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**Houston Spine Surgeon Dr. Richard Francis Featured in Small Business Trendsetters Magazine**  
**Dr. Richard Francis of Spine Associates, a world renowned specialist in spinal surgery, and is recognized and Featured in Small Business Trendsetters for being one of the first surgeons in the nation asked to perform the artificial disc replacement and to use robotic assistance in spine surgery.**

Dr. Richard Francis of Spine Associates with locations in Houston and Beaumont, Texas, has been featured on Small Business Trendsetters and has been “Spotlighted” as an Authority in His Field of Practice for his work with children and adults dealing with the debilitating disease of scoliosis.

Dr. Francis regularly operates at Westside Surgical Hospital located in Houston, Texas. His use of the Mazor Robotic Renaissance System has put him on the forefront of treating patients with spinal deformities from locations around the world.

The Mazor Robotics’ Renaissance™ system is now available as part of the advanced surgical program at Spine Associates. This safe and highly accurate system means Dr. Francis’ patients now have access to this state-of-the-art technology. Patients have a greater benefit from consistently accurate spine surgery – with less pain and fewer scars, and a faster recovery and return to normal daily activities. Dr. Francis will also be conducting training in the use of this highly advanced system starting in late March 2014.

With the use of Mazor Robotics surgical guidance system in his practice, Dr. Francis shows a “leadership role in seeking out and adopting advanced technologies that place additional options on the table when deciding on the best course of treatment for each individual patient.”

As one of the most recognized [spine surgeons in Houston](http://www.myspineassociates.com/), Dr. Francis has been treating children and adults in the treatment of some of the most challenging spinal conditions and spine deformities such as scoliosis, degenerative conditions, tumors, infections, sciatica, and metabolic diseases since 2003.

Dr. Francis is one of the “true leaders in the field of scoliosis care and treatment.” He is, in fact, one of the few surgeons in the nation that performs scoliosis revision surgery and reconstructive surgery on children and adults who have had unsuccessful treatment in the past. Dr. Francis has helped many children and adults to regain their health and return to normal lives thanks to his conservative, yet innovative treatment and his use of robotic assisted surgery at Spine Associates.

## When asked about the future of robotic surgery and other advancements in the use of robotics in surgical procedures, Dr. Richard Francis stated, ‘I think that we are only limited by our imagination.” Dr. Francis also declared with excitement, “I knew what I wanted to do from my first exposure to spine surgery in medical school. What grabbed me was that you could take a child with a severe deformity and—within just a few hours—correct it to the point where it was almost normal.” When asked of his specialty and his success rate in treating scoliosis, Dr. Francis responded, “Pediatric and adult spine deformity surgery is a niche area even within our specialty. At Spine Associates, our results have been nothing short of impressive. Some have even said breathtaking. Even after so many years, I still get excited when I see the change in our patients on the first visit after surgery. Our stated goal is get each person back to normal, physically, functionally and cosmetically.” About Doctor Richard Francis: Dr. Richard Francis was educated at the University of the West Indies, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and Baylor College of Medicine. He is board certified in orthopedic surgery by the Intercollegiate Specialty Board of the Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom. He has been a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh since 1995 and provided four years of service as an assistant professor with the University of Texas, where he was responsible for training residents and fellows in the field of spinal surgery. Additionally, Dr. Francis has successfully completed a post-doctoral fellowship in spinal surgery and is currently an active member of North American Spine Society and Scoliosis Research Society.

## Dr Francis is affiliated with Houston Orthopedic & Spine Hospital, Westside Surgical Hospital, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital and University General Hospital and recognized as one of Houston’s Top Doctors every year from 2005 through 2013.

**About Spine Associates:**   
The mission at Spine Associates (<http://www.myspineassociates.com/>) is to give each adult and child the best services and care every time. This medical establishment has a clear vision to be the benchmark of excellence in spine surgery, and to always provide cutting edge technologies and treatments that change lives and restore function.

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