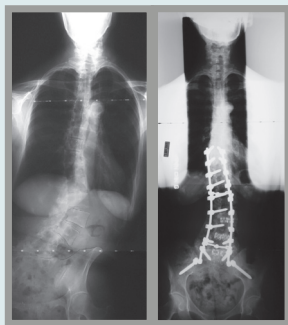


# B A C K I N A C T I O N



Today, Marcia stands two inches taller than before her corrective scoliosis surgery. She is able to perform more stretches now which help her to keep her back strong and resistant to strain.

**Marcia** was diagnosed with scoliosis when she was eight years old and it's difficult for her to remember life without it. She has always been very resilient and scoliosis didn't stop her from being active and enjoying life. Marcia loves playing the violin - so much so that she teaches children how to play. Even as her curvature worsened she still found happiness in line dancing with her husband and yoga for relaxation.

It was while she was teaching violin that she learned of Dr. Matthew Geck, a fellowship-trained scoliosis and spine surgeon in Austin. A parent of one of her students told her about Dr. Geck. Marcia made an appointment and was impressed by his professionalism and calming manner. Even so, she wasn't ready for the surgical option that would be necessary to correct her curvature.

Several years went by and Marcia's condition continued to worsen, the back pain she was experiencing was becoming excruciating and everyday life was becoming increasingly difficult. She again visited Dr. Geck and he explained to Marcia that her scoliosis was worsening. She was suffering from severe collapsing spine syndrome with coronal decompensation and functional disability. Dr. Geck emphasized to Marcia that if she waited longer her scoliosis would continue to progress making the surgery more difficult as her symptoms would worsen.

With much thought and consideration, Marcia decided to move forward with the scoliosis surgery that would be necessary for her condition. Dr. Geck helped prepare Marcia and her husband for the surgery by describing the procedure and all of the

necessary tests and precautions. Dr. Geck performed the combined anterior / posterior surgery needed to correct Marcia's scoliosis. Both surgeries were successful.

It was important that she get back to walking and movement quickly. She remembers walking in her neighborhood with aid of a walker. "It was very difficult and I am so thankful that my husband was there to help me through my recovery," Marcia remembers. She attended months of rehabilitative physical therapy, this was necessary to help her regain strength and range of motion.

Today, Marcia stands 2 inches taller and is able to sit flat in a chair, something that most people take for granted but was not possible for Marcia before surgery. She is able to perform more yoga stretches now than before and has nearly unlimited walking tolerance. She continues to teach the joys of violin to children. Marcia and her husband continue to be active line dancers at the local community center.



**Matthew J. Geck, MD**

*Spine and Scoliosis Surgeon, Fellowship-Trained in Adult and Pediatric Spine Surgery  
Co-Chief, Seton Spine and Scoliosis Center*

Matthew J. Geck MD is a board certified, fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon who has a practice focused exclusively on spine and scoliosis surgery. For the past 10 years his Austin-based practice has focused exclusively on spine and scoliosis surgery, and since 2003 has become the largest spinal deformity practice in central Texas treating adult and pediatric scoliosis, kyphosis and other complex spinal problems. Dr. Geck also specializes in cervical disc replacement and cervical myelopathy. Dr. Geck's practice is a referral center for some of the most complex cases of adult and pediatric scoliosis, as well as other complex problems of the adult and pediatric spine. He has performed well over 1200 spine operations in practice. He has had the largest spinal deformity practice in Central Texas since 2003, treating scoliosis, kyphosis, and other complex spinal problems. Dr. Geck performed an ACGME approved spine fellowship in adult and pediatric spine surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital. He then spent additional time at Miami Children's Hospital focusing on complex spinal deformities such as scoliosis, kyphosis, and revision surgery for the previously operated scoliosis patient. Dr. Geck is also the Founder of SpineHope, a non profit organization that transforms the lives

of children with spinal deformities worldwide through surgery, education and research. In addition to 7 trips to Cali, Colombia performing life changing spinal surgeries for underprivileged children, Dr. Geck intends through SpineHope to develop additional global outreach programs. For his efforts in global outreach for complex spine problems Dr. Geck was given the University of Wisconsin's Forward under 40 award in 2009.