

SpineFEST 2023 | Monday June 12

Keynote Speaker Biosketch



Shekar N Kurpad MD PhD
Sanford J Larson Professor
Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery
Founding Director, Neuroscience Institute
Froedtert Health, Children's Wisconsin, Zablocki VAMC and The
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Kurpad is the Sanford J. Larson Professor of Neurosurgery, Co-Director of the Center for Neurotrauma Research at MCW, and the Medical Director of the Neuroscience Service Line at Froedtert Health. He is the Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Center at Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the Founding Director of the Neuroscience Institute, a partnership between the Medical College of Wisconsin, Froedtert Hospital, Children's Wisconsin, and the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Dr. Kurpad's clinical practice focuses on the surgical treatment of patients with degenerative and traumatic conditions of the spine and spinal cord, as well as benign and malignant tumors of the spinal column and spinal cord. His laboratory focuses on the development of novel MRI-based imaging biomarkers for spinal cord injury, as well as cervical spondylotic myelopathy. He has been involved in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) research since 2001 after being awarded the Van Wagenen Fellowship by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. His experience in this field of research includes earlier work using stem cells for regeneration of the spinal cord begun as a postdoctoral fellow at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, and the establishment of a Spinal Cord Injury research laboratory at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Kurpad's laboratory currently focuses on delineating the pathophysiology of traumatic spinal cord injury and non-traumatic cervical spondylotic myelopathy, as well as preclinical development of therapeutic strategies from 2002 (endowed since 2010); funding to study the mechanisms of allodynia after stem cell transplantations into the injured spinal cord using VA BLR&D MERIT funding from 2006-2009; and Imaging of SCI using diffusion tensor imaging

SpineFEST 2023 | Monday June 12

Keynote Speaker Biosketch

(DTI) funded by VA RR&D MERIT grants from 2009 to present. Dr. Kurpad has also served as a consultant for several imaging start-up companies based in the Milwaukee area and awarded NIH SBIR funding as Principal Investigator for these efforts. He is the clinical PI at MCW for all Phase 1-111 SCI trials in patients (10 trials since 2008 encompassing both neuroprotective and neural regeneration strategies) and has participated as a member of the National VA SCI Consortium for Translational Therapies for SCI from 2009 to present. As a surgeon actively involved in the care of SCI patients at MCW and the Zablocki VA, I am interested in translating laboratory findings rapidly to patient applications to establish new and innovative treatment options for spinal cord injury.