### Spinal Deformity

**Appointment Information**

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<th>Physician</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
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**RUSH University Medical Center**

1725 West Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: 312.243.4244
Fax: 312.942.1517
Orthopaedic Clinic–Suite 1063
Hand and Shoulder Center and X-Ray–Suite 1042
Orthopaedic Oncology Clinic–Suite 440
Spine Center–Suite 118

**Chicago-South Loop/River City**

800 South Wells
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312.243.4244
Fax: 312.427.6116
Orthopaedic Clinic–Suite M30
MRI–Suite M44
Physical and Occupational Therapy–Suite 137

**Oak Park Hospital Medical Office Building**

610 South Maple Avenue–Suite 1400
Oak Park, IL 60304
Phone: 312.243.4244
Fax: 312.842.1517

**Central DuPage Hospital Ambulatory Service Pavilion**

25 North Winfield Road–Suite 505
Winfield, IL 60190
Phone: 630.339.2200
Fax: 630.862.8946

**Prairie Medical Center of Westchester**

2450 South Wolf Road, Suite F
Westchester, IL 60154
Phone: 708.238.750
Fax: 708.542.6875

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### Highly Specialized Spinal Deformity Care Services

By combining the unique skills and experience of the nation’s top orthopaedic physicians, Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush offers unparalleled, comprehensive spinal deformity care. This team of leading experts effectively diagnose, evaluate, and treat patients with spinal deformities including scoliosis and spondylolisthesis.

Combined research efforts and unsurpassed clinical expertise provide the highest quality, most innovative treatments including advanced bracing and surgical techniques. Special care is given to pediatric patients, with a focus on the special needs of children, adolescents, and their families.

### Comprehensive Orthopaedic Scoliosis Care

The spinal deformity program at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush is comprised of board-certified orthopaedic specialists and registered orthopaedic nurse specialists including: Kathryn Moy Bleakney, Registered Nurse; Dorothy Pietrowski, Registered Nurse; and Mary Faut Rodts, Advanced Practice Nurse. Together, this team of leading experts effectively diagnose, evaluate, and treat patients with spinal deformities including scoliosis and spondylolisthesis.
Scoliosis

If you’re not familiar with the symptoms of scoliosis, you may not be aware of the dangers of this disease when left undiagnosed and untreated in school age children. Scoliosis causes shoulder, trunk and waistline asymmetry, and in severe forms there is significant disfigurement, arthritis, back pain, and postural fatigue. Scoliosis may also be associated with heart failure. Scoliosis, a major type of spinal deformity, is a lateral curvature in the normally straight vertical line of the spine. Scoliosis affects approximately two percent of our population, more common in girls, and 20 times more common in children with a family history of the disease. Mild forms of the condition may be barely noticed. The diagnosis of scoliosis often requires frequent examinations by an orthopaedic physician to monitor the condition as the child grows. Early detection is important. If left untreated, scoliosis can cause problems with heart and lung function.

Observation and repeated examinations may be necessary to determine if the spine is continuing to curve. Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush spinal deformity physicians are highly experienced in all treatment options including bracing and spinal surgery. Rush University Medical Center has been a recognized leader in scoliosis research and treatment for over 30 years. Today, Rush University Medical Center is evidence of the practice’s leading academic position.

Spondylolisthesis

Spondylolisthesis, another spinal deformity, occurs when one vertebra slips forward in relation to an adjacent vertebra (usually in the lumbar spine). The symptoms that accompany a spondylolisthesis include pain in the low back, thighs, and/or legs, muscle spasms, weakness, and/or tight hamstring muscles. Some people are symptom free and find the disorder exists when revealed on an X-ray. In advanced cases, the patient may appear swayback with a protruding abdomen, exhibit a shortened torso and waddling gait.

Treatment options for spondylolisthesis include custom-made bracing and, in severe cases, surgery. Surgical intervention is considered when neurologic involvement exists or when conservative treatment has failed to provide relief from long-term back pain and other symptoms associated with spondylolisthesis.

Christopher J. DeWald, M.D.

Spine, Back & Neck

As a recognized international leader in adult and pediatric spinal deformity, Dr. DeWald has published numerous articles on the treatment of major spinal deformities including scoliosis, kyphosis, and spondylolisthesis. He is a frequent speaker on these same topics at local, national, and international conferences and his consultation is repeatedly sought in the management of these conditions.

Dr. DeWald is the former Chief, Section of Spine Surgery at Stroger Hospital in Chicago and is an Assistant Professor at Rush Medical College. A graduate of Knox College, cum laude, Dr. DeWald lettered in varsity football and played lacrosse. He went on to medical school at Rush Medical College and his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Illinois Hospital. To further enhance his knowledge of spinal surgery, he served as a fellow in the elite Chicago Spine Fellowship.

Dr. DeWald was selected as a travelling fellow for the North American Spine Society in 1994 where he spent one year studying spinal surgical techniques in Europe and Japan. He is a member of the Scoliosis Research Society, the North American Spine Society, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. As an active participant in the International Spinal Deformity Study Group, Dr. DeWald is advancing knowledge by research on the functional and clinical outcomes of nonoperative and operative adult spinal deformities. He is an Associate Editor of two major spinal medical journals: Spine and the Journal of Spinal Disorders.

Howard S. An, M.D.

Spine, Back & Neck

As one of the leading authorities on spinal surgery, Dr. An has published more than 140 articles, 80 chapters and 15 books on spinal surgery and instrumentation. Dr. An holds the inaugural Morton International Endowed Chair position at Rush University Medical Center since 1997, and is currently Director of Spine Surgery and Spine Fellowship Program at Rush.

Dr. An served as Director of Spine Surgery for eight years at the Medical College of Wisconsin. A medical graduate from the Medical College of Ohio in 1982, Dr. An stayed at the school to complete his internship and residency in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. An is a recipient of the 1990 North American Traveling Fellowship from the American Orthopaedic Association and the 1995 Scoliosis Research Society Traveling Fellowship.

David F. Fardon, M.D.

Spine, Back & Neck

A cum laude graduate from Yale University, Dr. Fardon completed his medical degree at the University of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine in 1977. He served his residency and internship at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center and completed a Chicago Spine Fellowship at Rush, the University of Illinois, and Shriners Hospital for Children.

For the past 22 years, Dr. Hammerberg has served as the Chief Spine Surgeon at Shriners Hospital for Children. He is also a long time assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rush Medical College and was codirector of the Chicago Spine Fellowship. Dr. Hammerberg has published extensively and lectured on the subject of spinal deformities including scoliosis.