



Name:	Ivan Domazet, MD
Nationality /Country of residence:	Croatia
Place of work:	Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia
Specialisation:	Neurosurgery
Member of EUROSPINE since:	2017
Observership:	Universitätsklinik für Neurochirurgie Innsbruck, Austria Prof. Dr. Claudius Thomé May 2018

My name is Ivan Domazet and I am a sixth-year neurosurgery resident at the Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia. My field of interest is spine surgery, and I have a particular interest in the biomechanics of the cervical spine. I have been a member of EUROSPINE since 2017, and I attend spine surgery congresses and courses on a regular basis.

In December 2017 I applied for the EUROSPINE short term observership programme. My application was approved in February 2018, and thanks to the EUROSPINE, during the May 2018 I spent two weeks at the Universitätsklinik für Neurochirurgie Innsbruck, Austria, under mentorship of Prof. Claudius Thomé.

I attended Department meetings during which cases were discussed and decisions about further treatment of the patients were made.

During the two weeks that I spent at the Department I saw many interesting spine surgery cases, mostly degenerative spine cases and spine trauma cases.

I spent most of my time observing the operations in the operating theatres. I was impressed with the state-of-the-art equipment and operations that were performed. This was the first time that I have witnessed performing of the pedicle subtraction osteotomy while using the intraoperative CT device. I wish to emphasize my gratitude to Prof. Claudius Thomé and Dr. Alexander Örley who minutely explained this procedure to me step by step.

On a few occasions I was allowed to participate during operations and to closely observe minimally invasive spine procedures. Observation of the minimally invasive cervical spine procedures will be of great help during my studies about biomechanics of the cervical spine.

Some procedures like pedicle subtraction osteotomy, medio-latero-superior trajectory technique, and extreme lateral interbody fusion are not regularly performed at my Neurosurgery Department, and I hope that my experience will be helpful during the inclusion of those procedures in the list of procedures that are regularly performed at our Neurosurgery Department.

My opinion is that this kind of education is vital for both residents and young specialists that are interested in spine surgery, because this is a unique opportunity to witness from the first-hand how the greatest spine surgery minds of our time, like Prof. Claudius Thomé, operate in their operating theatres. Therefore, I would like to strongly encourage every young EUROSPINE member to apply for EUROSPINE observership programme.

I would like to express my gratitude to EUROSPINE for enabling me to spend two great weeks in the beautiful city of Innsbruck at the Universitätsklinik für Neurochirurgie Innsbruck. I would also like to express my gratitude for the hospitality to all the doctors and staff from the Department, who were excellent hosts, and especially to Prof. Claudius Thomé who was a great host and mentor, and who greatly enhanced my understanding of the modern spine surgery. I only hope that I will be able to use all this new knowledge for the benefit of the patients in my future work as a neurosurgeon.

