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The Spondylitis Association of America Appoints John D. Reveille, MD to its Board of Directors

SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF. (July 9) -- The Spondylitis Association of America (SAA), the first and largest nonprofit resource in the U.S. for people affected by the rheumatic disease Ankylosing Spondylitis, has appointed John D. Reveille, M.D., to its Board of Directors. Beginning July 1, Dr. Reveille brings his 20 plus years of experience and expertise in spondylitis research and treatment to SAA's governing board.

"I am thrilled that Dr. John Reveille has agreed to join the SAA Board of Directors. His participation on the Board will spur our progress in research and advocacy to achieve a cure for spondyloarthritis in the near future," says Dr. David Hallegua, SAA's Board Chair.

Dr. Reveille is currently a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He is also the Principal Investigator for the TASC Genetic Study (Triple "A" Spondylitis Consortium), which involves an international team of researchers in the U.K., Australia and the U.S.

"A new and exciting day is dawning in AS," says Dr. Reveille, who has worked closely with SAA for seven years to advance AS research. Under his leadership, the NASC Study (North American Spondylitis Consortium), a collaboration between the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, SAA and the National Institutes of Health, made groundbreaking progress in unlocking the genetic components of the disease.

Dr. Reveille has served on SAA's Medical & Scientific Advisory Board since 1991, volunteering his time to help meet the needs of SAA's constituents by authoring publications, participating in SAA's Patient Educational Seminars throughout the country and helping to answer the questions of the newly diagnosed.

By joining SAA's governing board, Dr. Reveille will now take an even more active role in guiding the organization through a period of rapid expansion during which time SAA will be providing programs and services to more people than ever before.

"I have been involved with SAA in one capacity or another for 20 years. I feel that the time is ripe for me to join the Board to further our mutual goals of advancing research into the genetics of AS and educating patients and the general public about the disease."

For additional information John D. Reveille's appointment to the Spondylitis Association of America's Board of Directors, contact Katherine Culpepper or visit www.spondylitis.org.

About Ankylosing Spondylitis

Spondylitis is the term used to refer to a group of chronic, inflammatory diseases that generally strike young people between the ages of 17 and 35. Typically, spondylitis causes pain and stiffness and, in the most severe cases, can result in a total fusion of the spine and/or neck, leading to disability. Although spondylitis primarily affects the spine, it is not uncommon for the disease to impact the joints of the shoulders, hips, knees and feet, as well as cause inflammation of the eye. More rarely, because AS is a systemic (whole body) condition, other organs such as the heart and lungs can also become involved.

About the Spondylitis Association of America

The Spondylitis Association of America's mission is: To be a leader in the quest to cure ankylosing spondylitis and related diseases, and to empower those affected to live life to the fullest.

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