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Future Annual Meetings

EuroSpine 2011
October 19 - 21, Milan, Italy
Local Hosts: M. Brayda-Bruno, C. Lamartina

SpineWeek / EuroSpine 2012
May 28 - June 1, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Local Hosts: B. van Royen, M. de Kleuver, W. Peul

EuroSpine 2013
October 2 - 4, Liverpool, UK
Local Hosts: T. Pigott, M. Wilby, G. Findlay

EuroSpine 2014
October 1 - 3, Lyon, France
Local Host: J.Ch. Le Huec

EuroSpine 2015
September 2 - 4, Copenhagen, Denmark
Local Host: F. Christensen
Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of myself and the executive committee, welcome to the ‘new look’ annual report. I hope you will find the new format useful and informative.

It has been our objective over the last three months, and for the rest of my term to try to advance the society in three important areas.

Firstly to make the society more open and transparent to you its members. There is an enormous amount of work completed by the society every year in a number of key areas. It is important that members are aware of the activities of the society, it is after all your society! While the web site is an excellent source of information, I hope that the new format annual report will add significantly to the information available. Please feel free to provide feedback, positive or negative. The report contains summaries of the activities of the various committees’ throughout the year. If you have any interest or expertise that you would like to share please put your name forward for election to the area of your interest at the annual assembly. The Journal continues to grow. Every year we see an increase in submissions. This brings with it the need for more reviewers. If you have any interest in reviewing papers for the journal please submit your name and qualifications to the journal office. There is a particular need for reviewers with a Neurosurgical, Paramedical and Basic science background. The strength of any society lies in its members. I am hoping that we can increase the participation of the members in the various day to day activities of the society, and thereby increase the strength and relevance of the society as a whole.

Secondly to develop the society on a more professional platform. Over the last few years the society has grown significantly in terms of influence and finance. Our annual meetings continue to be an enormous success, both scientifically and in terms of revenue. It is essential that the society develops in a professional manner. This includes the production of professional audited accounts, the establishment of proper employment contracts and contracts of association for the various activities, including the annual meeting. It also includes the development of a professional business plan to set out our goals and objectives as a society over the coming years. Hopefully this will be complete and presentable for ratification at our next assembly in Milan. The establishment of the Foundation has been an enormous benefit in this regard.

Together with the Foundation we have had an extremely successful year in terms of our education plan. The first graduates of our modular courses have received their certificates and the education programme is set to grow further with the establishment of ‘Education Week’. We plan on continuing to co-operate with the
Foundation in developing and progressing our other activities, including ‘Spine Tango’ and ‘membership’ over the coming months.

This brings me to the third area I hope to see progress in, that of increasing our membership. We can all play a role in advancing our society. I would ask all of you to encourage friends and colleagues to join our society. Please feel free to circulate this Annual Report within and without your departments to advertise the activities of our society, and thereby inform others of the importance of the society to their professional development and the development of our speciality. We hope also to increase the collaboration with the various national societies. There has been significant progress in this area within the education programme. Various modules of our courses have been successfully delivered by national societies in their own language. We would hope to build on this collaboration with the involvement of the national societies in other areas of our activity, including the possibility of reciprocal membership. We would also hope to broaden the appeal of the society, to increase the diversity of our membership particularly to Basic Science and non surgical colleagues. To this end, for the first time, we have negotiated reduced registration fees for the next annual meeting in Milan for basic scientists. Encourage your non surgical colleagues to take advantage of this offer, and join us in Milan.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for your support, encourage you to become involved in any areas you have an interest in and ask you to block out the dates of October 19th to 21st 2011, for Milan. See you there!
General Assembly

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 17:30 – 18:30 h
Vienna, Reed Messe - Convention Centre, Plenary Hall

60 members present

Welcome (Wilke)

1 Approval of the last protocol
   (published in the Annual Report 2010)
   Approved unanimity

Society Business

2 Finances of the Society:
   balance 2009, and budget 2010 (Ogon)
   • 2009 final balance (Annex 1) agreed
   • 2010 budget (Annex 1) agreed

3 Adaptation to statutes /
   3.1 Internal Rules (Berk)

Following a decision of the Executive Committee in May 2008 an amendment to the statutes is proposed in order to obtain the official tax-free status from the Swiss Authorities. The General Assembly is asked to agree on the occasion of the upcoming Meeting. A two third majority is needed for approval. The adapted document is mailed together with this agenda.

Article 1
The registered name of the Society is “EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe” (abbreviate “EuroSpine”). The Society is constituted in conformity with the laws of Switzerland concerning International Societies with scientific and educational objectives. EuroSpine pursues a non-economic purpose and is a non-profit making society. The life of the Society is unlimited.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 19
The Executive Committee administers and represents the Society. The members of the Executive Committee act on an honorary basis and are entitled to reimbursement of their out of pocket expenses and cash expenditures. In the event of exceptional services rendered by certain members of the Executive Committee adequate compensation may be paid. Only Active, Senior and Honorary Members may be elected to it.

Article 27
Any assets remaining after the dissolution of the Association must be allocated to a tax exempt institution pursuing the same or similar purposes. Distribution of such assets to the members of the Association is excluded.

Article 27 28
The official term starts on the First of January and runs to December thirty-first every year. The first official term starts on 23 June 2007 and finishes on 31 December 2007.

Article 28 29
For all points not solved by the present statutes, the Society refers to the Swiss law concerning International Societies with scientific and educational objectives. Agreed unanimity

3.1 Adaptation to Internal Rules(Berk)

Proposed to be added to the internal rules, which regulates the relationship between the society and the foundation.

Article 15 (new)
15.1 On 13 December 2007 the Society founded EuroSpine Foundation („Foundation“) to assist the Society’s mission of fostering excellence in spinal care. The purpose of the Found-
ation is to improve, promote and optimise medicine and surgery concerning the spine and its care at all levels. The Foundation, receiving donations from its founder, private or public donors, will use its assets to achieve the purpose. It is the willingness of the Society to closely interact with the Foundation which does provide support for or is active in the areas of postgraduate trainings, education, clinical practices, researches, patients and publications concerning the spine.

15.2 As the Foundation is active only in the occupational field of the members of the Society, the Society, pursuing non-economic purposes, is willing to periodically contribute donations to the Foundation.

15.3 The President of the Board of Trustees and the CEO of the Foundation shall be invited to the meetings of the Eurospine Executive Committee meetings.

15.4 The President, Past President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Society shall be invited to the Foundation Board of Trustees meetings.

15.5 Eurospine executive board and Eurospine Foundation Board of trustees shall meet at least once a year.

15.6 The President, Past President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Society are members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Foundation.

15.7 Nomination of new candidates for changing SSE members of the foundation:

15.7.1 Foundation shall prepare nomination criteria for the candidates

15.7.2 Society executive committee will nominate two candidates for each vacant position. Foundation will appoint one of the candidates presented by the Society.

Agreed

Proposed: to change article 8 in order to ensure continuity in the committee work:

8.1 Special committees and task forces may be formed for specific tasks. The members of these special committees will be proposed by the Executive Committee and elected by the General Assembly. The members of task forces will be selected by the executive committee. The special committee or task force will operate within any standing or special instructions that may be laid down by the Executive Committee.

8.2 Each Committee of the society will have a chairman, who will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee. The chairman will serve for no longer than three years and then step down. The past chair of the committee may serve in the committee with no voting rights at the discretion of the executive committee. The chairman will be responsible to the Secretary and the Executive Committee. His or her reports will be submitted to the executive committee and to the General Assembly.

8.3 The Chairman of the next Annual General Meeting as cited in article 19 of the Statutes, President and Secretary shall be in the Program Committee.

Agreed

Article 16

16.1 The Internal Rules shall replace the Internal Rules ratified in October 2009.

16.2 Proposed by the Executive Committee in accordance with article 22.3 of the Statutes on
September 16, 2010 and approved by the General Assembly on September 16, 2010.

The GA agreed (with one vote against) that the adaptations can be applied with immediate validation.

4 Past Presidents Working Group (Pellisé)

All past presidents were approached an initially agreed to participate. The second meeting’s venue was changed on short notice from London to Zurich (ash cloud), this was the cause why several of PP could not attend. Both meetings were accompanied by a lawyer (Marcel Steinegger) and a mediator (Marco Marty).

Conclusions and proposals were sent to the ExCom members and boards of ESF trustees in July. The following was discussed and agreed at the ExCom meeting (Sept 14)

1 - to install a scientific advisory (supervisory) board:
It is agreed, that president, past president, vice president and secretary (without vote) shall attend the ESF board meetings. As there are four meetings per year, the meetings can also be arranged as video-conferences. As the ExCom meetings will have to be increased to three per year, at least one meeting on spring could be a joint ESF Board and SSE Executive Committee meeting. This is accepted and the internal rules will be adapted. Compare 3.1

According to the statutes, ESF board members are elected by the ESF board themselves, the society can only propose. Proposal and election process, including a job description, should be regulated in the internal rules in order that the society is able place their proposed candidates into the ESF board.

The ExCom nominates two candidates for each vacancy, one is the primary candidate, the second one in case the Foundation doesn’t agree with the primary candidate. Compare 3.1

2 – donation of a fixed financial contribution
This was not accepted by ExCom, however a way to hand over assets directly to the foundation from the annual meetings, which ESF can claim themselves will be discussed with our lawyers.

3 - Annual meeting organisation to ESF
It is decided, that the organisation of the Annual Meetings remains in the realm of the society, as stated in the internal rules and the affiliated meeting guidelines.

This PPWG Think tank was created and approved in Warsaw 2009, with the task to open a discussion regarding the renewal of our legal texts, which should reflect more accurately the present situation (and future goals) of the society and its assets and the internal organisation of committees. These topics were not discussed within the group.

Ferran Pellisé thanks the members for all their support in the past years through his term as secretary. Plenum thanks in return and acclaims his work with applause.

Annual Meetings

5 EuroSpine 2010 Vienna, report (Ogon)

Excellent organisation by and cooperation with this years PCO, Mondial. Fully booked: pre-courses, sponsoring. More than 1250 regular participant registrations (85 nations present), 1300 industry representing 135 companies, 34 industry workshops, 5 own workshops with excellent reception.
New this year: invited national societies, who got free booths: Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, E-CSRS, NASS. Press conference with national TV and international media present.

Budget is presented and explained, expected income according is close to one million Euros.

6 EuroSpine 2009 Warsaw, final report (Berk)

Deferred. An official report is not available.

7 Up-date next meeting Milan 2011 (Brayda-Bruno, Lamartina)

Preparation according to schedule. The local organising office is represented in Vienna, doing promotion and contacting industry. Call for papers is printed and distributed.

8 Site Applications 2015:
- Copenhagen (Christensen)
- Berlin (Wilke)

Both sites have supplied bids which show that they are adequate to host an EuroSpine meeting. They were introduced by their potential local hosts and voted by the plenary:

- Copenhagen 30 and Berlin 26 votes.
- Copenhagen is selected and Christensen congratulated to be local host for 2015.

10 Program Committee (Alanay)

There were six core reviewers, one per category, representing the core program committee and three 3 co-reviewers per category (18 total). The whole program committee is thanked for a very good collaboration.

The Program 2010 consists of 88 oral, 60 special poster, 90 e-posters, 462 rejection. Special posters are again run parallel with short presentations. Special prize session introduced on Friday morning to attract audience.

Disclosure and copyright statements are now included with submission already.

11 Membership (Pigott)

546 members with 36 applications to join for 2011.

There are 44 non-payers who will be expelled if payment is not received subject to approval by ExCom.

We expelled 19 last year and had 7 resignations and one death.

Names of newly accepted members are displayed (ref-> membership committee report).

12 Education Committee (Christensen)

In 2009 the SSE decided to initiate a new European Education program focusing on establishing European education standards, both for coming spine specialists and as part of continuous education:

Modules completed:
- Barcelona 1+4 (English, ES-financed – 40 participants)
• one Master Course in Barcelona (20 participants)
• Copenhagen modules (Module 1: 23 participants, Module 2: 49 participants)

Modules planned:
• Milano October module 1+3 (Italian and English)
• Module 5 late 2010 or January 2011 (depends on number of attendees)

A new European Education Program can only be implemented and be successful through the involvement and support of National Spine Societies of Europe and cross border Societies with spine focus. SSE should position itself as a major driving force in Spine Education within Europe to act as a reference point and resource for all Spine Societies.

Planned in 2011: Education Week:
Concept proposed in order to save travelling, expenses. Focusing on the spine diploma and on continuing Education. Participation of multiple industry workshops should cover the costs.

13 Task Force Research (Nordin)

New Research web page introduced. Application procedure and -form is explained, also available on-line.

Budget:
3 pilot studies à Euro 30.000. Application deadline is January 31, 2011
3 pilot studies funding @ Euro 30.000 and 1 study @ Euro 100.000 for 3 years deadline is January 31, 2012
In 2012 there is a research course planned, which might be held in the Eastern Europe.

14 Spine Tango (Muntting)

Presently Participating:
• Over 40 clinics, over 200 contributors
• In 14 countries (10 different native languages), on 5 continents
• Over 30.000 surgeries in the data base
• Over 20.000 surgeon’s follow-ups
• 15.000 pre-op, 11.000 post-op back COMIs
• 2850 pre-op, 2430 post-op neck COMIs

Number of participation and activities are rising, the handling is mostly done by the Spine Tango team in Bern (development, maintenance, administration, communication, marketing, headed by Ch Röder.

Upcoming projects: install audit- and control mechanisms. New forms and software will be implemented end of this, beginning of next year.

15 Elections (Berk)

Proposed:
Vice President: JC LeHuec, France accepted
• Executive Members [2]
  - Marco Teli, Italy
  - Marek Szaplski, Belgium

• Assistant Treasurer: Frank Kandziora, Germany accepted

Education Committee:
Marco Brayda-Bruno (chair)
New members:
Martin Repko, Czech Republic
Peter Paul Varga, Hungary
Martin Gehrchen, Denmark accepted
Workshop committee:
Pierre Roussouly, France

accepted

16 Miscellaneous

In view of the substantial investment involved with a site application and considering the marginal outcome of the votes, Bolger motions to decide the venue for 2016 to be Berlin. Accepted.

Vienna, September 2010

the Secretary:
Haluk Berk

## Financial statement 2009/budget 2010

### Balance Sheet as at
(in EURO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2009</th>
<th>13 September 2010</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>613 682</td>
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<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>10 052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>1 037 158</td>
<td>800 000</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>1 660 893</td>
<td>1 232 000</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Liabilities to third parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>343 477</td>
<td>176 000</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
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<td>207 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
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<td>Society capital</td>
<td>731 742</td>
<td>1 317 416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual profit</td>
<td>585 674</td>
<td>(292 416)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>1 317 416</td>
<td>1 025 000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Income statement for the period from
( in EURO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>year-to-date EUR</th>
<th>Budget 2010 EUR</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Memberfees</td>
<td>66 920</td>
<td>48 000</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit, Spine Week Geneva 2008</td>
<td>475 620</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit, EuroSpine Warsaw 2009</td>
<td>800 000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit, EuroSpine Vienna 2010</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>998 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returned Advance payment Warsaw 2008</td>
<td>97 098</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Courses Liberec</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8 000</td>
<td>8 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storno/returns</td>
<td>1 056</td>
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<td><strong>Total INCOME</strong></td>
<td>1 440 695</td>
<td>56 000</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>18 686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>16 777</td>
<td>8 000</td>
<td>21 000</td>
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<td>eMedia</td>
<td>19 041</td>
<td>12 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
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<td>Working Group (Past President)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>84 000</td>
<td>30 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Task Force</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 000</td>
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</table>
Spine Tango 265 739 0 175 000

**Annual Meeting** 37 493 5 000 64 500

**Spine Course**
- Training course Barcelona 37 978 5 000 0
- Training course Liberec 15 465 30 000 35 000
- 2 Module Courses (Foundation) 0 0 150 000
- Subsiding for participants Barcelona (Found.) 0 22 000 0

**Oversea courses**
- Brazil 15 201 5 000 10 500
- India 10 343 0 10 500

**Projects**
- Awards 12 189 0 14 000
- Medal 255 0 500
- Fellowships 6 789 2 000 46 000
- Patient Line 3 459 7 000 10 000
- Foundation (120k EUR salary contribution CEO starting 2011) 0 0 0
- Foundation (profit contribution 20% of annual meetings) 160 000 0 199 600
- Lawyer (projects and administration) 40 730 20 000 45 000
- Various expenses (Subscription/ Springer) 53 067 67 000 60 000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gross profit</strong></td>
<td>774 354</td>
<td>(294 000)</td>
<td>(206 300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company expenses</strong></td>
<td>153 129</td>
<td>54 000</td>
<td>202 700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>129 740</td>
<td>9 000</td>
<td>125 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and service expenses</td>
<td>22 602</td>
<td>43 000</td>
<td>74 700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>2 000</td>
<td>3 000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before financial expenses</strong></td>
<td>574 354</td>
<td>(294 000)</td>
<td>(206 300)</td>
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<td>Financial and exchange income</td>
<td>3 513</td>
<td>1 584</td>
<td>1 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial and exchange expenses</td>
<td>(4 023)</td>
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<td>EUR-translation</td>
<td>12 611</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 101</td>
<td>1 584</td>
<td>1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual profit</strong></td>
<td>586 455</td>
<td>(292 416)</td>
<td>(205 300)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear members, colleagues and friends,

in a good mood we’re looking back on an exciting EuroSpine meeting 2010 in Vienna. Together with our EuroSpine president 2010 Hans Joachim Wilke, the whole EuroSpine board and administration as well as our local PCO Mondial, we had the great honour to host for the first time in the history of EuroSpine more than 2,000 participants from more than 80 countries.

The Spine society of Europe was founded 1998 as a Union from the European Spine Society and the European Spine Deformity Society during their meeting in Innsbruck, Austria. September 15th to 17th, our annual meeting was back in Austria, this time in Vienna, the capital of Austria. The meeting took place in the Messe Vienna, a new and modern building, which offered a perfect auditorium for our scientific program as well as plenty of space for our industry partners right next to the plenary session as well as numerous rooms for EuroSpine and industry lunch workshops.

For the first time EuroSpine 2010 was a full 3 day meeting, Wednesday to Friday. Thursday afternoon was not longer free but offered a full scientific program. Therefore, the meeting ended Friday late afternoon.

Additionally, we held for the first time a Pre-Congress-Meeting on Tuesday with two courses. One was conducted on complications in adult thoracolumbar spine surgery, the other on challenges and controversies in paediatric deformity surgery.
The courses were excellent organised and chaired by F. Pellisé, Barcelona and E. Acaroglu, Ankara. With overall more than 200 participants, both Pre-Meeting courses were fully booked.

The scientific program covert all aspects of spine treatments as well as basic research. Thursday morning there were 6 parallel special poster sessions. During the congress there were 5 EuroSpine lunch workshops and 34 industry workshops. Thursday morning in the presidential address Achim Wilke gave us a nice and comprehensive overview of the history and achievements of our society. The medal lecture was given by Bernd Lötsch, Prof., E.m. director general of the Natural History Museum of Vienna on The Mystery of Beauty – Darwinian Aesthetics were he guided us to the common denominator for beauty in human perception.

For the first time we organized an international press conference which covered especially the issues: EuroSpine 2010, EuroSpine foundation, SpineTango, Aging Spine and our Awards. As a result, our meeting was not only mentioned in the international press, but also at the main
news of the Austrian television in Vienna including interviews with our new president Ciaran Bolger and the local hosts. The highlight of the social program was certainly our Gala-Diner at the Orangerie at Schönbrunn Palace. The Gala-Diner was fully booked and beside enjoying to meet colleagues and friends from all over Europe and all over the world, we saw an exciting ballet dance, performed by the Association Vienna States Opera Ballet.

Overall we are looking back on a very successful EuroSpine Meeting 2010 in Vienna. We thank all people who were involved in the organisation of this most important annually event of our society. We also thank all members and friends of our society who came to Vienna and helped with there scientific contribution, open minded discussions, and personal participation to keep our society lively and constantly growing.

Best regards,

Josef Georg Grohs and Michael Ogon
Local Hosts

For more details and photos, please see: www.eurospine.org/Vienna2010_report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures &amp; Facts</th>
<th>EuroSpine</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Attendance</td>
<td>3.490</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number Delegates</td>
<td>2.198</td>
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<td>Total Number of Booths Personnel</td>
<td>1.292</td>
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<td>Total Number Delegates Pre-Meeting Day</td>
<td>205</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Countries represented</td>
<td>82</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Programme Pre-meeting Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific presentations</td>
<td>&gt; 80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Poster presentations</td>
<td>~ 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Posters</td>
<td>~ 90</td>
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<td>Eurospine Lunch Symposia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch Workshops organized by the Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Exhibitors, including Society Village</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
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Chairperson’s Report

Aim / Rationale:
Education within the field of “Spine” is being delivered by a number of organizations throughout Europe, including but not limited to the Eurospine, other panEuropean NGOs and Foundations, National Societies, and Medical Technology Companies and their subsidiaries. The rationale of organizing a premeeting course directly by the European Spine Society would be to provide totally unbiased education on a subject of the Society’s own selection coupled with the convenience of a venue already reserved. The possibility that most attendees would also be attending the annual meeting is another potential mutual benefit for the attendees as well as the Society.

Organization:
The decision to organize these courses and allocation of the chairs as well as the topics were finalized in late 2009. The complete scientific program was constructed by April 2010 and was not modified after that date. Course Venue was the same as the annual meeting; Reed Messe Vienna, Austria.

Execution:
Course faculty was truly international from different countries and geographical regions of Europe consisting of: E Acaroglu MD (chair), M Yazici MD, Mr. H Noordeen, C Lamartina MD, T Tsirikos MD, Mr. D Marks, D Jeszensky MD, F Perez-Grueso MD, M Teli MD, F Canavese MD, U Liljenquist MD, M Brayda-Bruno MD, Mr. P Sell, A Alanay MD and A Kaelin MD.

Attendance to the course was limited to 75 people due to physical restraints and this number was achieved a couple of weeks before the actual meeting. The attendance statistics reveal that it ranged between 46 and 53.

The course started at time and was completed without any major problems. Adherence to time allocations was very good by the speakers, all faculty members were professionals who were highly experienced in such courses and behaved professionally throughout the event.

Catering services were more than acceptable in quality and were delivered without any major problems.

Feedback:
Overall, the faculty members uniformly expressed their satisfaction with the course as an educational experience. As for the participants, a survey was performed using a form and the results reveal that the overall participant satisfaction with the planning, content and execu-
tion of the course was very high. The rates of favorable answers in the survey may be summarized as below:

- Arrangement convenience: 87.5 %
- Speaker quality: 95.83 %
- Content quality: 87.5 %
- Presentation times: 54.17 %
- Relevance of topic: 95.83 %
- Discussions: 79.17 %

Participants of the survey also suggested possible topics and formats for future courses to be taken into consideration. In general, positive sides of the course as well as areas in which improvements may be needed are listed below:

**Positive sides:**

- The decision to have these courses at that specific time appears to be a very good decision if we consider the number of registrants to the two courses as well as the overall satisfaction rates.
- The secretarial services I received were very satisfactory.
- Topics selected appear to be appropriate. As for the course chaired by myself, my target number of registrants was 70 was easily achieved.
- Faculty members behaved very professionally and have to be given the credit for the high satisfaction rates. We also have to consider that no compensation was offered to the faculty members for their participation in this course.

**Room for improvement:**

- It may be a good idea to have larger spaces allocated for these courses. It would have been very difficult and stressful to try to fit all people into the room that had been allocated had all the registrants attended the course.
- The number of people who had registered and did not attend is relatively high when we consider the highest number of attendance as being slightly over forty people. Personally I am not particularly sure whether this is a real problem, or a problem unique to these courses as the same phenomenon may be witnessed in the attendance statistics of the annual meeting as well. However, it may become a problem when we start turning down people who would really have been attending the course. Controlled overbooking (or, using fairly larger meeting rooms) may be advisable.
- One criticism on the evaluation forms was about the time allocated to discussion, especially case discussions. I think this is right, because I realize that there was a level/format conflict in this course. The scientific level of the presentations was very high, to the extent that faculty members including myself learned a lot from each other. Given this, in retrospect, it might have been more advisable to narrow the scope of the course and allow some time for the attendees to discuss cases relevant to sessions.
Officers

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Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland
Vice President
Jean Charles LeHuec, Bordeaux, France
Past President
Hans Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany
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Marco Brayda-Bruno
Claudio Lamartina, Vienna, Austria
Research Task Force
Margareta Nordin, New York, USA
Spine Tango Committee
Everard Munting, Biez, Belgium
ESJ Editor in Chief
Max Aebi, Bern, Switzerland

Past Presidents of EuroSpine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hans Joachim Wilke</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federico Balagué</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Gunzburg</td>
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<td>Charles Greenough</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>H. Michael Mayer</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>Max Aebi</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petr Suchomel</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>Dieter Grob</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>Norbert Passuti</td>
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<td>Gordon F.G. Findlay</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Jiri Dvorak</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Carlos Villanueva</td>
<td>1999</td>
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Past Presidents of ESDS

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Gardner</td>
<td>1994–1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Veraart</td>
<td>1989–1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Monticelli</td>
<td>1986–1989</td>
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<td>Alf Nachemson</td>
<td>1983–1986</td>
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<td>Pierre Stagnara</td>
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Past Presidents of ESS

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<tr>
<td>Jürgen Krämer</td>
<td>1997–1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franco Postacchini</td>
<td>1995–1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alain Deburge</td>
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Committees and Special Functions

Membership Committee
Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK (chair)
Remi Cavagna, Ploemeur, France
Adrian Rymarzyk, Warsaw, Poland
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany

Educational and Fellowship Committee
Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy (chair)
E. Acaroglu, Ankara, Turkey
Jean Charles LeHuec, Bordeaux, France
Martin Repko, Brno, Czech Republic
Peter Paul Varga, Budapest, Hungary
Martin Gehrchen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK (e-media)

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Ahmet Alanay, Istanbul, Turkey (chair)
Rune Hedlund, Stockholm, Sweden
Keita Ito, Eindhoven, the Netherlands
Philip J. Sell, Leicester, UK
Barend van Royen, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Jörg Franke, Magdeburg, Germany

institutional:
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland
Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey

Workshop Committee
Claudio Lamartina, Milan, Italy (chair)
Hans Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany (institutional)
Ralph Kothe, Dortmund, Germany
Luis Alvarez Galovich, Madrid, Spain
Pierre Roussouly, Lyon, France

Awards Committee
Jean Charles LeHuec, Bordeaux, France (chair-institutional)
Max Aebi, Bern, Switzerland (institutional)
Antonius Rohlmann, Berlin, Germany
Erich Kast, Winterthur, Switzerland
Dietrich Schlenzka, Helsinki, Finland

European Spine Journal: Editors
Max Aebi, Bern, CH (editor-in-chief)
Norbert Boos, Zürich, Switzerland
Robert Gunzburg, Antwerp, Belgium
Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium
Hans Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany

Research Task Force
Margareta Nordin, New York, USA (chair)
Federico Balagué, Fribourg, Switzerland
Kim Burton, Huddersfield, UK
Christine Cedraschi, Geneva, Switzerland
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium
Pierre Côté, Toronto, Canada
Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden

SpineTango Committee
Everard Munting, Biez, Belgium (chair)
Christoph Röder, Bern, Switzerland
Jeremy Fairbank, Oxford, UK
Anne F. Mannion, Bristol, UK
Karl-Stefan Delank, Köln, Germany

Site Committee
Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey (chair-institutional)
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland (institutional)
Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria (institutional)
Membership

Tim Pigott
Chair, Membership Committee
Liverpool, UK

The membership committee is responsible for reviewing all applications for membership of the society. Our aim is to respond within four weeks, but all applications do have to be ratified at the General Assembly, which occurs at the annual meeting.

Membership is open to all medical, para medical and scientific workers who spend a significant proportion of their time in the area of spinal practice.

All potential members need to fill in an online application form and be supported by an up to date CV and a letter of recommendation from their head of department, full member of the society or their professional association. They should be resident of the geographical area of Europe.

Current statistics
We now stand at 546 members with 36 applications to join for 2011. Members are required to keep their annual payments up to date. Anyone not paying for 3 consecutive years will be expelled from membership.

New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Specialised In</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrychowski Jaroslaw, Warsaw, PL</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>P Jurkiewicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aoyama Takeshi, Sapporo, Japan</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>D Grob</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balsano Massimo, Schio, Italy</td>
<td>Orthop/Spine Surgery</td>
<td>M Teli</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bassani Roberto, Milano, Italy</td>
<td>Orthop/Spine Surgery</td>
<td>C Lamartina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bateman Toni, Morden, UK</td>
<td>Trauma &amp; Orthopaedics</td>
<td>AJ Hammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernasconi Juan Pablo, Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>D Grob</td>
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<td>Börm Wolfgang, Flensburg, D</td>
<td>Spine Tumors</td>
<td>HJ Wilke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braybrooke Jason, Leicester, UK</td>
<td>Orthop. Surgery</td>
<td>P Sell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabezas Daniel, Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>T Greggi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côté Pierre, Toronto, Canada</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>F Balagué</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damian Hugo, Mexico CD, Mexico</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>HP Vidales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disch Alexander, Berlin, D</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>A Rohlmann</td>
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<td>El Banna Sabri. Montigny, BE</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>R Gunzburg</td>
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<td>Engel Itzhak, Herzelia, ISR</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>Y Leitner</td>
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<td>Fuhrhans Martin P, Kassel, Germany</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
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<td>Gehrchen Martin, Copenhagen, DK</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>P Fritzell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giudici Fabrizio, Milan, I</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>M Teli</td>
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### New Members

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Sponsored by</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jacobs Wilco, Leiden, NL</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>W Peul</td>
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<td>Krepler Petra, Vienna, A</td>
<td>Orthop &amp; Spine Surgery</td>
<td>J Grohs</td>
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<td>Leisser Martina, Vienna, A</td>
<td>Orthop &amp; Spine Surgery</td>
<td>M Ogon</td>
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<td>Meyer Frerk, Oldenburg, Germany</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>J Herdmann</td>
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<td>Morgenstern Walter, Uster, CH</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>J Dvorak</td>
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<td>Nardi Pier Vittorio, Rome, I</td>
<td>Neurosurgery/Pathology</td>
<td>T Greggi</td>
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<td>Nnadi Colin, Oxford, UK</td>
<td>Paediatric/Adult deformity</td>
<td>J Fairbank</td>
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<td>Palaoglu Selcuk, Ankara, Turkey</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>A Alanay</td>
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<td>Pichas Stefanos, Arta, Greece</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Polythodorakis</td>
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<td>Pinto Rodrigues Marcelo, Concordia, Brazil</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>J Fairbank</td>
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<td>Potaczek Tomasz, Zarkopane</td>
<td>Orthop Surgery</td>
<td>D Zarzyki</td>
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<td>Repko Martin, Brno, CZ</td>
<td>Orthop. Surgery</td>
<td>R Lukas</td>
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<td>Saidbegov Dzhalaludin, Rome, I</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>G De Giorgi</td>
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<td>Scheufler Kai-Michael, Zürich, CH</td>
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<td>R Hedlund</td>
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<td>Schultz Christian, Augsburg, D</td>
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<td>Souza Fabiano, Goiania-Goias, Brazil</td>
<td>Spine Surgery/Microsurgery</td>
<td>AC de Castro</td>
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<td>Tavallaee Seyed GE, Arak, Iran</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>M Erfani</td>
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<td>Tuschel Alexander, Vienna, A</td>
<td>Orthop &amp; Spine Surgery</td>
<td>M Ogon</td>
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<td>Van Lerbeirghe Johan, Ghent, Belgium</td>
<td>Orthop/Spine Surgery</td>
<td>Zachee vanden Berghe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilby Martin, Liverpool, UK</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>T Pigott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamazaki Akiyoshi, Niigata, Japan</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>N Passuti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yang Jiao-Chiao, Taipei, Taiwan</td>
<td>Degenerative spine disorder</td>
<td>S-W Ling</td>
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**Welcome!**
The first Instructional Course run by the Spine Society of Europe was held in Barcelona in September of 2002. The Courses were designed by Professor Greenough and the first module was chaired by Professor Greenough and Professor Krismer.

Barcelona was chosen as the location for the courses. Carlos Villenueva was instrumental in providing excellent facilities in the hospital at the Valle Hebron with faculty being able to stay in the City, connected to the hospital by a direct underground line. Barcelona proved to be an extremely popular venue with the faculty and delegates alike, and subsequently Ferran Pellisé provided much appreciated logistical and social support.

A great deal of work was put into the curriculum which was then divided into four modules. The intention was to provide one module each year and delegates who attended all four modules would have covered the entire curriculum. The standard of knowledge was appropriate to a trainee about to take final examinations.

The four modules in the first cycle were Chronic Low Back Pain; Deformities; Compression Syndromes; Cervical Spine and Fractures and Destructive Diseases. For the second cycle, a considerable amount of work was undertaken including taking the advice of educational specialists. The modules were redesigned and the four modules of the second cycle were Low Back Pain; Deformities; Cervical Spine and Serious Spine Disorders: Occiput to Sacrum.

A considerable amount of consideration and work were put into the educational aspects of the course. Colin Coles, Educational Consultant, attended the courses in Barcelona in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Federico Balague produced a strategy document in January 2004 outlining model improvements in the Educational Structure of the courses which were implemented in the next two courses under the supervision of Dr Coles.

One of the recommendations was that all lecturers should have completed a “Training the Trainers” course and a database of trainers who had completed such courses was compiled. In 2003 and 2004 the Spine Society of Europe ran “Training the Trainers” courses in London and elsewhere. Lecturers on subsequent courses had all undergone training courses in education in their own environments.

Over the second cycle of courses the new interactive teaching with increased emphasis on problem solving, case based discussion and interactive teaching resulted in extremely high scores on delegate feedback.

In April of 2006 the course delivered in Barcelona in September 2005 was repeated in Liberec in the Czech Republic. Subsequently each of the courses from Barcelona was repeated in...
Liberec the following spring. This proved extremely popular with delegates from Eastern Europe who were able to participate in the course at considerably reduced expense as compared to Barcelona. The facilities in Liberec, with its beautiful 19th century buildings, were very satisfactory. Support from local hosts Richard Lukas and Petr Suchomel, themselves active members of the Spine Society of Europe, ensured smooth running.

In total 728 delegates registered for the courses; 443 for the courses in Barcelona and 285 for courses in Liberec. For all courses the number of delegates attending were somewhat less than the delegates registered, even in some cases those delegates who had pre-paid. The attendance figures are shown in table 1.

Twenty two delegates registered for all four courses, 33 for three courses and 97 for two courses. There were 304 delegates registered for one course and eight delegates registered for five or six courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered</th>
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<td>54</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
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<td>2010</td>
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In all, 42 members of Society took part in the courses as instructors, to whom I am deeply grateful.

The instructors dedicated a large amount of time to the courses and committed to being present throughout the course. The discussion between the faculty during the course and the frequent use of case based discussion throughout the course in small groups with a member of the faculty, were two of the parts of the course which were most highly appreciated by the delegates.

The eight Barcelona courses cost the Society 320,298.91 Euros (table 2). Over the eight courses in Barcelona, 342 delegates actually attended. The cost, therefore, to the Society per delegate for the Barcelona courses was 937 Euros.

The Liberec courses were considerably cheaper. For the five courses the total costs were 118,272.18 Euros. In these courses there were 248 delegates who actually attended at a cost to the Society of 477 Euros each.

Delegate fees were deliberately kept low and for the fee the delegate was provided with the course itself, bed and breakfast, lunch and one gala dinner. The delegate registration fee for Barcelona was 350 Euros. For Liberec the
delegates were charged a reduced fee of 250 Euros.

Finally the role of Judith Reichert Schild, the Society’s administrator and secretary can not be over-stated. The whole of the practical organisation of hotel accommodation, facilities and room requirements and the venue, transport within the host City and delegate administration were undertaken by Judith and I would like to express by profound gratitude for this assistance.

**Conclusion**

The Instructional Courses organised by the Spine Society of Europe were run for two complete cycles to a total of eight courses. Over this period considerable experience was gained in running these courses and I believe the following points, distilled from this experience, should be borne in mind when moving forward into the future.

1. Educational aspects of the course delivery are extremely important. All faculty members should have completed a Training the Trainers Course or similar qualification. Advice from an educationalist on the structure of the course should be obtained. The report of Colin Coles, available from the secretariat, distils much of this advice.

2. The small group case based discussion was the single component most highly valued by the delegates.

3. Inter-action between the faculty in the discussion was another aspect highly valued by the delegates.

4. Faculty should commit to staying for the entire duration of the course.

5. Provision for Eastern European colleagues is vital. The reduced fee and reduced travel cost are important, as is cost effectiveness for the society.

6. The local hosts have been extremely important in the provision of specialised facilities such as equipment and models for demonstrations. Their help in the social programme is also very welcome!

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>47,206.12</td>
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<td>44,267.55</td>
<td>18,026.38</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>22,706.94</td>
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</table>
The ability to improve, restore and enhance patients’ lives is a privilege that is founded in public trust. Therefore, the importance of continuous medical education and continuous professional development is self-evident to spine professionals. For years the EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe (SSE) has found the task of educating health care personal in spinal pathologies and developing treatment strategies of great importance. In 2009, the SSE decided to initiate a new European Education program focusing on establishing European education standards, both for coming spine specialists and as part of continuous education. A new European Education Program can only be implemented and be successful through the involvement and support of National Spine Societies of Europe and cross border Societies with spine focus. The SSE wants to position itself as a major driving force in Spine Education within Europe to act as a reference point and resource for all Spine Societies struggling with similar issues at local level, including Surgical Societies such as Neurosurgery, Scoliosis but also non surgical European Societies involved in the care of spinal disorders. To qualify this European Education Program, the SSE has the vision to deliver a Spine Diploma program at both European and National level. In a near future, it is expected that the European Community will recognize the need to establish a Certification on the basis of this SSE initiative.

For that propose, the SSE wants to develop standards and policies in key areas of spinal postgraduate training, continuing spinal education and professional development quality assurance in specialist practices. The objective include the promotion of quality patient care through the harmonization and improvement in the quality of spine specialist care and education throughout Europe as well as encouragement and facilitation of CME for European Spine Specialists. In the new “Europe” the health care labor force must have calibrated, standardized and recognized education strategies enabling the workforce flexibility across borders.

The SSE education curriculum acknowledge that there are many health care professionals involved in the management of spinal disorders. There is little doubt that progress in research and advances in practice have been hindered by a lack of common ground between professions, which generally seem to use different languages, attend different scientific meetings, and maintain separate literatures with remarkably little cross referencing between them.

The medical device industry and the pharmaceutical industry have over the last decade generated important education programs, but predominantly product orientated. However, their ability to bring products and therapies to
patients who need them requires the trust of many different groups: patients, patient associations, physicians, hospitals, payers, other healthcare institutions, regulators, policy makers and even media. One of the most important challenges faced by the device industry right now is preserving legitimate collaboration with physicians. Therefore, one goal of the following SSE education program is to minimize potential education conflicts (doctor/industry) and to foster an education culture of ethics and transparency, and continuously reviewing our practices and make them evolve as necessary to maximize trust and preserve innovation.

To initiate the process, the National Societies have been proposed to contribute to designing the content of the European Educational program hence to join this new European Plan Initiative. The European diploma education program is now activated at the SSE level but also national courses have taken place in 2010 and planned for 2011. We have now succeeded having two Education Advisory Committee meetings with representatives from more than 20 European Spine Societies.

It is clear from the surgical diploma program that in 2011 a task forces must be generated to define and activate a non-surgical education program. To succeed with this new non-surgical education program the SSE Education Committee wants to open its doors for opinion leaders within the non-surgical field.

The template addresses the general structure of the education program.

Setting a standard education template is necessary to deliver consistent quality courses throughout Europe. After successfully completing all 5 diploma modules, the spine specialist receives a “European Spine Diploma” from the SSE and EuroSpine Foundation which is in charge of promoting and organizing the courses. The Diploma target groups are physicians including the last year residents of the relevant medical specialties, intending to acquire basic knowledge on the evaluation of spinal disorders – disease processes, skills emergency approach to disorders of the spine. There is planed a Surgical education program (orthopedic and neurosurgeons) and a Non-Surgical program (other spine specialists desiring specializing in spine treatment). The Surgical program can be identified on the homepage and the Non-Surgical program is under development.

A master course has in 2010 been linked to Diploma courses to provide further knowledge related to the subject.

We have also been working on a Surgical training program both for Future Spine Specialists (6 to 9 months fellowship programs) and Con-
continuing education (Skills in Spine). In 2011 3 to 5 pilot fellowship programs should be implemented.

**Implementation of the Education Strategy:**

In 2010, priority has been given to the implementation of the European Spine Diploma courses and establishing contacts with National and European Societies. Module 1-4 has been delivered in Barcelona, Copenhagen, and Milano. Module 5 is scheduled for January 2011, Vienna. Because module 1 is a prerequisite to other courses, it has been repeated routinely before each course to offer new participants the opportunity to enroll in the European Education Plan at any time.

The Med Tech Companies are controlled partners in the education program, meaning there workshop presentation format is provided by the Foundation (and input of SSE/National Societies). The content brought by the Med Tech companies are only the products relevant to the topic that are introduced. The EuroSpine Foundation helps and empowers the Spine Society of Europe to achieve its goals.

Every Society delivering the 5 modules of the European Education Plan is free to adapt the SSE lectures as long as the key messages defining the Standard and the syllabus of each course respected.

A review committee will be validating and continuously improving the education program.

**SSE courses 2011 and after**

As the next steps, I find it is important to keep on developing on two fronts:

Supporting the National societies to develop the Education Plan locally and offer a long term solution to deliver the European Education Plan without competing with the National societies.

At the European level, a yearly recurrent event is preferred, such as a “Yearly Education Week”, exclusively focused on Education and training during which the entire curriculum of the education program will be delivered, except of course for fellowship surgical training.

In conclusion:

- The initiation of the European Education Plan in 2010 was successful in regard of the evaluation forms collected but also in regard of the number of attendees.

- It is important for a long lasting success of this European initiative that the European Education plan is extended at National levels with the National societies. However the SSE should continue to offer these courses at the European level to also offer spine specialists alternatives to the National courses.

- The implementation of this plan should optimize the chances to receive an official recognition of the spine specialty in Europe from UEMS.

Acknowledgement: Implementing the present education program would not have been possible without the ongoing support from SSE members, SSE ExCom and EuroSpine Foundation. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Gerard Vanacker (CEO, European Spine Foundation) for his invaluable advice and support in the process of implementing the education program.
Spine Tango: Annual Report 2009-2010

Everard Munting
Chair, Spine Tango Committee
Biez, Belgium

News from Bern:

The missions, objectives and achievements of the SpineTango, the International Spine Registry of EuroSpine, are shown in detail in the Annual report 2009.

Thanks to the steady efforts of the Bernese Team, important steps were made this year in terms of extension of the Spine Tango worldwide: two more national modules were installed: a British one in Oxford and the other one in Adelaide, Australia.

The data base includes now over 30.000 surgeries!

Contacts are made with NASS and other specialist societies like SAS or SOLA to try to convince them to become an official partner of ST.

Conservative ST: after development and publication of the the first draft version of ST conservative an international consensus meeting was held in Bern on September 11th. The revised documentation instrument will soon go into a validation study. M Nordin is introducing it in New-York. Publication: “Development of a documentation instrument for the conservative treatment of spinal disorders in the International Spine Registry, Spine Tango” J.T.Kessler, M. Melloh, Th Zweig, E. Aghayev and C. Röder, Eur Spine J. 2010 Jun 9. [Epub ahead of print]

A 66 page “Spine Tango Pathways for Entering and Querying Data” has been edited. This user’s manual is online for all interested persons.

An advanced and improved new software is to be released begin 2011. This will include technical improvements, highest security standards but also new features and more comfortable handling for the user community.

1. Role of the ST Committee in the Spine Tango

The Spine Tango Registry exists because of the will and interaction of a large array of highly skilled teams and individuals of various scientific, technical and medical backgrounds.

The Institute for Evaluative Research in Medicine: Together with many other registries, the ST Registry is physically hosted on the University of Bern Registry Platform: (www.memdoc.org), at the Institute for Evaluative Research in Medicine and benefits from the major expertise of the personnel of the Institute.

- IT specialists for maintenance and development of all documentation projects
- Statisticians and data managers
- Specific ST development, maintenance, administration, communication, marketing... with Ch Röder, E. Röösli, T. Ambrose, M. Neukamp, G. Perler, ...

Lobbying and fundraising, with Max Aebi and the EuroSpine Foundation acting as the main players
**Data contributors:** Hospitals, departments and individual health care providers in the spinal field, participate by contributing their cases: now over 30,000 surgical procedures.

- Over 40 clinics
- Over 200 contributors
- In 14 countries (10 different native languages)
- On 5 continents
- Over 30,000 surgeries in the data base
- Over 20,000 surgeon’s follow-ups
- 15,000 pre-op and 11,000 post-op back COMIs
- 2850 pre-op and 2430 post-op neck COMIs

**The Spine Tango Committee:** Last year, when the Committee was re-installed at the Warsaw EXCOM, the precise place of this Committee in the Spine Tango project was not defined.

The missions of the Committee could be considered as fitting exactly with the aims and objectives of the Society as described in Article 3 of our statutes:

**3.1** To stimulate and offer a forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of research, prevention and treatment of all spinal disorders and deformities as well as their related problems.

**3.2** To stimulate fundamental and clinical studies of these spinal disorders and their related problems.

**3.3** To coordinate efforts undertaken in European countries and abroad for further development in this field in order to improve the health and fitness of present and forthcoming generations.

**3.4** To promote best practice based on available evidence in the management of spinal conditions.”

These objectives are precisely what the Spine Tango is all about.

A major role of our Committee is to work on the ways to improve the quality of the contributed data, in close collaboration with the Bernese team, represented by Ch Röder in the ST com, and with the EuroSpine Foundation.

**Improvement of Data Quality**

Consistency in high quality data collection is not only dependent upon the good will of each contributor. What is also needed are common, clearly defined targets, using a common language to easily fill in appropriate forms. An excellent, mature and reliable working tool for data gathering, transmission, storage, processing and exploitation is available with the MEMDOC platform.

1. **Dictionary of Terms**

In order to have a common language between over 40 participating clinics, each involving several individual contributors, in 14 different countries using 10 different native languages, we have produced a “Dictionary of terms”. The exact meaning and interpretation of each item of the basic ST forms ”Surgery 2006” and “Follow-up 2006” are explained in this document that is available on the web site.

2. **Surgery 2011 and Follow-up 2011**

In the wake of this work, we did identify a number of possible improvements of the forms. “Surgery 2011” and “Follow-up 2011” will be launched beginning 2011 and be largely compatible with the previous forms regarding future queries.

3. **Principles of Conduct**

The good will and enthusiasm of all contributors to the ST is of course a prerequisite to embark
and commit oneself to the effort of consistent contribution to the database. We do however understand that the effort that can be asked is not the same for every participant.

Ideal input is that of a contributor that includes all his or her cases in the database with all relevant information, including follow-ups and pre- and postoperative patient administered questionnaires like the COMI at different follow-up times. Those participants who reach this level of contribution will be part of a group of “Accredited Spine Tango Participants”. A subset of the database will be exclusively constituted of these “pure” data including the full picture of the practice of these contributors. This will be of particular value for scientific publications.

The basic rules to which each participant should adhere, the specific rules to become a so-called “Accredited Spine Tango Participant” as well as the benefits inherent to these different levels of contribution to the ST have been written down. Starting next year, this agreement: “Principles of Conduct for Participation in the Spine Tango Registry” is to be signed by each single participant.

The constitution of an accredited data set will be a major step towards the fulfillment of one of the goals of the ST: achieve large scale, multicenter collection of high quality data for breakthrough scientific studies in the spinal field.

2. Future Projects

Follow-up Agenda

With the new software to be implemented soon, an automated follow-up agenda will be developed and included in the ST. This must vastly facilitate the day to day management of the data base for each individual participant and reduce also the administrative costs inherent to optimal follow-up.

Implementation of the principles of conduct

The principles of conduct must be introduced to each active participants followed by the evaluation of their level of contribution.

The future form of the SSE Spine Tango Registry regarding its relationship with the University of Bern and its long term financing is a matter that must be discussed and solutions are to be found. The EuroSpine Foundation has an essential role in this development.
The requirement for a patient information section in the Web site of Eurospine, the Spine Society of Europe, was discussed and became the main message of Dieter Grob’s 2002 Presidential address. Patient Line (PL) was born in 2005 to offer patients and general population the accumulated expertise represented by the members of the society. The Society decided to have a reliable open window to the external world to provide up-to-date information related to spinal disorders based on the best-published evidence and expert opinion. Patient line is accessible to everyone via the web site of EuroSpine. In addition to general information, Patient Line provides a unique feature showcasing the opinions of our members on the various treatment modalities. Topic-related questions are answered by members and the results of each inquiry are immediately available to the public on-line. Thus, in areas where evidence is scarce Patient Line provides a real time opinion of the EuroSpine membership, represented by the percentage of votes endorsing each treatment option (Figure 1).

Using the information available on PL, commonly accepted procedures can be evaluated by the patients themselves. In addition, patients can evaluate the popularity or uncertainty among experts of specific treatments they have been offered. This information should result in a better understanding of their own treatment, and involve them in the process of shared-decision making. The published data is

Figure 1

The EuroSpine Patient Line Task Force

Dieter Grob
Zürich, Switzerland

Phil Sell
Leicester, UK

Ferran Pellisé
Barcelona, Spain
not meant to be the ultimate truth, but reflects the pragmatic and the common sense range of treatments offered by the Eurospine membership.

Patient Line intends to be a link between evidence, daily practice and patients. The first chapters have been dedicated to sciatica, scoliosis, cervical pain syndromes, low back pain, motion preservation surgery, osteoporosis and informed consent. The information is now available in English, German, French, Spanish and Italian. For the last 4 years Patient line has been the most visited area of EuroSpine website, with 3000 to 5000 hits per month this increased almost 10 fold (40000 to 50000 hits per month) in 2010 (Figures 2). This original idea is growing quickly and has been very well received. We are working to improve its structure to reach as many patients as possible in a continent where English is still unknown for a large percentage of the population. The goal is for Patient Line to become THE European patient information website on spinal disorders, providing reliable, updated, best practice and evidence based information where the evidence exists.

Reference:
Patient information and education with modern media: the Spine Society of Europe Patient Line.
Pellisé F, Sell P; EuroSpine Patient Line Task Force.
The EuroSpine Foundation is the professional platform which helps and empowers EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe to achieve its goals.

While the mission of the SSE is purely scientific, the role of the Foundation is to interact with all stakeholders to raise the necessary resources to implement the practical solutions as recommended by the SSE, in particular in the areas of education, research and quality assessment.

To best achieve its mission, the foundation is dedicated to:

• building a professional support organization dedicated to implement the programs of the SSE

• educational programs development
• spine research promotion (an European Spine Registry)
• advocacy function
• creation of new tools and values for EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe membership benefits

• raising funds through
• industrial grants
• public donations
• other sources of income from different services

The EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe and the EuroSpine Foundation share the same mission:
Foster excellence in spinal care by funding and implementing education, research and quality assessment programs and by sharing knowledge and expertise both amongst spine specialists, other healthcare providers, industrial partners, patients and third parties.

To best achieve the mission of fostering excellence in spinal care, the EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe and the EuroSpine Foundation must achieve 3 key objectives: Optimize treatment outcomes, Optimize patient management, Promote and encourage best quality spine centers. To meet these objectives, the strategic programs of the SSE are essential:

Research – Basic and Clinical Research - EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe established a Task Force on Research (TFR) in October 2009. The logistic support provided by the ESF to the Research Committee helped the TFR to execute the first phase of its plan which was to establish a “Request for Proposal” procedure to identify the actual fields of future research. When research projects are identified, ESF will further promote them.

Treatment outcome assessment: Spine Tango, the EuroSpine Registry - The EuroSpine Registry is a key strategic program necessary to achieve the main objectives of the SSE and ESF. To establish the reputation of the EuroSpine Registry, the quality of its anonymized Benchmark must not be challenged. Hence the process of data acquisition and data processing has been addressed by the Spine Tango Committee and the EuroSpine Foundation. Principles of Conduct guidelines, User’s Manual, and Dictionary of Terms have been developed to guarantee the quality of the data base. In 2011, the ESF will implement these Principles of Conduct to a focused group of certified participants to establish the necessary Benchmark according to the development plan which has been collectively agreed with the Spine Tango Committee and the Institute for Evaluative Research for Medicine (IEFM) directed by Max Aebi.

Education - The EuroSpine Foundation with the support of EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe wants to position itself as a major driving force in Spine Education within Europe. Therefore a European Educational Program has been defined with two main objectives and measurements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Measurements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deliver consistent educational program to future Spine Specialists</td>
<td>A European Spine Diploma with recognition of UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver continuous educational program to Spine Specialists</td>
<td>A consistent Accreditation delivered by the EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009, a European Education Plan Template has been created to establish standards with the opportunity to create international interactions and networks between Health Care professionals focusing on spine. After successfully completing all 5 diploma modules, the spine specialist receives a “European Spine Course Diploma” from the SSE and EuroSpine Foundation which is in charge of promoting and organizing the courses.
This above template has been promoted and communicated in 2010 to over 20 National Spine societies and federations of Spine Specialists; it has been generally well received. The original educational objectives of 2010 have been achieved: all modules of the European Spine Course Diploma have been delivered as well as 3 Master Courses within a year to participants from 16 different countries. Last module 5 will be delivered in Vienna, January 2011; the first diplomas will then be delivered. At National level, GIS, the Italian Spine Society, delivered the first module in local language in October 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1 (English)</th>
<th>Module 2 (English)</th>
<th>UK/Dublin</th>
<th>April 14-17, 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 (English)</td>
<td>Module 3 (English)</td>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>July 14-17, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 (French)</td>
<td>Module 4 (English)</td>
<td>Lille (France)</td>
<td>May 26-29, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 (Spanish)</td>
<td>Module 5 (English)</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>September 22-25, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A formal review committee will be established in 2011. The two roles of the Review Committee are to validate if national courses contents (delivered in local language) comply with the established courses standard and to improve courses standards after the initial experience of EuroSpine in 2010.

The agenda provided by the Edu Com for 2011 will be as follows:

The proposed dates and locations are feasible however still need for some of them formal approval and clearance of the National Society depending on their decision making process in place.

Meanwhile, Education week concept will be fine-tuned to be launched in 2012.

Raising funds from Medical technologies companies to finance the 2010 SSE courses was challenging; nevertheless ESF succeeded to raise 225K€ from important contributors such as Medtronic, Stryker and J&J with no conflict of interest whatsoever nor compromises.

Team work - All these achievements could never happen without a strong collaboration between the ESF and the outstanding efforts and dedication of all committee chairmen whom have shown full commitment and dedication in their tasks. Committee members and also members whom have been solicited as faculty members also contributed to this successful year!
Awards 2010

Winner of 2010 EuroSpine Full Paper Award

ABNORMAL ACTIVATION OF THE MOTOR CORTICAL NETWORK IN IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS DEMONSTRATED BY FUNCTIONAL MRI

J Domenech, G Garcia-Martí, L Martí-Bonmatí, C Barrios, JM Tormos, A Pascual-Leone
Orthopedic Surgery, Hospital Arnau de Vilanova, Valencia, Spain

Winner of 2009/2010 European Spine Journal/Grammer Award

DISC CELL CLUSTERS IN PATHOLOGICAL HUMAN INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED STRESS PROTEIN IMMUNOSTAINING

CA Sharp, S Roberts, H Evans, SJ Brown
Eur Spine J (2009) 18:1587–1594

2010 Best Poster Award

SUITABILITY OF A CALCIUM ALUMINATE CERAMIC IN BALLOON-KYPHOPLASTY OF OSTEOPOROTIC VERTEBRAL BODY FRACTURES. RESULTS OF A PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL

TR Blattert, S Glasmacher, C Josten
Klinik für Erkrankungen und Verletzungen der Wirbelsäule, Schwarzach, Germany

2010 Best Podium Award

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF SURGERY AT SEGMENTS ADJACENT TO A PREVIOUS POSTERIOR LUMBAR ARTHRODESIS

WR Sears, N Kazemi, IG Sergides, M Smith, B Osburg, GJ White
Neurosurgery & Spinal Injuries,
Royal North Shore and Dalcross Hospitals, Sydney, Australia
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