

Behrooz Akbarnia



Behrooz Akbarnia graduated from Tehran University Medical School in 1966, and then moved to the United States in 1968 to continue his training in Orthopaedic Surgery. Following his residency at the Albany Medical Center, he completed a Scoliosis and Spine Fellowship under the legendary Dr. John Moe and colleagues at the Twin Cities Scoliosis Center. Dr. Akbarnia became Professor and Vice Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at St. Louis University before relocating to San Diego in 1990. There, he established his academic practice, created the San Diego Spine Fellowship Program, and founded both the San Diego Spine Foundation and the Growing Spine Foundation to support academic activities. He is also one of the founders of the International Spine Study Group (ISSG).

Dr. Akbarnia belongs to numerous professional organizations and has served as president in several, including the SRS in 2006. He is the recipient of the SRS Walter P. Blount Humanitarian Award, Lifetime Service Awards from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Western Orthopaedic Association and SRS Life Time Achievement Award in 2015 and was selected to deliver SRS Harrington Lecture in September, 2016.

Dr. Akbarnia's most recent work has focused on Early Onset Scoliosis (EOS) and growing spine. Through Growing Spine Study Group (GSSG), establishing the ICEOS meeting, which

is now in its 10th year, and publishing 2 editions of the *Growing Spine* textbook, he has significantly affected the lives of patients with EOS. He also helped in the development and popularization of a new magnetic device for young children. His research comprises over 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals many book chapters, and international presentations. However, his greatest satisfaction comes from his mentorship to countless fellows and visitors in the spine deformity field over the years.

Dr. Akbarnia currently is Clinical Professor at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California, San Diego, Medical Director Emeritus of San Diego Center for Spinal Disorders and Director Emeritus of the San Diego Spine Fellowship Program. He has been married to his wife, Nasrin, for 49 years they have three children and five grandchildren.