



Healing Children with Complex Spinal Deformities and Advocating for their Health through Education and State-of-the-Art Surgery Around the World



[GlobalSpineOutreach.org](http://GlobalSpineOutreach.org)



Global Spine Outreach



## Mission

Global Spine Outreach (GSO) transforms the lives of children with severe spinal deformities worldwide by performing state-of-the-art surgeries free of charge. We collaborate with local medical communities to build self-sustaining spine surgery centers of excellence. We enable surgeons to continually refine and sharpen their spine surgery skills through training and education provided by leading spine surgeons.

## Who We Are

**Global Spine Outreach is a leader in international spinal deformity outreach work transforming the lives of children around the world.** Our teams are comprised of a network of spinal surgeons and allied health professionals giving our patients access to the surgical care they critically need and providing a pathway toward a normal life. Our volunteers include the top spinal deformity surgeons and world-renowned educators in the field today. Each GSO surgeon is board-certified and fellowship-trained in spine surgery and collectively our GSO surgeons have participated in hundreds of peer-reviewed publications with numerous awards for excellence in spine surgery and philanthropy.

## Vision

**For every child with a severe spinal deformity to have access to life-transforming surgical care.**

## Core Values

- Compassion.** We treat each patient as we would our own child.
- Advocacy.** We empower and advocate for the communities we serve through the transfer of knowledge and skill.
- Respect.** We show respect for the culture and customs of the children and families we serve.
- Excellence.** We model professional excellence, integrity, and quality of care.

## About GSO

Global Spine Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing medical treatment to children suffering from the affects of spinal deformities worldwide without charge to the patient or their families.

All donations are tax-deductible as applicable by law.

### Our physicians are 100% volunteers.

All donations go directly to providing and improving the care of children with spinal deformities.

**Website:** [GlobalSpineOutreach.org](http://GlobalSpineOutreach.org)

**Email:** [info@GSO Outreach.org](mailto:info@GSO Outreach.org)

**Phone:** 866-GSO-0880

**EIN:** 46-3579927

**Current Sites:** Otwock and Poznan, Poland  
Chihuahua, Mexico  
Cali, Colombia

## What We Do

**Scoliosis is a global medical concern affecting near 200 million people worldwide with over 60 million of those individuals unable to receive treatment due to lack of access to basic surgical care.** If left untreated, severe scoliosis can lead to chronic pain, difficulty breathing, paralysis and early death. In order to improve the quality of care and availability of first-rate treatment for the maximum number of patients, Global Spine Outreach focuses on spinal surgery education.

GSO's focus is to provide hands-on surgical education and training to in-country surgeons. Through graduated, long-term educational models, we empower local surgeons to safely treat the most complex spinal problems in their own communities. By training teams on site, we can address the entire treatment process from diagnosis to surgical recovery. Over time, we help create sustainable spine centers that serve their regions year-round. The training is equally valuable to volunteer surgeons from the USA and abroad who can bring their experience back to their own communities.

**Since 2013 GSO has cared for over 697 patients and provided over 159 surgeries free of charge to the patients and their families.**

## Annual Symposium

In addition to providing medical care free of charge to patients suffering from complex spinal deformities in underserved locations around the world, Global Spine Outreach is also dedicated to bringing together and empowering large groups of spine surgeons with our annual symposium. These full-day educational seminars allow interactive case discussions, and provide didactic training in basic and complex spinal techniques for medical professionals near our outreach sites. In November 2014, GSO held its symposium in Warsaw, Poland, which was attended by over 75 international medical professionals. In November 2015, GSO held its symposium in Cali, Colombia, which was attended by over 75 spine and neurosurgeons from Colombia.

**Global Spine Outreach's 2016 symposium is planned for the fall in Mexico City, Mexico.**



*The GSO team, lecturers and Polish organizers, Nov 2014.*



*The audience at the 2015 GSO Symposium in Cali, Colombia.*



*GSO Surgeon, Dr. Chris Bergin discussing with participants from the Cali Symposium.*

**Since 2013 GSO has advised, held lectures and symposia, and provided training through observational and hands-on methods in surgical technique and safety measures to hundreds of spine surgeons worldwide.**



## Patient Story

### Meet Estefania!

Global Spine Outreach's volunteers first met Estefania in Cali, Colombia when she was just two and a half years old. She wore braces that covered her entire torso and her ankles. She was unable to walk without assistance, as her legs were



too weak to support her little body.

The clinical team discovered that Estefania's head was not properly attached to her neck, and her spinal cord was getting pinched by the instability. She also had severe scoliosis with a

curve measuring over 80 degrees. If left untreated, the spinal cord damage would lead to full paralysis or even early death.

Estefania's first surgery corrected the instability in her neck. Within months of surgery, she could walk with special leg braces and a lot of help from her caretakers. Her smile was contagious. It was then time to address her scoliosis. Because she was so small, growing rods were surgically placed to stop the progression of her scoliosis while allowing her spine and lungs to grow. Once she is full grown, she

will need a spinal fusion to maintain her correction. In the meantime, every six months to a year Estefania needs spinal surgery to extend and lengthen her growing rods.

**To date, Estefania has had a total of twelve surgeries, including one to potentially save her life and restore her ability to walk, and she will require several more to allow her to continue to grow.**

Her scoliosis is no longer visible when she walks, runs, dances, and plays with her friends without assistance. Estefania now wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Global Spine Outreach is dedicated to Estefania's continued care as well as the care of so many patients in desperate need of help just like her. Through your support, we can continue to help hundreds of children avoid the perils of chronic pain, paralysis, and early death. Together we can reach thousands of children, and teach others to help thousands more.







[GlobalSpineOutreach.org](http://GlobalSpineOutreach.org)