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# JOURNAL

## THE GLOBAL SPINE CARE INITIATIVE

*page 34*

**Leadership Essentials:  
Vision, Mission, Values & Culture**

*page 20*

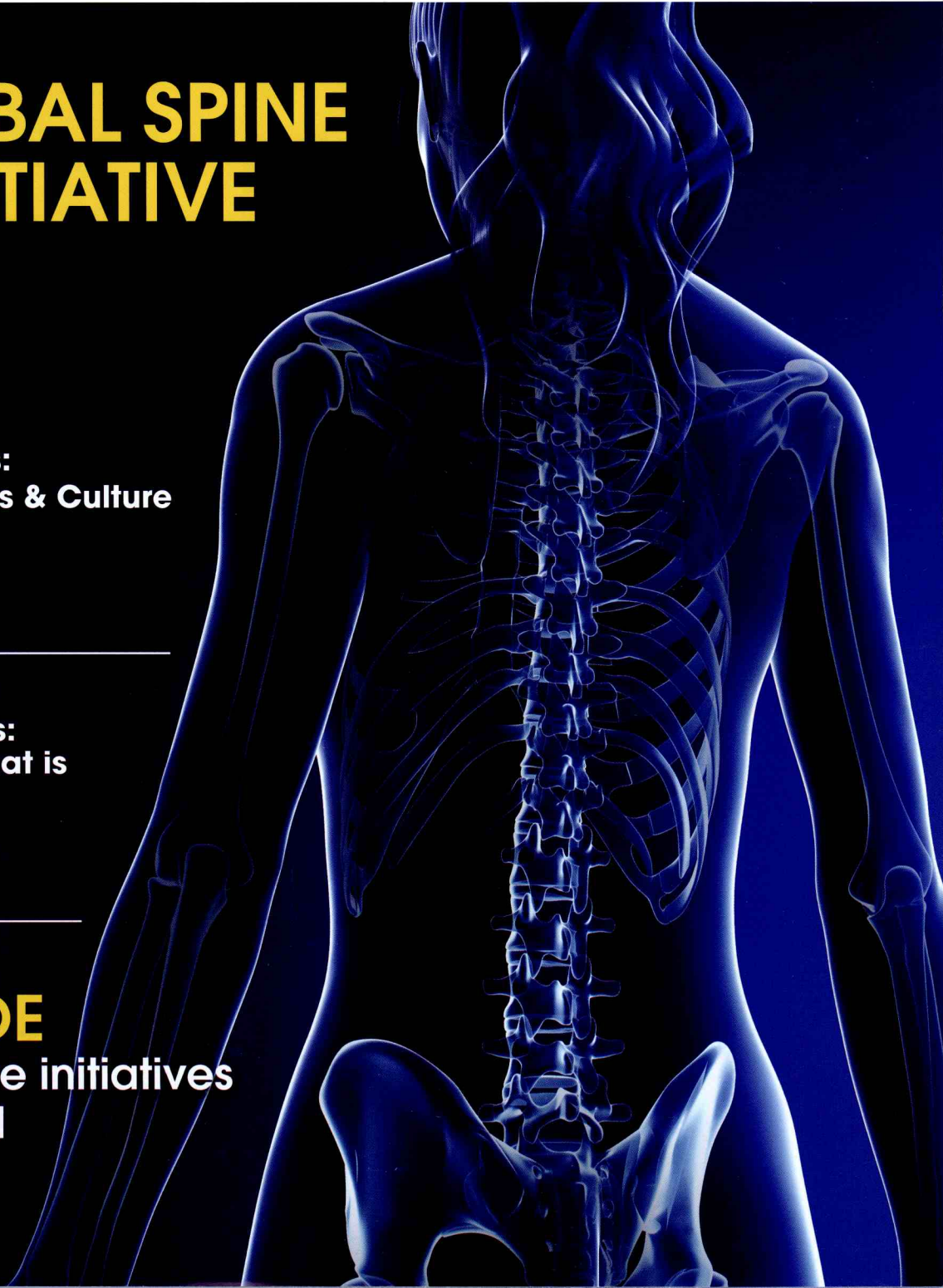
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**Compliance Manuals:  
What is Required, What is  
Not Required**

*page 16*

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**LOOK INSIDE**  
to see Legislative initiatives  
from the Capitol



# THE GLOBAL SPINE CARE INITIATIVE:

## Improving the Lives of Those Suffering From Spinal Disorders Around the World

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*John Mayer, D.C., Ph.D., Lincoln Chair at the University of South Florida*

### **SPINAL DISORDERS ARE THE FASTEST GROWING HEALTH PROBLEM IN THE WORLD,**

and have a greater negative impact on health than many other disorders combined, including Alzheimer's disease, breast and lung cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDs, lower respiratory infections, malaria, and stroke.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, no comprehensive approach currently exists for reducing the global burden of spinal disorders while addressing implementation of clinical care models across diverse settings with a wide range of available resources around the world.

In response to this need, the Global Spine Care Initiative (GSCI) was launched in 2014 by Scott Haldeman, DC, MD, PhD—a world-renowned clinical, educator, and researcher, and the inaugural recipient of the Lincoln Research Prize in Chiropractic and Biomechanics. The GSCI “is a research project aimed at improving the health-related quality of life and reducing the global burden of disease and disability caused by spinal disorders.”<sup>2</sup> The mission of the GSCI, which is a research initiative of World Spine Care, is “to develop evidence-informed, practical, and sustainable, spine health care models for communities

around the world with various levels of resources.”<sup>2</sup>

According to Dr. Haldeman: “Back and neck pain is an international health care crisis that is now recognized as a huge and increasing burden on humanity in terms of cost and disability and which must be addressed as a priority by clinicians, policy makers and the public if a solution is to be found.”

In order to accomplish its mission, the GSCI has assembled an unparalleled interprofessional team of researchers, clinicians, and policy-makers with expertise in spinal pain and disability. The team is led by Dr. Haldeman who serves as Principal Investigator. The Executive Committee also includes Roger Chou, MD; Pierre Côté, DC, PhD; Eric Hurwitz, DC, PhD; and Margareta Nordin, PT, Dr. Med. Sci. The USF Lincoln Chair’s chiropractic research program is

represented on the GSCI team – John M. Mayer, DC, PhD serves on the Scientific Secretariat and O’Dane Brady, DC serves on the Advisory Committee.

The GSCI will be completed in five phases over the next few years. The goals of Phase 1, the current phase, are to: describe the global burden of spinal disorders through systematic literature reviews; identify best practices that could be implemented around the world; define five types of communities around the world with varying levels of resources; develop an evidence-based practice model of care that is implementable and sustainable across diverse settings and communities; and disseminate the new knowledge obtained by publishing the findings and the models of care in a peer reviewed journal. Building upon Phase 1, Phases 2-5 will assess the effectiveness, implementation,

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#### References:

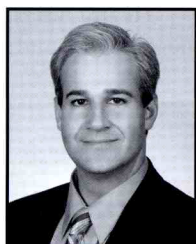
<sup>1</sup>Hoy D, March L, Brooks P, Blyth F, Woolf A, Bain C, Williams G, Smith E, Vos T, Barendregt J, Murray C, Burstein R, Buchbinder R. *The global burden of low back pain: Estimates from the global burden of disease 2010 study.* *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2014.

<sup>2</sup>[www.globalspinecareinitiative.org](http://www.globalspinecareinitiative.org), accessed on May 4, 2015.

and sustainability of the developed healthcare models in five diverse communities.<sup>2</sup>

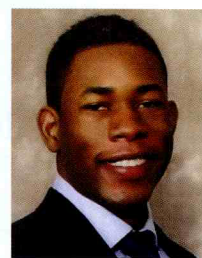
Assuming positive results, the efforts of the GSCI will provide much-needed guidance to transform the management of spinal disorders around the world and ultimately improve the lives of those suffering from these disorders. More information on the GSCI is found at: [www.globalspinecareinitiative.org](http://www.globalspinecareinitiative.org). ◀FCA

*Dr. Mayer is the Lincoln College Endowed Chair in Biomechanical and Chiropractic Research, and a tenured faculty member in the College of Medicine of University of South Florida.*



*He is the principal investigator and co-principal investigator on federally-funded, injury prevention research projects. He is instructor for the Health Promotion and Wellness, Critical Injury 3, and Primary Care Clerkship – Low Back Pain graduate courses at the USF College of Medicine. He serves as a manuscript reviewer for several scientific journals and advisory board member for various health and research organizations. He is also an honorary member of the Florida Chiropractic Association.*

## O'Dane Brady, DC, joins the USF School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, Morsani College of Medicine



**O'Dane Brady, DC, joined the USF School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, Morsani College of Medicine in March**

**2015** as a Clinical Research Administrator

for the FEMA grant titled “Worksite Exercise

Interventions for Low Back Injury Prevention in Firefighters” (John Mayer – PI). Dr. Brady earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, a Master of Science degree in health services administration, and Doctor of Chiropractic degree from D’Youville College in Buffalo, NY. Prior to joining USF, he served as clinical supervisor for World Spine Care for its spine clinic in Botswana, Africa. He currently serves as a member of the advisory board for the Global Spine Care Initiative headed by Dr. Scott Haldeman and Dr. Margareta Nordin. Dr. Brady’s research interests include spinal pain and disability, health outcomes, and health services related to rehabilitation. ◀FCA

