



EUROSPINE

Improving Patient Care through Science,
Education and Quality Assurance

Annual Report 2019



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TIM PIGOTT

EUROSPINE President
2018–2019

1. Presidential Welcome

EUROSPINE IMPROVING PATIENT CARE THROUGH SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

All initiatives driven by EUROSPINE have one important goal: improving the standard of spine care for patients the world over. I am proud of the advances the EUROSPINE team have made over the past six years since defining our Way Forward strategy. Today our Society offers a multidisciplinary

education programme that is second to none, hosts content-rich scientific meetings, supports research and brings together renowned specialists, national societies and stakeholders from all over the globe. I would like to highlight some of our latest accomplishments for 2019.

ACCESSIBLE SPINE EDUCATION FOR ALL

EUROSPINE is recognised for excellence in education, and we have continued to expand and build on our programme year on year. In 2019, our strong team launched two exciting new educational products – the [EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care \(EDISC\)](#), and our [Hybrid Education Week \(Hybrid EduWeek\)](#) featuring our new online [eLearning](#) platform.

EDISC is an intensive, continuing-education programme for all spine clinicians, clinical researchers, insurance companies and other interested parties that emphasises teamwork, co-operative care and

understanding of our strengths and gaps in knowledge. The first four modules were presented this year during EUROSPINE's Education Week (EduWeek) with resounding success and positive feedback. Our eLearning programme has now all 106 lectures from the Basic and Advanced Diploma modules online. The first Hybrid EduWeek took place in November in Geneva 2019, combining online learning with face-to-face modules. With the increasing popularity of web-based services, online learning has become a very important aspect of learning for us all.

TOP-QUALITY CARE FOR PATIENTS

Following the launch of our [“Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence” \(SSCoE\)](#) programme in 2018, we rolled out a successful pilot phase of test clinics across Europe this year. The purpose is to certify spine centres who meet strict quality standards in the provision of patient care, spine surgery and education, among

other criteria. SSSCoE certification provides a guarantee to patients that they will receive a high-quality standard of care in any approved clinic in Europe. We are looking forward to certifying a number of additional clinics next year.

DOCUMENTING SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SPINE CARE TREATMENTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

In May 2019, the [Spine Tango](#) registry was moved to a new registry platform ([Northgate Public Services](#)), enabling us to add powerful new features. The new registry offers expanded capabilities to provide important implant data and feedback services to clinicians, hospitals, organisations and medical device manufacturers to strengthen implant surveillance networks. We are working to establish a collaboration model with the MedTech industry to help fund further development. We hope to establish Spine Tango as the model for national registries in other countries and are pleased to announce that Spine Tango has won the tender for Swiss national spine registry.



HELPING PATIENTS MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

[Patient Line](#) is an invaluable self-help tool for patients, helping them to understand their condition and have a meaningful dialogue with their doctors. This year we have added a steady stream of easy-to-understand

information and videos in 11 languages (three new this year). Three more languages have been approved for 2020.

EUROSPINE'S EUSSAB: A COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING SPINE CARE

Twenty-nine national societies have joined the [European Spine Societies Advisory Board \(EuSSAB\)](#) in a joint effort to improve spine care standards and education. Furthermore, EuSSAB is in an excellent position to address pertinent political issues whilst seeking solutions for improving spine care throughout Europe.

EUROSPINE has set up a dedicated task force and created a position for a EuSSAB elected representative on our Executive Committee (ExCom). All society representatives are encouraged to be proactive in EuSSAB to address specific issues faced in their respective countries.

ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING SPECIALTY MEETING

We were delighted to host almost 3,500 attendees at the [EUROSPINE Annual Meeting](#) in Helsinki, Finland in October 2019. Our meeting was the perfect opportunity for spine specialists from all countries and disciplines to meet and share expertise and friendship. In addition to a rich scientific programme, 130 exhibitors were on hand to demonstrate the latest scientific advances and technologies. EUROSPINE 2020 is

scheduled to take place from 7–9 October in Vienna, Austria, and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

The [EUROSPINE Spring Specialty Meeting](#) on “Highly Complex Spine Surgery” was held in Frankfurt, Germany in May 2019. The programme brought together eminent experts to share their “tips and tricks” on addressing complex spinal surgery.

AN EXCEPTIONAL TEAM

Without the vision shared by the Executive Committee members, committee heads and committee members as well as our highly-motivated staff members and their relentless enthusiasm and hard work, advancing the objectives of the Way Forward strategy each year

would not be possible. I wish to extend a big thank you to my predecessor, Frank Kandziora, for handing over a streamlined and well-run Society, and to Everard Munting, the incoming president, who will carry the torch for EUROSPINE into 2020.





EVERARD MUNTING

EUROSPINE President
2019–2020

EUROSPINE: GOALS FOR 2020

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

It's an honour to take EUROSPINE into 2020 as the new president of EUROSPINE. My esteemed predecessor, Tim Pigott, has done an incredible job of advancing EUROSPINE programmes and activities to benefit patients, members and stakeholders. I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue his

work and lead EUROSPINE forward in a number of key areas. Together with the Executive Committee (ExCom), committee members and EUROSPINE staff members, we have been able to hit the ground running to achieve our priorities for the 2019–20 year.

ESTABLISHING A CORE CURRICULUM THROUGH UEMS

EUROSPINE and its members are leading the way in establishing a core curriculum for spine surgery with the [European Union of Medical Specialists \(UEMS\)](#). UEMS is an international non-profit organisation representing all medical specialists in Europe and also has the accrediting body [EACCME](#). A draft of the UEMS-MJC Spine Surgery core curriculum has already been

prepared and will now be formulated into **European Training Requirements in Spine Surgery**, to be presented along with other specialties to the European Parliament. Once the core curriculum has been approved, it will be our goal to have the EUROSPINE Diploma Programme officially recognised.

CONTINUING ADVANCES IN EDUCATION

One of EUROSPINE's top priorities in education is the introduction of [eLearning](#), an invaluable tool that makes education accessible to all, without the need to travel. In November we introduced our first [Hybrid Education Week \(Hybrid EduWeek\)](#), combining online pre-learning with onsite seminars and labs. It is our

goal to develop and establish a full eLearning course in the coming years, accessible to spine specialists anywhere in the world.

Expanding our reach to spine specialists in non-surgical disciplines is another important goal.

EUROSPINE can only be made richer by rounding out our membership to ensure that all spine care specialties are represented. Our new [EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care \(EDISC\)](#) was launched in May 2019 with great success. All seven modules will be presented at EduWeek in January 2021, and it is our goal to reach as many interprofessional spine specialists as possible in the interim to help them take advantage of this multidisciplinary educational opportunity.



EXPANDING USAGE OF SPINE TANGO REGISTRY

The [Spine Tango](#) registry's change of platform in 2019 has enabled EUROSPINE to add powerful new capabilities to provide performance benchmarking and a collective evidence base of treatment effectiveness, patient safety and best practice. In the coming year,

we will work to increase the number of participating hospitals and establish a business model to generate income for further improving and strengthening our registry approach by selling data to industry.

ESTABLISHING MODELS FOR OA PUBLISHING

Open Access (OA) publishing is revolutionising the way in which scientific material (generated through public funding) is published. In OA publishing, authors must cover the article processing costs (APC) themselves. With OA publishing being made obligatory in wealthier countries, we may need to establish models that will allow our colleagues from lower- to middle-in-

come countries to continue publishing their material. Therefore, EUROSPINE and the [European Association of Neurosurgical Societies \(EANS\)](#) are reviewing the possibilities of launching a new journal jointly owned by EUROSPINE and the EANS in accordance with ethical guidelines.

HOSTING TOP-QUALITY MEETINGS

EUROSPINE meetings are known for their high-quality content, scientific programme and networking opportunities. We must continue to ensure that our meetings

maintain this high standard year on year while preparing for future market changes and ensuring flexible budgeting.

ADDING VALUE FOR MEMBERS

EUROSPINE currently has a number of incentives in place for its members, from fee reductions at EUROSPINE events to journal subscriptions. This year we plan to improve [benefits for members](#), and

particularly Annual Meeting participants. Furthermore, it is a priority to diversify our membership base, including increasing the percentage of non-surgical spine professionals.

MANAGING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

EUROSPINE's engagement with stakeholders from all stakeholder groups remains a top priority. In the coming year, we would like to improve our positioning

with political institutions. We will also engage with the health insurance industry and other institutions with a view to broadening our sponsorship scope.

MANAGING A STREAMLINED ORGANISATION

EUROSPINE operates a lean organisation with a small staff of engaged and committed employees. We are continually working to ensure consistent operational

efficiency, both internally with a flexible organisation concept and an optimised outsourcing approach.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

I'm delighted to play a role in the evolution of EUROSPINE as we continue to realise our vision to be the driving force and the primary and preferred partner in Europe for all spinal care issues. I'd like to thank

our incredibly talented members, committee members and staff for their hard work and dedication in making EUROSPINE the most important spine society in Europe.





THOMAS R. BLATTERT

EUROSPINE Vice President
2019–2020

ALIGNING EUROSPINE'S PROGRAMMES AND OFFERINGS WITH DIGITALISATION

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

Since the design and implementation of EUROSPINE's Way Forward strategy in 2014, we have kept our finger on the pulse of new educational opportunities, medical techniques, scientific advances and new technologies, including digitalisation. When implemented correctly,

digitalisation is a highly useful tool, offering patients, members and stakeholders more opportunities to take advantage of EUROSPINE programmes and to interact with EUROSPINE from anywhere in the world.

UPDATING PROCESSES TO WORK WITH DIGITALISATION

When merging new digital technologies with existing products and services, it is not sufficient to simply digitalise existing processes. This digital disruption can have a negative impact on business models. Therefore, EUROSPINE is proceeding to roll out electronic

platforms that are well aligned with its key priorities. Careful planning has gone into the development of each digital offering in consultation and partnership with experienced professionals.

CREATING THE EUROSPINE ELEARNING PLATFORM

Over the past several years, EUROSPINE has invested a great deal in the continued development of its [Basic](#) and [Advanced Diploma](#) programmes. An eLearning programme is a natural extension of our educational offerings that is in high demand. After working together with global industry partners to develop the

necessary digital platform, we proudly launched our first eLearning modules at [Hybrid Education Week \(Hybrid EduWeek\)](#) in November 2019 with great success. Development will continue to create a full eLearning programme.

UPDATING THE SPINE TANGO REGISTRY

The European Single Market represents the world's biggest domestic market – including health-related information. As such, it holds enormous digital treasures that present a unique opportunity for spine procedure evaluation. EUROSPINE's [Spine Tango](#) registry has collected data since 2002 to provide valuable, evidence-based data for research. Our transition in May 2019 to a professional new registry provider

([Northgate Public Services](#)) will enable Spine tango to add easy-to-use new functions such as user, hospital and benchmarking reports, online statistics, dashboard, and much more. The Spine Tango registry is now in a position to become the national registry for a number of national spine societies and has already won the tender to run the spine registry for Switzerland.

PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

In addition to digital platforms for medical professionals, EUROSPINE also offers a platform to empower patients to learn about their condition. [Patient Line](#) provides reliable information in 11 languages to help patients understand and discuss treatment options with their healthcare provider. Three more languages will be added next year, and another two languages are forecast for 2021.



ESTABLISHING GLOBAL NETWORKS OF SPINE PROFESSIONALS

EUROSPINE's EuSSAB, the [European Spine Societies Advisory Board](#), is a communication platform where national societies meet and connect on a regular basis as equal partners – defining common goals, identifying and addressing challenges, and helping to locate the brightest minds in spine. EuSSAB's network with wide geographical distribution and precise local knowledge enables sharing of minds and an effective and successful tool to find and identify new talent.



SETTING UP FOR HOME OFFICE

Digitalised workflows have made it possible for non-profit organisations to establish hybrid working models, allowing employees to work effectively from home. EUROSPINE has implemented decentralised working

models with hybrid solutions, combining home office work in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and other countries with face-to-face meetings on demand.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EUROSPINE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

In the coming years, digitalisation will play a key role in the delivery of EUROSPINE's products and services. All platforms will be carefully integrated to make

EUROSPINE's expertise, networking and education accessible to all, whether near or far.



SERDAR KAHRAMAN (LEFT)

Chair, Membership Council, 2016–2019

PHILIPP BECKER (RIGHT)

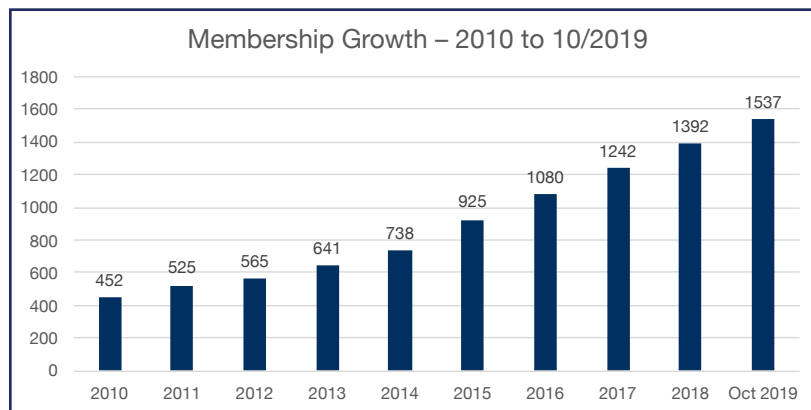
Chair, Membership Council, 2019–2022

2. Membership Committee Report 2019

EUROSPINE MEMBERSHIP RECORD GROWTH CONTINUES

EUROSPINE offers invaluable benefits for its members, from multidisciplinary educational opportunities, eLearning, networking events, and scientific meetings to the latest advances in technology, research and innovation. As EUROSPINE's offerings continue to grow stronger, so too does our [membership](#). In 2019,

EUROSPINE attracted 244 new members for a record total of 1,537 full members representing 84 countries and over 7,200 associate members. Fifty percent of our new members joined in the 'Young Member' category.



EUROSPINE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

EUROSPINE members enjoy a [range of benefits](#), from fee reductions for EUROSPINE educational events and meetings to access to research grants, the online *European Spine Journal*, Open Operating Theatre (OOT) platform, annual meeting webcasts and more.

EUROSPINE also welcomes members to exclusive networking events, such as our new members' cocktail, members' cocktail and general assembly, and our Young & Strong workshop for members under 45 years of age.



EUROSPINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

We created the EUROSPINE Ambassador Programme to raise awareness and attract new members and delegates to the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting and other events. Ambassadors actively contribute to social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (e.g. daily posts during meetings). In return, they receive **free registration to the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting** and an **invitation to the networking event** (upon fulfilment of marketing tasks). Based on performance, ambassadors may also receive a **€300 flat**

fee travel reimbursement. Personal benefits include the opportunity to raise one's profile and increase networking opportunities. EUROSPINE currently has four ambassadors.

A maximum of five ambassadors (each from a different country) are selected each year for a one-year term with a possibility of renewal. If you are interested in spreading the word about EUROSPINE, please apply today!

YOUNG AND STRONG WORKSHOP

Following its introduction at EUROSPINE 2018 in Barcelona, a second Young & Strong workshop was held at the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The goal of our Young & Strong project is to motivate future officers and faculty to become active in the Society, take over council functions and tasks and partici-

pate in other core activities. The workshop included an introduction to EUROSPINE and the Young & Strong project, a presentation on the **"Importance of Young Researchers"** by Rachid Salmi and an interactive discussion with council chairs.

HONORARY MEMBER 2019

We were pleased to award **Kim Burton** with a [EUROSPINE Honorary Membership](#) this year in appreciation of his outstanding research activities in the spinal field. The award was presented at EUROSPINE 2019 in Helsinki by Lisa Roberts. Prof. Burton has been a member of EUROSPINE since 1993.

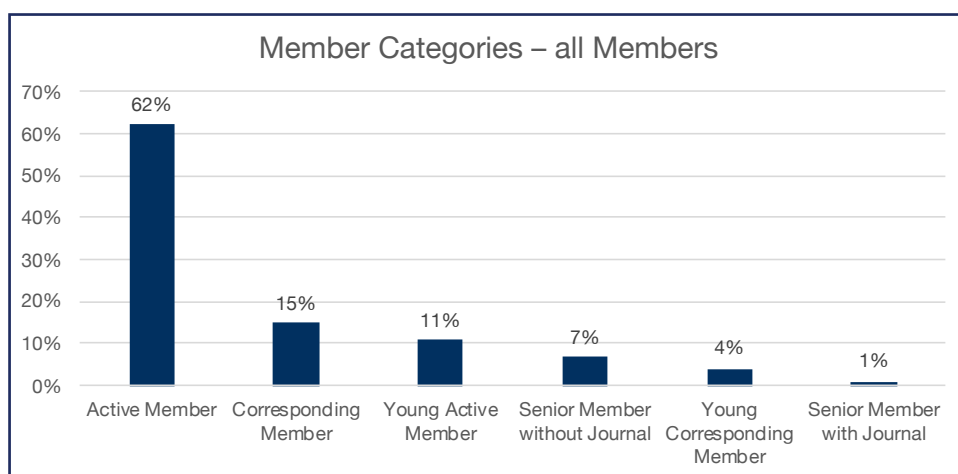


SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Serdar Kahraman, Membership Committee Chair from 2016 to 2019 for his incredible achievements. During his three-year term, Serdar's engagement and commitment saw EUROSPINE increase its membership by more than 40 % from 1,080 to 1,537 full members. Among other accomplishments, the first three honorary memberships were also awarded, and the Young & Strong project was launched.

We would furthermore like to show our warmest appreciation to Lisa Roberts for her hard work and dedication during her three-year term.

We also wish to thank Alessio Lovi, and our new committee members, Matti Scholz, and Sebastiaan Schelfaut, for their strong contributions.



NEXT STEPS

I am looking forward to continuing the excellent work of my predecessor, Serdar Kahraman, for the next three years. In the coming term we plan to re-evaluate and improve membership benefits, analyse our database to support new projects for growing our membership in Europe, explore new journals for members and continue the Ambassador Programme. Furthermore, we hope to create more membership benefits through the [EUROSPINE app](#), increase participation in eLearning, and increase diversity in our membership.

Together we are EUROSPINE. Thank you to all our members for your wonderful contributions and support over the past year. No matter what your discipline, if you haven't joined EUROSPINE yet, now is the perfect time to become part of our international organisation and interact with the best and brightest minds in spine!



CHRISTOPH SIEPE

Chair, EuSSAB Council
2019–2021

3. EuSSAB Report 2019

EuSSAB – UNITING TO IMPROVE SPINE CARE

Established in 2014, EUROSPINE's [European Spine Societies Advisory Board \(EuSSAB\)](#) serves as a neutral forum allowing spine societies from all parts of Europe to come together and explore vital issues related to spine health and education. The board – currently made up of [29 institutional members](#) – works together

to standardise processes, influence political policies and improve the standard of spine care for patients Europe-wide.

EuSSAB's network currently spans 26 countries, representing more than 7,200 associate members.

NEW EuSSAB REPRESENTATIVE

Each year, a EuSSAB member is elected as EuSSAB Representative to the EUROSPINE Executive Committee (ExCom). At the 2019 EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in Helsinki, incumbent **Ioannis Magras** of Greece handed over his position to **Alberto Ulloa** of Spain (2018 EuSSAB Vice-Representative). Alberto Ulloa will represent EuSSAB in EUROSPINE's ExCom until the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in October 2020. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Ioannis Magras for his terrific work on behalf of EuSSAB.

We are also very pleased to welcome **Artem Gushcha** of Russia, who was unanimously confirmed as the new EuSSAB Vice-Representative.



EUROSPINE'S EuSSAB SPRING MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING

EUROSPINE hosts two EuSSAB meetings per year with the following goals:

1. Keep all EuSSAB members informed of the latest developments in EUROSPINE's core activities and the benefits of participation
2. Ensure and enable the proactive participation of all representatives to address their specific needs
3. Strengthen cooperation between EUROSPINE and EuSSAB by creating tailored solutions for country-specific needs
4. Define clear actions

A new workshop format was introduced with great success at the [EuSSAB Spring Meeting](#), held on Monday, 18 March 2019 in Munich, Germany. Topics such as education, quality assurance and communications were discussed in the context of national regulations and the specific needs of the 16 countries represented at the meeting.

The [EuSSAB Annual Meeting 2019](#) was held on Thursday, 17 October 2019 at EUROSPINE 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. Thirty participants representing 26 societies and 24 countries attended. Topics included a review and analysis of the outcomes of the EuSSAB Spring Meeting workshops with next steps, the next SWOT analysis, organisational issues, [Patient Line](#) and [Spine Tango](#). Individual

login details for free access to [EUROSPINE 2019 webcasts](#) were also sent to all society representatives.

The EuSSAB Pre-day Course, organised by the EuSSAB Committee under the guidance of Johan van Lerbeirghe, focussed on the topic 'The intervertebral disc: From basic science to high-end surgery and other novel treatments across European borders'. The workshop was a great success and attracted a high level of interest and a large number of participants. Our special 'thank you' goes out to Johan van Lerbeirghe for organising this fantastic and well-perceived workshop.

We wish to thank all participants for their attendance and active participation in the meetings.

NATIONAL EuSSAB REPRESENTATIVE

During the last two EuSSAB meetings, it was decided that each national member society should create an official position for a EuSSAB representative, who can act as a liaison between their respective society and EuSSAB. The ideal candidate would have a position on their society's ExCom and be able to stay in this role for three to four years to ensure continuity. We hope that the representatives will champion EuSSAB activities to the members of their societies, increasing engagement.

Each society should submit their representative's name and term duration to the EuSSAB Committee (membership@eurospine.org) at EUROSPINE.



EUROSPINE will then send all information directly to this ONE contact person for dissemination to their national society. In turn, the representative is to com-

municate on behalf of their society to EUROSPINE. This would also be an ideal opportunity to promote

each other's activities and events through websites, newsletters, etc.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

I would like to express my sincere thanks to EuSSAB committee members Johan Van Lerbeirghe, Ioannis Magras, Jarkko Halme and Alberto Ulloa, and EUROSPINE staff member Claudia Ortner, who have worked so hard to make EuSSAB the invaluable networking

platform it has become. We also look forward to having EuSSAB Vice Representative, Artem Gushcha, join the committee following his one-year term as Vice Representative.

NEXT STEPS

Plans for 2020 include preparing a paper on the last SWOT analysis and carrying out a second SWOT analysis (SWOT 2.0). The summarised individual results from the first SWOT will be sent to all EuSSAB national representatives for re-evaluation and updates.

We also look forward to expanding our network in eastern and northern Europe in the coming year. We

will continue with our efforts to host productive meetings and interactive workshops to help EuSSAB take action on all of its priorities, from aligning spine-related education across Europe to improving spine care standards across Europe. For information on upcoming EuSSAB meetings and events, please consult the [EuSSAB Events Calendar](#) or the new EuSSAB newsletter.





BERNHARD MEYER (LEFT)

Chair, Education Committee 2016–2019

DOMINIQUE ROTHENFLUH (RIGHT)

Chair, Education Committee 2019–2022

4. Education Committee Report

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL SPINE DISCIPLINES, FOR ALL SPINE PROFESSIONALS

EUROSPINE education tackles the challenge of delivering a variety of education and training opportunities to all spine care professionals. The EUROSPINE

Education Committee (EduCom) offers multidisciplinary educational programmes and courses for spine professionals from all over the world.

In 2019, the EduCom advanced on a number of fronts:

1. Launched the EUROSPINE [eLearning](#) platform, bringing both diploma courses and 106 lectures online
2. Introduced Hybrid EduWeek, a novel blended-learning teaching approach with online lectures and case-based discussions
3. Launched [EDISC](#), our non-surgical diploma programme
4. Continued development of the EUROSPINE Diploma programme and [Diploma Equivalence](#) programme (Basic and Advanced Diplomas)
5. Delivered high-quality live events ([EduWeek 2019](#) and Hybrid EduWeek 2019)

HYBRID EDUWEEK: A BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH

The EduCom proudly launched the EUROSPINE eLearning platform, thanks to the relentless effort of the module chairs and EduWeek faculty. All 106 lectures from the [Basic](#) and [Advanced Diploma](#) modules are now online. The Hybrid EduWeek took place for the first time in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18–20 November 2019.

Both the basic and advanced diploma courses were held with a combination of lectures from the eLearning platform and face-to-face sessions with case-based discussions. Ninety-three participants representing 21 countries took part, guided by 50 eLearning faculty members and 30 face-to-face session faculty members. The participants appreciated doing pre-work

through eLearning lectures and quizzes and then deepening their knowledge and understanding at the live sessions.

The Hybrid EduWeek has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuous Medical Education (EACCME) with a total of 83 CME

EUROSPINE DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Since 2012, 1,013 spine professionals have participated in the EUROSPINE Diploma programme and 322 EUROSPINE diplomas have been awarded. Eighteen participants in total have been awarded the EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma (launched in 2017), including seven in 2019.

The EUROSPINE Diploma Programme offers training modules for both new surgeons and advanced surgeons. Surgeons are awarded the basic EUROSPINE diploma upon completion of five modules or an equivalent national society diploma programme. They can then move on to advanced surgical training by completing two advanced modules and a six-month validated fellowship. Under the equivalence programme, national spine societies adapt and deliver the EUROSPINE Diploma programme learning outcomes,

EDUWEEK 2019

Both the Basic and Advanced Diploma courses (including the new EDISC modules) were held at the University Medical Centre – CMU (Centre médical universitaire) and the SWISS Foundation for Innovation and Training in Surgery (SFITS) in Geneva, Switzerland from 1–5 July 2019. A total of 11 modules (five Basic surgical, two Advanced surgical, and four EDISC modules) were run in parallel sessions. Present were 66 faculty members and 158 delegates from 31 countries. The event was supported by five industry partners: Cerapedics, Medtronic, Nuvasive, SeaSpine and Spineart.

EduWeek is fully accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuous Medical Education (EACCME) with a total of 128 CME credits and has been approved as conforming and compliant to the Ethical

credits and approved as conforming and compliant to the Ethical MedTech European Code of Conduct. This blended learning approach aims to help participants hone their skills in clinical decision-making and surgical approaches with case-based discussions and hands-on skills workshops.

modules and formats. Validated graduates of a national society diploma may obtain the EUROSPINE Diploma following completion of their respective national society courses.

EUROSPINE has worked in partnership with the German Spine Society since 2016 and the spine societies of Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Greece and France as well as the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) since 2017. This year, 96 equivalent diplomas were issued on the basis of the diploma equivalence programme, for a total of 349 EUROSPINE Diplomas to date. The EduCom continues to support the alignment of programmes with other national curricula. Our goal is to establish a recognised European spine subspecialty curriculum through the delivery of standardised learning outcomes for attendees.



MedTech European Code of Conduct. The engagement of faculty, participants and industry partners was enhanced and intensified through the interaction of a diversified interprofessional group. Innovative formats such as eLearning components, case-based discussions, audience response systems, hands-on skills workshops (simulators, cadavers and bone models) and an EduWeek app was on offer to enhance the

educational experience.

On the second day, each industry partner made a short presentation to 43 EduWeek participants on key breakthroughs and challenges being addressed by

their company. Participants were then given an innovation challenge. They worked in groups to brainstorm on key spine care challenges and then presented their innovation projects. This 1.5-hour session was chaired by Dominique Rothenfluh.

OBSERVERSHIP GRANT PROGRAMME

[Observership grants](#) of €1,500 (up to 14 days) are available to EUROSPINE members. Grant recipients gain valuable experience from a EUROSPINE member. In 2017, the cycles and deadlines of the application

process were streamlined. A total of 18 observership grants have been awarded to EUROSPINE members with worthy educational observership projects.

PLANS FOR 2020

The EduCom has many exciting educational opportunities on offer for 2020:

- **EUROSPINE diploma programmes and education weeks:** The EduWeeks in 2020 will offer three diploma programmes with innovative formats and multi-disciplinary faculty teams to spine professionals from an even greater diversity of sub-specialties. Group work sessions, enhanced skills laboratories with cadavers, models and simulators will be held supported by [eLearning](#) platforms, audience response systems and the [EduWeek app](#). The Hybrid EduWeek will be offered for the second time in the autumn of 2020 with the eLearning platform component and intensified case-based discussions in the face-to-face sessions.

- **New digital offers:** The EduCom will be looking into developing new digital offers to cater to the EUROSPINE membership and other new audiences using the existing EUROSPINE eLearning platform.
- **Diploma Equivalence:** We are looking forward to awarding more individual equivalent diplomas through the existing EUROSPINE Diploma Equivalence programme partnerships. We will be working on advanced course equivalencies with Germany and Iberia, moving beyond basic diploma equivalence. Countries and regions for priority equivalence will be Benelux, Italy, Russia, Scandinavia and the United Kingdom.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We wish to express our utmost gratitude and appreciation to Bart Depreitere, Antonio Faundez and Esat Kiter for their years of service and especially to Bernhard Meyer, outgoing Chair, for his leadership on

the Education Committee and significant contributions in developing the advanced diploma courses, fellowship validation and the diploma equivalence.

CONCLUSION

It is our goal to deliver top-quality education in spine care to ensure that patients suffering from spinal disorders consistently receive a high standard of care. We strive to enable all spine care professionals to excel in patient care and safety by delivering accessible

education and training across all spine disciplines. We wish to increase participation of national societies, spine centres, MedTechs and spine professionals in our endeavour to establish a recognised European spine subspecialty.



MARGARETA NORDIN (LEFT)

Co-Chair, Task Force EDISC 2018–2019

PIERRE CÔTÉ (RIGHT)

Co-Chair, Task Force EDISC 2018–2019

5. EUROSPINE Diploma of Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) Task Force Report

EDISC LAUNCH: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) was launched in July 2019 at EUROSPINE Education Week (EduWeek) in Geneva. What a success it was.

The first live EDISC programme attracted a full house of interprofessional, excited, inquisitive and very satisfied participants. We recorded a satisfaction rating of over 90% with the launch of the first four modules.

“Great work, congratulations. It is a gap-filling work”.

EDISC IS EPIC

Our new [EDISC](#) programme lives up to its slogan: Evidence-based, Patient-centred, Interprofessional and Collaborative (EPIC). This non-surgical diploma covers all elements necessary to deliver the best possible care for spine patients in today’s competitive environment and provides health care professionals with the latest evidence gathered by clinicians and researchers.

EUROSPINE’s EDISC has taken a strong lead in harmonising and modernising conservative care through an intensive continuing-education programme for spine clinicians, clinical researchers, insurance companies and other interested parties. It is designed to



provide clinicians with useful and practical skills for managing spine patients from children to the elderly. The programme includes short lectures and allows ample time for discussion, group work, hands-on labs and a take-home examination for participants.

THE NEXT STEPS FOR EDISC

The EDISC programme offers seven modules over a total period of two weeks. A maximum of four modules can be taken during a single EduWeek. To receive the EDISC Diploma, all modules must be completed (see figure below).

All seven EDISC modules will take place in Strasbourg from 11–15 January 2021, and we are pleased to invite you to participate. As one former participant stated, “I have already changed my clinical practice and approach to a patient with low back pain”. The EDISC faculty could not have asked for a better comment.

**MODULE 1 (Core Skills 1):
Using literature to inform my practice**

Chair: Rachid Salmi, MD PhD

**MODULE 2 (Core Skills 2):
An interprofessional approach to spine care**

Chairs: Jamiu Busari, MD PhD, Richard Brown, DC

**MODULE 3 (Core Skills 3):
Communication and consultation skills**

Chairs: Lisa Roberts, PT PhD, Steven Vogel Osteopath, PhD, Christine Cedraschi, PhD

MODULE 4: Assessment, diagnosis and management of spinal pain

Chairs: Erik Werner, MD PhD, Lisa Roberts, PT PhD

MODULE 5: The aging patient seeking spinal care: assessment, diagnosis, and management

Chairs: Renate Pettersen MD PhD, Erik Werner, MD PhD

MODULE 6: Spinal deformities: Scoliosis during growth & other deformities across the life course

Chairs: Fabio Zaina, MD PhD, Alberto Zerbi, MD

MODULE 7: Management and prevention of disability

Chairs: Pierre Côté, DC PhD, Margareta Nordin PT, Dr. Med. Sci.

Assessment for awarding EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care

FORMIDABLE TASKFORCE AND ADVISORS

A warm THANK YOU to EDISC Task Force Members and Advisors: Emre Acaroğlu (Spine Surgery), Federico Balagué (Rheumatology), Richard Brown (Chiropractic), Jamiu Busari (Pediatrics), Christine Cedraschi (Psychology), Stéphane Genevay (Rheumatology), Bernard Meyer (Spine Surgery), Renate Petersen (Geriatrics), Anette Helen Ranhoff (Geriatrics), Lisa Roberts (Physiotherapy), Rachid Salmi (Epidemiology), Damiano Salvi (Occupational Therapy), Eva Skillgate (Naprathopathy), Steven Vogel (Osteopathy), Eric Werner (Primary Care), Fabio Zaina (Physiatry) and Alberto Zerbi (Radiology). Without your dedication, interest

and outstanding work, EDISC would not have been launched with such success. EDISC is novel, important and, we hope, attractive to all spine clinicians.

We wish to extend a special thank you to Julie-Lyn Noël, Director of Education and Research and Sandy Sutter, Manager, for all your help and input and to the Mondial staff for their organisation.

Welcome to EDISC, the new addition to EUROSPINE's superb education programme. Please visit the [EDISC website](#) for more information.





FRANK KANDZIORA

Chair, Task Force SSCoE
2018–2020

6. Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence Task Force Report

SSCoE: ENHANCING TREATMENT QUALITY WITH AUDIT AND CERTIFICATION

Quality, satisfaction and value in spine care go beyond the qualifications of the spine surgeon and the selected treatment. They involve the complete delivery of services to address the needs of the patient. The aim of the [Spine Surgical Centres of Excellence \(SSCoE\)](#) programme is to promote excellence in health care delivery across all member states of the European community – in spite of differences in national health care systems. Furthermore, improvement in health care delivery must be driven by the measurement of

patient outcomes. Quality must replace quantity in the concept of value-based health care.

To achieve these objectives, educating spine surgeons is a strong first step. However, by developing a certification programme for spine centres in hospitals throughout Europe, EUROSPINE's SSCoE programme has taken concrete measures to support sustained improvement in quality and patient outcomes in spine surgery.

DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN CERTIFICATION PROCESS

EUROSPINE's SSCoE Task Force has developed a European certification process in collaboration with the German Spine Society ([DWG](#)), [EUROSPINE](#) and the EUROSPINE Foundation ([ESF](#)). The goal is to audit and certify the implementation of services that advance spine surgery and spine care as a whole, thus enhancing treatment quality in spine surgery. Spine centres that achieve certification can display their standing as a centre that delivers high-quality care.

To set up the programme, the Task Force first developed internal rules, guidelines and criteria to be used

as a basis for an independent certification system. For this European exercise, the Delphi technique was employed to build consensus on the internal rules, guidelines and criteria.

The concept of certification was developed for centres that are focussed on spine surgery. The term “centre” characterises a highly-specialised institution which has exceptional equipment, highly-qualified personnel, and experience and competence in its field. Suitable “hospitals” hosting the centres provide 24/7 care with the ability to perform emergency spine surgery at any

time. Quality criteria include range of services, operational performance and clinical service quality. Within the concept, pathology groups have been defined and differentiated into the following categories: degener-

ative diseases, tumours including intradural pathologies, inflammatory and metabolic diseases, injuries and deformities.

SSCOE ROADMAP FROM PILOT TO PUBLIC LAUNCH

Following our first meeting in October 2017, the Task Force developed several versions of the guidelines and internal rules. We reached consensus on the final process at the end of April 2018. Pilot hospitals were subsequently selected. From August 2018 to

September 2019, the certification process was piloted with a total of 10 centres as well as the independent certification company, [Cert-IQ](#). Thirteen centres were certified by the end of 2019.

CERTIFIED CENTRES 2018–2019

Before pilot certification (test for Cert-IQ)

Clinic	Audit date	Duration of certification
BG Unfallklinik Frankfurt am Main GmbH Friedberger Landstraße 430, 60389 Frankfurt	09.08.2018	08.11.2018 – 06.11.2022 SSCoE - 0001
Schön Klinik Eilbek Dehnhaiide 120, 22081 Hamburg	07.09.2018	08.11.2018 – 06.11.2022 SSCoE - 0002

Pilot certification (test audits)

Clinic	Audit date	Duration of certification
Stavanger University Hospital Postboks 8100, 4068 Stavanger	14.12.2018	07.02.2019 – 06.02.2023 SSCoE - 0003
Krajska nemocnice Liberec a.s. Husova 10, 46063 Liberec	18.12.2018	01.03.2019 – 27.02.2023 SSCoE - 0004
Clinique Saint Pierre Avenue Reine Fabiola 9, 1340 Ottignies https://www.cspo.be/	10.01.2019	01.03.2019 – 27.02.2023 SSCoE - 0005
Centro Hospitalar de São João, EPE Alameda Prof. Hernâni Monteiro, 4200-3 Porto http://portal-chsj.min-saude.pt/	14.03.2019	15.03.2019 – 13.03.2023 SSCoE - 0006
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust Lower Lane Fazakerley, L9 7LJ Liverpool	29.03.2019	25.04.2019 – 24.04.2023 SSCoE - 0007
Radboud University Medical Center Geert Grooteplein Zuid 10 6525 GA Nijmegen	26.03.2019	14.05.2019 – 12.05.2023 SSCoE - 0008
Polyclinique Bordeaux Nord Aquitaine Rue Claude Boucher 15-35, 33000 Bordeaux https://polycliniquebordeauxnordaquitaine.fr/	06.09.2019	17.10.2019 – 15.10.2023 SSCoE - 0009
University Medical Center Utrecht Heidelberglaan 100, 3584 CX Utrecht	16.09.2019	18.10.2019 – 16.10.2023 SSCoE - 0010

Certification (after pilot, public launch)

Clinic	Audit date	Duration of certification
Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi Via Riccardo Galeazzi 4, 20161 Milano	26.09.2019	29.10.2019 – 27.10.2023 SSCoE - 0011
Inselspital / University Hospital Bern Freiburgstrasse 4, 3010 Bern https://www.insel.ch/	21.12.2019	13.12.2019 – 11.12.2023 SSCoE - 0012
Rems-Murr-Kliniken gGmbH, Klinik für Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie Schorndorf Schlichtenerstr. 105, 73614 Schorndorf	25.11.2019	17.01.2020 – 16.01.2024 SSCoE - 0013

NEXT STEPS

2020 is shaping up to be as successful as 2019. The goal is to certify 10 more spine centres, promoting the concept of quality, satisfaction and value in spine care

and support and the delivery of excellence in health care.

WHY SHOULD MY CENTRE BE CERTIFIED?

- To become better
- To receive external, independent quality control
- To establish continuous internal quality control
- To optimise processes, structure of your centre
- To establish multidisciplinary teamwork
- To advertise / display the quality of your centre
- To acquire patients
- To receive payment from insurance companies
- To become a EUROSPINE Reference Centre for fellowships, observerships, grants, etc.
- To be honoured as “one of the best”





EVERY DONATION COUNTS



CIARAN BOLGER

Chair EUROSPINE Foundation

IMPROVING PATIENT CARE, SPINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION THROUGH FUNDING

The EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF) is a non-profit, charitable organisation set up to:

- Advance knowledge and understanding of spinal disorders
- Improve the standard of care, recovery and well-being for patients with back and neck problems

- Foster the development of new, and the evaluation of existing treatments
- Support the education of care providers at the highest, evidence-based level

As a non-profit organisation, the Foundation is heavily reliant on donations and funding activities to support its objectives.

PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT SPINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The EUROSPINE Foundation is funded by donations from patients, EUROSPINE members and the annual charity run at EUROSPINE's Annual Meeting. An additional funding source is derived from the profits earned

by the Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE) accreditation programme. Funds raised for the EUROSPINE Foundation support projects and activities run by EUROSPINE.

EACH AND EVERY CONTRIBUTION, HOWEVER SMALL, IS IMPORTANT AND WILL GO A LONG WAY.

PLEASE VISIT: WWW.EUROSPINEFOUNDATION.ORG TO MAKE YOUR DONATION!



JUDITH REICHERT SCHILD (LEFT)
 EUROSPINE Director of Administration

TAMÁS FEKETE (RIGHT)
 Chair, Meeting Council 2019–2021

8. EUROSPINE Annual Meeting: EUROSPINE 2019

16–18 October 2019, Messukeskus Expo and Convention Centre, Helsinki, Finland

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OF EUROSPINE

[EUROSPINE 2019](#) was held farther north than ever before. The magnetism of the beautiful city of Helsinki seemed to overcome its faraway location, attracting the interest of a large number of delegates and industry

representatives. We were exceptionally well received by our local hosts Teija Lund and Dietrich Schlenzka, who went the extra mile to make us feel comfortable.

EUROSPINE 2019 IN FIGURES

Participation	
Total Number of Attendees (excl. Pre-day)	3,433
Registered Delegates	2,039
Industry Representatives	1,394
Participants at Pre-day Courses	234
Countries represented	83

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 2019: ADDITIONAL FOCUS ON NEUROSURGERY TOPICS

We once again received a high number of abstract submissions, clearly reflecting continued recognition

of EUROSPINE’s Annual Meeting as the leading spine congress in Europe and one of the most important

spine meetings worldwide. Through a blinded peer review evaluation process, our Programme Commit-

tee was able to arrange a top-level, well-balanced scientific programme:

Keynote Lectures	3
Scientific Presentations	69
Debates	2
Quick Fire Presentations	120
E-Posters	115

Keynote Lectures were also included for the first time to introduce our abstract sessions every morning:

- **Data and its Use in Health Care**, by Juha Tuominen, Helsinki, Finland
- **Hip-Spine Connection**, by Yan Wang, Beijing, China
- **Syringomyelia**, by Andrew Brodbelt, Liverpool, UK



Programme Committee and Abstract Review

Abstract Categories	Programme Committee	Abstract Reviewers
	Tamás Fekete (Switzerland) Chair	
Degenerative (cervical) Degenerative (thoracolumbar)	Baoge Liu (China)	Haluk Berk, Turkey Dominique Rothenfluh, United Kingdom
Cranio-cervical Junction Trauma (whole spine) Minimal Invasive Spine Surgery (MISS) Intradural Spinal Pathologies	Paulo Pereira (Portugal)	Christof Birkenmaier, Germany Bertrand Debono, France
Growing Spine Nonoperative Treatment Epidemiology and Medical Economics	Ibrahim Obeid (France)	Sleiman Haddad, Spain Nasir Quraishi, United Kingdom
Adult Deformity (whole spine) Patient Safety	Javier Pizones (Spain)	Susana Nuñez, Spain Caglar Yilgor, Turkey
Diagnostics and Imaging Tumour (whole spine) Infection (whole spine)	Sait Naderi (Turkey)	Kadir Kotil, Turkey Áron Lazary, Hungary
New Techniques Complications	Matti Scholz (Germany)	Sebastian Schelfaut, Belgium Jan Stulik, Czech Republic
Basic Science: Biology Basic Science: Biomechanics	Conny Neidlinger-Wilke (Germany)	Karin Würtz-Kozak (Biology), Switzerland Gernot Lang, Germany Werner Schmölz, Austria Daniel Haschtmann, Switzerland

PRE-DAY MEETING AND LUNCH SYMPOSIA

Thanks to the dedication of the Pre-Day and Lunch Symposia Committee members, an exceptionally high attendance was observed during our lunch symposia with the following topics:

- Learning from the Experts. Cervical Surgical Video Session in Cooperation with OOT
- Current Concepts on Sagittal Balance in Adult Spinal Deformities

We wish to extend our sincere thanks for their valuable contribution:

- Hossein Mehdiان, United Kingdom (chair)
- Klaus Schnake, Germany
- Pedro Berjano, Italy
- José Cavanilles Walker, Spain
- Stavros Stavridis, Greece

- Non-Fusion Anterior Scoliosis Correction and Vertebral Body Tethering for AIS
- Management of Common Complications in Adult Spine Surgery
- Cervical Spine Trauma. Beyond the Basics



MEDAL LECTURE

The [Medal Lecture](#) is traditionally a highlight of our Annual Meeting, presented by Emilia Lahti, dealing

with “Back to basics: How the ancient Finnish wisdom of *sisu* can elevate you to the next level”

EUROSPINE 2019: ADDITIONAL FIGURES

Top 10 Countries Represented	
Mexico	149
Spain	105
China	96
United Kingdom	96
Thailand	84
Germany	81
Italy	78
Finland	76
Russian Federation	69
Belgium	62

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to our [sponsors and exhibitors](#) for their support. Without them,

we would not be able to organise such a high-profile event.

Exhibition	
Total Number of Exhibitors incl. Spine Village	130
Platinum, Gold, Silver Partner	6
Industry Exhibition in net sqm	2,301

WE'RE LISTENING AND IMPROVING

We were amazed by the high number of responses to our [after-meeting survey](#). We received valuable input and some great ideas, and we really want to thank you.

We are listening and are ready to further shape and improve our Annual Meeting together.





TAMÁS FEKETE

Chair, Meeting Council
2019–2021

9. EUROSPINE Spring Specialty Meeting 2019

HIGHLY COMPLEX SPINE SURGERY

EUROSPINE's Spring Specialty Meeting is dedicated to the in-depth exploration of a single important topic. Organised in partnership with the German Spine Society (DWG), AOSpine and the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), the [5th EUROSPINE Spring Specialty Meeting](#) "Highly Complex Spine Surgery" was held in Frankfurt, Germany from 2–3 May 2019 and featured 32 invited speakers. The meeting was attended by 174 participants from 37 countries.

The Organising Committee brought together internationally-recognised experts who shared their 'tips and tricks' for highly complex spinal surgery, which made this once-only masterclass a unique educational opportunity. Sessions topics included spinal deformi-

ties in children and adults, spinal tumours, juxta-dural pathologies and spine trauma. Discussions continued late into the night at the Congress Evening.

We were delighted to once again receive excellent feedback from meeting participants through the delegates' survey, helping us to make the Spring Specialty meeting a valuable and integral part of our education programme.

We wish to thank our Meeting Chairs **Frank Kandziora, Thomas Blattert and Bernhard Meyer**, for helping to make this event a great success.

Spring Specialty Meeting Chairs



FRANZ KANDZIORA



THOMAS BLATTERT



BERNHARD MEYER



RACHID SALMI

Chair, Research Council
2018–2021

10. Research Council: Supporting Research for High-Quality Patient Care

SUPPORTING RESEARCH FOR HIGH-QUALITY PATIENT CARE

The goal of the Research Council is to stimulate, facilitate and promote an active research community within EUROSPINE to advance knowledge and evidence in treatments for spinal disorders. EUROSPINE aims to support spine research and educate spine researchers as part of its commitment to facilitate high-quality and evidence-based care for patients.

The Research Council supports current and new groups of researchers who engage in top-level research projects through three programmes:

1. Task Force Research (TFR)
2. Spine Tango
3. EUROSPINE Awards

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

The [Task Force Research](#) (TFR) evaluates applications for research grants. Members of EUROSPINE can access the paperless application system via the [EUROSPINE website](#). Grant applications are subject to a thorough review process by the TFR, who then recommends funding for selected applications to the EUROSPINE Executive Committee (ExCom). Funding is subsequently distributed in accordance with the ExCom's decisions.

There are [three grant categories](#):

1. Development grant – up to €10,000
2. Pilot study grant – up to €30,000
3. Main grant over 3 years – up to €100,000

A total of **€1,318,762** has been distributed in research grants during the period 2011–2019 for research projects managed by EUROSPINE members. Funding has been provided for 39 projects run by research groups from 14 countries: Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

In 2019, four development grants were awarded for research projects in Italy, Switzerland and Greece. Three grants ranging from €30,000–€50,000 were awarded for projects in the United Kingdom, Canada and Spain, for a **total distribution of €147,643**.

The Research Council is also responsible for the “**Best EUROSPINE Podium Presentation Award**” (€2,000). This year it was awarded to Markus Loibl, Felix Massen, Tamás Fekete, Daniel Haschtmann, Frank Kleinstück, Dezső Jeszenszky, Francois Porchet, Anne Mannion

from the Department of Spine Surgery, Schulthess Klinik, Zurich, Switzerland for “**Spino-pelvic alignment after short segment transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion (TLIF) - is correction possible and worthwhile?**”.

EDUCATING SPINE RESEARCHERS: RESEARCH COURSES

The Research Council develops and runs courses ranging from “Reading Research” to “Applying Research in the Spine Care Professional’s Daily Practice” and collaborates with prestigious institutions and organisations.

The 2019 [Research Course](#) “**How to make your research more relevant, feasible and publishable**” was held at the Radisson Blu in Bordeaux, France from 13–17 March 2019 and hosted by Professor Jean-Charles Le Huec. The faculty included TFR members, ExCom members and other EUROSPINE members led by Task Force Research Course Director Rachid Salmi. Eleven participants representing ten countries (Chile, China, Croatia, Denmark, France, Iraq, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom) with backgrounds in orthopaedic surgery, neurosurgery, primary care, research and neurology took part. This five-day course included lectures and workshops. Over the course of the week, faculty also shared their experience on publishing research and provided recommendations for participants’ future publications. Feedback from the participants complimented the engagement of the faculty, practical workshops and the opportunity to develop a much deeper understanding of the details involved in conducting a



scientific study.

Four travel grants were awarded to participants to attend the Research Course in Bordeaux.

We wish to extend our thanks to our hosts, Professor Le Huec for organising this course and to our local clinical experts, Prof. de Sèze and Prof. Richez, for providing participants with their expert feedback. Our deepest thanks to Ms Katrien Mergaert and Ms Miabi Rosenfeld (Porta Mundi), who were instrumental in organising the logistics of this live event and to the Radisson Blu Bordeaux.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We would like to thank all the faculty and reviewers who have been or are currently involved in the important work carried out by the Research Council. Such

commitment and contribution are instrumental for EUROSPINE to continue to be the leading spine society in Europe.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH: VITAL FOR PATIENT CARE

Through its efforts to foster and support the spine research community, EUROSPINE aims to facilitate

the delivery of excellence in research, leading to the very best care for spine patients.



EVERARD MUNTING (LEFT)

Chair, Task Force Spine Tango, 2018–2019

MARCO TELI (RIGHT)

Chair, Task Force Spine Tango 2019–2022

11. Spine Tango Committee Report 2019

QUALITY ASSURANCE THROUGH REPORTING AND BENCHMARKING

[Spine Tango](#) is an international registry used to collect standardised data on treatment effectiveness, patient safety and best practice. The data collected facilitate quality assurance and evidence-based research.

The objectives of the Task Force Spine Tango are to develop and implement strategies for the continued expansion of the registry and to increase value for users and stakeholders – patients, insurance companies, MedTechs and health authorities.

NEW SERVICE PROVIDER

In May 2019, the Spine Tango registry was successfully moved to a state-of-the-art registry platform, enabling the addition of powerful new features and capabilities. Following a rigorous tender process initiated in 2018, the Spine Tango registry was relocated from its original service provider, the University of Bern in Switzerland, to Northgate Public Services (NPS) in the UK, a professional service provider for medical registries (NPS

also manages the renowned National Joint Registry (NJR) in the United Kingdom). All registry data were successfully migrated to the new data platform, and documentation was quickly resumed. The new registry offers expanded capabilities to provide important implant data and feedback services to clinicians, hospitals, organisations and medical device manufacturers to strengthen implant surveillance networks.

ADDING VALUE FOR CLINICIANS, HOSPITALS, AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Behind the scenes, the Task Force Spine Tango has been active in improving accessibility for Spine Tango users. Special models for collaboration with Spine Tango have been developed for national societies. We have developed FAQs on **Data Protection and Information Security**, and **Standard Operating Procedures** for new users joining the registry, for termination

of a user's participation, and for research requests. The [Spine Tango](#) section of the EUROSPINE website has been re-organised and all of these [documents](#) are now available online.

Furthermore, a considerable effort has gone into redefining the requirements for registry features (such as

benchmarking reports, a search tool, an export tool, online statistics, etc.). These features are under further development and promise to make this user-friendly registry indispensable. Further development of the

documentation platform is also currently underway. New avenues for collaboration with the MedTech industry are being explored and agreed-upon.

SWISS SPINE IMPLANT REGISTRY

Spine Tango won the tender for “SIRIS Spine” - Swiss Spine Implant Registry. The new registry in Switzerland based on Spine Tango shall be implemented by 1

January 2021. The pilot phase is planned for autumn 2020.

PLANS FOR 2020

In 2020, the Task Force plans to establish a Scientific Advisory Board to advise and support the Task Force Spine Tango in areas such as quality assurance and research. Furthermore, we intend to develop a sustainable collaboration model with the MedTech industry. This includes the development of a catalogue of all spinal implants to enable accurate documentation and evaluation. Our collaboration with the MedTech industry should help EUROSPINE to fund further development of the registry with no strings attached. We are also working to establish Spine Tango as the model for national registries in additional countries.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We wish to thank the Task Force Spine Tango, the registry steering committee, Everard Munting (Chair, surgery, Belgium), Emin Aghayev (registry, Switzerland), Bart Depreitere (surgery, Belgium), Josef G. Grohs (surgery, Austria), Beat Leimbacher (Delegate of the ExCom, Switzerland), Andrea Luca (surgery, Italy), Samuel Morris (osteopathy, United Kingdom) and Irfan

Siddique (surgery, United Kingdom) for their hard work and dedication.

We would also like to extend special thanks to all Spine Tango users for their understanding during the transition period to a new provider in spite of possible inconvenience.

JOIN SPINE TANGO TODAY

More than 700 hospitals and departments from five continents have contributed data to the registry to date. We strongly encourage national societies,

hospitals and individual clinicians to join the Spine Tango registry today!



PHILIP SELL

Chair, Patient Line Committee
2018–2021

12. Patient Line Committee Report 2019

CLEAR AND RELIABLE INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

[Patient Line](#) is a multilingual patient information platform operated by EUROSPINE. It provides open public access to the accumulated know-how and expertise represented by the resources of EUROSPINE.

The website provides patients with reassuring information to encourage self-management and shared decision-making in multiple languages. It is the only

comprehensive spine resource that is free, has no advertising, does not endorse one treatment above others and is non-commercial.

Patient Line enables patients and carers to access information in their own homes, the importance of which is far more relevant in the current health care environment.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN 2019

- Published a constant and consistent stream of social media articles and updates to increase awareness and uptake by users
- Implemented Polish, Portuguese and Greek languages to broaden accessibility
- Posted simple, high-quality [visual resources](#)
- Promoted clear health care information to assist

with ‘myth busting’, e.g. poster on [‘Top 10 tips for a healthy back’](#)

- Approved Russian, Arabic and Mandarin for translation to be published once uploading, proof reading and quality control is complete (in the course of 2020).

WHAT WE WILL DO IN 2020

The final two languages to complete will be Finnish and Hungarian. We will then have 16 languages available. With increased population mobility, a ready translation to a native language is helpful in communicating with some patients as not all of them will have a country’s language as their first language. EUROSPINE Patient

Line may help them understand their situation better in their native language.

It is our goal to increase uptake and utilisation and to provide a higher level of detail on certain selected disorders. We will concentrate on adding visual and

graphical resources to reduce the complexity of multiple translations and improve the feel of the site.

Members and associated societies will be encouraged to link to Patient Line to increase the visibility of the website through organic growth.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We wish to extend our deep appreciation to our **Patient Line committee members** for their hard efforts: Derek Cawley, Erland Hermansen, Ivan Domazet, Eva Rasmussen-Barr, Tamar Pincus, Federico Balagué. We would also like to thank Julie-Lyn Noël and Anna Faber (EUROSPINE staff), Katelijne Vercaeren (editor), George Fraefel (website), who have provided invaluable support.



EUROSPINE Patient Line, a dependable resource for patients and health care professionals, is available in:

[English](#)

[Deutsch](#)

[Français](#)

[Italiano](#)

[Español](#)

[Português](#)

[Nederlands](#)

[Polski](#)

[Türkçe](#)

[Ελληνικά](#)

[תירבע](#)





MARGARETA NORDIN

Chair, Stakeholder Council
2019–2021

13. Stakeholder Council Report 2019

Advocating and Raising Awareness for Spine Ailments Worldwide

The mandate of the Stakeholder Council is to promote awareness of EUROSPINE and advocate for spine care across Europe and beyond by harnessing the efforts of EUROSPINE members, councils, and external partners who have an interest in advancing the level of spine health around the world.

The EUROSPINE Stakeholder Council is made up of Everard Munting (EUROSPINE President), Jörg Franke (EUROSPINE Secretary), Haluk Berk (Liaison

to Governmental and Educational Institutions), Tim Pigott (Liaison to the Spine Tango Task Force), Phil Sell (Liaison to EUROSPINE Patient Line and Patient Organisations), Christoph Siepe (Liaison to EuSSAB), Ciaran Bolger (Liaison to the EUROSPINE Foundation) and Frank Kandziora (Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence [SSCoE]). Beat Leimbacher and Julie-Lyn Noël participate as EUROSPINE support.

CROSS PROMOTION OF EUROSPINE ACTIVITIES

EUROSPINE is a very active society and thus a fertile ground for the cross promotion of our activities between different groups. This year, for example, the Stakeholder Council raised awareness of the benefits of our state-of-the-art [Spine Tango](#) registry and the reliable information disseminated by [Patient Line](#) through the [European Spine Societies Advisory Board \(EuSSAB\)](#), reaching the European community and additional countries farther afield.

EUROSPINE's unique education programme inspires surgeons to register their clinic as a [Surgical Spine](#)

[Centre of Excellence \(SSCoE\)](#). The new [EUROSPINE Diploma for Interprofessional Spine Care \(EDISC\)](#) advocates continuing interprofessional education through which evidence-based spine care is harmonised to improve outcomes for patients. Through all of its activities, EUROSPINE stands for the highest quality of spine care. The Society is promoted throughout Europe and beyond by the extensive and formidable work of EuSSAB, all 15 EUROSPINE committees, EUROSPINE's excellent Annual and Spring Specialty Meetings and much, much more.

NETWORKING FOR BETTER SPINE CARE

The Stakeholder Council is continuously expanding its international network to advocate for better and higher-quality spine care worldwide. In 2019, EUROSPINE collaborated with the North American Spine Society (NASS), The Saudi Spine Society and the German Spine Society (DWG) to found SPINE20. The mission of SPINE20 is to “Optimise treatment in the global community to ensure patients have access to the best spine care possible in their respective regions” and the

vision is to foster “A world where appropriate spine care helps minimise global disability and dramatically improve the lives of those suffering from spine problems so their families and communities can thrive.” The goals of SPINE20 are to increase awareness and advocate for excellence in spine care to the G20 Community. EUROSPINE representatives for SPINE20 are Thomas Blattert, Jörg Franke, and Margareta Nordin.



Saudi Spine Society
Sami Aleissa,
Ahmed Alturkistany



DWG (German Spine Society)
Frank Kandziora,
Ralph Kothe



EUROSPINE
Thomas Blattert,
Margareta Nordin



North American Spine Society
Eric Muehlbauer,
Eric Trumees

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A warm thank you to all council members for their superb accomplishments in 2019. Special thanks to Julie-Lyn Noël and Beat Leimbacher for their terrific support.





ANNA FABER

EUROSPINE Marketing and Communications Manager

14. EUROSPINE and Social Media

INTRODUCTION

Social media enables users to network on the internet, i.e. to exchange information and create and distribute media content. It offers EUROSPINE excellent opportunities to strengthen its brand by:

- Increasing the number of followers and members
- Promoting/raising awareness of EUROSPINE as a whole and according to its strategic priorities:

meetings, education, research, quality assurance, members, patients

- Driving traffic to EUROSPINE websites
- Boosting engagement
- Providing an interactive information platform for members, spine professionals and patients with spine conditions

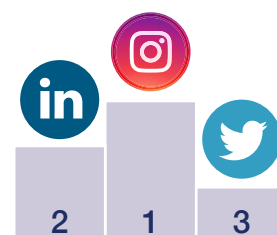
ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

EUROSPINE established its presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) in 2012. In order to reach more users in diverse geographic locations, we decided to add [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) in 2019. Social media platform preferences vary from one country to another, and so do the different user groups. Although Facebook remains the world’s most widely-used social media platform, there are now other social media platforms that claim to have more than one billion monthly active users each, e.g. Instagram (Source: [datareportal.com/social-media-users](#)).

EUROSPINE posts daily on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. On Instagram, we post four to seven times a week, for a total of 1,488 posts since 1 Jan 2019.

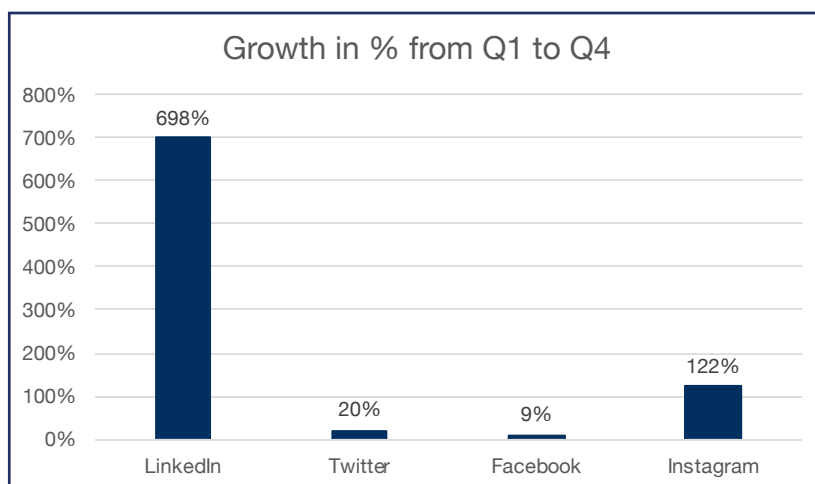
Our number of followers has increased steadily, albeit to varying degrees. Instagram has achieved the highest gain, followed by LinkedIn and Twitter.

	Q1	Q4	TOTAL
Instagram	615	1,358	+753
Facebook	2,942	3,198	+256
Twitter	2,732	3,272	+540
LinkedIn	81	646	565



Facebook brings up the rear but is still the platform with the highest engagement rate (e.g. likes, comments, shares).

When comparing growth rates over the entire year, LinkedIn achieved the highest growth.



EUROSPINE'S SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

EUROSPINE's social media content ranges from information on reminders and important deadlines, events and programmes to news and announcements. A special feature is #PatientLineThursday. Every Thursday, patients with spine conditions will find relevant information on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. The hashtag is a keyword preceded by the hash symbol (#). If it is included in posts, anyone can find it using the

search function, regardless of whether they are a follower. The EUROSPINE Patient Line Committee feels that it is important to deliver reassuring information that is both evidence-based and non-biased when communicating to patients. This upholds EUROSPINE's mandate of improving patient care through science, education and quality assurance.

PLANS FOR 2020

More people are using social media than ever before, and this is unlikely to slow down any time soon. As people continue to integrate social media into their everyday lives, EUROSPINE needs to reach its stakeholders on social media by maintaining a presence on their preferred channels and posting their favourite types of content. Diversifying content is, therefore, our

key challenge for 2020, as well as taking advantage of the many opportunities the four social media channels have to offer. EUROSPINE members who are active on social media are welcome to contribute. Please contact marketing@eurospine.org to find out how content can be published.

CONCLUSION

Social media is an indispensable tool for EUROSPINE in helping us to remain relevant and gain exposure online. It helps us to reach out to people all over the globe. What's more, social media is also an excellent

instrument for building brand awareness, generating increased website traffic and getting to know our audience, so that we can serve them better.

15. EUROSPINE General Assembly Report 2019

Thursday, 17 October 2019
17:15–18:15
Members only

Jörg Franke
EUROSPINE Secretary

Judith Reichert Schild
EUROSPINE Administrative Director

Room 101 on Level 1
Messukeskus Helsinki
Expo and Convention Centre

110 members present

1

WELCOME

Approval of the last GA minutes 2018 Barcelona: Approved

2

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES: STATUS OF OUR WAY FORWARD / MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2018–2019

Tim Pigott, EUROSPINE President 2018–2019

Positive / Successful	Improvement needed	Strong focus needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Meeting• EduWeek• TFR Grants• Membership/EuSSAB• eLearning• EDISC• SSSCoE: Certification of hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring Meeting• TFR Course• Organisational Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spine Tango• Stakeholder Management• EUROSPINE Foundation

OUTLOOK 2019–2020

Everard Munting, Incoming President

Core activities

- Spine Tango: Increase participation and expand contributor benefits
- Establish business model for generating income by selling reports to industry
- Education: Establish eLearning & EDISC concept, gain market / participant acceptance
- Meetings: Ensure high-quality scientific content, prepare for future market changes, ensure flexible budgeting

Members

- Maintain and further improve benefits for members (esp. Annual Meeting participants)
- Increase EUROSPINE membership and proportion of conservative care providers and researchers

Stakeholder Management

- Improve our positioning with political institutions
- Broaden our sponsorship scope (i.e. health insurance industry)

Organisation

- Continue to optimise outsourcing approach and establish flexible organisation concept
- Ensure consistent operational efficiency

SOCIETY BUSINESS FINANCIALS: FINAL FIGURES 2019 / HIGH-LEVEL BUDGET 2020

Zdenek Klezl, Treasurer

**Approval of Balance Sheet as per 31 December 2018,
Income Statement for 2018 and 2019 and Budget 2019: Approved**

Refer to details: “Treasurer’s Statement” and “Auditor’s Report 2019”, page 46

Budget 2020: Approved

Auditor: Treuhand von Flüe AG, Zug, Switzerland: Re-elected for the financial year 2019.

ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES: FUTURE MEETINGS

Jörg Franke, Secretary

Next Annual Meetings

2020: 7–9 October, Vienna, Austria
 2021: 13–15 October, Gothenburg, Sweden
 2022: 19–21 October, Milan, Italy
 2023: 4–6 October, Frankfurt, Germany

Planned Spring Meetings

2020: 30 April–1 May, Frankfurt, Germany (Radisson Blu Hotel)

NOMINATIONS / ELECTIONS

Jörg Franke, Secretary

The following nominations were supported by the EUROSPINE Executive committee and have been voted on and ratified by the GA:

Executive Committee

President

Everard Munting, Belgium

Vice President

Thomas Blattert, Germany

President Elect

Marco Teli, United Kingdom/Italy

Education Council and Member of the Executive Committee

Dominique Rothenfluh, United Kingdom

Membership Council and Member of the Executive Committee

Philip Becker, Austria

Committee and Task Force Members

Education Committee

Riccardo Cecchinato, Italy

Fabrice Külling, Switzerland

Julia Starlinger, Austria/United States

Efthimios Samoladas, Greece

Programme Committee

Klaus Schnake, Germany

Enrico Gallazzi, Italy

Patrick Strube, Germany

Membership Committee

Matti Scholz, Germany

Sebastiaan Schelfaut, Belgium

Pre-Day and Lunch Symposia Committee

Ibrahim Obeid, France

Task Force Research

Werner Schmoelz, Austria

Patient Line Committee

Peter Ferlic, Austria

Taskforce Spine Tango (EUROSPINE Registry)

Marco Teli (Chair)

Jiří Dvořák, Switzerland

Pedro Dos Santos Silva, Portugal

EuSSAB

Ioannis Magras, Greece

Maximo-Alberto Diez-Ulloa, Spain

Jarkko Halme, Finland

SSCoE

Teija Lund, Finland

Susana Núñez Pereira, Spain

Andreas Pingel, Germany



ZDENEK KLEZL (LEFT)
EUROSPINE Treasurer 2018–2020

BEAT LEIMBACHER (RIGHT)
EUROSPINE Delegate of the ExCom

16. Treasurer's Statement

Dear EUROSPINE Members,

This Treasury Report covers the 2019 fiscal year. It has been released well in advance of the General Assembly

2020 to allow you adequate time to review the figures beforehand.

REVENUES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As in previous years, EUROSPINE's financial performance continues to reflect a strong correlation to revenues generated by the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting. Revenues of €1,525,377 from EUROSPINE 2019 in Helsinki once again exceeded the forecasted amount and came very close to the revenue generated by EUROSPINE 2018 in Barcelona.

The Society's total net revenue in 2019 increased by 8% to €2,208,369. This is due to a slight increase in income from membership fees and the superb EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in Helsinki, which was a success both in terms of revenue generation and excellent feedback from delegates pertaining to our scientific programme and their overall meet-

ing experience. Almost 3,500 participants attended EUROSPINE 2019 to learn from and interact with pre-eminent spine specialists from all over the world.

Income from our educational activities continues to make a strong and increasing contribution to revenues. The upfront investment we made into developing a high-quality education programme has proven to be very important. Our education and TFR revenues are higher in 2019 than in 2018 (€502,844 versus €321,043) because in addition to the normal June Education Week (EduWeek), we launched our first Hybrid EduWeek (online and live classes) in November 2019.

HIGHER THAN EXPECTED NET INCOME

In keeping with our long-term policy to limit our spending to what we earn, and thanks to positive income results and some costs that were below the

original budget, we achieved a much better result than originally forecast.

Our Executive Committee considers the final loss of €177,500 – which is significantly less than the budgeted loss of €248,675 – to be a strong result, especially taking into consideration that we did not make use of a provision of €150,000 set aside in the finan-

cial year 2016 that was planned to be used in budget 2019. This means that we still have the full €300,000 provision available for any future financial shortcomings due to unforeseen circumstances.

COST CONTROL

EUROSPINE expenses are grouped into the following categories:

Major Activities (mainly education, research and quality assurance, including registries)

This expense category has increased from €644,676 to €849,311, which is in part compensated for by the higher net revenues as explained above. The offering of additional educational activities such as Hybrid EduWeek (combination of eLearning and live modules) and the introduction of the first modules of our

EUROSPINE Diploma of Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) have not only generated higher revenues but also higher costs.

In addition, there was a slight increase in research grants approved and the cost for our research course.

Special Projects (Spine Tango, Patient Line, Springer/ESJ) and Committee Costs

Special project expenses increased from €329,178 to €449,062 (+ 36.4 %), with the highest portion once again allocated to the Spine Tango registry and its task force (€349,859).

worthwhile. Returns based on the website generate on average tens of thousands of hits per month.

The increase in special project expenses is due to EUROSPINE's commitment to expanding its quality assurance activities to improve outcomes for patients suffering from spinal disorders and injuries. Last year, the Spine Tango registry was transferred to a new provider with the technology to add powerful new capabilities, such as improved tracking and monitoring of treatments, implants, and surgical outcomes for patients on a global scale. Although Spine Tango is a major investment project, it is expected to evolve into an important additional income source for EUROSPINE starting in 2020 by providing a complete range of registry services to national registries and to industry.

The costs for Springer (subscription to the European Spine Journal included with our membership) remained stable as this membership service is now based on an electronic version.

While the task force work for the EUROSPINE Diploma of Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) course has migrated into a more operational, lower cost phase, the costs for setting up the Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE) programme have tripled to €27,252. Next to Spine Tango, this is our second largest project supporting our quality assurance strategic priority.

Committee costs of €96,679 were almost stable and covered committee work (travel costs and meeting-related expenses) and are in general well-controlled and managed.

The ongoing and slightly higher annual investment for Patient Line (€29,510) has once again been highly

Human Resource Expenses

Human resources have represented the highest increase in expenses over the last few years due to the implementation of the Way Forward strategy and the addition of many services and activities for our individ-

ual and institutional members, our patients and other important stakeholders.

In 2019, however, human resource expenses grew by

only 2.5 % to €735,569, as we postponed some staffing originally planned.

We are aware that the workload for our team is constantly growing due to changing requirements. We are undertaking ambitious new projects as we move into the future, including eLearning and other digitalisation

Other Operating Expenses (office and marketing expenses)

This cost position is well managed, and total expenditures have been reduced by 13.8% to €190,737 as the Annual Report will be published from this year forward as an electronic version only, saving printing

endeavours. Competent staff members play a critical role in that success. It is important that we remain a proactive leader in offering best practice services and be able to adapt quickly to unexpected challenges. Contingency planning will always lead to additional costs.

costs. However, a stronger focus on social media and general PR activities, and the need for a new website will require additional future investments.

STRONG AND SOLID BALANCE SHEET

In general, our cash and liquidity position is very solid. As of 31 December 2019, the cash position declined, however, from €2,268,012 to €1,376,793. This was due to a simple cash flow issue. The remaining money transfer for part of the income from the annual meeting paid by the PCO this year arrived after year end in

January 2020, while in 2018 this payment was received before year end.

Despite the loss of €177,500 for the year, our equity remained secure at €1,513,612.

OUTLOOK FOR 2020

As we move into 2020 and beyond, EUROSPINE will continue to need this strong balance sheet, as market challenges are increasing, and it will likely become more difficult to obtain sponsorships from industry and other potential contributors.

Our Executive Committee (ExCom) remains fully committed to our mission and vision, not only through further growth of the Society, but also through the efficient delivery of best practice services to our members and stakeholders at a reasonable cost.

For 2020 we have planned several investments that are crucial for the future success of EUROSPINE, meeting members' expectations and ensuring that all our activities are for the benefit of patients. The highest priority will be to further build up our registry activities (Spine Tango), fully implement EDISC as a strong, value-added service for interprofessional spine healthcare providers and further fine-tune our eLearning offering and other digitalised services.

We are continuing development of our new website to offer our members and stakeholders easy and efficient access to comprehensive spine-related offerings and information. This is a complex and labour-intensive project which will consume considerable resources.

We are aware that we will have to continue our hard work in 2020 to manage all of these tasks and projects and keep the budgeted loss as planned in the range of approximately €500,000 to €600,000.

Our final financial result in 2020 will once again be highly dependent on attracting as many delegates as possible to our Annual Meeting in Vienna and on how quickly we invest in new projects.

As Treasurer and Delegate of the ExCom, we are proud of the fiscal restraint maintained by the EUROSPINE ExCom, Councils and Committees, and we are grateful for the continuing industry support of our meetings and educational activities. This discipline has helped us to once again achieve a solid result. Although it is a

loss, it is better than budgeted and it was unnecessary to draw on the reserve position set up in 2016 when we achieved an outstanding profit.

May this summary serve as a testimonial to our full commitment to further improve our efficiency and get the best out of our current investments.

EVENTS FOLLOWING THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

On 31 January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) identified the spread of the novel coronavirus as a “public health emergency of international concern”. The EUROSPINE Executive Committee is closely monitoring the events and will take necessary measures as required. At the time of approval of this annual financial statement, the financial consequences of the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot yet be reliably assessed. However, it may well be that

this pandemic could have a significant negative impact on EUROSPINE and its financial situation, depending on the final outcome.

Since the novel coronavirus did not reach epidemic proportions until after the balance sheet date, the event will not be recorded in the 2019 financial statements in accordance with statutory accounting principles.



17. EUROSPINE

Financial Statements 2019

8610 Uster - Switzerland
Balance sheet as of 31 December in EUR

ASSETS	Notes	2019	2018
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		1 376 793	2 268 012
Trade accounts receivables due from third parties		4 000	4 000
Other short-term receivables		29 023	21 952
Prepaid expenses	2.1		2 698
Accrued income			
due from third parties		705 244	89 288
due from members		42 110	21 830
Total current assets		42 110	21 830
TOTAL ASSETS		2 177 099	2 407 780
<hr/>			
LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY			
Short-term liabilities			
Trade accounts payables		219 128	38 018
Other short-term liabilities		32 357	14 669
Prepayments from members		39 385	46 350
Provision for long-term prosperity of Society	2.2	300 000	300 000
Accrued expenses		72 617	317 631
Total short-term liabilities		663 487	716 668
Total liabilities		663 487	716 668
Society's equity			
Society capital		1 691 112	1 717 919
Profit / (loss) for the year		(177 500)	(26 807)
Total society's equity		1 513 612	1 691 112
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY		2 177 099	2 407 780

Income statement for the year ending 31 December in EUR

	Notes	2019	2018
Member fees		180 148	143 570
Profit EUROSPINE Annual Meeting	4.1	1 525 377	1 579 288
Education / TFR		502 844	321 043
Total net revenue		2 208 369	2 043 901
Annual Meetings		(73 671)	(93 393)
Education Week		(349 524)	(256 604)
Advanced Course		(2 165)	(64 276)
EDISC Interprofessional Courses		(48 906)	0
Education		(169 815)	(49 881)
Research Task Force, Course		(57 587)	(64 474)
Reserach Task Force, Grants		(147 643)	(116 048)
Total activities		(849 311)	(644 676)
Spine Tango		(349 859)	(205 143)
Patient Line		(29 510)	(25 890)
Journal (Springer)		(25 000)	(25 000)
Non-surgical Diplomas		(14 835)	(30 498)
Spine Centres of Excellence		(27 252)	(9 970)
Foundation		(606)	(2 199)
Awards		(2 000)	(9 850)
Jubilee year 2018 activities		0	(20 628)
Total projects		(449 062)	(329 178)
ExCom		(65 202)	(59 926)
Task Force Research		(10 835)	(8 764)
Smaller committees		(16 882)	(11 407)
Cooperation with related societies		(3 760)	(11 275)
Total committees		(96 679)	(91 372)
Total activities / projects / committees		(1 395 052)	(1 065 226)
Gross profit		813 317	978 675

Income statement for the year ending 31 December in EUR

	Notes	2019	2018
Gross profit		813 317	978 675
Personnel expenses	3.1	(735 569)	(717 721)
Office and services expenses		(107 441)	(106 598)
Marketing expenses		(25 116)	(21 722)
IT and website		(54 712)	(53 316)
PR and annual report		(3 468)	(39 750)
Total other operating expenses		(190 737)	(221 386)
Operating result		(112 989)	(39 568)
Financial expenses		(10 677)	(12 160)
Currency exchange expenses realised		(636)	(882)
Currency exchange expenses unrealised		(32 741)	(26 863)
Total financial income and expenses		(44 054)	(39 905)
Extraordinary or prior periods expenses	4.2	(20 457)	(26 470)
Profit / (loss) for the year		(177 500)	(26 807)

1

GENERAL INFORMATION

These financial statements were prepared according to the principles of the Swiss Law on accounting and Financial Reporting (Art. 957 - 962 Swiss Code of Obligations).

1.1

Currency and exchange rates

The functional currency of the Company is Euro, as it is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. The reporting currency of the Company is Euro.

In preparing the financial statements of the Company, transactions in currencies other than the Company's functional currency are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions.



Income statement for the year ending 31 December in EUR

2 KEY ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

The main accounting and valuation principles used, which are not already specified by the Code of Obligations, are described as follows:

2.1 Prepaid expenses

Prepaid expenses are prepayments made for meetings in the following years.

2.2 Provision

A provision of EUR 300'000 has been made in 2016 order to secure the long-term prosperity of the society and to straighten income fluctuation over the years. In 2018 and 2019 this position remains unchanged.

3 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.1 Additional information

The annual average number of full-time equivalents for the reporting year, as well as the previous year, did not exceed 10.

3.2 Pension scheme liabilities

In 2019 there are liabilities towards the pension scheme of EUR 1 (previous year: EUR 31).

3.3 Tax exemption

The exemption from income and capital taxes was approved by the Cantonal Tax Office Zurich on 31 July 2008. EUROSPINE is a non-profit organisation.

Income statement for the year ending 31 December in EUR

3.4 Significant events after the balance sheet date

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to be a pandemic in recognition of its rapid spread across the globe. Many governments are taking increasingly stringent steps to help contain or delay the spread of the virus. Currently, there is a significant increase in economic uncertainty which is, for example, evidenced by more volatile asset prices and currency exchange rates.

For the best of society knowledge, there is no impact on the recognition and measurement of assets and liabilities. Due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the current events, the society cannot reasonably estimate the impact these events will have on the society's financial position, results of operations or cash flows in the future.

4 OTHER NOTES

4.1 Profit EUROSPINE Congress Barcelona 2018 and Helsinki 2019

Congress accounts were prepared by external service providers. The society's accountants have performed procedures agreed in accordance with the Swiss Auditing Standard 920 in respect to these congress statements. The net results of these congresses are received by EUROSPINE.

4.2 Explanations concerning extraordinary or prior periods items in the profit and loss account

	2019	2018
Correction differences member fees 2018	(14 270)	0
Expenses Barcelona Meeting 2018	(6 187)	0
Correction differences member fees 2016 and 2017	0	(26 470)
	<u>(20 457)</u>	<u>(26 470)</u>

There are no other issues that need to be disclosed in accordance with Art. 959c Swiss Code of Obligations.

18. Auditor's Report

TREUHAND
VON FLÜE AG

6302 Zug
Baarerstrasse 95
Telefon 041 726 78 00
Telefax 041 726 78 30
office@vonflue.ch

Report of the statutory auditors
on the limited statutory
examination to the
General Meeting of
**EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of
Europe**
8610 Uster

Zug, June 15, 2020

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of **EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe** for the year ended **December 31, 2019**.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of the society. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the society's articles of incorporation.

TREUHAND VON FLÜE AG



H.-P. von Flüe
lic.oec. HSG
licensed audit expert

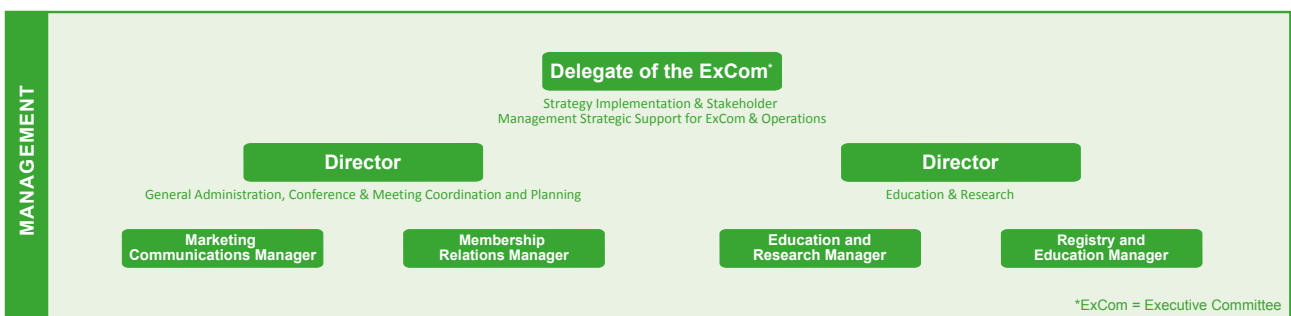
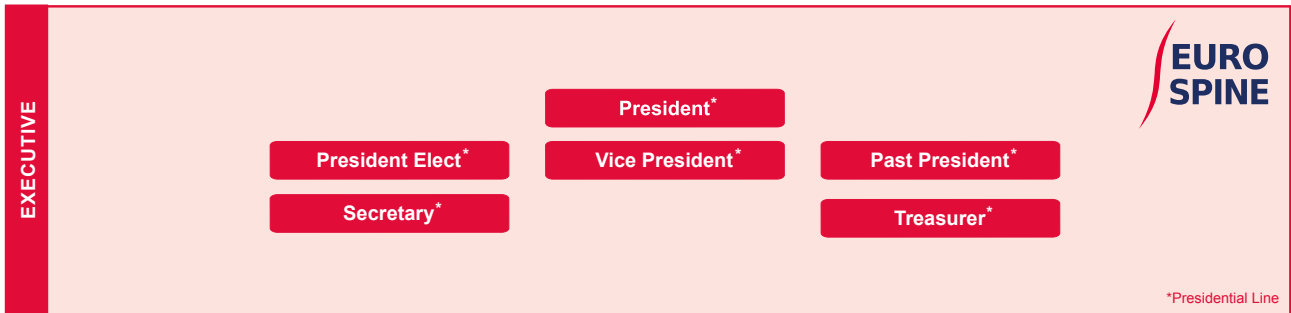


G. Biotti
auditor in charge
licensed audit expert

Enclosures:

- Financial Statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes)

19. Organisation and Officers (Org chart)



20. Committee Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tim Pigott, United Kingdom (President)
Everard Munting, Belgium (Vice President)
Frank Kandziora, Germany (Past President)
Jörg Franke, Germany (Secretary)
Thomas R. Blattert, Germany (Past Secretary)
Zdenek Klezl, United Kingdom (Treasurer)
Bernhard Meyer, Germany (Chair, Education Council)
Christoph J. Siepe, Germany (Chair, EuSSAB Council)
Tamás Fekete, Switzerland (Chair, Meeting Council)
Serdar Kahraman, Turkey (Chair, Membership Council)
Louis-Rachid Salmi, France (Chair, Research Council)
Margareta Nordin, France (Chair, Stakeholder Council)



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Bernhard Meyer, Germany (Chair)
Bart Depreitere, Belgium
Antonio Faundez, Switzerland
Peter Försth, Sweden
Stéphane Genevay, Switzerland
Esat Kiter, Turkey

Lukas Panzenböck, Austria
Dominique A. Rothenfluh, United Kingdom
Yu-Mi Ryang, Germany
Enrico Tessitore, Switzerland
Peter Vajkoczy, Germany

EUSSAB COMMITTEE

Christoph J. Siepe, Germany (Chair)
Johan van Lerbeirghe, Belgium

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Serdar Kahraman, Turkey (Chair)
Philipp Becker, Austria

Alessio Lovi, Italy
Lisa Roberts, United Kingdom

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Frank Kandziora, Germany (Chair)
Jörg Franke, Germany (Institutional)
Lukas Panzenböck, Austria

Paulo Pereira, Portugal
Stavros Stavridis, Greece

PATIENT LINE COMMITTEE

Phil Sell, United Kingdom (Chair)
Federico Balagué, Switzerland
Derek Thomas Cawley, Ireland
Ivan Domazet, Croatia

Erland Hermansen, Norway
Tamar Pincus, United Kingdom
Eva Barr Rasmussen, Sweden

PRE-DAY AND LUNCH SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Hossein Mehdián, United Kingdom (Chair)
Pedro Luis Berjano Coquillat, Italy

José Maria Cavanilles Walker, Spain
Stavros Stavridis, Greece

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Tamás Fekete, Switzerland (Chair)
Tim Pigott, United Kingdom (Institutional)
Jörg Franke, Germany (Institutional)
Baoge Liu, China
Sait Naderi, Turkey

Cornelia Neidlinger-Wilke, Germany
Ibrahim Obeid, France
Paulo Pereira, Portugal
Javier Pizones, Spain
Matti Scholz, Germany

STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL

Margareta Nordin, France (Chair)
Haluk Berk, Turkey
Ciaran Bolger, Ireland
Jörg Franke, Germany
Frank Kandziora, Germany

Everard Munting, Belgium
Phil Sell, United Kingdom
Christoph Siepe, Germany
Beat Leimbacher, Switzerland
Julie-Lyn Noël, Switzerland

TASK FORCE INTERPROFESSIONAL SPINE CARE (EDISC)

Pierre Côté, Canada (Co-Chair)
Margareta Nordin, France (Co-Chair)
Emre Acaroglu, Turkey
Jamiu Busari, Netherlands
Richard Brown, Canada
Christine Cedraschi, Switzerland
Stéphane Genevay, Switzerland
Olivier Lanlo, France

Anette Ranhoff, Norway
Lisa Roberts, United Kingdom
Louis-Rachid Salmi, France
Eva Skillgate, Sweden
Steven Vogel, United Kingdom
Erik Werner, Norway
Fabio Zaina, Italy
Alberto Zerbi, Italy

TASK FORCE RESEARCH

Louis-Rachid Salmi, France (Chair)
Christine Cedraschi, Switzerland
Yann Philip Charles, France
Pierre Côté, Canada

Bart Depreitere, Belgium
Björn L. Rydevik, Sweden
Karin Wuertz-Kozak, Switzerland

TASK FORCE SPINE TANGO

Everard Munting, Belgium (Chair)
Emin Aghayev, Switzerland (Delegate)
Bart Depreitere, Belgium
Josef Grohs, Austria
Andrea Luca, Italy

Samuel Morris, United Kingdom
Irfan Siddique, United Kingdom
Martin Wilby, United Kingdom
Thomas Zweig, Switzerland
Beat Leimbacher, Switzerland

TASK FORCE SURGICAL SPINE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Haluk Berk, Turkey

Thomas R. Blatter, Germany

Ciaran Bolger, Ireland

Viola Bullmann, Germany

Frank Kandziora, Germany

Christian Knop, Germany

Ralph Kothe, Germany

Everard Munting, Belgium

Margareta Nordin, France

Norbert Passuti, France

Tim Pigott, United Kingdom

Clemens Weber, Norway

Michael Winking, Germany

Beat Leimbacher, Switzerland

Julie-Lyn Noël, Switzerland

PAST PRESIDENTS

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HONORARY MEMBERS

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Carlos Villanueva, Spain

Kim Burton, United Kingdom



FUTURE EVENTS

EUROSPINE 2020

▶ **6–9 October 2020**

Online Worldwide

www.eurospinemeeting.org/virtual2020



EduWeek 2021

▶ **11–15 January 2021**

Strasbourg, France

www.eurospine.org/edweek



Research Course 2021

▶ **19–23 March 2021**

Ljubljana, Slovenia

www.eurospine.org/researchcourse



Spring Specialty Meeting 2021

▶ **29–30 April 2021**

Frankfurt, Germany

www.eurospinemeeting.org/frankfurt2021



Hybrid EduWeek 2021

▶ **28–30 July 2021**

Strasbourg, France

www.eurospine.org/hybrid-eduweek



EUROSPINE 2021

▶ **13–15 October 2021**

Gothenburg, Sweden

www.eurospinemeeting.org/gothenburg2021



EUROSPINE 2022

▶ **19–21 October 2022**

Milan, Italy

www.eurospinemeeting.org/milan2022



EUROSPINE 2023

▶ **4–6 October 2023**

Frankfurt, Germany

www.eurospinemeeting.org/frankfurt2023



EUROSPINE 2024

▶ **2–4 October 2024**

Vienna, Austria

www.eurospinemeeting.org/vienna2024



Last Update 6 July 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

February

- ▶ **Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE)** successfully certified 9 centres this year



April

- ▶ **Spring Specialty Meeting** held in Frankfurt, Germany on highly complex spinal surgery

May

- ▶ **Spine Tango** moved to new registry platform adding powerful new features and capabilities
- ▶ **Seven research grants** awarded to promising international research projects (IT, CH, GR, UK, CA and ES) totalling €147,643



July

- ▶ **EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC)** for spine care professionals from all disciplines successfully launched at EduWeek

October

- ▶ **Annual Meeting** held in Helsinki, Finland with 3,500 delegates and 130 exhibitors exploring the latest scientific advances and technologies in a welcoming atmosphere
- ▶ **EUROSPINE'S EuSSAB:** Issues of common interest in spine health care and education addressed by 26 international member societies at annual meeting



November

- ▶ **Patient Line:** Now available in 11 languages (3 new) helping patients make informed decisions
- ▶ **Hybrid EduWeek** successfully launched in a blended-learning format featuring eLearning combined with live modules

December

- ▶ **EUROSPINE's membership** again set a new record with 244 new members totalling 1,537 full members (84 countries) and >7,200 associate members



23. Contacts

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