr. Bono is the current Editor-in-Chief of The Spine Journal, which holds the highest impact factor among journals dedicated to spine. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Cervical Spine Research Society, and the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, holding or having held many leadership positions in these societies as well.
Dr. Fogel graduated from the University of Michigan and Chicago Medical School, where he earned his medical degree. He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, serving as chief resident his final year. He continued his specialization in spine surgery by completing the Harvard University Spine Surgery Fellowship here at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Fogel attended the Value-Based Healthcare Delivery Course at Harvard Business School. He was awarded The Charles M. Schwartz, MD, Traveling Fellowship and received additional training in spine surgery with world renowned leaders in spine surgery at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Fogel specializes in the management of cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spinal disorders. He has particular interest in cervical and lumbar degeneration. Dr. Fogel’s research interests are post-op pain control and value-based care including patient outcomes, safety, and quality improvement.

In many cases, Dr. Fogel is able to treat patients with non-surgical methods. When surgery is needed, he often is able to perform minimally invasive procedures, which decreases patient discomfort and speeds recovery times. His care is marked by his empathy for patients and true commitment to their best interests.
Dr. Kim earned his BS at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1986, and he earned his MD, PhD at Harvard Medical School in 1994. He completed his residency at Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program in 2000, following which he completed an Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. In 2001, Dr. Kim completed the M. Muller North American Orthopaedic Fellowship with Prof. Reinhold Ganz in Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland and with Dr. Paul Glazer, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA.

Dr. Kim specializes in pediatric hip preservation surgery, pediatric sports medicine, as well as pediatric and adult spinal reconstruction. His research interests include fusionless pediatric deformity correction and young adult deformity.
Dr. Schwab graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH and Chicago Medical School, where he obtained his medical degree and first Master’s degree in Clinical Pathology. He completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic and was awarded the P.J. Kelly award for outstanding basic science research. He has sub-specialty fellowship training in spine surgery from The Hospital for Special Surgery and orthopaedic oncology from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Schwab recently earned his second Master's degree from Harvard/MIT School of Health sciences and Technology as part of the Clinical Investigator Training Program (CITP).

Dr. Joseph Schwab combines his spine surgery and oncology training with his research interests in tumors and degenerative conditions of the spine. He plans on utilizing his CITP training to conduct clinical trials in his areas of clinical interest. He has an active practice that includes the management of benign and malignant bone tumors as well as maladies of the spine such as cervical spinal stenosis, cervical myelopathy, lumbar stenosis, lumbar spondylolisthesis, herniated discs and adult scoliosis.

He provides excellent patient care today and wants to use research to improve patient treatment in the future.
Dr. Tobert graduated from Hope College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he received his medical degree. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program before undergoing sub-specialization training in spine surgery at the University of Utah. This fellowship with a renowned group of spine surgeons specifically focused on surgical management of complex spinal disorders.

Dr. Tobert specializes in the treatment of adult spinal disorders. His training enables him to care for patients with cervical, thoracic or lumbosacral spine issues that arise from degenerative, deformity, traumatic or neoplastic causes. His primary goal is to provide excellent patient care informed by the best available evidence.

Dr. Tobert’s research interests include outcomes and database analyses. He is actively engaged in research efforts to improve patient care and is a member of numerous academic spine societies. He believes clinical research and basic science form a foundation for empathic and individualized patient care.
Dr. Cha received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University majoring in molecular biology. He then received his MD and MBA from the Drexel University College of Medicine jointly with the Lebow School of Business. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the New York Orthopaedic Hospital - Columbia University Medical Center serving as a chief resident his final year. Dr. Cha went on to receive specialized training in spinal surgery at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago under the guidance of world renowned leaders in the field of spine surgery. There he developed the interest and expertise in caring for patients with complex disorders of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine. Dr. Cha specializes in the treatment of spinal disorders of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine. He is particularly interested in the appropriate use of minimally invasive and motion-sparing techniques, and cervical degeneration and deformity. Dr. Cha’s research interests include spinal biomechanics, outcomes, and cost effectiveness.
Locations

The Spine Service sees patients and performs surgery at five locations: Massachusetts General Hospital, Mass General Waltham, Newton-Wellesley Spine Center, Brigham and Women’s/Mass General Foxborough and Mass General North Shore Center for Outpatient Care.

Massachusetts General Hospital has the capability to do the most complex of surgeries.

The ambulatory centers at MG Waltham, Newton-Wellesley Spine Center, BW/MG Foxborough, and MG North Shore are efficient, specialized centers that are very facile at regional anesthesia, have nurses, and surgical technicians who are highly competent at spine surgery and have rapid case turnover.
Thank you!