



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DR. ANDREW BLOCK OF TEXAS BACK INSTITUTE APPOINTED AS A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

PLANO, Texas (October 6, 2008) – Dr. Andrew Block, clinical psychologist with the Texas Back Institute, has been appointed as a Fellow with the American Psychological Association for his contributions to the field of psychology. Official appointment began October 1, 2008.

The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization that represents psychology in the United States. With 148,000 members, APA is the largest association of psychologists worldwide.

This esteemed honor within the APA is designated for only a select few who have shown evidence of outstanding contributions in the field of psychology. Fellow status requires that a psychologist's work has had a national impact on the field of psychology. Less than five percent of APA members achieve this status.

"I am humbled to be given the honor of becoming a Fellow of the American Psychological Association," said Dr. Block. "I have spent my entire career studying, researching, writing about and treating patients with chronic pain syndromes. Being recognized among leaders in health psychology is truly a privilege."

Dr. Block's work focuses on behavioral medicine, psychology and rehabilitation. His key interests include treatment for presurgical psychological evaluation of spine surgery candidates, hypnosis, biofeedback and cognitive therapy. His lifelong work on the psychological effects of chronic back pain on mental health is part of the Texas Back Institute's dedication to holistic spinal care.

"Dr. Block's appointment exemplifies the professionalism, commitment, dedication and true passion for the work he does," said Mike Franz, CEO of the Texas Back Institute. "We couldn't be more proud Dr. Block chooses to call the Texas Back Institute home. His contribution is incredibly valuable to our patients."

Dr. Block founded and directs the CoPE program (Conquering Pain Effectively) at the Texas Back Institute. The CoPE program was designed for individuals who undergo various treatments without sufficient relief from chronic back pain. CoPE's mission is to reduce or eliminate the use

of pain medication, maximize physical functioning, conquer psychosocial barriers to recovery and bring the patient to maximum medical improvement. For those who suffer from chronic back pain, CoPE has been a tremendous asset in their battle.

### **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](http://www.texasback.com).*