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Future Annual Meetings

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, W. 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

More Information at
www.eurospinemeeting.org
Welcome from the President

Dear colleagues and friends,

EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe is becoming the most attractive and one of the biggest spine societies in the world. The structure of the society is now well established and the committees recently nominated in Milan provide us with numerous scientific and educational tasks to promote SSE inside and outside Europe.

This year we will have two major tasks:

First, the Education Week will be the first concentrated education meeting ever organized in Europe. ESF, the European Spine Foundation - created by and affiliated with SSE - will be the organizer of this event. Located in Lucerne, Switzerland, this meeting will have theoretical and practical courses in an anatomy lab. The course provides a certificate for each module that allows the surgeons to obtain the SSE-ESF spine diploma when the 5 modules are completed. The Education Committee worked hard to set up all the modules with a validation process to guarantee the highest quality. The Review Committee will participate in the harmonization of national society education content to fit with the European education plan. This will promote the high quality of education for our young colleagues.

Second important point will be the new organization of the Spine Tango registry. This European database will be organized in a different way to increase its efficiency and quality. The database is open to all surgeons, members of the SSE and others if they accept to comply with the code of conduct. Specific centers will participate as core centers with a very strict code of conduct and the obligation of exhaustive inclusion of all the patients with a long follow-up in order to create a benchmark of the spine activity in Europe.

Each center that follows the guidelines will get an annual report of its own activity. This will become the reference database for spine activities in the world providing SSE the most powerful instrument to support spine treatments and have arguments to discuss with health authorities and insurances.

Jean-Charles Le Huec
EuroSpine President 2012
Spineweek in May in Amsterdam is the next occasion to come and visit our booth and get familiar with all the activities of SSE. This will be the biggest spine event in 2012. I invite you to join us in this nice city to share ideas and promote the best health care for our patients.

Sincerely,
Jean-Charles Le Huec
EuroSpine President

Of course, other committees and task forces will work on their agenda to increase our membership, promote research with new grants, introduce E-Learning or share their experience, e.g. at the Research Course in March in Istanbul. This course will provide clinicians with an overview of the methodology used to conduct clinical research.

SSE will also start to promote education outside of Europe as South America, Middle East and Asia are interested to work with us. The global world is everywhere and it is important that SSE contributes to the diffusion of knowledge with specific relationships in all continents.
Committees: EuroSpine’s Smiling Interface

Committees are important for performing and producing much of the work of EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe. Committees also help to identify and develop our future leaders.

Over the last years committees like Education, Programme and Spine Tango were prominent and hard working – thanks to our past committee chairs who brought the flag up, thus leaving a challenging task to fulfil for current and future chairpersons.

EuroSpine’s annual meeting has become the most important spine related scientific event in Europe. It now attracts participants not only from Europe but also from all over the world.

The lately developed education plan is beginning to gain international acceptance. Planned courses to be held in Dubai, Israel and possibly South America are perfect examples of this increasing demand from sister spine organizations.

However, increasing workload of committees and future projects necessitated a reformation process for committees and development of new ones.

The Education Committee, one of the hard working committees, is chaired by Marco Brayda-Bruno. Though there is not a major change in the structure of the committee, improvement in the philosophy is evident. There will be five consultants included in the committee, each of who will be the authority in the respective field. Due to the increased workload within this committee the E-Learning subgroup is removed from the Education Committee and now united with the newly formed Website Committee.

Education Committee’s tasks will be:

• to consider a plan for the society’s role in providing education and information on new emerging technologies.

• to create a list of desired/needed educational opportunities, including an inventory of what is available and desired.
Perform needs assessments to determine educational gaps.

- to work with Website and E-Learning Committee to explore the use of technology for providing increased education offerings

- to provide at least two reports per year

The **Website and E-Learning Committee** will be responsible for the development of EuroSpine’s website and for the coordination and development of e-learning material for professionals. Both, the European Spine Journal and the Open Operation Theatre (OOT) will be the backbone of the e-learning media. Since the last two years the European Spine Journal has offered an innovative platform – the so-called Open Operating Theatre. Films of selected thematically complex operations can be viewed via www.EuroSpine.org member’s only pages and later at www.EuroSpinefoundation.org.

Patient Line, which receives the most hits on our web site, was developed by our members’ hard devoted work. Ferran Pellise, Dieter Grob and Phil Sell need to be applauded for their dedicated work. Currently, it is translated to German, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish is on the way. It would be unfair to ask our colleagues to continue to pursue this hard work and therefore a new **Patient Line Committee** has been formed.

Patient Line Committee’s tasks will be:

- to develop and revise patient line documents.

- to develop and coordinate development of additional patient materials, primarily for the website

- to develop guidelines or process for responding to patient inquiries

- to prepare at least one report per year

Annual meeting has became the most attended Spine meeting in Europe, thus our relationship with the Industry is increasing accordingly.

Parallel to our relationship with sister spine societies in Brazil and India and a Federation like EFORT (European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology), EANS (European Association of Neurosurgical Societies) is also increasing.
The **International Relations Committee** as well as the **Industry Relations Committee** are therefore newly formed.

Their tasks will be:

- to explore opportunities to work with other sister organizations

- to coordinate with Program Committee and Education committee to develop guidelines for EuroSpine working with EANS, EFFORT, South American societies and Asian societies.

- to monitor international programs that might be supported/endorsed by EuroSpine (such as Road traffic safety, World Spine)

- to prepare at least one report per year.

In the past, the **Membership Committee** was devoted to reviewing applications and ‘verifying the professional credentials and qualifications’ of applicants. However, this rather passive act will be replaced by a proactive working plan. Developing programs with national spine societies throughout Europe and establishing of a recruitment program, defining the pool of potential members in Europe (especially in countries where SSE has limited number of members), developing methods to involve members in personal recruitment, creating a list of values and benefits of EuroSpine membership and thus helping to increase awareness of EuroSpine globally, monitoring online membership application process and preparing at least two reports per year are the tasks that will be expected from our membership committee.

I cordially welcome new members to our committees:

- Ralph Kothe, chair of the Lunch Symposia and Pre-meeting Committee,

- Richard Assaker in the Education Committee,

- Andre Kaelin (chair) and Hossein Mehdian in the Membership Committee,

- Cagatay Ozturk and Thomas Zweig in the Website and E-Learning Committee,

- Selcuk Palaoglu, Thomas Blattert and Josef Grohs in the Programme Committee

- Andrea Piazzola and Vassillis Lykomitros in the Patient Line Committee,

- Jorge Mineiro, Helton Defino, Baoge Lieu, Ciaran Bolger and Ahmet Alanay in the International Relations Committee.
Last but not least, there is the change in the composition of the executive committee. Close relationship with National Spine Societies necessitates a democratic representation within the Executive Committee of EuroSpine. To fulfil this aim and develop further relationship a new board, the European National Spine Society Advisory Board was formed. All European National Spine Society presidents are natural member of this advisory board. They will meet once a year at the annual meeting and elect a chair for a one year’s term. The elected chair will have a seat in the ES-SSE Executive Committee for that year and will be replaced by the new elected chair in EuNSSAB. This is a revolutionary move taken by the EuroSpine General Assembly to integrate national Spine Societies in the Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Haluk Berk
EuroSpine Secretary

2. Financial Statements and Budget: Approval of Balance sheet as at 31 December 2010, income statement for the year ended 31 December 2010 and budget 2011 and 2012 (Ogon)
   • 2010 final balance (page 24 ff.) Approved.
   • 2011/2012 budget (page 24 ff.) Approved.

Question from the floor (Greenough): The plan for the foundation was that they would raise their own money. Why is it necessary to still support them? Answer Bolger: The service provided and input is worth the effort, the society is not supposed to accumulate money.

3. Adaptation to Statutes / Internal Rules (Bolger/Berk)
   Committee Restructuring – the implementation of another ExCom member needs the adaptation of the statutes

The relationship between ES-SSE and National Spine Societies are increasing in many fields, mostly in Education. To coordinate and develop further relationship a new board will be formed.

European National Spine Society Advisory Board:
   • All European National Spine Society presidents are natural member of this advisory board.
   • They will meet once a year at the Annual congress.
   • EuNSSAB will elect a chair, a secretary and one representative for education committee of SSE as an International Liaison member.
   • Term of EuNSSAB position will be one year.
   • The Elected chair will have a seat in the ES-SSE executive committee.

In order to fulfil this task there is a need to change the statutes and add a new position to the executive committee.
Article 19 (EuroSpine Statutes – existing)

• “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.

It is composed of:
• The President (of the Society)
• The Vice-President
• The Past-President
• The Secretary
• The Past-Secretary
• The Treasurer
• The Assistant-Treasurer
• The Chairman of the next Annual General Meeting
• Two Members at large”

Article 19 (EuroSpine Statutes – existing – change=new)

• “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.

It is composed of:
• The President (of the Society)
• The Vice-President
• The Past-President
• The Secretary
• The Past-Secretary
• The Treasurer
• The Assistant-Treasurer
• The Chairman of the next Annual General Meeting (Program committee chair)
• Two Members at large
• The Chair of the European National Spine Societies Advisory board (EuNSSAB)”
**Question** from the floor (Schlenzka): In several countries there are more than one spine society. Who decides which society is the relevant one?

And (Germon): Who is appointing the official representative, there should only be one per country.

**Answer** Bolger: Any national society willing to affiliate and to contribute the capitation fee is welcome. It is not the aim of ES to define that is the main, most important society of that country, as we cannot get involved into their politics. The respective countries should solve this themselves.

**Question** from the floor (Christensen): It is not clear why some committee chairs are member of ExCom and can vote, while others with equal high contribution and input cannot.

**Answer** Bolger: This is actually a problem, which is discussed at the moment. There is a proposal pending that the chair of Educom should become a member of ExCom. These and other issues that need adaptation of the statutes will be discussed and proposed in time for the next General Assembly (May 2012).

Berk: At the moment we want the mechanism and institution to be set in place of the advisory board.

Approved.

Also voted that it should be evaluated if institutional committee chairs should become member of the Executive Committee.

Accepted (2 against).

**Education Committee** (adapted)

- 5 active members, all SSE members (one of them as Chairman)
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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 chair will be responsible to the Secretary and the Executive Committee.
- Scientific Advisors with specific role and specialty (possibly they would be SSE members, otherwise they could be induced to and proposed for membership)
- Those members who are not appointed as Chair would have to quit the Committee after 3 yrs
- Scientific Advisors would have to quit at the completion of their task and no longer than 2 yrs (with one possible renewal)
- To substitute EduCom member, the appointment must be based on role and expertise, then proposed to ExCom and voted by General Assembly (GA)
- Chair has to establish the channels to liaise with program committee chair, Website and e-learning committee chair, and patient line chair.

New structure: Approved.
**Program Committee (adapted)**

- 6 members; 3 year staggered terms. 2 per year – There should be at least one member representing basic science and non surgical.
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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 chair will be responsible to the Secretary and the Executive Committee.
- Chair has to establish the channels to liaise with Pre-meeting and Lunch symposia committee chair.
- President and secretary of the society are institutional members.
- Additional nonvoting members of the society may be appointed for 1 year by the president, upon request of the chair.
- All papers, posters and audio-visual materials are to be submitted to the Program Committee. The Program Committee Chairman will submit the recommended program to the President of the Society for approval.

New structure: Approved.

**Membership Committee (adapted)**

- 3 members. One member elected per year. 3 years staggered terms.
- International liaison member: EuNSSAB representative.
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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.
- Task: Responsible for reviewing applications and “verifying the professional credentials and qualifications” of applicants. Developing programs with national spine societies throughout Europe and presenting to ExCom for approval or running projects delivered by the ExCom.

New structure: Approved.

**Lunch Symposia und Pre-meeting Day Committee (adapted)**

Lunch Symposia Committee (old workshop committee) has been given the task of organizing the pre-congress meetings.

New structure: Approved.
Industry Relation Task Force (new)

The Annual meeting has become the most attended Spine meeting in Europe, thus our relationship with the Industry is increasing accordingly. Parallel our relationship with sister spine societies in Brazil and India and Federations like EFORT, EANS is increasing also. Participating:

- President
- Past President
- President elect
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Congress chairmen
- Local Hosts (upcoming 2 congresses)
- Executive secretary
- CEO of ES Foundation

New structure: Approved.

International Relations Committee

- 5 members are appointed from the ex-officers/committee members or chairs of the society and international members
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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 chair will be responsible to the Secretary and the Executive Committee.
- Chair has to establish the channels to liaise with: EduCom Chair, program committee chair, web site and e-learning chair.
- Meets in person once a year at the annual meeting or exceptionally with the approval of the ExCom
- Tasks:
  - Explore opportunities to work with other sister organizations
  - Coordinate with Program Committee and Education committee to develop guidelines for EuroSpine working with EANS, EFFORT, South American societies and Asian societies.
  - Monitor for international programs that might be supported/endorsed by EuroSpine (such as Road traffic safety, World Spine)
  - Prepare at least one newsletter article per year.

New structure: Approved.

Website and E-Learning Committee (new)

E-Learning was one of the activities within the Education committee. However, increasing workload of Education Committee and future projects on E-Learning necessitates the formation of a new committee:

- 3 members; staggered terms of 3 years.
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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 chair will be responsible to the Secretary and the Executive Committee.
- Chair has to establish the channels to liaise with:
  - Education committee,
  - Patient-line committee,
  - TFR,
  - Spine tango committee,
  - International relations committee chairs or rep.
  - Webmaster

New structure: Approved.

**Patient Line Committee**
(re-installed, former Patient Line Task Force)

Receives the most hits on our web site, was developed by our members’ hard devoted work (Dieter Grob, Phil Sell, Ferran Pellisé). Now it is translated into German, French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish is on the way. It would be unfair to ask our colleagues to continue to pursue this hard work.

- 3 members; staggered terms of 3 years.
- Chair will be selected from the existing members of the committee by the executive committee.
- The chair 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.
- Tasks:
  - Develop and revise patient line documents.
  - Develop and coordinate development of additional patient materials, primarily for the website.

- Develop guidelines or process for responding to patient inquiries.
- Prepare at least one report per year.

New structure: Approved.

**Appointment Process**

- A call for volunteers will be distributed to all members at least two months prior the General Assembly.
- Responses to the call for volunteers will be compiled and maintained by EuroSpine secretary.
- Executive committee members will meet in spring ExCom meeting or by conference call to determine committee appointments for the approval of General Assembly.
- Efforts should be made to give priority to members who have volunteered for two to three years, but have not been appointed to committees, and members from geographical areas, or specialities that are not represented.

  Approved.

Past and vice president shall be appointed to supervise these new committees. Each chair has to provide a report to the annual report

Approved.
Review Committee:

The concept of a Review Committee has been introduced during the board of the ESF in May 2010 and further developed into the last year. EduCom Chairman reports to the ExCom. It has been presented during the second Education Advisory Committee in Vienna to the National Societies and to EANS.

- ESF will continue to coordinate all the inputs, aiming at Module improvements through full transparency and equity in the decision making process.

- SSE will be represented with a strong link by SSE EduCom.

Approved.

Annual Meetings


This year’s annual meeting was successful in respect of abstract submission, scientific program, own symposia, delegates and participation of the med-tech industry. In addition to the usual set-up this year we had some new features: four debate sessions, a daily newspaper „The Spine Times“, smartphone app, a survey conducted with personal interviews (result see page 35) and an audience response system for the plenary hall. A warm thanks to both local hosts.

More details see separate report, page 32 of the Annual Report

5. EuroSpine 2010 Vienna, Final Report (Ogon)

The Vienna meeting was the first one with the format of three full days (no free afternoon and Saturday morning anymore). Total attendance was improved of ca. 26 % in respect to the 2009 Warsaw meeting to 2198 participants and 205 at the pre-meeting courses. General attendance figures were already published in the last annual report 2010/11 (page 15).

Initially there was a profit of 1 mio EUR budgeted. The final result got us more than 1.5 mio EUR that is double the amount from the last one. The final balance presented by the PCO Mondial was approved and audited. The meeting was not only from the financial aspect a success, participants and industry also reported positive impressions (page 31).

The local hosts, Michael Ogon and Josef Grohs were thanked with applause.
6. **Up-date Next Meetings**

6.1 **SpineWeek Amsterdam 2012 (Szpalski)**

Preparations are according to schedule, sponsoring participation satisfactory. Expected are 2500-2800 participants. A budget is available and is forwarded to EuroSpine. Abstract submission deadline is November 15. Program Committee meetings are planned in January. A first program overview is published on the Spineweek website. Promotion is done from the EuroSpine booth in order to invite participants and industry.

6.2 **Liverpool 2013 (Pigott)**

A meeting logo, promotion activities and a first budget were presented and discussed with the administration and the local host. The ACC, Arena Convention Centre Liverpool and various hotels are secured.

The Liverpool organizers (Mondial) were present in Milan to present the site to delegates and industry.

7. **EuroSpine Foundation**

Not presented

8. **Program Committee (Alanay)**

Abstract evaluation process: A total of 878 received abstracts is the highest submission number received so far.

Results:
878 submissions finally evaluated

- 86 oral presentations (5 mins presentation 3 mins discussion/change).
- 75 Short Communications to be presented at 5 concurrent sessions as short presentations (3 mins).
- 98 e-posters.

Ahmet Alanay informs that after his three years chairship he wanted to step back. Further, Rune Hedlund and Keita Ito will also leave this committee after several years of intense contribution.

A. Alanay thanks them especially and the committee in general for an excellent collaboration and always successful productivity. A. Alanay and committee are thanked for their excellent work.
### Categories and reviewing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core-Reviewers</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Co-Reviewers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmet Alanay, Turkey</td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keita Ito, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Basic Science (105)</td>
<td>- Stephen Ferguson, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Cornelia Neidlinger-Wilke, Germany</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Helena Saraste, Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rune Hedlund, Sweden</td>
<td>Cervical Spine (166)</td>
<td>- José Casamitjana, Spain</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Berhard Jeanneret, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Sell, UK</td>
<td>Growing Spine/Deformity (111)</td>
<td>- Dietrich Schlenzka, Finland</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Mike Grevitt, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Jorge Mineiro, Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barend Van Royen, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, non-degenerative (trauma, tumour, infection) (135)</td>
<td>- Michael Ogon, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Claudio Lamartina, Italy</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Cumhur Oner, NL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jörg Franke, Germany</td>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, degenerative, Deformity (377)</td>
<td>- Martin Gehrchen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lester Wilson, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Kai Scheufler, Switzerland</td>
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</table>

### 9. Membership (Pigott)

New 2011 (at time of GA): 62 (12 corresponding members, see page 40). The graph on the next page shows the national demographics for the 2011 applications. There are a large number of applicants from the UK, Germany, Holland and Turkey.

**Activity over the year:**

**Resigned:**
G. Shum, Plymouth, Devon, United Kingdom

**Died:**
J. Krämer, Bochum, Germany

**Retired:**
A.G. Veldhuizen, M.D., Groningen, The Netherlands

To be expelled in November: 34
They will receive a last reminder (registered mail) to honour the subscription for the past three years until end of October.

*Also see detailed report on page 40.*
10. Education Committee (Brayda-Bruno)

**European Spine Course Diploma**

2011 has been focused on refinement of five modules composing the European Spine Course Diploma by repeating every module.

- Italy (2010)
- Austria
- UK
- France
- Spain
- Turkey (module 1&2) – the course took place in Sept 2011
As of mid-September, more than 150 participants have enrolled the EuroSpine Spine Course Diploma and 27 participants have already graduated.

**Fellowship Spine Course Diploma**

It has been decided that the SSE would finance 2 6 months fellowship trainings and the EuroSpine Foundation 2 six months fellowship trainings as well.

5 SSE fellowship centres have been registered this year:
- Nottingham (UK)
- Bordeaux (France)
- Copenhagen (DK)
- Dublin (IR)
- Milano (Italy)

At this point in time there are 2 fellows, who qualify and applied for Nottingham, 1 fellow in France and 1 fellow in Italy.

**Master Courses**

No master courses have been delivered in 2011 to focus on the European Spine Course Diploma priorities.

**Scientific Advisors to the EduCom**

Number of EduCom members was reduced to 5 and 5 consultants or advisors for a specific task will be appointed.

**Education Week 2012**

Education week will take place in March 2012. During Education week all the modules will be proposed in line with the existing standards.

*Also see detailed report on page 45.*

**11. Task Force Research (Nordin)**

In 2011 TFR has received and reviewed 16 requests of Research grants from various countries, including outside of Europe (Israel and Canada). From the 16 received applications one was withdrawn due to other funding and three proposals were not eligible according to the rules. All evaluators signed a conflict of interest letter and approved the confidentiality rules.

Two of them were of high quality and finally received the grants:

- Porchet – Mannion (Establishment of appropriateness criteria for the surgical treatment of degenerative spondylolisthesis)
- Röder (Spine Tango conservative form-A reliability study)

**2012 and future**

Approval given for the grant budgets and the course*. Funding for 2012 (application date January 31 2012) is as follows:

- 2 times Euro 5000
- 2 times Euro 30,000
- 1 time Euro 100,000 for 2-3 years
- Budget agreed for 2012 and for 2013, will have to be re-discussed afterwards.


*Also see detailed report on page 51.*
12. Spine Tango (Munting)

After the situation is clear, it is the society’s task and responsibility to improve the awareness of SpineTango. Also it has to be done an effort with the contributors, in order that data recording is consistent incl. follow-ups; this cannot be relied on the institute.

Decision: The cooperation EuroSpine/IEFM is continued. A contract should be negotiated between ES and ST. Participants: CB, JCH, EM, MA, GV for business advice, no vote. Contract will be prepared in time for the winter ExCom. If accepted it should be ratified by the lawyers.

After the situation is clear, it is the society's task and responsibility to improve the awareness of Spine Tango. Also it has to be done an effort with the contributors, in order that data recording is consistent incl. follow-ups; this cannot be relied on the institute.

13. Elections (Berk)

Vice-President: proposed and accepted: Ferran Pellisé

Program Committee: Josef Grohs (Orthop), Richard Assaker (Neuro), Selcuk Palaoğlu (Neuro). All approved.

Membership: New Chair André Kaelin. New member: Hossein Mehdian. Tim Pigott has stepped back from chairmanship. Approved


TFR: chair and members will remain on their request. Approved.

Lunch Symposia and pre-meeting committee (former: Workshop Committee): new chair: Ralph Kothe Approved.

Patient Line committee: Andrea Piazzolla, Vassilis Lykomitros Approved.

International Relations Committee: Ahmet Alanay, Helton Defino, Bagoe Liu, Ciaran Bolger Approved.

Chairs shall stay for three years and be elected or confirmed by ExCom. Approved.

14. Miscellaneous

Greenough remark: If there is more than one nomination for the vice president it should be the rule that General Assembly is asked to vote. Approved.

The invitation and agenda with relevant documents have been mailed one month before the Assembly as statutes requested. Seven of the present members did not receive it. They are asked to contact the EuroSpine administration to check their email addresses.
Financial Statements and Budget

Budget 2011 and 2012

Income statement for the current period plus budget (in EUR).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Budget 2010</th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberfees</td>
<td>56.126</td>
<td>50.000</td>
<td>55.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit EuroSpine Vienna 2010</td>
<td>1.614.487</td>
<td>998.000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit EuroSpine Milan 2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.086.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit SpineWeek Amsterdam 2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned Advance payment Warsaw 2008</td>
<td>(2.241)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Courses Liberec</td>
<td>14.032</td>
<td>8.000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.682.403</td>
<td>1.056.000</td>
<td>1.141.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExCom</td>
<td>28.927</td>
<td>25.000</td>
<td>25.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>16.252</td>
<td>21.000</td>
<td>21.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eMedia</td>
<td>24.918</td>
<td>60.000</td>
<td>30.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group (Past President)</td>
<td>84.892</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Task Force</td>
<td>5.416</td>
<td>100.000</td>
<td>100.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spine Tango</td>
<td>4.665</td>
<td>175.000</td>
<td>175.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>21.256</td>
<td>64.500</td>
<td>30.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spine Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course Liberec</td>
<td>35.341</td>
<td>35.000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Module Courses (Foundation)</td>
<td>153.463</td>
<td>150.000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversea Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>15.397</td>
<td>10.500</td>
<td>10.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4.466</td>
<td>10.500</td>
<td>10.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project/Expense Description</td>
<td>Budget 2010</td>
<td>Budget 2011</td>
<td>Budget 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>13.753</td>
<td>14.000</td>
<td>14.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46.000</td>
<td>60.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>7.339</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (120,000 EUR salary contribution CEO starting 2011)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (profit contribution 20% of annual meeting surplus)</td>
<td>280,248</td>
<td>199,600</td>
<td>217,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer (projects and administration)</td>
<td>37,953</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenses (Subscription/Springer)</td>
<td>65,700</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td>800,661</td>
<td>1,059,600</td>
<td>931,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross profit</strong></td>
<td>881,742</td>
<td>(3,600)</td>
<td>209,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>142,089</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and services expenses</td>
<td>64,557</td>
<td>74,700</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td>15,740</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR Spineweek 2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>222,385</td>
<td>202,700</td>
<td>290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before financial expenses</strong></td>
<td>659,356</td>
<td>(206,300)</td>
<td>(80,700)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Financial and Currency Exchange Income

### 1. Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2010

**Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2010.**

**Balance Sheet as at (in EUR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>610,717</td>
<td>613,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>29,236</td>
<td>10,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>1,647,047</td>
<td>1,037,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>2,287,001</td>
<td>1,660,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Books are kept in CHF, at year-end balance sheet is translated at year-end rate and P&L at average yearly rate. Difference between Balance-Sheet profit and P&L profit is taken to P&L.
### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities to third parties</td>
<td>34,429</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>336,411</td>
<td>343,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>370,840</td>
<td>343,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society capital</td>
<td>1,534,556</td>
<td>731,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual profit / (loss)</td>
<td>381,605</td>
<td>585,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>1,916,161</td>
<td>1,317,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>2,287,001</td>
<td>1,660,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Income statement for the period from (in EUR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberfees</td>
<td>56,126</td>
<td>66,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit, Spine Week Geneva 2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>475,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit, EuroSpine Warsaw 2009</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit EuroSpine Vienna 2010</td>
<td>1,614,487</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storno/returns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned Advance payment Warsaw 2008</td>
<td>(2,241)</td>
<td>97,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Courses Liberec</td>
<td>14,032</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,682,403</td>
<td>1,440,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01.01.2010</td>
<td>01.01.2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExCom</td>
<td>28.927</td>
<td>18.686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>16.252</td>
<td>16.777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eMedia</td>
<td>24.918</td>
<td>19.041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group (Past President)</td>
<td>84.892</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Task Force</td>
<td>5.316</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spine Tango</td>
<td>4.665</td>
<td>265.739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>21.256</td>
<td>37.493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spine Course</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course Barcelona</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37.978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course Liberec</td>
<td>35.341</td>
<td>15.465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Module Courses (Foundation)</td>
<td>153.463</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oversea Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>15.397</td>
<td>15.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4.466</td>
<td>10.343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>13.753</td>
<td>12.189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>7.339</td>
<td>3.459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (profit contribution)</td>
<td>280.248</td>
<td>160.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% of annual meeting surplus)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer (projects and administration)</td>
<td>37.953</td>
<td>40.730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenses (Subscription/Springer)</td>
<td>65.700</td>
<td>53.067</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>800.661</strong></td>
<td><strong>713.212</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td><strong>881.742</strong></td>
<td><strong>727.483</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company Expenses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>142.089</td>
<td>129.740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and services expenses</td>
<td>64.557</td>
<td>22.602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td>15.740</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>222.386</strong></td>
<td><strong>153.130</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before financial expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>659.356</strong></td>
<td><strong>574.353</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange income</td>
<td>3.309</td>
<td>3.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses realised</td>
<td>(56.033)</td>
<td>(4.804)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses unrealised</td>
<td>(260.984)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR-translation 2)</td>
<td>35.957</td>
<td>12.611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual profit</strong></td>
<td><strong>(277.751)</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.321</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Books are kept in CHF, at year-end balance sheet is translated at year-end rate and P&L at average yearly rate. Difference between Balance-Sheet profit and P&L profit is taken to P&L.
Vienna 2010 - Final Balance (in EUR)

EuroSpine 2010 - Vienna
15. - 17. September 2010

Congress surplus as per final statements Mondial 07.09.2011 1.614.487,37

Additional budget items paid by EuroSpine directly:

**Scientific Programme**
4110 EuroSpine 2010, Vienna preparations 19.546,18
4540 PCO contract 2010 Vienna (cost 2009) 152,11
4110 Layouts, press conference 21.600,00
Abstract Handling 18.000,00

**General Organisation**
Pre-Congress Meetings & Site Inspection 2.151,74

**General Transportation**
3.056,36

**Finance, consultancy & Insurance**
Legal costs approx. 5.619,00
Audit and accounting costs approx. 7.500,00
Satisfactory premium 15.000,00

Total additional costs 92.625,39

**Final Congress surplus** 1.521.861,98

**Total Congress Revenue** 2.880.799,19

Total direct expenses for Mondial (PCO profit) according to final statements 328.000,00
most important meeting for spine specialists in Europe, if not worldwide. Abstract Submissions again rose compared to last year with a big portion coming from Asian countries. Thanks to the excellent organization of Vincent Arlet and Luca Papavero it was possible to fill two parallel Pre-Meeting Day Courses. This Pre-Meeting Day Course was introduced last year and it seems to be liked and is planned to be maintained.

EuroSpine, the meeting, is under constant development with the aim to meet all the expectations participants may have. Thus, for the first time we introduced the smartphone application, the audience response system (ARS) and the daily conference newspaper ‘Spine Times’ as new means of communication.

‘Merging Hi-Fi with Hi-Tech’

October 19 – 21, 2011
Milano Convention Center (MICo)

This year’s annual meeting took place from October 19 - 21, 2011 in Milan, Italy, and again it was possible to increase participant numbers as well as introduce new and very well received features.

In October 2,400 delegates and 1,552 industry representatives from 81 countries followed the invitation from president Ciaran Bolger and the local hosts Marco Brayda-Bruno and Claudio Lamartina to attend the EuroSpine congress at the MICo, one of the leading conference venues in Europe. 140 highly specialized companies exhibited and contributed to make this meeting the
The EuroSpine App provided all information about the EuroSpine 2011 Conference directly on smartphones. Information about the EuroSpine Society and its board members, the scientific program and its speakers, the congress venue and the exhibition area as well as the latest news about the conference could be retrieved easily and were always at hand!

An up-to-date information about the latest trends, giving an insight into the society and presenting the conference life as well as some local tips for exploring Milan was provided by ‘Spine Times’, the conference’s daily newspaper available both on-line and printed. It was very popular as all hot off the press issues were gone in no time.

Furthermore, everybody who participated in this year’s survey was treated with a pair of the famous ‘Gallo’ socks. The survey is always of utmost importance to us as it gives us feedback on what to keep doing, what to improve and what to change. Were you one of the 300 who participated and got a pair of those decorative socks?

The programme committee with its chair Ahmet Alanay enriched the scientific programme with lively debate sessions for the first time. The topics stimulated discussions and thinking on areas of controversy but also of consensus. In such interactive sessions the ARS helped to increase the participation to the scientific session, the exchange of the experience and the sense of community. The constant high attendance in the session rooms showed that the programme committee did a very good job. Chapeau!
To continue discussions arising from the debates or other sessions we arranged a congress lounge area in the upper level of the venue with a lot of seating possibilities that also allowed for networking or simply chit-chatting with colleagues and friends.

All in all, we are looking back at a very good meeting that everybody seemed to enjoy!

Our thanks go to our PCO AIM Group International for their commitment in making this meeting a success and members of the various committees who were involved in the organisation of the most important annual meeting.

We also thank all our members and friends of our society who joined us in Milan.

**Did you know?**

*From this year on EuroSpine will have a special linked meeting website on www.eurospinemeeting.org, where all activities like programme, e-posters, webcasts, but also industry participation and contribution of all meetings shall be archived and accessible.*

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**Newly introduced in Milan 2011**

- EuroSpine App for smartphones:
  - iPhone/iPad: http://s.am/esiphoneapp
  - Android: http://s.am/esandroidapp
  - Other: http://app.eurospine.org

- Daily Conference Newspaper
  - ‘The Spine Times’: http://s.am/spinetimes

- Conference Survey – conducted during EuroSpine and afterwards online.

**EuroSpine 2011 in figures**

- Total Number of Delegates: 2,400
- Total Number of Industry Representatives: 1,552
- Accompanying Persons: 220
- Total Number of Delegates Pre-Meeting Day: 130
- Press Representatives: 25
- Countries represented: 81

**Scientific Programme:**

- Oral presentations: 86
- Short Communications, concurrent: 75
- EuroSpine Lunch Symposia: 6
- EuroSpine Happy Hour Symposia: 2
- E-posters: 98
- Industry Lunch Workshops: 31
- Industry Happy Hour Workshops: 5
- Pre-meeting course: 2
Most of the participants were between 35 and 45 years old, 93% of them were male. The most common specialty fields of the participants were spinal surgery, orthopaedic surgery and neurosurgery. 43% of them were members of their national spine society, 27% were also members of EuroSpine. A third of the participants were members in more than one society.

The following tag cloud visualizes the desired topics for future meetings. The font size reflects the frequency of the particular topic in the results of the survey.
Another topic was the satisfaction with the scientific content and the numerous conference features. 88% of the participants said that the conference met their expectations, 87% plan to attend a EuroSpine meeting in the future. The following chart shows the satisfaction with the quality of the presentations and the scientific content.

The EuroSpine 2011 Conference in Milan had three new conference features that were available for the first time: a daily conference newspaper, a smartphone app and an audience response system. The following chart shows the satisfaction with these new features.

Participants were also asked about their desired services which EuroSpine should offer to its members in the near future. The following tag cloud visualizes these most wanted and preferred services. The font again size symbolizes the frequency of the particular service in the results of the survey.
Officers

Executive Committee:
President: Jean Charles LeHuec, Bordeaux, France
Vice President: Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
Past President: Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland
Secretary: Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey
Treasurer: Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Assistant Treasurer: Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria
2012 Program Committee: Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK
Executive Members: Marco Teli, Milan, Italy, Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium

Chairs:
Membership Committee: André Kaelin, Geneva, Switzerland
Educational Committee: Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy
Workshop Committee: Ralph Kothe, Hamburg, Germany
Research Task Force: Margareta Nordin, New York, USA
Spine Tango Committee: Everard Munting, Biez, Belgium
ES Journal Editor in Chief: Max Aebi, Bern, Switzerland

Past Presidents of EuroSpine
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland 2011
Hans Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany 2010
Federico Balagué, Switzerland 2009
Robert Gunzburg, Belgium 2008
Charles Greenough, UK 2007
H. Michael Mayer, Germany 2006
Max Aebi, Switzerland 2005
Petr Suchomel, Czech Republic 2004
Dieter Grob, Switzerland 2003
Norbert Passuti, France 2002
Gordon F.G. Findlay, UK 2001
Jiri Dvorak, Switzerland 2000
Carlos Villanueva, Spain 1999

Past Presidents of ESDS
Rudolf Bauer, Austria 1996-1998
Charles Picault, France 1992-1994
Ben Veraart, the Netherlands 1989-1992
G. Monticelli, Italy 1986-1989
Alf Nachemson, Sweden 1983-1986
Pierre Stagnara, France 1982-1983

Past Presidents of ESS
Jürgen Krämer, Germany †2011 1997-1998
Franco Postacchini, Italy 1995-1996
Alain Deburge, France 1993-1994
Committees and Special Functions

Membership Committee
André Kaelin, Geneva, Switzerland (chair)  
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany  
Hossein Mehdian, Nottingham, UK

Lunch Symposia and Pre-Meeting Committee
Ralph Kothe, Hamburg, Germany (chair)  
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland (institutional)  
Luis Alvarez Galovich, Madrid, Spain  
Pierre Roussouly, Lyon, France

Educational and Fellowship Committee
Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy (chair)  
Martin Repko, Brno, Czech Republic  
Peter Paul Varga, Budapest, Hungary  
Martin Gehrchen, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Richard Assaker, Lille, France

Website and E-Learning Committee
Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK (chair)  
Cagatay Ozturk, Istanbul, Turkey  
Thomas Zweig, Adelaide, New Zealand  
Patient Line Committee  
Andrea Piazzola, Bari, Italy  
Vassilis Lykomitros, Thessaloniki, Greece

Program Committee 2012
Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK (chair)  
Jörg Franke, Magdeburg, Germany  
Barend van Royen, Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany  
Selçuk Palaoğlu, Ankara, Turkey  
Josef Grohs, Vienna, Austria  
Jean Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France (inst.)  
Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey (institutional)

International Relations Committee
Ahmet Alanay, Istanbul, Turkey  
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland  
Helton Defino, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil  
Baoge Liu, Beijing, China  
Jorge A. Draper Mineiro, Barcarena, Portugal
Industry Relations Task Force
Jean Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France
Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland
Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey
Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria
Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK, Local Host
EuroSpine 2013
Martin Wilby, Liverpool, UK, Local Host
EuroSpine 2013
Judith Reichert Schild, Zürich, Switzerland
Gerard Vanacker, Lausanne, Switzerland

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Jeremy Fairbank, Oxford, UK
Anne F. Mannion, Bristol, UK
Karl-Stefan Delank, Köln, Germany

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Norbert Boos, Zürich, Switzerland
Robert Gunzburg, Antwerp, Belgium
Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
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Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria (institutional)
Judith Reichert Schild, Uster, Switzerland (inst.)
First of all, we would like to welcome everyone who has joined EuroSpine in the past year:


A total of 80 spine specialists from all over the world applied during 2011. All of them fulfilled the criteria by filling in the online application form and sending it along with a current CV and letter of recommendation from their head of department, another EuroSpine member or their professional association.

The number of total new applications corresponds to an increase of around 60% compared to last year, a significant upturn! A large number of applicants are from the UK, Germany, Holland and Turkey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Members</th>
<th>Specialized in</th>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abi Lahoud Georges, Paris, FR</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>FX Roux</td>
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<td>Agarwal Anan, Kongston, UK</td>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aghayev Emin, Bern, CH</td>
<td>Methodology, medical data evaluation, outcome research</td>
<td>C Röder</td>
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<td>Aldakheel Dakheel, Khobar, SA</td>
<td>Adult Spine Disease</td>
<td>JP Steib</td>
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<td>Anjarwalla Naffis, Slough, UK</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>P Sell</td>
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<td>Assaker Richard, Lille, FR</td>
<td>Spine Surgery</td>
<td>JC LeHuéc</td>
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<td>GFG Findlay</td>
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<td>JC LeHuec</td>
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<td>Campello Marco, US</td>
<td>Ergonomics and Biomechanics</td>
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<td>Yurtsenyuk Andriy, Chernivtsi, UA</td>
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<td>Orthopaedic Surgery, Traumatology</td>
<td>M Bumbasierevic</td>
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<td>Zelenkov Petr, Moscow, RU</td>
<td>Neursurgery</td>
<td>HM Mayer</td>
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</table>

EuroSpine sadly informs you about the loss of
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Krämer
EuroSpine Local Host 1993 Bochum-Germany
European Spine Society President 1997
He will be remembered as a long-term and active member of EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe.
Two main objectives were defined: deliver a consistent educational program to future spine specialists and deliver continuing education to existing spine specialists. The realization and the quantitative measurements corresponding to these objectives are: a European Spine Course Diploma and a European Spine Fellowship Certificate, with a consistent accreditation delivered by the EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education).

**European Education Plan Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Spine Diploma</th>
<th>Continuing Education</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module 2</strong></td>
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<td>Basic Comprehensive Course</td>
<td>Any symposium</td>
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<td><strong>Module 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Degenerative Challenges</td>
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<td><strong>Module 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module 4</strong></td>
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<td>Trauma, Tumors and Infections</td>
<td>Annual SSE meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Module 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinal Deformities</td>
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<td><strong>Module 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Revisions and Complications</td>
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</table>

The Spine Society of Europe (SSE) – EuroSpine, with the support of the EuroSpine Foundation (ESF), wants to position itself as a major driving force in Spine Education within Europe, with a close cooperation with Surgical Societies (Neurosurgery, Scoliosis) and also non-

**List of 2011 Education Committee (SSE) members:**
- Marco Brayda-Bruno (Chairman)
- Emre Acaroglu
- Martin Gehrchen
- Jean Charles Le Huec
- Martin Repko
- Philip J. Sell
- Péter Pál Varga

**Education Objectives**

Marco Brayda-Bruno
Milan, Italy
Setting a standard education template is necessary to deliver consistent quality courses throughout Europe. This template has been promoted and communicated in 2010 to over 20 National Spine societies and European Societies with focus on spine.

European Spine Course Diploma: Curriculum Standards

**Key Messages:** Specific Key Messages related to each lecture topic are the basic standard to guarantee a high level of consistency. The Quiz questions essentially focus on the Key Messages.

**Core Slides:** Core Slides for each lecture have been established and must be presented as such by every faculty of Diploma Modules. Faculty can further add slides based on their own personal experience within their presentation, and after the course can deliver comments about the existing Core slides and Key messages to help a continuing improvement process.

**Scientific Compliance:** The core of the European Education Plan has been developed in the last 3-4 years by some of the best Spine Experts in Europe, all active members of the SSE Education Committee, with the goal to provide the highest quality standard in Spine Education.

Establishing Standards is the key to making Spine Education possible and we must ensure that the rules defining the quality standards are well respected, comparing quiz results, assessing delegates attendance (100% + entry and exit quiz) and faculty attendance (minimum 80%), using English (official SSE language) for slides and quiz, controlling the correct delivery of Core Slides for course validation (100% in the lectures).

At this purpose an independent “Review Committee” is announced and will be established, under the auspices of ESF, at the beginning of 2012, with the role to guarantee that the European Spine Course Diploma modules be consistent, of high quality and homogeneous, wherever they will be delivered, and also to improve step by step the scientific content.

**Objectives and Accomplishments 2011**

The Edu Com has approved the Education Week concept and has decided to postpone its realization till 2012. Therefore during 2011, the SSE Edu Com has continued to play the role of “Program Developer” but has also taken the preliminary role of Review Committee, which will be crucial for the improvements of Key Messages and Core Slides.

- **European Spine Course Diploma**

Year 2011 has been focused on fine tuning the 5 modules composing the European Spine Course Diploma by repeating every module 2, 3, 4, 5 before releasing program, cores slides and key message of each topics. Also, key Societies have been invited to start locally, delivering the module 1 of the Course Diploma - Italy (2010), Austria, UK, France, Spain, Central Europe (Hungarian, Slovenian, Romania and Czech Republic).
As a result, the SSE Edu Com has ensured that the first National Societies could understand and respect the standards defining the European Spine Course Diploma. At present, the Societies, which have expressed their will to locally deliver the Diploma, are: Turkey, Italy, and Israel (module 1). While dates for Italy and Israel courses are yet to be defined, Modules 1 & 2 are done in Istanbul, Turkey on 8-10 September 2011 and Modules 1 & 3 in Dubai on 26-28 November 2011. Until now, about 300 participants have enrolled into the EuroSpine Spine Course Diploma, and 50 participants have already been graduated.

Finally, the further development of the non-surgical Modules (with input of non-surgeon spine specialists) and the final standardization of Master Course standards have been then postponed to 2012.

**Spine Fellowship**

It has been decided that the SSE as well as the EuroSpine Foundation would finance 3 six-months fellowship trainings other 2 six-months fellowship trainings. At this point in time, 5 SSE fellowship centers have been registered this year: Nottingham (UK); Bordeaux (France); Copenhagen (DK); Dublin (IR); Milano (Italy). And others are expected to join soon, according to the established standards. At present, there are 3 fellows who committed to take this European Fellowship program.

**Continuing Education**

**Master Courses**

On purpose, no Master Courses have been delivered in 2011 to focus on the Diploma Modules priorities. However, the 2 pre-meeting “SSE symposia courses”, that were delivered before Milan SSE Annual Meeting, were structured with the same formats and learning objectives (case discussion with limited number of lectures) as for Master Courses, based on Module 4 (Deformities) and 5 (Revision and Complication).

**Symposia Courses**

Two Symposia Courses on “Sagittal balance of the spine” (JC LeHuec) and “Microsurgery” (M Mayer) have received the patronage of the SSE.

**Education Committee Structure and Renewal Rules**

It has been agreed by the Ex Com in Marbella (January 2011) that instead to increase the number of Edu Com members, it would be preferable to reduce it to 5 members and to appoint specific consultants or advisors for specific tasks.

Actual EduCom structure and renewal rules (end 2011) are 5 active members, all SSE members:

- Marco Brayda-Bruno (Chairman)
- Martin Gehrchen
- Martin Repko
- Peter Pal Varga
- Richard Assaker
Since the launch of the European Education Plan in 2009, European Spine Societies as well as Federations of Spine Specialists have been informed and invited to join the Education Advisory Committee (EAC). The first meeting of this Committee took place during the SSE Annual Meeting in Warsaw (2009) and was repeated, with an update of SSE Education Plan, last year in Vienna (2010). The last meeting took place in Milan (Oct 2011).

With the actual approved structure of SSE Committees, our advice is to combine this existing EAC into the next SSE European National Spine Societies Advisory Committee (to avoid duplication…) with an adjunct task on education.

**Conclusions**

This Annual Report is containing a summary of what was already submitted to the Excom in Milan, after the discussion and approval of EduCom in Barcelona, with just few recent considerations concerning decisions and facts of last 2 months, that were discussed and agreed during our last EduCom in Milan (Dec 7, 2011).

This Annual Report is then the summary of efforts, work and commitment of all Edu Com members (old and new) together with ESF staff, to implement, improve and realize the SSE Education Plan, keeping quality consistency and preparing future strategies. Therefore I would like to thank all Edu Com and ESF to have successfully accomplished our duty and goals.
Following the format of 2010 Vienna, where EuroSpine had introduced Pre-Day-Courses, there were again two organised in 2011:

- Spinal deformities: Challenges and controversies: a forum discussion, chaired by Vincent Arlet
- Complications in spine surgery: case discussions, chaired by Luca Papavero.

The development of the programmes and the selection of the faculty was assigned to the respective chairs.

The same organisation applies to the Lunch Symposia. Five chairs were invited to organise a session on a pre-assigned topic:

- Bronek Boszczyk (UK) - “Surgical management of thoracic myelopathy”
- Luis Alvarez Galovich (Spain) – “Minimally invasive surgery in the lumbar spine”
- Keita Ito (The Netherlands) – “The clinical impact of spine research: how clinicians can make a difference”
- Paul Varga (Hungary) – “Spine Tumor”
- Ralph Kothe (Germany) – “Chronic back problems: aspects of chronicity/assessment/treatment

In addition, the Local Hosts Marco Brayda-Bruno and Claudio Lamartina have organised a Lunch Symposium on “Current concepts in adult scoliosis”.

Finally, there was a new entry for EuroSpine 2011, two evening sessions called “Happy hour case presentation” were included in the programme. The idea was to gather a small group of attendees for an active and informal discussion on the clinical cases presented.

- Ahmet Alanay (Turkey) and Dante Marchesi (Switzerland) were invited to chair and organise “Non fusion lumbar spine surgery: case presentation”
Claudio Lamartina has chaired the lunch symposia and pre-meeting committee now for three years, since 2009 for EuroSpine Warsaw. Since then the interest and participation at those events grew constantly. EuroSpine is grateful for all his work and input: we have to thank him for this great success.

The incoming chair for this committee is Ralph Kothe, Hamburg, Germany.
This report includes updates on the Task Force on Research (TFR) and its mandate from the EuroSpine Annual Meeting 2010 in Vienna, Austria. The following TFR tasks were approved at the EuroSpine Executive Committee:

- Create and upload a EuroSpine TFR Website
  - EuroSpine Grants for research: Set up application procedure
  - Create evaluation guidelines
  - Create procedures for conflict of interest for reviewers

- Distribute allocated SSE TFR funding approved by the EuroSpine Executive Committee

- Establish a yearly Research Course for EuroSpine members and non-members

- Budget for EuroSpine TFR 2012

This report is a short summary of the mandated tasks.

**Create and Upload a SSE TFR Website**

The EuroSpine TFR Website was launched just prior the Annual meeting in Vienna Austria, September 2010. The website is comprehensive including the members of the TFR, mission, vision, funding description and limitation, deadlines to be respected, application format and instructions. The EuroSpine TFR website will also include the program for the planned Research Course for 2012 and application procedure. The website is updated on a regular basis.

**SSE Grants for Research**

The EuroSpine TFR had 9 international telephone conferences and 2 in person meetings (Vienna, Austria and Geneva, Switzerland) since the Annual Meeting in Vienna 2010. All procedures for application, and evaluation were approved unanimously by all the members in the TFR, and later approved by the Executive Committee Meeting in Vienna 2010. The evaluation criteria were modeled after the National Institute of Health (USA) criteria using a 9 point scale where 1 is the best possible merit.
The funding decision was communicated to the applicants in late May 2011, which indicated a 4-month turnaround for funding by the TFR. Compared to other research foundations and federal resources, this is a success. The TFR also recommends that previous recipients cannot be funded again in the following year.

Distribute Allocated SSE TFR Funding Approved by the EuroSpine Executive Committee

The Executive Committee allocated 2 grants for EUR 30,000 for distribution in 2011. The application deadline was January 31, 2011. Sixteen grant applications were received, 4 applications were excluded due to non-conformity with the established rules clearly sited on the website, leaving 12 applications for review by the TFR. The two applications funded were rated at 2/9 and 3/9: the decision was unanimous by the TFR members. The two applications were:

**Francois Porchet MD, MSc (neurosurgeon) Principal Investigator: Establishment of appropriateness criteria for surgical treatment of degenerative spondylolisthesis, Switzerland**

**Christoph Roeder MD, MPH (epidemiologist) Principal Investigator: Spine Tango conservative form: A reliability and feasibility study, Switzerland.**

The recommendations for funding were presented by Dr. Marek Szaplinski at the May 2011 SSE Executive Committee and were approved. The TFR also had asked if we could get additional funding of 2 times EUR 5000 to, for example, assist grant proposals or dissertation completion. The Executive Committee approved the additional funding.

Funding for 2012 (application date January 31, 2012) is as follows:
- 2 times EUR 5000
- 2 times EUR 30,000
- 1 time EUR 100,000 for 2-3 years

Establish a Yearly Research Course for EuroSpine Members and Non-members

The first EuroSpine TFR Research Course will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Milan 2011. The Research Course is scheduled for February 27–March 2, 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey, and is limited to about 25 participants. EuroSpine members will have priority over non-members. The preliminary program is available on the website, and on flyers will be distributed at the annual meeting. Cost for course is EUR 400 for participants. Chairman for the course is M. Nordin and Core faculty is Drs. Cote (vice chairman), Cedraschi and Holm and guest faculty are TFR members (Drs. Balague, Rydevik and Szpalski).

The total budget for the course is calculated to EUR 60,000 including a pre-meeting for core faculty: exact numbers are being updated by EuroSpine.
**Budget for EuroSpine TFR 2012-2016**

Budget is preliminary and only takes into account the grant moneys and the research course: other expenses are not included, such as travel and hotel for meetings. The estimated cost is displayed below in a table from 2011 to 2017. Bolded years refer to a larger grant for EUR 100K distributed every 2 years for 2-3 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study type/Research Course</th>
<th>Year 2011</th>
<th>Year 2012</th>
<th>Year 2013</th>
<th>Year 2014</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Year 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Pilot studies (one year duration @ EUR 30,000)</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>60K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 small grants @ Euro 5000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Larger Study every 2 years (2-3 years duration)</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>100K</td>
<td>100K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total per year (EUR in thousands)</td>
<td>60K</td>
<td>230K</td>
<td>230K</td>
<td>330K</td>
<td>340K</td>
<td>440K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgement**

The TFR is most grateful for all support from Judith Reichert, Anna Ganthaler and George Fraefel.

Respectfully, EuroSpine TFR October 2011

Margareta Nordin, Chair
Federico Balagué
Kim Burton
Pierre Côté
Christine Cedraschi
Björn Rydevik
Marek Szpalski
EuroSpine Foundation

Gerard Vanacker
Lausanne, Switzerland

The EuroSpine Foundation is the professional platform that 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 in the areas of Research, Education, Representation and Communication.

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

Building a professional support organization for
- educational programs development
- spine research promotion
- advocacy function
- creation of new tools and values for Spine Specialists and patient benefits

Raising funds through
- industrial grants
- donations
- scientific material distribution

EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe (SSE) and the EuroSpine Foundation (ESF) have found the task of educating spine specialists and developing treatment strategies of great importance.
In 2009, EuroSpine decided to initiate a European Education Plan for both coming spine specialists and as part of continuous education. To qualify this European Education Program, EuroSpine delivers a European Spine Course Diploma equivalent at both European and National levels in Europe. The principle of this program relies on meeting standards to allow for cross border collaboration among National Spine Societies of Europe.

The first edition of the European Spine Course Diploma curriculum was first delivered in 2010. The first year, over 100 Delegates enrolled the five modules curriculum; 16 of them attended all the courses hence have graduated and received the European Spine Diploma the first year. Two National Societies entered this European Initiative and delivered one module in their local language.

The Year 2011 has been focused on fine tuning the five modules composing the European Spine Course Diploma; the same curriculum has been further improved with the support of more National Spine Societies by repeating every module 2, 3, 4, 5. The concept of imposing core slides has been decided to better deliver the key messages.

The following countries and spine societies contributed with Module 1:

- Italy (2010)
- Austria
- UK
- France
- Spain
- Central Europe (Hungarian, Slovenian, Romania and Czech Republic).

Finally, the first modules 1 and 2 have been delivered in Turkey (early Sept 2011) and Dubai (end Nov 2011).

About 300 delegates are now enrolled in the European Education Plan and 50 diplomas have been delivered.
In 2012, the National Societies will carry on this European program at their national level in local languages while the EuroSpine Foundation will organize a yearly recurrent event: “the Education Week”

More information at: http://www.eurospinefoundation.org

Continuously reviewing medical practices makes them evolve as necessary to maximize trust and preserve innovation. An independent Review Committee will ensure that the rules defining the quality standards are well respected. The “Review Committee” guarantees that the European Spine Course Diploma is consistent and of the highest quality.
Winners of the 2011 EuroSpine Full Paper Awards

DURAL LESIONS IN DECOMPRESSION FOR LUMBAR SPINAL STENOSIS – INCIDENCE AND EFFECT ON OUTCOME
B Strömqvist, B Jönsson, F Strömqvist
Department of Orthopedics, Clinical Sciences, Lund, Sweden

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SCHEUERMANN’S KYPHOSIS – A COMPARATIVE STUDY AFTER 37-YEAR FOLLOW-UP
L Ristolainen, JA Kettunen, M Heliövaara, UM Kujala, A Heinonen, D Schlenzka
Research, ORTON Orthopaedic Hospital and Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Winner of 2010/2011 European Spine Journal / Grammer Award

LOADS ON A SPINAL IMPLANT MEASURED IN VIVO DURING WHOLE-BODY VIBRATION
Antonius Rohlmann, Barbara Hinz, Ralph Blüthner, Friedmar Graichen, Georg Bergmann

Best Podium Presentations 2011

MRI STUDY OF POSTERIOR LIGAMENTOUS COMPLEX (PLC) INSTABILITY AFTER TRAUMATIC FRACTURES. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPRASPINOUS LIGAMENT
Orthopaedics, Spine Unit, Hospital Universitario de Getafe, Madrid, Spain

REGULATION OF TOLL-LIKE RECEPTOR GENE AND PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN HUMAN INTERVERTEBRAL DISC CELLS
K Wuertz, M Klawitter, L Quero, T Liebscher, A Nerlich, N Boos
Spine Research Group, CABMM, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

DURAL LESIONS IN DECOMPRESSION FOR LUMBAR SPINAL STENOSIS – INCIDENCE AND EFFECT ON OUTCOME
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Research, ORTON Orthopaedic Hospital and Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Best Short Communication 2011

A NOVEL HIGH-TECH AFFORDABLE TECHNIQUE TO VISUALIZE DEFORMED PEDICLES AND ASSIST PEDICLE SCREW PLACEMENT FOR SCOLIOSIS SURGERY
Y Abe, M Ito, K Abumi, Y Kotani, H Sudo, K Nagahama, A Iwata, A Minami
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan
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