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Spine Team Texas physicians recognized as Rising Stars™ Super Doctors

Texas Monthly magazine annual honor includes four from Spine Team Texas

Southlake, Texas—July 6, 2016 | MSP Communications, researcher and publisher of Rising Stars™ Super Doctors, employs a rigorous, multi-step process to select physicians for inclusion in their annual publication that recognizes a diverse pool of medical doctors over various specialties. This year, Spine Team Texas is proud to announce Anthony P. Berg, M.D., Cortland K. Miller, M.D., Leonard K. Kibuule, M.D., and Amit T. Darnule, M.D., are included in this exclusive designation.

“What makes Rising Stars such a significant achievement is the detailed selection criteria,” said Mark Hood, C.E.O. of Spine Team Texas. “Not only are physicians vetted for professional accomplishments, they must also have attained peer recognition during the relatively brief period of time they’ve been in practice.” To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, candidates must be active physicians who have been fully-licensed to practice for approximately 10 years or less. Candidates are evaluated over 10 areas including fellowships, professional activities, leadership positions, board certifications, honors and awards. While approximately 5 percent of the physicians within Texas are named Super Doctors, no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars list.

Each year MSP Communications invites doctors to nominate colleagues they know to be exceptional in their specified field. Physicians are posed this question: *If you needed medical care in one of the following specialties, which doctor would you choose?* Numerous safeguards are in place to prevent ballot manipulation and doctors may not self-nominate. Their research staff then searches medical databases, online sources, and publications for doctors who have attained certain credentials, honors or professional achievements.

Nominees are then grouped into specialties and those with the highest scores from the nomination and evaluation steps are invited to serve on a "blue ribbon panel." Each panelist reviews and evaluates a list of nominees from his/her area of focus. Finally, points are tallied with only the highest-scoring doctors included on the Super Doctors and Rising Stars lists. The research staff also independently reviews the discipline record of each candidate before publication and verifies that the doctor is active and in good standing.

Bios of the Rising Stars™ from Spine Team Texas:



Anthony P. Berg, MD | Spine Pain Anesthesiologist

As an anesthesiologist, Dr. Berg, a partner at Spine Team Texas, offers nonsurgical relief for acute and chronic spine pain. Dr. Berg completed his residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Iowa and his fellowship in Interventional Pain Management at Wake Forest University School of Medicine – Carolinas Pain Institute in Winston Salem, North Carolina. As an offshoot of his clinical duties he is a Primary Investigator on studies specifically looking at using Spinal Cord Stimulation in the treatment of complex pain problems. Data collected from these studies have been presented and published numerous times further increasing our understanding of chronic back pain and advancing treatment options. In addition, Dr. Berg is the Vice President of Medical Staff and Medical Director of Palliative Care at Presbyterian Hospital of Rockwall and is the Medical Director of the Texas Health Spine Surgery Center of Rockwall.



Leonard K. Kibuule, M.D. | Orthopedic Spine Surgeon

Dr. Kibuule joined Spine Team Texas as a fellowship-trained, board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in spinal injuries and disorders. He is specially trained on the minimally invasive approach to spine surgery and has a special interest and extensive experience in the treatment of adult scoliosis and spinal deformities. A graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dr. Kibuule returned to the Dallas-Fort Worth area after completing his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Nebraska/Creighton University in Omaha, and a fellowship in orthopedic spine surgery at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. Prior to pursuing a career in medicine, Dr. Kibuule received an engineering degree from the University of Texas at Austin.



Cortland K. Miller, M.D. | Physiatrist, specializing in acute spine pain & diagnostics

Dr. Miller is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, specializing in acute spine pain management and diagnostics at Spine Team Texas. He previously worked as a physician with a focus on occupational medicine. Dr. Miller received his medical degree from Ohio State University after graduating magna cum laude at Ball State University in Indiana. He completed his residency at Emory University, which deemed him Resident of the Year in 2007. During his residency, Dr. Miller served as a representative for the prestigious Graduate Medical Education Committee. Dr. Miller is Board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Pain Medicine.



Amit T. Darnule, M.D. | Spine Pain Anesthesiologist

Dr. Darnule is a fellowship-trained physician who specializes in chronic spine pain management. Prior to joining Spine Team Texas, he completed his fellowship for multidisciplinary pain medicine at the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, where he also completed his residency in anesthesiology and an internship in internal medicine. Dr. Darnule finished medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Houston, graduating summa cum laude.



About Spine Team Texas

Spine Team Texas specializes in the treatment of back and neck problems ranging from simple back or neck strains to the most complex spine surgeries. Through its in-depth knowledge and true team approach, Spine Team Texas is dedicated to treating patients conservatively through education, physical therapy, non-surgical treatments, and minimally invasive spine surgery when necessary. The philosophy of Spine Team Texas is to treat with an emphasis on non-surgical treatment whenever possible and consider surgical intervention only as a last resort when non-surgical measures have failed to provide long-term relief. This philosophy is supported in the fact that only 8-10% of Spine Team Texas new patients result in surgical intervention; that means that approximately 90% of our patients are treated successfully through non-surgical treatment options. The team consists of physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, specializing in non-surgical spine care; spine surgeons trained in the latest minimally invasive spine surgery techniques; spine pain anesthesiologists focused on chronic spine pain; spine-focused physical therapists and on-site registered nurses.

Established in December 2004, Spine Team Texas is headquartered in Southlake, Texas, and opened a full-spectrum sister facility in Rockwall, Texas, in March 2009. Other locations include Bedford, Fort Worth-Alliance, North Dallas-Richardson, and Allen. With approximately 175 employees, Spine Team Texas has received numerous awards such as 'Best Places to Work' & "Healthcare Heroes-Physician Award by Dallas Business Journal, "Top Docs" in Fort Worth, Texas magazine, U.S. News & World Report "Top Docs" in neurosurgery, "Top Docs" in neurosurgery & physical medicine and rehabilitation by Castle-Connelly, D Magazine "Best Docs" in orthopedic surgery and physical medicine and rehabilitation, Becker's Spine Review "Top 105 Spine Surgery Practices to Know" & "Spine Leadership Award" in 2013 and 2015. For more information about Spine Team Texas, visit www.SpineTeamTexas.com. Connect with them on Twitter, YouTube and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/spineteamtexas.

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