

The National Scoliosis Foundation (NSF) is a 501(C)3 patient-led nonprofit tax exempt organization dedicated since 1976 to helping children, parents, adults, and health-care providers with the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis.

NSF's mission is summarized in the following three objectives:

1. Early Detection -to minimize the effects of scoliosis with the least invasive, less expensive treatment options possible.
2. Education -to provide the information and support people so desperately need to make critical health care decisions for themselves and/or their children, and go on living with scoliosis
3. Etiology research -to keep us on the road to finding the cause, prevention, and cure of idiopathic scoliosis.

We are involved in all aspects of scoliosis support, whether the issue is early detection through screening programs, treatment methods, pain management, or patient care. Our focus is on promoting public awareness, providing reliable information, fostering ongoing research in the field, and educating and nurturing the community of those affected by scoliosis.

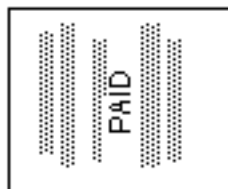
We provide comprehensive education and support for patients and healthcare professionals through videos, books, brochures, local chapters, conferences, postural screening training sessions, and our website. Full time personal patient assistance is also available Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 4:30pm EST, via telephone.



National Scoliosis Foundation
5 Cabot Place, Stoughton, MA 02072
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5 Cabot Place
Stoughton, MA 02072



BODY IMAGE AND SPINAL DEFORMITY: A PATIENT/DOCTOR DIALOGUE

TO:



Body image and spinal deformity: a patient/doctor dialogue

A public program

in connection with the exhibition

Laura Ferguson: *The Visible Skeleton Series*

Saturday, October 23rd, 10am – 2pm

National Museum of Health and Medicine
Washington, DC

Presented by:



with the support of:



About the program

We all want to feel good about how we look, but in a culture saturated with images of "perfect" bodies, that's not always easy - and for those of us with scoliosis or other spinal deformities it can be particularly challenging. Laura Ferguson is an artist with scoliosis who has found a unique beauty and gracefulness in her own unusual body. With the exhibition of Ferguson's Visible Skeleton Series as its setting, this special program will provide a forum for patient/doctor dialogue on issues of body image and the visual impact of spinal deformity.

The program includes a series of question and answer sessions along with individual and group discussions to foster communications on the topics and issues most important to patients. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about and comment on the Walter Reed Visual Assessment Scale (WRVAS), a survey instrument recently developed by the Scoliosis Research Society to measure patients' perceptions of specific visual aspects of scoliosis. Following the program, attendees may tour the exhibit, watch an "artist-at-work" documentary, and continue informal discussions. Museum is open until 5:30 pm.

Presenters

- **Laura Ferguson**, artist who has spent the past 12 years pursuing an "artist's inquiry into scoliosis"
- **Joseph P. O'Brien**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Scoliosis Foundation, patient advocate and educator
- **David W. Polly, Jr., M.D.**, primary author of the WRVAS, formerly Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and currently Chief of Spine Service and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Minnesota
- Moderator: **Adrienne Noe, Ph.D.**, Director of the National Museum of Health and Medicine

The National Museum of Health and Medicine was established in 1862 when U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William Alexander Hammond, the U.S. Army Surgeon General, issued orders that directed all Union Army medical officers 'to collect, and to forward to the office of the Surgeon General all specimens of morbid anatomy, surgical or medical, which may be regarded as valuable; together with projectiles and foreign bodies removed, and such other matters as may prove of interest in the study of military medicine or surgery'

The museum's nearly 25 million specimens and artifacts were the first in the country to be registered by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark and it is the only museum collection in Washington, D.C. with this status.

The museum is open every day except Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The museum is located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. and Elder Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Docent led tours are offered to walk-in visitors at 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Admission and parking are free.



National Museum of Health and Medicine
of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
6900 Georgia Avenue NW, Building 54
at Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington, DC 20307
202-782-2200 or
www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum
A reminder: photo ID is required.

Laura Ferguson: The Visible Skeleton Series
is on view at the museum through April 2005.
For more information:
www.lauraferguson.net

Front panel: *Balancing figure with full spine*, oil, bronze powder, charcoal, pastel and oil crayon on paper, 9.5 x 8 in.
©2004 by Laura Ferguson

BODY IMAGE AND SPINAL DEFORMITY: A PATIENT/DOCTOR DIALOGUE

Yes, please sign me up for this special gathering

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

- I am a Patient, over 18 years old
 Patient, under 18 years old
 Healthcare professional
 Patient's friend or family member
 Other _____

Registration fee:

\$25 per person (includes lunch)

Museum admission and parking free. Photo ID required.

Method of Payment:

- Check (payable to National Scoliosis Foundation)
 MC Visa
 American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail this form with payment to:

National Scoliosis Foundation
5 Cabot Place
Stoughton, MA 02072

or fax to: 781-341-8333

For more information, or to register by phone or at our website: 781-341-6333 or 800-673-6922
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