



**For Immediate Release**

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**NREF Announces Campaign to Fund Collaboration between NPA & the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)**

**ROLLING MEADOWS, ILL** (July 25, 2016) — The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) is launching a campaign to provide ongoing support for the NeuroPoint Alliance (NPA) joint study with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). The one-year cooperative project will develop, test, and implement an approach to improving outcomes for spine surgery patients. “The end product will be a ‘tool kit’ for participating surgeons and hospitals around the nation to improve health outcomes following elective spine surgery,” says Anthony L. Asher, MD, FAANS, Director of the Quality Outcomes Database (QOD).

The NREF facilitates research funding opportunities as a means to make advances in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions such as brain tumors, strokes, and spinal disorders. “We are delighted to support this NPA initiative with IHI. The results of this research will ultimately give neurosurgeons at hospitals around the country innovative, state-of-the-art techniques in managing spine care outcomes,” says NREF Chairman Jon H. Robertson, MD, FAANS. “These additional resources will enhance their ability, well into the future, to help thousands of patients with debilitating neurosurgical conditions.”

“QOD is distinguished by its emphasis on patient-reported outcomes measures. We have demonstrated that we can collect extensive, audited data. Now we need to prove that we can use this data to improve the quality of neurosurgical care. I believe that the NPA-IHI project will do this.” says Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FAANS, Chairman of the NPA Board of Directors. “NPA is very grateful to the NREF for its continued support of this ground-breaking initiative.”

To support this important study, consider a donation to the Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF), [www.nref.org/donate](http://www.nref.org/donate) and select “QOD” from the Donation Options menu. [Click here](#) for more information on the NPA-NREF collaboration.

***About the NREF***

The Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation (NREF) is a not-for-profit 501 (C)(3) organization created in 1980 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) to support research and education efforts that enhance and confirm the critical role neurosurgeons play in improving lives.

The NREF is dedicated to providing education to neurosurgeons at all stages of their careers, as well as funding research into new and existing neurosurgical treatments, in order to identify links between best practices and improved outcomes in patient care. Through voluntary public donations, corporate support, and donations from allied groups, the NREF supports endeavors that impact the lives of those

suffering from epilepsy, stroke, brain tumors, spinal disorders, sports-related head injuries, lower back pain and Parkinson's disease.