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**Rockford Spine Center's Dr. Fred Sweet Presents at
Scoliosis Research Society Annual Meeting**
Dr. Sweet Shares Findings from Study to Reduce Surgical Infections

Rockford, IL (December 11, 2014) – Dr. Fred Sweet of Rockford Spine Center earned an opportunity to present results of a study he conducted earlier this year at the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) Annual Meeting & Course. More than 1,300 people attended the SRS annual meeting, which took place September 10-13, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Sweet continues to study the effectiveness of a technique he devised to lower infection rates following surgery and decrease the amount of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Current standard of care requires that patients be given an intravenous antibiotic prior to surgery to prevent infections. The surgeons at Rockford Spine Center have demonstrated that placing a powder version of the drug directly into the wound is more effective at reducing infection rates. In fact, the rate was lowered from a national average of 2.4% to 0.2%.

The method also aids in the effort to curb the growth of antibiotic resistant bacteria, which President Obama recently signed an [executive order](#) to create a task force to combat this issue. When patients are given antibiotics through their veins (IV), it interacts with bacteria throughout the entire body.

"Using currently recommended antibiotics intravenously is only throwing fertilizer on resistant bacteria," explains Dr. Sweet. "We only need to fight bacteria at the surgical site, not throughout the body. Simply adjusting the way we administer the antibiotic can have a great impact on fighting infection and combating resistant bacteria."

Dr. Sweet is sharing his method and study findings with peer physicians in an effort to update the standard of care and improve patient safety outcomes.

Presentations at the Annual Meeting & Course are given by leading experts in the field and have value for health care professionals who treat spinal deformities at all levels and in all ages. More than 125 papers were presented on an array of topics related to treating spinal deformities.

For more information on Rockford Spine Center, visit www.rockfordspine.com or find the company on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockfordSpine.

About Rockford Spine Center

Rockford Spine Center, a facility dedicated exclusively to spinal care, has the combined expertise of three fellowship trained spine surgeons, and a Mayo Clinic-trained physiatrist.

Rockford Spine Center's team of experts uses a multidisciplinary approach to treat spinal disorders, ranging from simple to the most complex cases. The team has an internationally recognized expertise in surgical and

non-surgical spinal disorders. Rockford Spine Center has earned national recognition in Newsweek, is ranked among the Top 50 Spine Surgery Practices to Know in Becker's Spine Review and has earned the Patients' Choice and Compassionate Doctor awards since 2011. For more information about Rockford Spine Center, visit the company's website at www.rockfordspine.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockfordSpine.

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