Our Mission: “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.”
We are delighted to report that 2008 was a year of unprecedented success in the fight against spondylitis. The document in your hands contains the details of the advances achieved, and we encourage you to review it in depth. Here we will touch on a few of the highlights.

Researchers working with the SAA continued to identify new genetic markers at an increasing rate. Other researchers completed the long-awaited validated screening tool, which has huge implications regarding timely and effective diagnosis. Approximately one thousand people attended highly-rated educational seminars throughout the country; many more benefited from the personal contacts provided by the SAA’s expanding network of support groups. The SAA staff revised, expanded and published a new version of the internationally acclaimed book, Straight Talk on Spondylitis, and completed a similar revision of the popular exercise DVD Back in Action.

The SAA initiated important projects in 2008 that will reach fruition in 2009. These include the development of a training program for emergency first responders; the establishment of a peer mentor program; and the launch of a web-based Legislative Action Center.

We are excited about successes of 2008 not only for their intrinsic value, but – much more importantly – for the opportunities they present. The SAA now has tools that promise a future wholly unlike the past. We intend to make 2009 the beginning of the end of the despair endured by so many: the undiagnosed who are suffering pain they cannot identify; the newly diagnosed who are struggling alone, unaware of the many resources available; and those who have lived for decades with a condition that their friends and colleagues do not understand. This is the year that we will begin to make real progress towards a universal understanding of this disease, such that no one will have to fight this fight alone. We will change their lives. We have to; we are the only ones who can.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our many members and donors; to you we owe everything. Your faith and commitment made the past successes possible; with your continued support, together we will touch the lives of thousands.

Sincerely,

Laurie M. Savage  
Executive Director  

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Chair, Board of Directors
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SAA leads the fight to promote and fund medical research. By working collaboratively with the medical and scientific community, SAA is striving to bring us closer to the cure for spondylitis while continuing the important work of improving the lives of all those affected.

**TASC Genetic Study**

2008 was a year of exciting breakthroughs and critical developments in the diagnosis and treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. Researchers heading the TASC (Triple A Spondylitis Consortium) genetic study identified two genes (ERAP1 and IL23R) that, in addition to HLA-B27, increase the risk of developing spondylitis. Since then, scientists, including Dr. John Reveille and Dr. Matthew Brown, announced the discovery of additional genes that may prove to be the last pieces of the genetic puzzle that makes up this crippling disease.

It is expected that the discovery of these new genes will bring about new approaches to the treatment and management of spondylitis.

SAA served as the national subject recruiting center for the TASC Study and provided a major portion of the subjects for the project -- without whom none of the research would have been possible.

These groundbreaking discoveries have brought us that much closer to the cure. Dr. Brown summed up TASC’s genetic work by saying, “We can expect really major advances over the next five years in AS research on the back of these genetic studies. These are very exciting times indeed.”

“Thank you! Your organization has been a life saver. I appreciate the accurate information and work towards important research.”
AS Screening Tool

2008 marked the final stage of a three-year project to develop a screening tool that will provide a basis for primary care physicians to refer patients to rheumatologists to obtain a definitive diagnosis and begin treatment. The manuscript containing the validated 12-question tool was submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed, scientific journal. This screening tool will enhance SAA’s considerable credibility within the medical community and increase awareness with respect to the importance of diagnosing spondylitis early on in its course.

While SAA now serves a large community of people living with spondylitis, there are many more who are not yet diagnosed. Our goal is to reach the hundreds of thousands of people who do not yet know the cause of the fatigue and pain they experience and thus are deprived of much-needed treatment. The Screening Tool will provide a way to reach those people who can most benefit from the resources that only SAA can provide.
A COMMITTED COMMUNITY...

Whether you have been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis or a related disease, or you are a family member, friend, co-worker or physician who cares about someone living with spondylitis, you are a part of a large community committed to a better future for all those affected by the disease. In that future we will have reached the hundreds of thousands of people across the United States who today are still searching for a diagnosis.

THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS...

Over the past year, SAA embarked on a comprehensive campaign to expand the community it serves by reaching out to more people through informative, educational and supportive programs. SAA traveled across the country to host educational seminars, encouraged and supported educational support group leaders in communities large and small, expanded its ever-growing presence on the Internet through the use of social networking sites, and worked with new technologies to expand its reach through podcasts and webinars. 2008 has helped pave the way for SAA to reach more people to increase awareness, provide accurate and up-to-date information, and offer support.

“I liked meeting other patients diagnosed with AS. Knowing that they understood and shared the same feelings I felt was very comforting.”
www.spondylitis.org
Updated regularly with the latest news and information about spondylitis treatment, medications and research, SAA’s website continues to be one of the best sources of educational content on the Internet. Information about SAA events and seminars, supportive programs and the online community of message boards can also be found on the website.

SWIFT (teens.spondylitis.org)
Spondylitis Web Info for Teens (SWIFT), the first website of its kind for teens living with spondylitis, was updated with new stories and tips from teens living with spondylitis.

Social Networking Sites
Through the use of social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook, SAA expanded the spondylitis community and reached out to people who might not otherwise be aware of the resources available to them.

Toll-Free Information Line
Friendly, knowledgeable SAA staff members answered the toll-free information line and provided information about spondylitis, support programs, SAA events and additional resources to hundreds of callers.

National Educational Support Group Network
SAA’s National Educational Support Group Network continued to flourish with groups across the country focused on education and support and providing a safe environment for people to discuss the day-to-day challenges of living with spondylitis. These groups were an integral part of SAA’s awareness campaign as some groups participated in health fairs in their area. More than one thousand members of the spondylitis community attended meetings across the country.
Publications and Materials

SAA expanded and revised its extensive library of educational publications and materials with updated brochures, a third edition of the first educational book about spondylitis, and a reformatted exercise DVD.

**Brochures** – SAA published seven different brochures and distributed over 19,000 copies by mail, at health fairs around the country and at SAA events including educational seminars, support group meetings, scientific conferences and donor meetings in 2008.

*Support was provided through a generous grant from Amgen & Wyeth.*

**Straight Talk on Spondylitis** -- This groundbreaking internationally recognized book was originally published in 1985 as the first-ever educational text written specifically for the spondylitis patient. In 2008, SAA released the third edition of this book, with updated information and revisions to reflect medical advances as well as expanded sections about Spondylitis in Women, Employment Issues, Childcare and Health Insurance.

*Support was provided through generous grants from the J.B. & Emily Van Nuys Charities and the Blank Charitable Foundation.*

**Back in Action Exercise DVD** – SAA’s popular exercise video, Back in Action, was released in DVD format. This reformatted DVD, which demonstrates a full range of flexibility, stretching, and strengthening exercises for the spondylitis patient, has sold more than 2500 copies.

*Centocor provided support to convert the “Back in Action” Exercise VHS to DVD format. Centocor also purchased Exercise DVDs for their sales representatives to distribute to rheumatology offices around the country in an effort to help increase awareness of the importance of exercise in treating spondylitis.*

**Spondylitis Plus** – Over 25,000 copies of this advertising-free quarterly news magazine were distributed to members in over 40 countries with information on the latest in spondylitis research and treatments, tips for daily living and personal stories from people within the spondylitis community.
Educational Seminars
SAA traveled across the country to host free educational seminars in New York City, Seattle, Atlanta, and Denver and planned for others scheduled in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Dallas and San Francisco. Unlike other arthritis seminars, these seminars focused specifically on spondylitis and issues of importance to the spondylitis community, and through principles of adult learning provided attendees with the opportunity to interact directly with experts in the fields of spondylitis research, treatment and disease management and with each other.

Amgen and Wyeth supported the four Spondylitis Educational Seminars conducted in 2008.*

Network of PEERS (People Educated and Empowered to Rise above Spondylitis)
At the urging of our members, SAA developed a new peer mentor program focused on one-on-one support within the spondylitis community. The Network of PEERS program provides the opportunity for people newly diagnosed with spondylitis to be matched with peers who have years of experience managing their own symptoms. The goal of this program is to provide an additional avenue of support to the newly diagnosed while allowing those who have more experience to share their knowledge and help others.

Training for Emergency First Responders and Medic Alert
SAA recognizes that one of the greatest fears of our members is their vulnerability during a medical emergency. SAA began the development of a training program for emergency first responders in collaboration with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). The program, which will include a video training module, will be available to the more than 800,000 emergency medical technicians and paramedics across the United States. We look forward to the launch of this training program in 2009.

Support was provided through generous grants from The Higgins Family Charitable Foundation, the Jean and E. Floyd Kvamme Foundation and the Kautz Family Foundation.*

*The Spondylitis Association of America is solely responsible for the content of all educational programs.
RAISING THE FUNDS TO LEAD THE FIGHT

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, corporations and foundations whose generous support enables the Spondylitis Association of America to lead the fight against AS and related diseases. As the only nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated to improving the lives of the spondylitis community, SAA is committed to being efficient, effective and responsible stewards of your contributions.

We are proud that 83 cents of every dollar goes directly toward funding critical programs and services, and we pledge to continue to prove our value to the supporters who place their confidence and trust in us.

Monthly Giving is S.M.A.R.T.

In 2008, SAA launched the “Spondylitis Monthly Automatic Rewards Team” (S.M.A.R.T) Program. SAA members and donors can specify an amount to be automatically deducted from their credit or debit card each month to support SAA’s vision of a world without the pain of spondylitis.

For 25 years, SAA has been a dependable, reliable source of information, education, programs and services. By joining the S.M.A.R.T. Givers program, SAA members can ensure that we have a sustainable source of funding that enables us to move forward with opportunities as they arise.

Quest Legacy Society

The Quest Legacy Society was established to recognize the generosity of those individuals who have kindly remembered SAA in their estate plans. Members of the Quest Legacy Society help ensure that SAA will continue to provide programs and services to empower future generations. Information about the Quest Legacy Society can be found on SAA’s website at www.spondylitis.org/quest.
SAA demonstrated its commitment to responsibly generating the income needed to operate efficiently and to provide the programs and services on which our constituents depend. In fiscal year 2008, SAA allocated 4% of its revenue to fundraising and 13% to management and general operating overhead. Both of these indices exceed industry standards and stand as testament to SAA’s pledge to make every donation count in the quest to improve the lives of everyone impacted by AS and related diseases.

*All accounts of the Spondylitis Association of America are maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for not-for-profit organizations as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Copies of audited financial statements are available upon request.*
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**June 30, 2008 (with comparative amounts for 2007)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>560,677</td>
<td>610,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, at market value</td>
<td>1,564,500</td>
<td>999,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contract receivable</td>
<td>17,766</td>
<td>10,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>12,251</td>
<td>6,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, at cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>102,783</td>
<td>99,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(75,816)</td>
<td>(65,036)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>26,967</td>
<td>34,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>6,704</td>
<td>2,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td><strong>2,358,865</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,904,888</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$ 7,659</td>
<td>$ 7,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued vacation</td>
<td>25,928</td>
<td>25,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>33,587</td>
<td>32,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets:

- Unrestricted net assets       | 1,638,609 | 1,254,885 |
- Board designated fund         | 89,415    | 73,710    |
- Temporarily restricted net assets | 597,254 | 543,522 |

Total Net Assets                | **2,325,278** | **1,872,117** |

Total Liabilities and Net Assets | **2,358,865** | **1,904,888** |
## Statement of Activities

**June 30, 2008 (with comparative amounts for 2007)**

### Changes in unrestricted net assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and foundation grants</td>
<td>$ 509,876</td>
<td>$ 274,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contract</td>
<td>106,596</td>
<td>96,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>757,261</td>
<td>472,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>88,533</td>
<td>68,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program revenue</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>18,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized loss on investment</td>
<td>(844)</td>
<td>2,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,491,722</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 934,495</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net assets released from restrictions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
<td>270,548</td>
<td>366,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue and other support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,762,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,301,441</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$ 20,118</td>
<td>$ 36,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>23,793</td>
<td>13,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>11,637</td>
<td>9,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>52,473</td>
<td>53,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>50,272</td>
<td>68,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>25,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>10,780</td>
<td>10,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,362,841</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,234,031</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>399,429</td>
<td>67,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Changes in temporarily restricted net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and foundation grants</td>
<td>324,280</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td>(270,548)</td>
<td>(366,946)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>53,732</td>
<td>(276,946)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total increase in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>453,161</strong></td>
<td><strong>(209,506)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>1,872,117</td>
<td>2,081,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td><strong>$ 2,325,278</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,872,117</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financing**

**June 30, 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and foundation grants</td>
<td>68,633</td>
<td>68,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contract</td>
<td>96,580</td>
<td>96,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>472,970</td>
<td>472,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>68,847</td>
<td>68,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program revenue</td>
<td>18,946</td>
<td>18,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized loss on investment</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>2,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 934,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 934,495</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td>366,946</td>
<td>366,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>67,440</td>
<td>67,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total increase in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,234,031</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,234,031</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>2,081,623</td>
<td>2,081,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td><strong>$ 2,325,278</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,325,278</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Corporate Partnership Program provides a way for the Spondylitis Association’s pharmaceutical partners to positively impact the spondylitis community by contributing funds to the organization’s general operating budget. Corporate support is also provided for special programs and services.

Foundations provide both unrestricted and restricted funding to support SAA's programs and services. We are grateful to the following foundations for their generous support.

- Blank Charitable Foundation
- The Cecile and Fred Bartman Foundation
- AMGEN
- Community Foundation Alliance
- The Higgins Family Charitable Foundation
- J.B. and Emily Van Nuys Charities
- Jean and E. Floyd Kvamme Foundation
- Kautz Family Foundation
- Koven Foundation
- Peravid Foundation
- Sydney T. Levenson Foundation
It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge the donors who have made contributions during the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. It is through the generous support of individuals, foundations and our corporate partners that SAA is able to continue to affect positive changes and make significant advancements in research, education and advocacy for those living with AS and related diseases. Due to limited space, we have only listed gifts of $100 or more.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate and complete, but in the event of an error or omission, we extend our apologies and encourage you to contact Diann Peterson, Director of Membership & Communications at 800-777-8189, ext. 226 or by email at diann.peterson@spondylitis.org so that proper recognition will be ensured in the future.
“Thank you for helping with the cause! I’m glad there’s someone fighting for us.”