

## **Joseph P. O'Brien**

### **Musculoskeletal Biographical Overview**

Joseph P. O'Brien is President & CEO of the National Scoliosis Foundation, an internationally recognized patient organization focused on early detection and treatment, giving help & hope to families for more than four decades. Joe received his MBA from Babson College and is an accomplished business professional, health care educator, and patient advocate. He has had extensive collaboration with the research and medical community on a global basis for the conservative management and acute health care for chronic spinal deformities with a special focus on the cause, prevention and cure of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.

Mr. O'Brien founded the Scoliosis Management Alternative Research Treatment & Training (SMARTT) Institute focused on global detection and prevention solutions and providing a free patient clinic. He is also a co-founder and past President of the Society On Scoliosis Orthopedic and Rehabilitative Treatment (SOSORT), and a former Board member & Treasurer of the U.S. Bone & Joint Initiative (USBJI) representing all musculoskeletal patients. He was elected as an Honorary Fellow Member of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) in 2006 and has since actively served as an Advisor on multiple committees. Joe was appointed by the FDA in 2011 as an SGE Patient Representative on the Advisory Panel for the Centers for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) and Drug Evaluation & Research (CDER) and has participated on approximately 20 panels. In 2021, Joe accepted the invitation to join the Cochrane Rehabilitation Advisory Board.

Joe is recognized in the U.S. Congressional Record for bicycling from San Francisco to Boston to raise scoliosis awareness and funding for etiology research. He is also the creator of the June is Scoliosis Awareness Month grassroots campaign, which has resulted in extensive positive media exposure for scoliosis throughout the world since 2008. He has developed/led a myriad of education programs, and trained thousands of school nurses, and physical education teachers in scoliosis screening. He has given numerous oral presentations and poster displays at medical and healthcare conferences throughout the world and consulted, edited or co-produced a dozen books and videos on scoliosis. Mr. O'Brien also co-authored thirteen papers published in peer reviewed journals.

Joe is a scoliosis patient who has had six spinal surgeries and is one of fifteen family members with this spinal disorder, including three of his five children.