



### Richard Francis, MD

Spine Associates  
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**D**r. Richard Francis has been selected for the fourth consecutive year as one of Houston's Top Docs. It is an honor he deeply appreciates. He founded Spine Associates as one of Houston's premier specialist practices, devoted entirely to the treatment of the whole spine.

Spine Associates specializes in the treatment of adult and pediatric spinal deformity, artificial disc replacement surgery and revision/reconstruction of the failed spine. It is a practice that is grounded in its mission and core values. "We exist to provide our patients with the best spinal care available using recent medical advances and current technologies to achieve the best result." He continues "At the same time our core values have not changed. We have the highest regard for conservatism, quality of care and timeliness."

At Spine Associates all patients are seen within three days and on the same day if necessary. Special accommodation is made for children, their parents and working adults with limited time by providing extended hours of service including late evenings and Saturdays. Everyone receives personalized service. Each patient is seen by Dr. Francis directly on every visit. A written diagnostic report is forwarded to the referring physician at the time of the visit. Such personalized care has generated tremendous satisfaction within the community, and patients now regularly travel across Texas and the United States to see Dr. Francis.

East Texas Patient Pamela Hoose commented, "After a failed back surgery, Dr. Francis did surgery and got me back to work within a month. The failed surgery had me out of work for 4 months from which I never fully recovered, until seeing Dr. Francis." Jodi Schaefer added, "He is caring and compassionate and, at the same time, he is honest and straight forward. I believe his skill as a surgeon is a true gift." Not to be outdone, Mary Medieros expressed her gratitude. After six failed procedures she was told "The pain was all in my head." In one last desperate attempt at relief she traveled to Spine Associates to see Dr. Francis for corrective revision surgery. She was thrilled. "I now hardly have any pain...I stand up straight, sit up straight and walk with a longer stride and at a faster pace."

Practicing medicine for twenty years, Dr. Francis is uniquely positioned to take on the challenges of a full service spinal practice. Trained at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, U.K., and at Houston's own Baylor College of Medicine, he served for four years as an assistant professor with the University of Texas Medical School, with teaching responsibility for spinal surgery. His next goal is to continue Spine Associates' expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Francis is married to his best friend and medical school classmate Juanitta. Together they have four lovely children Chloe, Shannon, Zachary and Samantha.