

Media Contacts:

Kate Catlin
MMI Public Relations
(919) 233-6600
kate@mmipublicrelations.com

Patty Briguglio
MMI Public Relations
(919) 233-6600
patty@mmipublicrelations.com

**Laser Spine Institute's Robert Gruber, D.O. Named Finalist For
Health Care Hero Award**

*Director Of Spinal Diagnostics And Therapeutics For Leader In Endoscopic Surgery
Is One Of 42 Professionals Honored By Tampa Bay Business Journal Panel*

TAMPA, FLA. – Bill Horne, CEO of Laser Spine Institute (<http://www.laserspineinstitute.com>), the leader in endoscopic spine surgery, has announced that Robert Gruber, D.O., director of spinal diagnostics and therapeutics for Laser Spine Institute's Tampa facility, has been named a finalist for *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 2011 Health Care Hero Awards as chosen by an independent panel of judges. The annual program, now in its eighth year, honors practitioners, professionals and volunteers in eight categories and represents a wide range of disciplines, institutions and locales across the seven-county Tampa Bay area. Recognized at an Oct. 13 awards reception at the Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center Tampa, Dr. Gruber was one of 42 professionals chosen and was cited under the Physician category.

At Laser Spine Institute, Dr. Gruber oversees spinal diagnostic testing and post-operative pain management for all surgical patients. Licensed in Florida since 1990, Dr. Gruber has more than 22 years of experience in the clinical evaluation and management of spinal conditions. He devoted 18 years to being the medical director of a multidisciplinary spine care practice in Tampa Bay prior to joining Laser Spine Institute.

After earning a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from Nova Southeastern University in North Miami, Fla., Dr. Gruber completed his residency program in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and held the esteemed appointment of chief resident. Today, Dr. Gruber continues to serve as a clinical assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation for Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, West Coast campus.

QUOTE:

"This is another impressive honor for Dr. Gruber, and on behalf of his fellow colleagues at Laser Spine Institute, we want to extend our congratulations to him for this achievement," said Horne. "In addition to the fine medical services he provides to Laser Spine Institute, Dr. Gruber consistently furthers the medical field through his research and contribution to medical journals and textbooks. We are proud to have such a respected medical professional as part of our staff."

NEW MEDIA CONTENT:

Laser Spine Institute blog
<http://blogs.laserspineinstitute.com>

Laser Spine Institute on Twitter
<http://www.twitter.com/laserspine>

Laser Spine Institute on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/laserspine>

Laser Spine Institute on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LaserSpineInstitute>

Laser Spine Institute Seminar Information

<http://www.spineseminar.com>

DETAILS:

- In addition to his work with Laser Spine Institute, Dr. Gruber is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, as well as serves as a diplomat of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. He is a member of the International Spinal Injection Society, American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and North American Spine Society.

- Earlier this year, Dr. Gruber was named one of "70 of the Best Pain Management Physicians in America" by *Becker's Orthopedic, Spine & Pain Management*. The list recognizes pain management physicians who have demonstrated an expertise in their field, received major awards and hold leadership positions within their respective organizations.

- For a full list of other 2011 Health Care Hero finalists, visit

<http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2011/09/13/2011-health-care-heroes-finalists-named.html>.

ABOUT LASER SPINE INSTITUTE:

Laser Spine Institute offers a safe and effective alternative to open back and neck surgery, by using the latest techniques in minimally invasive procedures, alleviating the painful symptoms of sufferers from around the world. The leader in endoscopic spine surgery, Laser Spine Institute treats a variety of spinal conditions, including spinal stenosis, degenerative disc disease, pinched nerves, bone spurs, bulging/herniated discs and sciatica. Laser Spine Institute's renowned medical team provides treatment at four surgical centers in Tampa, Fla., Scottsdale, Ariz., Philadelphia and Oklahoma City, and medical consultations at facilities in San Diego, The Villages, Fla. and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. For more information, visit <http://www.laserspineinstitute.com>.

Kate Catlin

MMI Public Relations

(919) 233-6600

Kate@mmipublicrelations.com

<http://twitter.com/mmipr>

<http://www.mmipublicrelations.com>

(end)