

**Memo**

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To	Synthes Spine BUM Europe
CC	Synthes GM EMEA, Melissa Smart, Sarah Mumford, Caryn Bundra, Tricia St. Hilaire, Elmar Zurbriggen.
From	Stephen Mitchell / Farnaz Sharifi
Date	March 7 <sup>th</sup> 2008

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**Title : The Chest Wall and Spine Deformity Study Group**

Dear All,

The Chest Wall and Spine Deformity Study Group (<http://www.chestandspine.org/>) was formed in 2002 with the goal of providing a format to study complex spine and chest wall deformity in the growing child currently treated with VEPTR. The study group provides a unique means to conduct multi-centre, prospective and retrospective studies in an efficient manner.

Participation in the study group is open to all physicians and researchers interested in studying this unique population of children.

Participation benefits include:

- Registry access to collect and query your own data
- Access to funding for individual or collaborative research
- Opportunity to participate in multi-centre studies
- Ability to lead prospective or retrospective studies focused on a complex patient population
- Online capability to share X-Rays and clinical information for peer review and discussion
- Invitation to meetings to discuss study ideas, outcomes, and case presentations
- Assistance available to support research, presentations, statistics, and logistics

Due to the rarity and complexity of this patient population, it is difficult for any one institution to carry out independent studies. In 2007, 14 Study Group members at 10 institutions were responsible for 28 scientific presentations and 5 accepted publications. Over the past 4 years these Study Group members have produced over 100 scientific presentations and 17 publications.

The study group has a strict academic set up. Please refer to the participation guidelines attached as a separate document.

Synthes (USA) financially supports the attendance of only US surgeons to the study group. Attendance of surgeons from oUS, can either be via a) personal invitation of the local Synthes spine BUM/GM, (all associated costs of surgeon attendance must be borne by the local Synthes subsidiary) or b) individual and independent surgeon application (all costs must be borne by applying surgeon). Additionally, no per diem payments are made for attending surgeons.

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If you have any specific questions regarding the Study Group or you intend to invite and support a surgeon to participate in this group, you can directly contact the study group organiser Melissa Smart ([melissa.p.smart@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:melissa.p.smart@hsc.utah.edu)).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Mitchell".

Stephen Mitchell  
Market Development Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farnaz Sharifi".

Farnaz Sharifi  
Group Manager, Deformity