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TEXAS BACK INSTITUTE RESEARCH FOUNDATION HONORED BY ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

PLANO, Texas (September 24, 2008) – Texas Back Institute Research Foundation (TBIRF), has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for the Texas Back Institute Spine Surgery Fellowship program. Official accreditation began August 1, 2008 and is valid for two years.

"We are one of only fourteen spine surgery programs to receive accreditation, it's a great honor and certainly a mark of distinction for us," said Pam Lane, TBI Research Foundation's Fellowship Program Manager. "We readily accept the challenge of being a leader in the spine care arena and look forward to the continued growth of our educational endeavors."

This accreditation will allow TBIRF to remain leaders in the academic field of spine research. The Texas Back Institute Research Foundation was founded in 1985 to fulfill the mission of improving care for patients with back pain through research and education focused primarily on diagnostic evaluations and treatment outcomes. Since its inception TBIRF has provided information to peers through journal publications, books and conference presentations, and education to individual physicians through fellowships and visitor programs. To date, more than 60 spine surgeons have trained through the fellowship program. During the fellowship, participants are exposed to a wide variety of clinical and surgical experiences encountered at the Texas Back Institute, the nation's largest multispecialty spine clinic.

"We started out with the goal 21 years ago of being one of the premier spine fellowship programs in the US," said Dr. Richard Guyer, Co-founder and Chairman of the Board of the TBIRF. "The hard work of our spine surgeons and research foundation brought this dream to life. We are so proud of our accreditation."

The ACGME is a private, non-profit organization that accredits residency programs in the United States. The ACGME accredits about 8,400 programs in 126 specialties and subspecialties

educating 107,000 residents. ACGME is the only accrediting organization for residency programs. Accreditation is voluntary, but programs must be accredited in order to receive graduate medical education funding from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In addition, residents must graduate from an ACGME-accredited program in order to be eligible to take their board certification exams.

“It’s a privilege to receive ACGME recognition,” said Mike Franz, CEO of the Texas Back Institute. “It allows us to continue to attract a strong resident candidate pool and expand our financial support.”

About Texas Back Institute

Texas Back Institute, one of the largest freestanding multispecialty spine clinics in the United States, was established in 1977 and provides comprehensive medical care for back and neck pain. Texas Back Institute is a back care leader specializing in spinal arthroplasty, minimally invasive spine surgery, degenerative disk disease and spinal deformation. As an academic health care organization, Texas Back Institute has trained hundreds of physicians, scientists and allied health professionals. Its research institution employs state-of-the-art technology and is involved in many clinical trials, including artificial discs. Texas Back Institute’s professional staff includes board-certified spine surgeons, general surgeons, internists, physiatrists, pain specialists, exercise physiologists, and a team of physical and occupational therapists. Texas Back Institute has locations in Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Mansfield, McKinney, Plano, Rockwall, Trophy Club and Wichita Falls, Tyler, Odessa, Texas, and Phoenix and Gilbert, Arizona. For more information, visit www.texasback.com.