



# Don't Let Back Pain Stop You

The Spine and Scoliosis Center has been helping patients in the Central Florida area since 1958. With over 50 years experience and five locations to serve you, they offer cutting edge medical care using non-surgical, surgical and minimally invasive surgical techniques to alleviate your back and neck pain.

When statistics show that 90 percent of Americans will be affected by back pain at some point in their life, it is good to know there is competent, dependable, experienced help right here at home when, and if, you need it. "Since our doors opened, we have been committed to providing compassionate, personal care to our patients," says SASC founder Joseph Flynn, Sr., M.D. "Our goal is to improve their quality of life and we have been very successful at doing just that."

With offices in Orlando, Ocoee, Davenport, Winter Haven and Clermont, there's an SASC office near you. SASC provides its patients with the largest group of spine specialists in the area, consisting of four highly qualified surgeons, a pain management specialist, two licensed and board certified Physician Assistants and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner.

Whatever your needs may be, the diverse qualifications and experience of the SASC team will provide the right solution, whether it be rest and medication, pain management or surgery to repair injury or age-related spine problems.

To allow for continuity of care, SASC has pain management clinics at its Orlando and Clermont offices. This enables



## SASC performs the following procedures:

- Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery
- Lumbar Fusion
- Cervical Fusion
- Lumbar Microdiscectomy
- Scoliosis Surgery
- Kyphoplasty/Vertebroplasty
- Pain Injections/Discography
- Lumbar Disc Replacement
- Cervical Disc Replacement
- X-Stop for Lumbar Stenosis
- Complex Revision Spine Surgery
- (DLIF) XLIF Lumbar Surgery
- Spinal Cord Stimulator Placement
- Spinal Stenosis Surgery
- Facet Joint Denervation Technique

patients to undergo a complete physical examination, have the necessary procedures performed and then receive compassionate rehabilitative care all in one facility. When you visit the Spine and Sco-

liosis Center, you don't get just one physician, you get an entire team of specialists, each dedicated to making you well and healthy once again. Come to SASC and get the best care of your life!



For more information,  
visit our Web site at  
[www.spinedoctors.md](http://www.spinedoctors.md)  
or call 407-849-1200.

# The Spine & Scoliosis Center

## Providing Much-Needed Relief Using Compassionate Care

By Rachel Akers

Studies suggest that back pain affects approximately 90% of adults at some time in their lives and about 67% of adults experience neck pain. These two ailments are among the most common reasons for physician visits and are major causes of disability, missed workdays and high health care costs. With those painful hurdles in mind, The Spine & Scoliosis Center (SASC) is giving Central Floridians practical, high-quality solutions through revolutionary care.

“We have served this area for more than 50 years,” remarks SASC’s founder, Joseph C. Flynn, M.D. “Since our doors opened, we have been committed to providing personalized care that improves our patients’ quality of life. We’ve been very successful at accomplishing that.”

Dr. Flynn originally practiced with Joseph G. Matthews, M.D.; Royston Miller, M.D.; Newton McCollough, M.D.; and James Richards, M.D. They became known as Matthews, Flynn and Richards Orthopedic Clinic in 1958. After building a foundation of stewardship and community involvement, Dr. Flynn established the Spine and Scoliosis Center in 1990 and later expanded its care to five locations (Orlando, Clermont, Davenport, Ocoee and Winter Haven).

Today, SASC is known as the largest spine surgery group in the area, with four highly qualified surgeons, one pain management physician and licensed and board-certified physician assistants.

### ADVANCED TREATMENT OPTIONS

“I was an athlete, had injuries and saw the positive results of physical medicine,” expresses SASC’s Javier A. Placer, M.D., when asked why he became a pain management physician. “We put a lot of emphasis on prevention of injuries or furthering injuries, but there are times when surgery is necessary. During those situations, our practice is well prepared to take care of our patients by providing them the most up-to-date technology to treat their individual problems.”

“We’re in a unique position to do minimally invasive surgery plus more complicated procedures,” points out SASC’s Scott A. Farley, D.O. “We do the most difficult spinal deformity [scoliosis, etc.] and complicated revision surgeries in the area.”

The team at SASC agrees that patient care at the practice begins with nonoperative treatment, but when a patient needs surgery, they can trust that their SASC physician will practice sound judgment and will give them the best in comprehensive care.

### THE BENEFIT OF THE TEAM

The staff at SASC credits much of the practice’s success to how well its team operates. “We enjoy working as a team,” states

**On the Previous Page: Left to right, standing: Scott A. Farley, D.O.; Geoffrey Stewart, M.D.; Javier A. Placer, M.D. Seated: Joseph C. Flynn, Sr., M.D.; Joseph C. Flynn, Jr., M.D.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SPINE & SCOLIOSIS CENTER

**Dr. Flynn, Jr. and Dr. Stewart perform a lumbar fusion while Dr. Rocha and Bobbielee McDonald, PA-C, assist. The team approach is what makes The Spine & Scoliosis Center unique and one of excellence.**

Dr. Farley. “Our surgery time is faster because we’re able to rely on each of our expertise. This kind of unity is so beneficial for the patient because it ensures they get the very best care.”

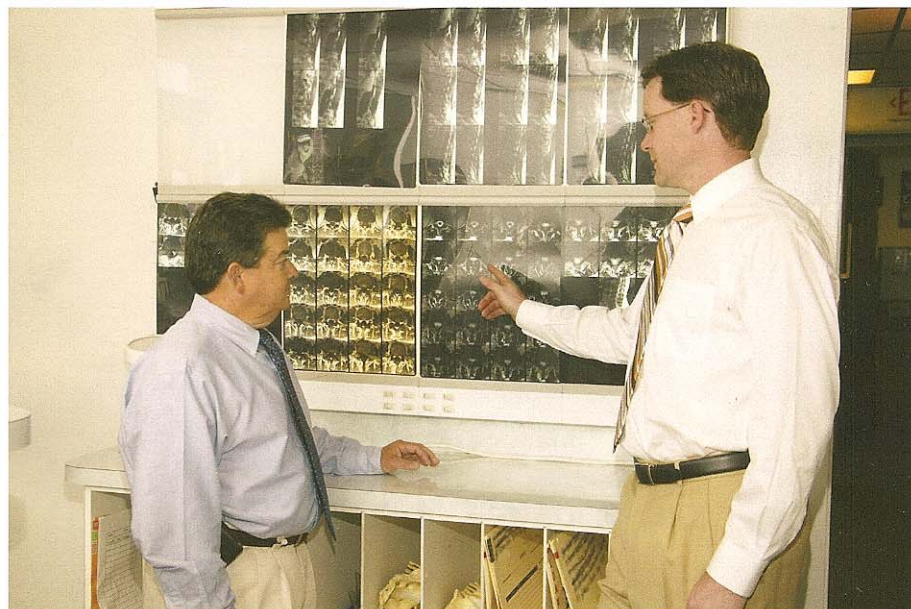
In addition to Dr. Flynn’s noteworthy background, SASC boasts the experience of its remaining staff, including:

- **Joseph C. Flynn, Jr., M.D.**, is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and the American Board of Spine Surgery. He attended Georgia Southern College where he received a B.S. in Biology. His education continued at the master’s degree level at both Georgia Southern College and M.D. degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He served an internship in general surgery at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL, and his residency in orthopaedic surgery was completed at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston in 1992. This was followed by a one-year fellowship in orthopaedic spine surgery at the Arkansas Spine Center in Little Rock, AR. His areas of research include spinal deformity and spinal instrumentation with presentation of his work at national and international meetings. Dr. Flynn’s primary interests include pediatric and adult spinal deformities, as well as degenerative and traumatic disorders of the cervical and lumbar spine. He is currently the Director of Spine Education for the Orlando Regional Medical Center’s Orthopaedic Residency Program. Dr. Flynn has recently been elected Department Chair of the Orthopedics Division at Orlando Health.
- **Geoffrey Stewart, M.D.**, is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and the American Board of Spine Surgery. Dr. Stewart received his medical degree from Jefferson

Medical College in Philadelphia. He completed his orthopaedic training in Boston at Tufts University Affiliated Hospitals and the Massachusetts General Hospital. He then completed the Maryland fellowship in reconstructive spinal surgery with Dr. Paul McAfee in Baltimore, MD, incorporating both orthopaedic and neurosurgical spine training. Dr. Stewart specializes in the treatment of adult and pediatric spinal disorders. His particular interest is in newer, minimally invasive surgical procedures and he has participated as a faculty member in courses to teach these techniques to other spine surgeons. He has authored a number of articles on spine surgery, and his research has won awards at major scientific meetings both locally and internationally. He has also been elected to the International College of Spine Surgeons, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the newest technology available to spine surgeons. Dr. Stewart has recently been appointed Assistant Professor of Orthopedics in the Department of Medical Education at UCF.

- **Javier A. Placer, M.D.**, is board certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and by the Board of Pain Medicine. He completed his fellowship at the University of Florida Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. Dr. Placer's areas of specialized medical care include physical medicine, pain management, rehabilitation, pain relief treatment via injection, electrodiagnostic medicine and sports medicine.

**Dr. Flynn, Jr., and Dr. Farley review a patient's lumbar MRI and plan possible treatment options. The Spine & Scoliosis Center offers comprehensive spinal care that includes both nonoperative and operative therapies. Nonsurgical or minimally invasive treatments will be considered before surgery.**



**Dr. Stewart, an internationally recognized spine surgeon, discusses the anatomy of the spine and scoliosis with a patient. Each patient receives optimal and customized care by the doctors at The Spine & Scoliosis Center.**

PHOTOS BY LES STONE/DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHICS, INC.

- **Scott A. Farley, D.O.**, relocated his private spine practice from Oklahoma City to the greater Orlando area and SASC in March 2008. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at Michigan State in 2005. Following his residency, Dr. Farley completed a spinal reconstructive fellowship in Louisville, KY, in 2006 at Spine Surgery PSC. Dr. Farley has authored and published spinal research in the international publication, *Spine*.

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- **Bobbilee McDonald, PA-C**, graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant in 2004. Also, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from August State University in 2002. McDonald is fully licensed as a physician assistant by the state of Florida and is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

- **Erin Michael Carnahan, PA-C**, graduated from Nova Southern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Additionally, he earned his Bachelor of Science from Auburn University in 2002. While attending Nova Southeastern University, he received the Humanitarian Award for his efforts in helping



**Dr. Javier Placer, assisted by tech Joe Flores, performs an interventional spinal procedure. The Spine & Scoliosis Center has an on-site state-of-the-art pain center located in both their Clermont and Orlando offices. Patients can receive physician's evaluations and procedures and rehabilitative care all in the same facility.**

the underserved. Carnahan is fully licensed as a physician assistant by the state of Florida and is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

### **COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE, QUALITY AND CONVENIENCE**

With a staff comprised of culturally diverse award-winning surgeons and acclaimed physician assistants, it's easy to see the practice is dedicated to ensuring patients receive optimal and customized care.

Adding to that list of benefits is a convenient and unique perk: a pain management clinic on site at its Orlando and Clermont offices. This feature allows patients one-stop shopping, so to speak, in that they can receive physician's evaluations and procedures and rehabilitative care in the same facility.

"This allows for continuity of care," explains Dr. Farley. "I am constantly communicating with the physicians about their patients and vice versa. A whole team is committed to each patient."

Dr. Flynn and his well-equipped staff are proud of what they have accomplished and offer, but continue to look for ways to improve. "We are planning to expand our quality care," adds Dr. Flynn. "We are confident in the service we now provide, but are excited about the future of this practice and how it will help improve more lives in the community."

*The Spine & Scoliosis Center has five locations: Orlando, Clermont, Davenport, Ocoee and Winter Haven, FL. For more information, log onto [www.spinedoctors.md](http://www.spinedoctors.md) or call Zelda Hanna, Practice Administrator, at (407) 849-1200. ■*

### **The Procedures SASC Offers**

- Minimally invasive spinal surgery
- Lumbar fusion
- Cervical fusion
- Lumbar microdisectomy
- Scoliosis surgery
- Kyphoplasty/vertebroplasty
- Pain injections/discography
- Lumbar disc replacement
- Cervical disc replacement
- X-Stop for lumbar stenosis spine surgery
- (DLIF) XLIF lumbar surgery
- Spinal cord stimulator placement
- Spinal stenosis surgery
- Complex revision

