



A ribbon cutting celebrates the opening of the **Center for Disc Replacement**, located at Texas Back Institute's Plano location. Photo: photo/amy-brain

TBI on the forefront of back care... Texas Back Institute, one of the largest freestanding spine specialty clinics in the United States, celebrated the opening of the Center for Disc Replacement in late January.

Guests were invited to meet the center's staff and get information about innovations in back treatment—specifically artificial disc replacement (ADR) surgeries. Since performing the first ADR procedure in the United States in 2000, Texas Back Institute has performed more than 1,200 ADR procedures with more than 10 types of artificial disc devices.

Before the ADR procedure was available in the United States, the only surgical option was spinal fusion if non-surgical treatment options didn't work. According to TBI, the fusion treatment is effective for many patients, but it can have some drawbacks, including the loss of motion and flexibility; permanently altered motion characteristics and biomechanics; and potential for accelerated degeneration of the discs above and below the fused level.

That's why there is great optimism surrounding artificial disc replacement. During ADR surgery, the damaged disc is removed and replaced with an artificial disc designed to allow for replication of normal motion. The hospital stay is usually only one or two days.

Performed on medically qualified patients suffering from conditions such as degenerative disc disease, herniated discs, and chronic back and neck pain, Texas Back Institute also attributes patient demand for ADRs to an aging population and successful patient outcomes.

Dr. Guyer, Dr. Blumenthal, and Dr. Zigler are co-directors of the Center for Disc Replacement.



Top: Chamber ambassador **Larry Plannery** presents a plaque to renowned surgeon

Dr. Asador Lieberman. Right: **Dr. Richard Guyer** with his wife **Shelly**.



with his wife **Shelly**, is a founding partner of TBI and was instrumental in bringing artificial disc replacement procedures to the United States.