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Nationality / Country of residence	Italian
Date of birth:	4 September 1954
Civil Status:	Married
Specialisation:	Diagnostic Radiology
Member of EUROSPINE since:	2009
Previous Positions within EUROSPINE:	Faculty of the first EUROSPINE educational module in 2012
Current position:	Member of the Education Committee (Oct. 2013 – Oct. 2017)

1. Please give a short overview of the main tasks and duties of the Education Committee.

EduCom's task is to offer and improve education to every spine surgeon in Europe and beyond. The EUROSPINE Education Week (EduWeek) for example has many participants from outside of Europe and we are proud to see this educational programme beneficial to everyone.

Of course, the development of the EduWeek was quite a challenging job, taking into consideration the shift from national educational modules to the now existing EduWeek, offering harmonised education to many different countries at the same time.

Further projects of the EduCom include certification of spine centres around Europe, which therefore allows EUROSPINE to appoint a number of accredited places for fellowship programmes.

EUROSPINE also verifies equivalence among diploma curricula around Europe, allowing graduates of verified curricular to receive an equivalent certificate from EUROSPINE and vice versa. We currently offer diploma equivalence with the German Spine Society (DWG) as well as the Turkish Spine Society (TSS) and look forward to the collaboration with Greece, the Iberian Peninsula (including Portugal and Spain) and France.

So in general, EduCom's main task is to improve education in the field of spine and provide high quality faculty – considering that we are surgeons and other medical professional, and not professional teachers, there is a lot to learn on our end as well and we constantly try to improve by consulting the valuable feedback given by participants as well as professional exchange of ideas among the faculty members.

2. Are all tasks shared equally amongst the committee members or do you split the tasks in a project-oriented manner? Please exemplify?

We do share the tasks based on our experiences and expertise, but of course everything is always discussed in the entire EduCom during meetings and conferences calls.

For example, I'm the only radiologist in EduCom and I offer my knowledge and my expertise. I think this offering is important for EduCom, as a matter of fact I was appointed to develop a non-surgical diploma curriculum in collaboration with a high-profile task force including Margareta Nordin and Pierre Côté. We are optimistic to start with the first non-surgical diploma course in 2019.

3. What was your motivation to apply for the Education Committee and how did you perceive the application process?

As faculty member I was involved in the development of the very first diploma modules, which took place in 2012, and therefore my motivation to apply for the EduCom was the wish to further apply new methods of teaching and offering education to participants from different countries, giving them a similar structure of the lectures and curricula.

I remember the beginnings of EduCom with Marco Brayda-Bruno being the first chair of the committee and the first steps towards an educational programme. Of course, the faculty was highly involved in the development of the educational programme together with EduCom and once a position was vacant in the committee I picked up the opportunity and applied immediately.

Back then the application was still a bit unstructured, so I heard I was accepted in the committee from colleagues before actually receiving the written confirmation, which took me by surprise. I know that this has changed now and that the application process is well structured – just recently the ExCom has even appointed a nomination committee with the task of further motivating and screening potential applicants for the vacant positions.

4. Personally, what have you gained from your interaction with the Education Committee and EUROSPINE in general?

I have had a wide experience through interaction with high level faculty and colleagues, which always was and still is very interesting. Our relationships have grown over the years beyond professional collaboration to wonderful friendships. It is always exciting to share different viewpoints, get to know various approaches and benefit from the intercultural experience. This opens your mind to other ideas, shows you the variety of problems out there and how they can be dealt with in different ways.

This is not only true amongst the faculty, but also the participants of EduWeeks are usually compiled of 10 to 15 different countries, which also gives you various intercultural experiences considering their interaction within the courses and cad lab, but also during the times of networking.

5. Are you looking forward to interacting with EUROSPINE more after your term as member of the Pre-Day and Lunch Symposia Committee, if so in which manner and why?

As I have been appointed to work together with the earlier mentioned task force to develop the non-surgical diploma, I will further be involved in EUROSPINE education – not directly within EduCom, so it will be a different experience, but I very much look forward to continue working with EUROSPINE and contribute to the educational development in Europe and beyond.

6. Imagine your term comes to an end and you are responsible to find a replacement – what traits would you be looking for in an applicant?

EduCom is a very active and hard working committee, so one must really be willing to contribute to the ongoing projects and not just enhance their CV with a position in a distinguished international society.

Therefore, I would say the number 1 trait needed is *commitment!*

Gender, age, nationality, etc. all these things don't matter as much as commitment, experience in the field of spine and the willingness to support the organisation in developing and harmonising spinal education throughout Europe.

7. Would you recommend EUROSPINE members to apply for your position and why?

I would definitely recommend getting involved in the society business by applying for an open committee position. It is such an interesting task for a spine specialist to be involved in the development of education throughout the spine world within Europe and even more being part of EduCom. You have the possibility to actively modify and improve the programmes, modules, etc. and for me, who I'm a radiologist, it is very interesting to share experiences with colleagues from other countries and other specialization because improves and expand our mutual knowledge about spine and teach us to see the spine from different points of view.