EUROSPINE EuSSAB Meeting Protocol

Monday, 22 May 2017
EUROSPINE EuSSAB Spring Meeting 2017 – Munich, Germany

Chair: Christoph Siepe
Co-Chair of Stakeholder Council

Speakers:
Margareta Nordin
EUROSPINE President
Johan van Lerbeirghe
EuSSAB Representative
Beat Leimbacher
Delegate of the EUROSPINE ExCom

Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>firstname</th>
<th>lastname</th>
<th>country</th>
<th>society</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bart</td>
<td>Depreitere</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Spine Society of Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Asklöf</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Finnish Spine Surgery Society</td>
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<td>Christoph</td>
<td>Josten</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Deutsche Ges. f. Wirbelsäulen chirurgie</td>
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<td>Ioannis</td>
<td>Magras</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Hellenic Spine Society</td>
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<td>John</td>
<td>Mc Cabe</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Irish Spine Society</td>
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<td>Alberto</td>
<td>Di Martino</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Societa Italiana di chirurgia vertebrale - Gruppo Italiano Scoliosi</td>
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<td>Ricardo</td>
<td>Feller</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Dutch Spine Society</td>
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<td>Tomasz</td>
<td>Potaczeck</td>
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<td>Tavares de Matos</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Sociedade Portuguesa de patologia da coluna vertebral</td>
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<td>Maximo-Alberto</td>
<td>Diez Ulloa</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Sociedad Espa–ola de Columna Vertebral</td>
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<td>Raoul</td>
<td>Heilbrunner</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Schweizerische Ges. fuer spinale Chirurgie</td>
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<td>Naderi</td>
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<td>Alistair</td>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>UK Spine Societies Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Society for Back Pain Research</td>
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Agenda – main topics

1. Welcome / Meeting Goals / Intro Participants
2. Update on EUROSPINE way forward strategy
3. Assessment of progress made so far in EuSSAB activities
4. Proposal to do a SWOT analysis amongst all EuSSAB members
5. Operational Issues
6. Wrap-up & Actions

Protocol:
Christoph Siepe / Claudia Ortner / Beat Leimbacher
Ad 3  Assessment of progress made so far in EuSSAB activities

CURRENT STATUS

27 Institutional Members have joined EUROSPINE and became members of EuSSAB since October 2014. This adds up to almost 7,000 spine specialists from across Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutional Member</th>
<th>Associate Members</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Austria</td>
<td>Österreichische Gesellschaft für Wirbelsäulen chirurgie</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>2 Belgium</td>
<td>Spine Society of Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Czech Republic</td>
<td>Czech Spine Surgery Society</td>
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<td>4 Germany</td>
<td>Deutsche Wirbelsäulengesellschaft</td>
<td>1,576</td>
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<td>5 Greece</td>
<td>Hellenic Spine Society</td>
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<td>6 Hungary</td>
<td>Hungarian Spine Society</td>
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<td>7 Italy</td>
<td>Società Italiana di chirurgia vertebrale - Gruppo Italiano Scoliosis</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Norway</td>
<td>Norwegian Spinal Surgeon Society</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Poland</td>
<td>Polish Society of Spinal Surgery</td>
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<td>10 Portugal</td>
<td>Sociedade Portugesa de patologia da coluna vertebral</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Romania</td>
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<td>12 Spain</td>
<td>Sociedad Española de Columna Vertebral</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Spain</td>
<td>Spanish Society of Spine and Spinal Cord Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Switzerland</td>
<td>Swiss orthopaedics</td>
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<td>18 France</td>
<td>Groupe d’Etude de la Scoliose</td>
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<td>19 Russia</td>
<td>Société Française de Chirurgie du Rachidienne</td>
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<td>20 Russia</td>
<td>Russian Association of Spine Surgeons</td>
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<td>21 Sweden</td>
<td>Swedish Society of Spinal Surgeons</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Slovenia</td>
<td>Spine Society of Slovenia</td>
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<td>23 Croatia</td>
<td>Croatian Society for Spinal Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 UK</td>
<td>Society for Back Pain Research (incl. in UKSSB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Netherlands</td>
<td>Dutch Spine Society</td>
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<td>26 Switzerland</td>
<td>Swiss Spine Surgery Society – joined in October 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Finland</td>
<td>Finnish Spine Surgery Society – joined in October 2016</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>6,992</td>
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GOALS & BASIC PRINCIPALS FOR EUSSAB

1. EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, aims to closely connect and link the various national / spine specialist societies throughout Europe.

2. For that purpose, EUROSPINE provides a platform – EUROSPINE’s European Spine Societies Advisory Board, short EuSSAB- that in principal is open for all institutional members of EUROSPINE.
3. The national / spine specialist societies are invited to connect and meet on a regular basis within this common EUROSPINE platform
4. This cooperation is intended to be a symbiotic and mutual ‘win-win’ relationship between EUROSPINE and all its allied national / spine specialist societies (institutional members)
5. As the platform has been established now, EUROSPINE will continue to act as facilitator, while the responsibility has been transferred to EuSSAB members, who will define common goals, challenges and strategies to solve them as equal partners.
6. Connecting institutional members will bring together several thousand associate members throughout Europe under one common umbrella
7. The goal of having one united communication platform and joining forces will strengthen the political position and influence of all EuSSAB members.
8. EUROSPINE and EuSSAB will have the potential to unify processes throughout Europe for
   • a common and homogenous educational program
   • strengthen the united spine surgeons position on an international political scale
   • Institutional members of EUROSPINE benefiting from EUROSPINE activities and investments such as Spine Tango, Patent Line, Research Grants & Courses and more

UPDATE: HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF EUSSAB

- **Two step application process:**
  National / spine specialist societies can apply to join EuSSAB after having joined EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, as an institutional member in a first step of the application process.
  - Being an institutional member is mandatory prerequisite for becoming a member of EuSSAB. The decision on the acceptance / rejection of any application will be made by the EUROSPINE ExCom
  - Joining of a national / spine specialist society as an institutional member would automatically make all its members associate members of EUROSPINE
  - Both institutional membership as well as the associate membership are free of charge

INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR EUSSAB

- Following the transition from an open to a closed circle, any applicants will have to present themselves and must be voted on by existing members of EuSSAB in a second step of this 2-step application process.

- **Two societies showed their interest to join EuSSAB:**
  - Israel Spine Society
  - Croatian Vertebrologic Society
Decision made: Both societies have been informed on the upcoming steps which are required in the due application process by EUROSPINE ExCom and EUROSPINE’s EuSSAB. Each applicant will need to send a letter of intent to join EUROSPINE as an institutional member, which will be addressed to the EUROSPINE ExCom. Upon ExCom approval, they will be invited to present their society at the upcoming meeting of EuSSAB. The voting and decision on the acceptance of the new members of EuSSAB will follow immediately afterwards.

Ad 4 Proposal to do a SWOT analysis amongst all members of EuSSAB

REASONS TO DO A SWOT ANALYSIS & GUIDELINES

In order to define common goals, challenges and strategies and in order to solve them as equal partners, the status quo needs to be analysed.

A SWOT analysis is a basic part of strategic planning in order to analyse:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

7 simple rules for a successful swot analysis

1. Specific (ask the same questions)
2. Objective (ask the same questions)
3. Realistic
4. Use context (ask the same questions)
5. Compare with others (ask the same questions)
6. Short and simple
7. Customize to own situation and strategy

EUSSAB SWOT ANALYSIS

Suggestion for role-out:

- EUROSPINE may send questions to all members of EuSSAB, who may then make suggestions for any additions or changes, before the survey is finalised
- EuSSAB contacts will receive an invitation to participate in the survey, deadline for completion: 31 August 2017
- EUROSPINE will analyse all data and present first results at the upcoming EuSSAB meeting in Dublin in October 2017.
- A detailed presentation will be prepared for the Spring Meeting 2018.

Decision made: EuSSAB members agreed on doing a SWOT analysis!
Ad 5  Operational Issues

COMMUNICATION & POTENTIAL FOR MUTUAL PROMOTION

- Please keep your data for the mailing list up to date and communicate any changes to Claudia Ortner, membership@eurospine.org
- EUROSPINE currently displays all EuSSAB members on their website (www.eurospine.org/eussabmembers.htm) including logos and links to the societies’ websites (if known).
  Please assist us in providing us with vectorised images of your logos (.eps, .pdf, .ai, .cdr) and correct URL’s.
- Additionally, EUROSPINE would like to introduce society profiles for EuSSAB members, presenting quick facts, logo & picture and answers to a short interview on society history & structure, educational programmes, society’s future aims and more.
- Furthermore, EUROSPINE offers to display your events in their new online events calendar (www.eurospine.org/activities-calendar.htm). The meetings are of particular interest to neurosurgeons, orthopaedic and trauma surgeons practising in the field of spinal surgery alike, and also to researchers and other professionals dedicated to conditions of spinal pathologies.
- In return, it would be much appreciated if you could display EUROSPINE’s website www.eurospine.org and logo (attached) on your national society’s website in order to support our mutual promotion.
  Kindly note the correct way of writing EUROSPINE:
  EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe (not EuroSpine or Eurospine)
  correct abbreviation: EUROSPINE (not SSE)
  Your efforts in this respect would be very appreciated. Thank you in advance!
  Decision made: Questionnaires for society profiles will be part one of the SWOT analysis!

GUIDELINES / RULES FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

A draft for rules of cooperation will be distributed before the next EuSSAB meeting in Dublin in October 2017, so the implementation of these rules can be agreed upon during that meeting.

VOTING RIGHTS & NEXT VOTINGS

Voting process
- As a rule the following applies: 1 country = 1 society = 1 representative = 1 vote
- For countries with more than one society: 1 country = multiple societies = multiple representatives = 1 vote.
  Thus, countries with >1 society may have to alternate voting rights
- If multiple countries are represented within one society (i.e. Russia, Ukraine):
  1 society = multiple countries = 1 representative =1 vote
  Decision made: simple majority of votes for decisions on any EuSSAB topics.
Upcoming election on EuSSAB Vice Representative
In October 2017 the term of Johan Van Lerbeirghe as our first EuSSAB Representative will come to an end, and Christoph Josten, the current EuSSAB Vice Representative, will take over responsibility as the EuSSAB Representative. Therefore, the EuSSAB board will have to elect a new EuSSAB Vice Representative in the course of the next EuSSAB Meeting.

A call for applications for the position of the EuSSAB Vice Representative will be distributed shortly.

**Ad 6 Wrap-up & Actions**

**Agenda for EUROSPINE EuSSAB Meeting, Dublin 2017**

1. EuSSAB update (JvL/CS 10’)
   - Feedback from 1st EuSSAB Representative JvL on his term
   - Feedback from EuSSAB spring meeting
2. Update on Education as core topic for EuSSAB (Bernhard Meyer 30’)
   - Latest developments in EUROSPINE’s education approach (a.o. diploma equivalence)
   - Q&A and open discussion of core issues
3. SWOT Analysis and way forward (JvL 45’)
   - Results of Analysis done by all EuSSAB members
   - Short overview of EUROSPINE’s core activities that EuSSAB members could benefit from
   - Conclusions for way forward – major future focus of EuSSAB beyond Education
4. Votes / elections and decisions to be made (CS/JvL) 30’
   - Election of new EuSSAB Vice Representative
   - Final vote on rules of cooperation
   - New Institutional Membership Applications:
     - Israel Spine Society
     - Croatian Vertebrologic Society
5. Core agenda points for full day EuSSAB meeting in spring 2018 (5’)

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place during the upcoming EUROSPINE annual meeting in Dublin, EUROSPINE 2017, on Thursday, 12 October 2017 from 08:00—10:00. A formal invitation including further details and the agenda will be sent soon.

Christoph Siepe

**Annex**

**Presentation - EUROSPINE EuSSAB meeting Munich – presentation (C Siepe)**

[http://www.eurospine.org/cm_data/20170623_EuSSAB_Presentation_Spring_Meeting_Munich.pdf](http://www.eurospine.org/cm_data/20170623_EuSSAB_Presentation_Spring_Meeting_Munich.pdf)