

Group Name: Disc Degeneration Focus Group (*We are currently considering a name change to more accurately reflect focus group activities.*)

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Global objective of the group: to clarify concepts and phenotypes of “degenerative disc disease,” and various degenerative findings observed on imaging, to develop a common language and core set of measures for broad adoption.

Specific aims:

- 1) Execute an effective dissemination plan for the group’s recommendation on the use of the term “degenerative disc disease” to facilitate accurate communication and address the current problem of widely varying, disparate definitions, which have led to miscommunication, misunderstanding and confusion.
- 2) Provide the foundations and recommendations for a core set of measures of degenerative findings on spine imaging to facilitate comparisons and syntheses of related study results to move the field forward.

Planned deliverables in 1 year (next ISSLS meeting):

- 1) Report on dissemination activities, working with spine journal editors, leading spine societies and clinical and research leaders, related to the group’s recommendation for use of the term “degenerative disc disease.”
- 2) Present the relevant background information and recommendations of the working groups on core measures of degenerative phenomena on spine imaging.
- 3) Possibly organize a combined session at Spine Week to present and discuss background rationale and recommendations of the ISSLS Focus Group.

Longer timeline plan (if any): continue to work toward the global objective.