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\*\*\*\*International Society for Lumbar  
Spine to meet in Dallas

DALLAS--Who should pay the medical bills when a construction worker bends over to pick up his lunch box and suddenly suffers excruciating back pain? Is the herniated disc that caused the pain a single injury, or should it be considered a cumulative disorder resulting from years of putting too much strain on the back?

These medical-legal questions will be among the issues addressed by the International Society for Study of the Lumbar Spine when they meet May 28 through June 2 in Dallas at the Loew's Anatole Hotel.

Dr. Vert Mooney, professor and chairman of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, is president of the society. He is the first American orthopedic surgeon to head the 200-member international group, which formed 12 years ago. Membership in the group is restricted to physicians involved in lumbar spine research, Mooney says, and society members include representatives from Europe, Asia, Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Africa.

Approximately 100 presentations of research on the lumbar spine will be given at the conference. Among the topics will be: methods of determining when an injured employee is ready to go back to work; physical therapy vs. conservative care after spinal surgery; safe use of the disc nucleus-dissolving enzyme, chymopapain; and external fixation of the lumbar spine to speed healing after spinal fusion.

The Volvo Award, given annually at the international conference, will be presented for the most outstanding research.

For more information on the conference, contact Kaecie Cutts at 214/688-3524.

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