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TEXAS BACK INSTITUTE WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE FELLOW IN 22 YEARS
Dr. Jessica Shellock joins Spine Surgery Fellowship Program

PLANO, Texas (October 6, 2008) – Texas Back Institute’s Spine Surgery Fellowship Program recently welcomed the first female fellow in its 22-year history.

While approximately half of today’s medical schools are filled with women, orthopedics continues to be a male dominated profession. Physicians such as Jessica Shellock are paving the way for future female orthopedic surgeons. She is only the third female fellow to apply and the first to be accepted into the program at Texas Back Institute.

“We hope Dr. Shellock’s decision will increase awareness of the need for female surgeons in orthopedics, and spine surgery in particular,” said Mike Franz, CEO of Texas Back Institute. “She’s an invaluable member of our program, and we’re pleased she chose to call Texas Back Institute home for her fellowship education.”

Dr. Shellock says she chose Texas Back Institute because of its reputation within the medical spine community and the opportunity to work with many world-renowned spine surgeons. She also expressed an interest in the types of surgeries she’ll participate in during her fellowship training.

The Texas Back Institute offers a multidisciplinary approach devoted solely to the care of spinal disorders. Fellows receive broad clinical experience, and see patients with degenerative spinal disorders, scoliosis, spine trauma and spine tumors. They also learn to perform anterior and posterior surgery of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine, including lumbar and cervical arthroplasty, fusions and discectomies.

Through the Spine Surgery Fellowship, there are continual opportunities to evaluate new surgical techniques with on-site training labs, as well as exposure to all facets of conservative care including injection techniques, rehabilitation and outcome measurement. Educational training courses are held year-round at the SpineMark Medical Conference Center at Texas Back Institute, offering fellows unparalleled opportunities to observe new and future technologies. All fellows are required to engage in ongoing research or to generate new research projects and are expected to present their research findings for successful completion of their fellowship.

Dr. Jessica Shellock joined Texas Back Institute in August and will continue her fellowship through July 2009. She explained why she chose back surgery as her area of expertise during medical school: "I wanted to be able to actually fix a patient's problem. I liked the technical aspects of spine surgery. And the fact that it's a subspecialty that's experiencing so much growth through technology made it even more appealing."

When asked what motivated her to beat the odds in pursuit of her career, she replied, "I just wanted to be in a career field that I enjoyed. Something that I could see myself waking up every morning and being excited to go to."

About Texas Back Institute

Texas Back Institute, one of the largest freestanding multispecialty spine clinics in the United States, was established in 1977 and provides comprehensive medical care for back and neck pain. Texas Back Institute is a back care leader specializing in spinal arthroplasty, minimally invasive spine surgery, degenerative disk disease and spinal deformation. As an academic health care organization, Texas Back Institute has trained hundreds of physicians, scientists and allied health professionals. Its research institution employs state-of-the-art technology and is involved in many clinical trials, including artificial discs. Texas Back Institute's professional staff includes board-certified spine surgeons, general surgeons, internists, physiatrists, pain specialists, exercise physiologists, and a team of physical and occupational therapists. Texas Back Institute has locations in Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Mansfield, McKinney, Plano, Rockwall, Trophy Club and Wichita Falls, Tyler, Odessa, Texas, and Phoenix and Gilbert, Arizona. For more information, visit www.texasback.com.

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