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**Rockford Spine Center's Dr. Michael Roh
Returns from Medical Mission Trip to Colombia**
Dr. Roh Joined Team from Global Spine Outreach

Rockford, IL (January 13, 2015) – Rockford Spine Center's Dr. Michael Roh recently shared his expertise and services on a medical mission trip to Cali, Colombia. Dr. Roh joined [Global Spine Outreach](#) (GSO) on what marked the 25th successive spine mission to help patients with severe spinal deformities. During the week-long trip from November 29 to December 6, 2014, a team of volunteer spine surgeons and other medical professionals saw 70 patients and performed 12 severe spinal deformity surgeries.

All of the patients treated were under the age of 18, with a majority being under the age of 10. The patients suffered from conditions such as scoliosis and kyphosis. Both conditions cause severe curvature of the spine and in some cases can be severely debilitating or life-threatening for these children. GSO travels to Colombia twice a year to evaluate patients and perform complex spinal procedures. Correcting spinal deformity adds space to their chest cavities allowing these patients to breathe better, therefore giving them more overall energy and the ability to thrive.

"This mission was an amazing experience and I thank GSO for inviting me to join the team," said Dr. Roh, Rockford Spine Center. "Not only were we able to impact the lives of many children, but we were able to teach the local surgeons some new techniques in treating similar cases going forward."

The goals of the GSO mission trips are to:

- Provide life-transforming spine surgeries around the world for patients in need.
- Train local spine surgeons the advanced techniques and safety protocols to perform the surgeries themselves.
- Collect information to study complex spinal problems in various medical systems.

Cali is the third largest city in Colombia with a population of more than two million people. There are spine surgeons at the hospital, [Fundacion Clinica Valle Del Lili](#), but they reserve the rare and complex cases for the GSO teams.

"It was such a pleasure to have Dr. Roh on this recent mission trip to our hospital," said Dr. Juan Uribe, Neurosurgeon, Fundacion Clinica Valle Del Lili. "He raised our game and taught us some techniques that allow us to do procedures more effectively and safely for our patients. We have built a strong friendship and hope we will work together again in the future."

All of the services provided through GSO, with support from the hospital Fundacion Valle de Lili and local Colombian social work groups, are free to the patients and their families.

“The local Colombian people were so happy and grateful to have us there,” said Dr. Roh. “I came back with pockets full of little necklaces and bracelets and trinkets that the children and their parents would make for us as tokens of their appreciation.”

Dr. Roh is a fellowship trained orthopedic spine surgeon. He co-founded Rockford Spine Center and specializes in treating complex spinal conditions and minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Roh is a former cabinet member and committee co-chair of the Scoliosis Research Society. He has earned several awards for his work including Castle Connolly Top Doctors and Patients’ Choice Award.

Rockford Spine Center has posted photos from Dr. Roh’s mission trip with GSO on its Facebook page. [Click here to view the photos.](#)

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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