

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **The Spondylitis Association of America Appoints Karrie A. Shogren, PhD to its Board of Directors**

SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF. (September 10) -- 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 Karrie A. Shogren, PhD, to its Board of Directors. Beginning July 1, Dr. Shogren has expanded her commitment to SAA by joining its governing board.

Professor Shogren is currently an Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University of Texas at Austin. Her professional activities focus on developing and evaluating strategies to enhance self-determination and positive health outcomes in people with developmental disabilities and chronic health conditions.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the work of the SAA and to be involved in efforts to continue to develop strategies to help enhance the quality of life of people with ankylosing spondylitis and their families," says Professor Shogren, who has worked closely with SAA for six years to improve the lives of AS patients, most recently as a Support Group Leader in Kansas.

By joining SAA's governing board, Professor Shogren 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.

"As a person with ankylosing spondylitis, I have a strong, personal commitment to the mission of the Spondylitis Association of America. SAA is the only organization that specifically focuses on education, research and treatment for people with AS and related diseases."

For additional information regarding Karrie A. Shogren's appointment to the Spondylitis Association of America's Board of Directors, contact Katherine Culpepper or visit [www.spondylitis.org](http://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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