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EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, was founded on 26 June 1998 in Innsbruck, Austria.

The aims of EUROSPINE are to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of research, prevention and treatment of spine diseases and related problems and to coordinate efforts undertaken in European countries for further development in this field.
Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

EUROSPINE is steadily growing stronger – both in its membership base and in the quality of its activities. This year, we continued to implement priorities set forth in our Way Forward strategy – to deliver a state-of-the-art educational and scientific programme, while focusing on patient care and bringing together all spine-related stakeholders across Europe. This is no small task. The Executive Committee (ExCom) and Society committees – Education, Task Force Research, Programme, Membership, Spine Tango and Patient Line – have shown their dedication and commitment to this process, achieving concrete milestones in our quest to become the primary and preferred partner in Europe for all spinal care issues.

In 2015 our top priorities have been to:
• Establish stronger networks and strategic partnerships with national societies, stakeholders and industry
• Redesign the European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD)
• Offer meetings with rich educational and scientific content
• Optimise our organisational structure to further increase efficiency and effectiveness

BUILDING NEW ALLIANCES

The European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) was established by EUROSPINE as a neutral platform for national societies to network and exchange ideas. As of December, 22 national societies with approximately 6,700 members from almost every country in Europe had joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members. The tone of the meetings has been extremely positive, with members from different economic and cultural backgrounds quickly finding common ground.

STANDARISING BASIC AND ADVANCED EDUCATION

Providing high-quality spinal care calls for excellence in education and training. EUROSPINE is committed to offering a top-level, standardised education programme, with the objective of creating an accredited “European Spine Certification”. We have made important progress toward our goal, transitioning all educational activities from the EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF) back under the auspices of the Society – enabling us to improve the curriculum and collaborate with national societies in our efforts to standardise education Europe-wide.
We redesigned the European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD), launching it successfully at our Education Week in Strasbourg in October. Furthermore, we entered into a bilateral agreement with the German Spine Society (DWG) to harmonise the structure of Spine Diploma Courses and recognise diploma equivalence.

PROVIDING HIGH-VALUE LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Our meetings and courses offer members and stakeholders the opportunity to benefit from cutting-edge educational and scientific content as well as invaluable networking opportunities. In March, our Task Force on Research presented a 5-day Research Course in Barcelona. In April, we held a successful Spring Meeting in Barcelona together with the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) on Spinal Deformity from Early Childhood to Adulthood. In September, EUROSPINE hosted its Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, attracting 3,600 delegates and industry representatives from 81 countries. We were very pleased to receive a record number of abstract submissions – up 70% from the previous year – in spite of more stringent submission requirements.

REALIGNING OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

One year ago we restructured the internal organisation of EUROSPINE to streamline decision-making and give each committee a direct voice in the ExCom. This model has proved highly efficient and has worked well with our daily routine. In addition, the position of Delegate of the ExCom has become firmly established. Beat Leimbacher, our former strategic advisor, has taken over that role, lending the organisation additional structure and professionalism in its operations.

A highly-constructive meeting was held in June between the ExCom and ESF Board members to review options for the future direction of the Foundation. The new Chair, Everard Munting, and the ESF Board will take the time to redefine and fine-tune the future purpose of the Foundation within the existing statutes.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The above initiatives are designed to make EUROSPINE significantly stronger over the longer term. As in the start-up phase of any new endeavour, however, these activities also require significant short-term investment, which invariably can have a negative financial impact. On the whole, EUROSPINE is a financially healthy Society and we are looking forward to a positive return on our investments over the coming years, both in monetary terms and in advancing treatment of spinal disorders.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

The provision of best-practice patient care is at the forefront of all of EUROSPINE’s priorities and activities. I am committed to our Way Forward strategy and achieving excellence in education, science and research, while ensuring our activities add value to members and stakeholders.

Priorities for the year ahead include working with ESF to define its future activities and reviewing the focus of our Spring Meetings. In June 2016, Julie-Lyn Noël, MD MBA, will be joining EUROSPINE as Director of Education and Research, undertaking the management and development of a comprehensive education platform, course activities and education/research projects in cooperation with the Education Committee and Task Force Research. We are looking forward to welcoming her as a valued team member.

I would particularly like to thank all ExCom members, our Delegate of the ExCom, Committee members, administrative and education staff, as well as all others who have supported our great Society in implementing our challenging Way Forward strategy.

Continuing the work of my predecessors, former presidents Haluk Berk, Philip Sell and Ferran Pellisé, I’m looking forward to another productive and successful year with the EUROSPINE team, members and stakeholders.
My year as president of EUROSPINE was both rewarding and challenging — rewarding, because we launched a number of important initiatives that will take EUROSPINE forth into a bright future, and challenging, because as with any important transition, major investments must be made and hard work must be accomplished. It was a year of action and further positive change for EUROSPINE, moving us ever closer to achieving our vision — to be the driving force and the primary and preferred partner in Europe for all spinal care issues.

Working alongside the dedicated team members in the ExCom and Society Committees on implementing the plan set out in the Way Forward strategy was an inspiration. Together we continued driving that plan forward with the following actions:

1. Reintegrating education under the umbrella of EUROSPINE and redesigning the European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD)
2. Raising the profile of our Spring Specialty Meetings and Annual General Meetings
3. Building new strategic alliances by establishing EuSSAB
4. Strengthening our stakeholder management structure and approach

EUROSPINE EDUCATION AS THE EUROPEAN STANDARD

This year, we moved all educational activities and operations back from the EUROSPINE Foundation under the umbrella of the Society. This was a first step in our active efforts to develop the top standardised educational programme in Europe. In October we launched our newly-designed European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD) and opened negotiations with the German Spine Society (DWG) and the Turkish Spine Society (TSS) for Diploma Equivalence. We also successfully developed and presented an advanced course in collaboration with EANS. We are continuing to create programmes that will provide educational opportunities to spine specialists at all stages of their careers. To assist us with these endeavours, we have hired educational specialists to ensure that courses are designed and developed to the highest quality standards.

GROWING INTEREST IN EUROSPINE MEETINGS

This year in Barcelona we held our second Spring Specialty Meeting, “Spinal Deformity from Early Childhood to Adulthood”, in cooperation
with SRS. Ferran Pellisé, Marinus De Kluever, Ahmet Alanay and I were Chairs and Programme Organisers. Nineteen faculty members from both societies representing 12 countries played a role in making the meeting a success, bringing together 235 spine specialists interested in spinal deformity.

In September, EUROSPINE hosted its most successful Annual General Meeting to date. The backdrop of Copenhagen, Denmark, was a beautiful, if expensive location. Attendance was high – with over 3,600 delegates from more than 81 countries – and feedback from delegates’ evaluations was excellent. From a scientific point of view, we are happy to say that we received a record number of high-quality abstracts from which we were able to develop a rich scientific programme. This growing interest in participating in our meetings demonstrates that the EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting is increasingly considered to be the “one not to miss” amongst spine specialists in Europe.

EUROPEAN SPINE SOCIETIES ADVISORY BOARD (EuSSAB): EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

EuSSAB was launched by EUROSPINE in late 2014 as a neutral communication platform for all spine-related societies – who have joined EUROSPINE as “Institutional Members” – to meet and connect on a regular basis. Since its inception in late 2014, EuSSAB has experienced tremendous growth. By the end of 2015, 22 national societies had joined EuSSAB, representing 6,700 spine surgeons from across Europe.

EuSSAB meetings are proving to be a tremendous venue for societies to work together towards common interests. A top priority is diploma equivalence in education, in line with EUROSPINE’s plan to jointly develop a pan-European and compatible European Spine Diploma. We are looking forward to our next meetings in Krakow and Berlin, where we hope to make considerable progress toward our objectives.

STRUCTURED STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT AND SPONSORSHIP

In order to support, coordinate and prioritise stakeholder-related matters, EUROSPINE set up a new, dedicated Stakeholder Management Council. The council’s mandate is to take a targeted approach in addressing the individual needs of our eight stakeholder groups.

We have intensified our dialogue with our stakeholders and MedTechs to strengthen our relationship, with a view to establishing mutually-beneficial partnerships and ensure ongoing financial support for our current and future projects. In a constantly changing environment and difficult economic climate, stakeholder sponsorships are increasingly difficult to obtain. EUROSPINE needs to ensure a concerted approach towards its stakeholders, evaluating all of its services and activities to add value on every level.

A YEAR OF TRANSITION

All of these initiatives come at a cost. From a financial point of view, investments made in 2015 will certainly show a temporary impact on the bottom line: moving educational activities back under EUROSPINE, the hiring of new staff to focus on growing membership, new advanced educational courses and fellowships, establishing EuSSAB and restructuring Stakeholder Management. In spite of these up-front expenditures, however, EUROSPINE remains a financially-sound organisation. Our hard work this year will lay a solid foundation for EUROSPINE’s future.

SETTING UP FOR LONGTERM SUCCESS

EUROSPINE is building a strong international Society that puts patient care in the spotlight. I am proud to have had this opportunity to serve as EUROSPINE’s president and look forward to continuing our efforts in making EUROSPINE the leading spine society in Europe.
Looking into the Future

It is an honour and a true pleasure to become the first female Vice President of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe.

EUROSPINE represents the best of educators, clinicians and researchers – young and mature – of spinal excellence in Europe and beyond. Our Society is experiencing remarkable growth, research and clinical studies presented at our meetings are of the highest quality, and most importantly, we are attracting the next generation of skilled men and women.

Becoming Vice President for EUROSPINE after chairing the Executive Committee Research Council and the Task Force Research is a learning process on how to best assume the presidential post and continue the excellent work of my predecessors, Michael Ogon, Haluk Berk, Phil Sell, Ferran Pellise, Federico Balagué and many others. I am truly grateful to all for advice, support, great discussions and decisions how to move the Society forward.

SPINE EDUCATION FOR ALL

The newly-designed *European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD)* for surgeons is a success. Going forward, my goal is to develop an educational diploma for non-surgeons led by the Education Committee, the new Director of Education and Research and with the collaboration of industry partners.

The Task Force Research (TFR) is initiating and collaborating on specialty courses with universities and institutes on topics such as biomechanics and how to review literature, and is looking forward to engaging in further specialty research topics suggested by members.

Finally, Patient Line has undergone a major revision and is making continuous updates under the leadership of the Patient Line Committee.

RESEARCH IN SPINE AILMENTS

The Task Force Research, set up in 2007, has established a vibrant research community that extends throughout Europe and beyond. The TFR offers a research course attended by over 120 participants from more than 40 countries and almost all continents. We have distributed more than €550,000 back to EUROSPINE members for proposal development, pilot studies and main studies. EUROSPINE supports
continued development of TFR initiatives.

EUROSPINE MEETINGS

The EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting is the flagship of the Society. Our 2015 meeting in Copenhagen was a resounding success, thanks to the Programme Committee, Local Hosts and EUROSPINE Staff Members. The meeting was well-attended and evaluations were highly-favourable in terms of scientific quality and organisation. In fact, the EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting is considered by and large to be one of the best in the world by both members and non-members alike. We intend to keep it that way and will continue to make ongoing improvements.

COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER SPINE ORGANISATIONS

As spine ailments and disability are becoming a number one global burden from a human and cost perspective, I feel it necessary to further collaborate with other spine associations and foundations to reduce the burden. This initiative will be proposed, shaped, and hopefully implemented in the coming years.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN 3-5 YEARS?

Looking forward into 2016 and 2017, I am committed to the Way Forward strategy, which has proven very successful. Times and economic environments are changing and EUROSPINE will have to adapt to the new environment — in particular with MedTech companies. We have been actively expanding our membership base and engaging with other national societies through the European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB), focusing on clinic, education, and research. Our members are taking a more active role in the Society — particularly young members who will play a key role going forward. This is very rewarding for the Executive Committee and underscores the importance of the Way Forward strategy.

FUNDING NEEDED TO REALISE OBJECTIVES

In 2015, we made a number of important investments in EUROSPINE — reintegrating Education under the auspices of the Society, making strategic hires, establishing EuSSAB and developing a stronger stakeholder management structure. In order to fully leverage those investments in the years to come, however, adequate funding will be essential — both from revenues and sponsors. Each service and activity EUROSPINE offers will need to be carefully evaluated to ensure that it is of the highest quality and brings enough added value to procure requisite funding from our sponsors in a difficult economic climate. Although it is not our goal to make a profit, funding from meetings, education and sponsorships must cover the costs of our activities.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The best way to achieve success is to have a continuum, listen to all stakeholders, propose some new initiatives without losing sight of our key priorities. Through the new organisation of councils in the Executive Committee and through each and every committee, EUROSPINE has created an excellent mechanism for growth and quality represented by its hard working members. As Vice President, I am looking forward to striving for excellence in all domains and continuing to enhance EUROSPINE as the premier spine society in Europe and beyond.
EUROSPINE draws together the finest minds in spinal care. With members from 67 countries – bringing with them a high level of training, experience and expertise – we have become a truly global Society.

In recent years as part of its Way Forward strategy, EUROSPINE has introduced a number of incentives aimed at increasing its membership base to attract the best and brightest talents from around the world. As a result of these efforts, we are delighted to report that 2015 was a year of record growth in every membership category. Furthermore, within three short years, EUROSPINE’s membership has grown by 50%.

NEW MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES LEAD TO UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

One year ago we introduced several initiatives to attract spine professionals to join EUROSPINE:
- **Low membership fees** remaining at €140/year (€70/year for Young Members)
- **New fee structure for meetings** offering special rebates for members to attend the Annual General Meeting, the Spring Specialty Meeting and Task Force Research courses
- **New ‘Young Member’ category** offering professional colleagues under the age of 40 the opportunity to join EUROSPINE for 50% of the regular membership fee
- **New ‘Institutional Member’ and ‘Associate Member’ categories** inviting national spine societies to join as Institutional Members
- **Establishment of EuSSAB**, a neutral platform for national spine societies to come together and work jointly on common issues
- **Extensive membership benefits** such as a subscription to the European Spine Journal, access to research grants, Open Operating Theatre (OOT) platform, Annual General Meeting’s webcasts and more

As a result of these initiatives, over the past year EUROSPINE’s membership base has expanded substantially:
- The number of membership applications has almost doubled since 2014
- The number of new members has increased by 20% in 2015 (187 new members)
- The age distribution amongst EUROSPINE members has become more balanced
One of our longstanding goals has been to promote our Society to young, committed members and to provide support for future leaders. In an initiative to attract bright young minds in spinal care, we established a Young Member category, whereby professional colleagues under the age of 40 can join EUROSPINE and enjoy the full range of membership benefits for 50% of the regular fee for two years. This has proved immensely popular – a full 47% of applications received in 2015 have been from young members! Starting in 2016, we expect to see a steady increase in regular memberships as Young Members begin to transition to active and corresponding membership status.

ATTACTING ‘INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS’

Last year, EUROSPINE established EuSSAB, the European Spine Societies Advisory Board, to provide a common umbrella and communication platform where national societies can meet and connect on a regular basis as equal partners – defining common goals, identifying challenges and developing strategies to address them. Once a society becomes a member of EuSSAB as a EUROSPINE Institutional Member, all of its members automatically become EUROSPINE Associate Members at no additional cost.

Since our inaugural meeting in Lyon in late 2014, 22 national societies representing approximately 6,700 spine surgeons from across Europe have joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members.

Meetings in Barcelona and Copenhagen brought together representatives from many countries with varying economic and cultural backgrounds, enabling us to learn from and support each other. The meetings have been highly productive, identifying common issues, such as standardised education and the establishment of a pan-European European Spine Diploma.

EuSSAB: WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD COMMON GOALS

As a shared communications platform, it is of great interest to learn how members deal with political issues in their respective countries. It will be important to develop a mechanism for reaching agreement on political issues in the face of cultural differences, e.g. association landscape, size and standing of national societies. Where required, issues could be escalated to a larger stage, e.g. the Annual General Meeting, thus enlarging the communication radius and enhancing the importance of EuSSAB, not only for its members but also for congress attendees.
Going forward, we will continue to take measures to strengthen bonds between EuSSAB members, representing the interests of spine surgeons throughout Europe and helping to achieve common goals as partners e.g. education across Europe. Starting at the next two meetings in Krakow and Berlin, we plan to progress on:

- Resolving political issues such as voting rights and ExCom representation
- Transitioning from an open to a closed membership circle
- Turning EuSSAB into a self-governing body
- Making EuSSAB a truly international, pan-European communication platform

**OUR NEXT MILESTONE**

We are very pleased that our initiatives have been so well received by the spinal community. With such a strong membership base we are well positioned to provide an international forum that promotes networking and knowledge sharing among global experts. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members and thank all our existing members for your support and your contribution in making EUROSPINE a Society that can open new horizons in spinal care.

It is our goal to exceed 1000 members in 2016. If you are interested in working with talented specialists and sharing new ideas and techniques, please join our dynamic organisation!
# Overview of Membership Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Member</th>
<th>Corresponding Member</th>
<th>Young Member</th>
<th>Senior Member</th>
<th>Institutional Member</th>
<th>Associate Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€140 p.a.</td>
<td>€140 p.a.</td>
<td>€70 p.a. for the first 2 years</td>
<td>free of charge</td>
<td>free of charge</td>
<td>free of charge, dependent on institutional membership</td>
</tr>
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</table>

...are medical doctors and other professionals who are engaged in research into or management of the prevention and treatment of spinal disorders and their related problems...

...are residing within geographic Europe.

...are residing outside of geographic Europe.

...are under the age of 40. After two years their membership is automatically transferred to Active or Corresponding, depending on their place of residence.

...are former Active or Corresponding members aged over 65 or who have retired or become disabled.

...are national and specialist spine related societies/organisations cooperating with EUROSPINE for specific tasks in their function as institutional body.

...are members of a national or specialist spine related society/organisation that holds Institutional Membership. Associate Members are never directly contacted by EUROSPINE, but are eligible to receive communication through the respective Institutional Member.

### ACTIVITIES

**Significantly reduced registration fee for EUROSPINE Meetings**
- **Annual General Meeting:** €380 reduction*
- **Spring Specialty Meeting:** €250 reduction*
- **Education Week:**
  - Module 1: €100 reduction
  - Modules 2-5: €200 reduction each
- **TFR Course:** €100 reduction*

**Access to research grants up to €100,000 every two years**

**Exclusive early access to webcasts**

### COMMUNICATION

**Subscription to the European Spine Journal**
- **hard copy, 12 issues per year**
- **online access**

**Access to Open Operating Theatre (OOT, online video database)**

**Receive**
- **EUROSPINE e-newsletter**
- **Annual Report**

**Access to member area on website**

**Member certificate**

### PARTICIPATION

**Eligibility to become a faculty member in EUROSPINE educational activities**

**Eligibility to participate in committee work**

**Eligibility to become committee chair and therefore a member of the Executive Committee**

**Full voting rights at the General Assembly**

**Option to participate in Spine Tango**

**Access to Patient Line (patient information in 6 languages)**

**Access to EUROSPINE member booth at the Annual General Meeting**

*based on standard registration
Over the past 12 months, EUROSPINE has made great advances in developing a comprehensive new education programme that offers innovative learning opportunities for spine specialists at all stages of their careers.

Our approach is one of lifelong learning that encompasses best-practice techniques, research and quality assessment, enabling participants to excel in patient care and safety. It is our ultimate goal to establish an accredited European Spine Certification.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES NOW UNDER “ONE ROOF”

This past year we moved all of EUROSPINE’s educational activities back under the umbrella of the Society, placing ourselves in a much better position to strengthen our curriculum and to collaborate with national societies in our quest to establish diploma equivalencies. Members, course participants, stakeholders and faculty will also benefit from one point of contact for all education-related topics.

COMPREHENSIVE NEW ESCD PROGRAMME

Our first step in this transition was the redesign of the European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD), our main educational initiative aimed at training young spine specialists. To assist us in this improvement process, we engaged Lisa Hadfield Law, a surgical educationalist from the UK.

We created a learner-centric curriculum – taking a close look at what young spine specialists need to learn and the best ways to pass this knowledge on – so that participants can apply the newfound knowledge and skills in their daily practice.

The ESCD is aimed at surgeons in their last year of residency who wish to acquire basic knowledge on the evaluation of spinal disorders, spinal disease process and surgical skills. It is also suitable for any health care professional involved in treating spinal disorders. The ESCD comprises 5 Modules, with Learning Outcomes for each session of each Module.
Our redesigned Education Week was launched in October with great success in Strasbourg, France.

**ADVANCED EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

In collaboration with EANS, we also developed an advanced course, *Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Techniques*. The pilot course was conducted in Innsbruck, Austria from 6 to 8 September. Further advanced courses will be launched in the 2nd half of 2016.

In parallel, EUROSPINE has been working to create programmes that address the training needs of those who are more advanced in their careers. For example, we will offer Fellowships in 2016, including a 6-month *Post Graduate Training Programme* as well as funded grants.

**WORKING TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

Thanks to cooperative dialogue with national societies through the European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB), our *European Spine Course Diploma* is now respected by many European spinal societies and federations who remain involved and keep abreast of project developments. To maintain consistency in course content, EUROSPINE has developed standards and policies in key areas of post-graduate training that follow strict quality control guidelines.

Furthermore, EUROSPINE is making significant headway in its pursuit of a recognised *European Spine Certification*. This year, we’ve launched important partnerships with the German Spine Society (DWG) and the Turkish Spine Society (TSS) for Diploma Equivalence. This project will align Learning Outcomes within our organisations and allow for reciprocity of curricula, allowing GSS and TSS diploma holders to obtain the EUROSPINE *European Spine Course Diploma* and vice versa.

We are also working closely with 22 national societies who have joined EuSSAB as EUROSPINE Institutional Members. These partnerships will further assist us in our goal to align with other national programmes in the near future. We are committed to this open and equal collaboration and recognise the synergies and common threads of all of our organisations.

It is expected that the European Community will recognise the need to establish a certification on the basis of this initiative. For this purpose, an official Multidisciplinary Joint Committee
has been created at UEMS. Education remains a key focal point of this collaboration as we all share the philosophy that education is vital to the betterment of patient care.

GOALS FOR 2016

2016 is already shaping up to be a successful year for EUROSPINE education:

- **Diploma equivalence**: Effective January 2016, we will sign for diploma equivalence with DWG (Germany)
- **European Spine Course Diploma**
  - On 1 February 2016 we plan to launch Diploma Equivalence with DWG
  - Education Week will be held from 13 to 17 June 2016
- **Advanced Spine Course Diploma**
  - Advanced Courses are planned for 19 to 21 September 2016
  * Complications & Management
  * Extended Indications & Advanced Operative Techniques
  - Fellowship Programme launch
- **Observerships (Short-term up to 14 days with a clear objective – either surgical, conservative or for research purposes)**
  The process is in place and the evaluation of applicants will be led by JC LeHuec and J. Mineiro
- **Sponsorship/Funding**
  - Although financial goals for Education Week will be met, it is always important to advance our relationships with the industry in order to improve our teaching – especially in the lab for our participants
  - Funding is required for our advanced course
  - Partnership packages will be offered
- **IT system changes**: We will be integrating a new event management software (registration tool)
- **New Director of Education and Research**: Julie-Lyn Noël, MD MBA will be joining EUROSPINE in June to work with the Education Committee and Task Force Research in managing and developing an education platform, course activities and education/research projects.

2015 has been a year of tremendous progress for EUROSPINE’s education programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work and dedication and look forward to fruitful collaboration and further success in the year to come.
Stakeholder Relations: Laying the Foundation

Finn Christensen
Head of Stakeholder Council 2014

Beat Leimbacher
Delegate of the ExCom

OUR GOALS AND TASKS

The primary objective of the Stakeholder Council is to strengthen relationships with our network of stakeholders, including:
• The MedTech industry
• National/international spine societies
• Government, political institutions
• Others

Stakeholder participation is and shall remain an integral and vital part of EUROSPINE’s future direction. It is therefore one of our main goals to establish partnerships with our stakeholders as a valuable source of funding, education and expertise.

Our stakeholder work is mainly driven by the needs of the Education, Research, Membership and Meeting Councils. In order to address their individual requirements and align them with the needs of all our stakeholders in a way that benefits both sides, we divided our stakeholder groups into eight categories.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

In 2015, we made it a priority to focus on the funding needs of our educational and research activities, as well as increasing cooperation with other national societies, by:
• Instituting a task force to develop the foundations of a new sponsoring concept with our key partners from the MedTech industry – ensuring a long-term, win-win relationship
• Strengthening our relationship approach and opening a well-structured, ongoing dialogue with core stakeholders and sponsors to gain further insight into their requirements and implement mutually-beneficial improvements
• Further developing the European Spine Society Advisory Board (EuSSAB) as a platform where Institutional Members can discuss joint strategies for issues of common interest e.g. the establishment of an accredited pan-European “European Spine Certification”
• Reintegrating educational activities under the umbrella of EUROSPINE, thus establishing a one brand approach and single point of contact for stakeholders, members and participants at our meetings and courses.
In this very important transition year, we are proud to say that we have made good progress on some vital initiatives, laying the groundwork for future achievements. These initiatives will, however, require our ongoing attention in the coming years. Although we have been faced with high costs and a demanding workload for launching these initiatives, EUROSPINE remains a healthy and robust Society.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

The Stakeholder Council mandate – to professionalise our relationship with MedTechs and other stakeholders and establish partnerships to help us achieve our vision – is highly complex. Managing these tasks means involving all ExCom members, who have dual responsibilities as Council Chairs, Treasurer or President. This is a tremendous workload, which constantly raises the question as to whether an organisation like ours – whose board members are volunteers – has the capacity to accomplish these goals.

To this end, we have taken some steps to mitigate the situation. As Delegate of the ExCom, Beat Leimbacher is assisting us in determining the optimal work set-up. He has also taken on additional responsibilities, supporting our stakeholder management activities and improving the budgeting and controlling process for our Treasury. We have also hired Julie-Lyn Noël, a professional and highly-experienced education and research director to further refine our education and research sponsoring approach.

We are confronted with a very difficult market environment, leading to significant budgetary pressures on our MedTech partners. Therefore we cannot rely on growing sponsorship income – in fact, we must work hard simply to maintain current levels. This can only be achieved by delivering ‘best practice’ services and creating fruitful relationships based on personal trust and continuity with our stakeholders from the MedTech industry. Developing these relationships will require even more time and work from our ExCom members.

It is the task of Stakeholder Council representatives and ExCom members to position EUROSPINE as unbiased while still allowing MedTechs to benefit from all our Society has to offer. This is a time-consuming balancing act that also requires careful observance of corporate compliance rules by any representative of EUROSPINE.

We will face the challenges ahead by working hard to put a high-value system in place to allow patients, members and our various stakeholder groups to benefit from our leading science activities and excellent marketing opportunities.
2015 has been a year of transition for the EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF). Last year, the EUROSPINE Executive Committee (ExCom) took the decision to manage all operational activities under the umbrella of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, thus transferring all educational activities back from the Foundation to EUROSPINE. This initiative was taken to:

- Improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of our educational activities
- Facilitate the decision-making process under our “one brand” philosophy
- Provide best-practice education and lifelong learning in spine health

Because the Foundation will no longer be involved with educational activities on an operational level, it was unfortunately necessary to terminate contracts for administrative personnel as of December 2015. We wish to extend our warmest thanks to Stéphanie Chapuis and Letizia Lamartina for their excellent work and years of commitment in the organisation, especially during this difficult transition phase.

FUTURE ROLE OF ESF

In June, a workshop was organised with all Foundation Board Members (Frank Kandziora - Chair, Michael Mayer, Ciaran Bolger, and Everard Munting), together with representatives of the ExCom (Margareta Nordin, Phil Sell, Haluk Berk, and Michael Ogon) and the Delegate to the ExCom (Beat Leimbacher) to define the future purpose of the Foundation.

The ESF was originally established in 2008 to act as a fundraiser for EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe and to fund other organisations or activities with the purpose of promoting spinal research and education. At the June workshop, it was decided that the ESF would re-establish its fundraising role.

Within this framework, the ESF will continue to act independently in accordance with its founding deeds, but with complete transparency in both its activities and its finances. The ESF will also avoid any overlap with EUROSPINE in the fundraising process. Going forward, it is our goal to cease financial transfers from the Society to the Foundation. Several ideas for fundraising are in development and their implementation will begin in 2016. Patients, EUROSPINE members, and any commercial or industry partner not yet making financial contributions
to EUROSPINE will be asked to donate to the Foundation.

ESF BOARD RENEWAL

The ESF Board is currently undergoing some changes:

Chair: As decided in 2014, Frank Kandziora will be stepping down as Chair at the end of the transition process. Starting in 2016, Everard Munting will take over the role of Chair.

Members: Having concluded his two mandates, Michael Mayer resigned from the Board. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for his continuous support. Olivier Zysset of Intermandat has joined the Board as a Swiss representative. At least one position for a EUROSPINE member will be filled in the coming months. If you are interested in joining the Board, please submit your request for candidacy. Further Board Members come from various, non-medical backgrounds.

We look forward to working with the EUROSPINE Foundation as a trusted funder who may be considered by the Membership of EUROSPINE as their Foundation.
Dear EUROSPINE Members,

From a treasury point of view, 2014 was a very lucrative year. We exceeded our budgeted net income of €114,500, earning a profit of €382,500. Our 2014 Annual General Meeting, held in Lyon, generated a net profit of €1,384,092. We also made an accounting profit resulting from a policy change in compensating our Foundation for delivering Education Week. Furthermore, we realised a small profit from our first Spring Specialty Meeting in Prague.

At the end of 2014, EUROSPINE had total assets and liquidity exceeding €2,470,000 (see balance sheet for details). Since then, however, we have experienced rising costs related to the management of a fast-growing Society in an increasingly complex framework.

2015 – INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

2015 has been year of transition for EUROSPINE, as we implement initiatives set forth in our Way Forward strategy to make EUROSPINE the primary and preferred partner in Europe for all spinal care issues. Since last year, EUROSPINE’s Executive Committee has decided to make a number of investments in its infrastructure:

- Hiring of additional staff
- Managing the fast growth of our membership base
- Establishing EuSAAB as platform for all European spine societies
- Developing a stronger stakeholder management structure and approach

As part of the Way Forward strategy, we have taken measures to deliver operational activities ourselves. This includes shifting all educational activities from the Foundation back under the auspices of EUROSPINE. This year, although EUROSPINE took over the costs associated with delivering Education Week, we credited all revenues generated to the Foundation to enable it to define its new future direction and make the transition to its new setup.

In addition, despite a very successful Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen with solid participation and a record number of abstracts submitted, costs in Copenhagen were higher compared to former locations, leading to a slightly lower net profit from the meeting than in previous years.
Future growth and success do not come without significant short-term investment. Although we will not achieve our originally targeted profit of €114,500 for 2015, and indeed expect a loss of roughly half a million euros, EUROSPINE remains a financially stable organisation with a liquidity cushion of more than €1,000,000.

SPECIAL REMARK: Please note that detailed figures will be published in the next Annual Report after the General Assembly has approved the 2015 figures in October 2016 in Berlin.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR 2016 AND BEYOND

Following our challenging transition year, 2016 will be a year for implementing the measures launched in 2015 and further streamlining of processes. For example, we plan to consolidate our educational activities, including new advanced courses, under EUROSPINE. To that end, we have recently hired a very experienced Director of Education and Research, who will work with the Education Committee to further professionalise our educational activities. Our delegate of the ExCom, Beat Leimbacher, has taken on additional responsibilities and will support our Treasurers in the financial management of the Society.

As a first step, we have restructured the entire budgeting process and accounting framework to increase transparency across all EUROSPINE activities. Detailed income and cost positions are now calculated individually for each activity to determine where costs are recovered and where not. Based on this new budget structure we also will improve our cost control and ongoing cash management.

We are confident that the initiatives we have taken and investments we have made over the course of 2015 will position EUROSPINE as a strong and dynamic society in the coming years. Financing future activities of the societies may indeed become more challenging as budgets of MedTechs are also being tightened. However our increased cost structure transparency and leaner processes will serve to strengthen the impact of our stakeholder collaboration, providing MedTechs even greater value for their financial contributions.

EUROSPINE is financially solid and we are convinced that we will see a significant return on our investments during the coming years – ultimately benefiting patients through advancements in treating spinal disorders.
### BALANCE SHEET AT (IN EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>31 December 2014</th>
<th>31 December 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>602 040</td>
<td>163 477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>129 244</td>
<td>69 582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposit / Cash Invest</td>
<td>1 302 485</td>
<td>501 401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued income</td>
<td>442 831</td>
<td>1 506 843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 476 599</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 241 303</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES & EQUITY                        |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------------------|                  |                  |
| **Liabilities**                             |                  |                  |
| Liabilities to third parties               | 205 624          | 87 495           |
| Accrued expenses                            | 101 296          | 366 632          |
| **Total Liabilities & Equity**              | **306 920**      | **454 127**      |
| **Equity**                                  |                  |                  |
| Society capital                             | 1 787 176        | 1 736 289        |
| Annual profit / (loss)                      | 382 503          | 50 887           |
| **Total Liabilities & Equity**              | **2 169 679**    | **1 787 176**    |

Please note that these figures are the previous year 2014, the 2015 figures will be published only after the General Assembly 2016 has officially approved them.
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM
(IN EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Item</th>
<th>01.01.2014</th>
<th>01.01.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Fees</td>
<td>75 273</td>
<td>73 164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit EUROSPINE Liverpool 2013</td>
<td>9 000</td>
<td>1 482 564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit EUROSPINE Lyon 2014</td>
<td>1 384 092</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit SpringSpecialty Prague 2014</td>
<td>76 237</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release accrual Foundation (profit contrib. 20% of annual meeting surplus 2013)</td>
<td>296 407</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 841 009</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 555 728</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Item</th>
<th>01.01.2014</th>
<th>01.01.2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExCom</td>
<td>33 514</td>
<td>38 813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>2 811</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>24 010</td>
<td>3 612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal texts revision + strategie plan</td>
<td>143 929</td>
<td>159 696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site + Stakeholder Committee</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>3 476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Task Force</td>
<td>8 476</td>
<td>7 584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Task Force, Course</td>
<td>49 582</td>
<td>49 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Task Force, Grants</td>
<td>170 000</td>
<td>161 684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spine Tango</td>
<td>164 127</td>
<td>166 962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEMS Spine Working Group</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 071 736</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 167 119</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>81 676</td>
<td>29 902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relationship</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with Related Societies</td>
<td>29 151</td>
<td>(7 836)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>12 000</td>
<td>12 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>21 548</td>
<td>6 054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (CEO)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation (profit contribution 20% of Annual Meeting surplus)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>293 286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fondation (contribution 2014)</td>
<td>240 000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer (projects and administration)</td>
<td>37 900</td>
<td>25 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenses (Subscription/Springer)</td>
<td>52 718</td>
<td>63 429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 071 736</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 167 119</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01.01.2014</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross profit</strong></td>
<td>769 273</td>
<td>388 609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>237 984</td>
<td>203 479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and services expenses</td>
<td>61 069</td>
<td>66 381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td>19 262</td>
<td>7 908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT, website</td>
<td>37 663</td>
<td>3 477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR, Annual Report</td>
<td>19 013</td>
<td>30 565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>374 991</strong></td>
<td><strong>331 573</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before Financial Expenses</strong></td>
<td>394 281</td>
<td>57 036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange income</td>
<td>(719)</td>
<td>(1 271)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses realised</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses unrealised</td>
<td>11 502</td>
<td>7 272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Profit before Financial Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>11 778</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 149</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual profit</strong></td>
<td>382 503</td>
<td>50 887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that these figures are the previous year 2014, the 2015 figures will be published only after the General Assembly 2016 has officially approved them.
BUDGET 2016 as per AGM

### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberfees</td>
<td>95 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit Spring Meeting (PCO)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit Fall Meeting (PCO)</td>
<td>1 200 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>350 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFR courses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue** 1 645 000

### EXPENSES

#### Activities

**Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Meeting (direct expenses ES)</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Meeting and AGM (direct expenses ES)</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Courses</td>
<td>36 870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Weeks</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship Programs</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eLearning</td>
<td>20 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education various</td>
<td>42 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TFR Grants</td>
<td>210 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFR Courses</td>
<td>81 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Activities** 509 870

#### Specific Projects/Task Forces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registries (Spine Tango)</td>
<td>170 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>21 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>55 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPINE Internal projects</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>25 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>14 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEMS Spine Working Group</td>
<td>2 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Specific Projects/Task Forces** 387 500

#### Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ExCom</td>
<td>35 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educom</td>
<td>29 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>8 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Council</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Council</td>
<td>8 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Council</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFR</td>
<td>15 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registries</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with related societies</td>
<td>45 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1 058 670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td>586 330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>450 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>35 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Provider</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>45 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting and Audit</td>
<td>45 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology, Website</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Support</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>20 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report, Public Relations</td>
<td>35 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>680 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Profit before Financial Expenses**

| Financial income                       | 1 000    |
| Financial currency exchange expenses realised | 0    |
| Financial currency exchange expenses unrealistic | 0    |
| **Total**                              | 1 000    |

**Annual Profit / (Loss)**

| **Annual Profit / (Loss)**            | (94 670) |
1. ACCORDING TO ART. 663B CODE OF OBLIGATIONS

1.1 Risk Assessment

The Executive Committee has applied a financial risk management framework and taken appropriate measures to minimise the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements.

No further facts to disclose according to Art. 663b Code of Obligations.

2. STATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND RETAINED EARNINGS
(IN EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings at beginning of financial year</td>
<td>1 787 176</td>
<td>1 736 289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Profit / (Annual Loss)</td>
<td>382 503</td>
<td>50 887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings at end of fiscal year</td>
<td>2 169 679</td>
<td>1 787 176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Report of the statutory auditors on the limited statutory examination to the General Meeting of EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe 6810 Uster

Zug, July 15, 2015

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, 2014.

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)
Annual General Meeting Report: Copenhagen 2015

A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EVENT

This year’s EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. More than 3,600 participants from 81 countries attended, taking the opportunity to enjoy the high-quality scientific programme and network with spine experts and industry representatives in an impressive modern congress centre.

In addition to a wide range of content featuring the latest advances in spinal care, the Copenhagen meeting offered specialty seminars such as Spinal Oncology, New Techniques and Patients’ Safety, and The Impact of Rehabilitation on Spinal Surgery. Seminars were structured to give all delegates and speakers the opportunity to participate in discussion periods, stimulating creative thinking on best practice spinal care within Europe and worldwide.

“\textit{The pendulum returns back to common sense and clinical evidence. Not only new techniques and instrumentation. Mainly focusing on our long term results and outcomes.}”

S.P., Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon, Greece, delegate EUROSPINE 2015

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 2015: SELECTING ONLY THE BEST

The significant increase in abstract submissions marked a new record in 2015, clearly reflecting the growing recognition of EUROSPINE’s Annual General Meeting as the leading spine congress in Europe and one of the most important spine meetings worldwide. With such a large number of submissions, our hard-working Programme Committee were able to select the ‘best of the best’ papers to form a top-level, well-balanced scientific programme. Through a blinded peer review evaluation process, out of over 900 abstracts submitted, 94 were presented as oral presentations, 74 qualified for oral ‘quick fires’ and 140 were presented as e-posters.

The scientific programme was rounded out by two great debates, as demonstrated by the high rates of attendance and strong evaluations. Of outmost importance for us, over 600 participants completed the EUROSPINE 2015 Delegates’ Survey, providing valuable insight on potential further improvements.
EUROSPINE 2015 BY NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Countries Represented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Attendees, (excl. Pre-day)</td>
<td>3,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Delegates</td>
<td>2,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Representatives</td>
<td>1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants at Pre-day Courses</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-day Courses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Presentations</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debates</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick-Fire Presentations</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Posters</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPINE Lunch Symposia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Lunch Workshops</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibition

| Total Number of Exhibitors incl. Spine Village     | 166                    |
| Gold, Silver Sponsors and Contributors             | 5                      |
| Industry Exhibition in net sqm.                   | 3,190                  |

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair and Coordination</th>
<th>Thomas Blattert</th>
<th>Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Karin Wuertz-Kozak</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cédric Barrey</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martin Gehrichen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Kandziora</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selçuk Palaoğlu</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stavros Stavridis</td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Science, Biomechanics/Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Techniques, Imaging, Patient Safety, Infection, Complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Growing Spine</td>
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<td>Thoracolumbar: Trauma, Tumour</td>
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<td>Cervical Spine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thoracolumbar Degenerative, Adult Deformity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to our co-reviewers, for their huge contribution and support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Science: Biology &amp; Biomechanics</th>
<th>Thoraco-lumbar Spine: Trauma, Tumour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Ferguson, Switzerland</td>
<td>Cumhur Oner, Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominique Rothenfluh, United Kingdom</td>
<td>Zdenek Klezl, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Werner Schmölz, Austria</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>New Techniques, Imaging, Patient Safety, Infection, Complications</th>
<th>Cervical Spine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yann-Philippe Charles, France</td>
<td>Tim Pigott, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrico Tessitore, Switzerland</td>
<td>Bernard Jeanneret, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Growing Spine</th>
<th>Thoraco-lumbar Spine: Degenerative, Deformity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acke Ohlin, Sweden</td>
<td>Paulo Pereira, Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Borbjerg Andersen, Denmark</td>
<td>Matti Scholz, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRE-DAY MEETING AND LUNCH SYMPOSIA: A VITAL PART OF OUR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Thanks to the inspiration and hard work of the Lunch Symposia and Pre-Meeting Committee members, delegates in Copenhagen enjoyed a well-structured programme with high-quality scientific sessions, including 2 pre-day meetings, dealing with the aging spine and spinal oncology and six lunch symposia, successfully covering “hot topics” of modern spinal care approaches.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks for their most valuable contribution:
• Luis Alvarez Galovich, Spain (Chair)
• Hossein Mehdian, UK
• Klaus John Schnake, Germany

AWARDS 2015: THE BEST AND NOTHING BUT THE BEST

This year a new award was introduced for the “Best of Outside Europe Presentation”. Winners of this award and the “Best EUROSPINE Podium Presentation” were chosen by the audience via the conference app. Many thanks to our Awards Committees, who did a terrific job evaluating the high-level papers and who fought hard for two further prestigious EUROSPINE awards – the “EUROSPINE Full Paper Award 2015” and the “Grammer/European Spine Journal Award 2015”.

And of course congratulations to all the winners!

MEDAL LECTURE: INCREASING THE “HAPPINESS” QUOTIENT

A highlight of this year’s meeting was the “Extra-spinal” Medal Lecture by Jon Kjaer Nielsen, an author and professional speaker, who is passionate about creating happy and more successful workplaces. His outstanding lecture “Love Your Job, or Die Trying” was appreciated by all spine care specialists – who most likely found his innovative ideas and suggestions tailor-made for them!

THE KEY TO SUCCESS: OUR “DIOSCURI” CO-HOSTS

The 2015 EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting was successfully hosted in Copenhagen by our
colleagues, Finn Bjarke Christensen and Martin Gehrchen. Thank you so much for your great efforts and warm hospitality in the rather cold European north!

DEALING WITH NEW CHALLENGES

A significant step forward in our meeting’s programme structure was the introduction of a new submission category, “New Techniques, Imaging, Patient Safety, Infection, Complications”, that prompted 200 submissions in its first year alone!

The abstract review procedure was tightened, requiring completed declarations of interest from every accepted abstract co-author.

With a view to attracting even more researchers to our meeting, we augmented the basic science content in our scientific programme, increasing the number of abstracts presented and incorporating them into relevant clinical sessions.

PAVING THE PATH FOR THE FUTURE

In order to make the submission process simpler, more effective and “submitter-friendly”, we are planning to introduce improved scoring along with new reviewers’ guidelines and instructions for authors in preparation for the next Annual General Meeting in Berlin.

WE’RE LISTENING: SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Thanks to the high response rate to our Delegates’ Survey following the Copenhagen meeting, we gathered valuable feedback that will help us to further improve our meetings and enrich the scientific programme with new, innovative sessions. For the next meeting in Berlin, we plan to make the survey even more interactive with specific new questions to allow you to help us shape the future of EUROSPINE meetings together.

We’re looking forward to welcoming you in Berlin next October for a great EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting!

EUROSPINE Spring Specialty Meeting Barcelona 2015

The 2nd EUROSPINE Spring Specialty Meeting “Spinal Deformity from Early Childhood to Adulthood” was held jointly with the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) – the leading global society for treatment and prevention of spinal deformities – in Barcelona, Spain from 23 – 25 April 2015. This highly-valued educational event was well-attended, with 235 delegates and 38 exhibitors.

We wish to thank our Meeting Chairs for helping to make this event a great success:

- Ahmet Alanay – Istanbul, TR
- Haluk Berk – Izmir, TR

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- Ahmet Alanay – Istanbul, TR
- Haluk Berk – Izmir, TR
INTRODUCTION

The newly-formed Research Council of EUROSPINE is responsible for managing three programmes:

1. Task Force on Research (TFR): Research (and other) courses, and the Research Grant Programme
2. Spine Tango
3. EUROSPINE Awards

The Task Force on Research was established in 2007 by Margareta Nordin. She then served as TFR Chair until she was elected Vice President of EUROSPINE at the Annual General Meeting 2015 in Copenhagen. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Nordin’s outstanding contribution to the TFR. It was a great honour for me to take over from her as Chair of the Research Council in September 2015.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2015

The TFR Research Course

The 2015 Research Course “Fundamentals of Spine Research Methodology: how to make your research more relevant, feasible and publishable” was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 23 to 27 March, with Ferran Pellisé as local host. It was presented by faculty from the TFR, the ExCom and other members of EUROSPINE. The course was very successful – as indicated by the positive reviews provided in writing by course participants. Research courses are also planned for the coming years. In May 2016, Rachid Salmid will take over leadership of the TFR research courses from Margareta Nordin.

Additional TFR Courses

The University of Ulm presented a Biomechanics Summer Course, sponsored by EUROSPINE, in Ulm, Germany from 21 to 24 July 2015. The course was organised by Lutz Claes. The 2016 course will be offered in collaboration with EUROSPINE, funding five applicants selected by the TFR. Information about this course can be found at: www.biomechanics.de/summercourse/.

The first Literature Review Course organised by the Institut Franco-Europeen de Chiropraxie (IFEC) and sponsored by EUROSPINE was presented on 10 December 2015. The Course
Director was Rachid Salmi and the faculty was from the TFR. The course was well-received by more than 60 participants and will be repeated in December 2016 in Toulouse as a collaborative arrangement between IFEC and EUROSPINE.

**TFR Research Grants**

Research grants are distributed by decision of the EUROSPINE ExCom following grant application evaluation by the TFR. In total, €548,573 were distributed in research grants from 2011 to 2015 to spine projects run by members of EUROSPINE. Funding has been provided to Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and the USA. 40% of the principal investigators have been women. There are three types of grants available:

1. Developmental grants up to €10,000
2. Pilot Study Grants up to €30,000
3. Main grants up to €100,000

The majority of the funded projects have been in the Pilot Study category. The TFR is evaluating submitted grant applications during the spring. Based on the TFR evaluation and proposals, the ExCom will make a decision about grant funding in May 2016.

**Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee manages two awards that are presented at the Annual General Meeting: the “EUROSPINE Full Paper Award” (€10,000) and the “Best EUROSPINE Podium Presentation Award” (€2,000). In 2015 a new award, the “Best of Outside Europe Presentation” (€2,000), was created.

**Other initiatives and concluding comments**

At EUROSPINE 2015 in Copenhagen, a networking alumni gathering was held for the first time, attended by previous Research Course participants and Research Grant recipients. This event was highly appreciated, so the Research Council is planning to host another alumni gathering next year at the Annual General Meeting in Berlin.

I would like to thank everyone who has been, or currently is, involved in the Research Council’s various activities for their hard and important work and commitment in helping EUROSPINE reach its goal to be the leading spine society in Europe.
INTRODUCTION

Spine Tango (ST) is an international registry that documents the effectiveness and safety of spine care, treatment techniques and technologies. It has two main objectives:

1. The tracking of diseases and outcomes over time by aggregating and analysing patient data, quality management, and research
2. The generation of an (collective) evidence base for prevention, treatment effectiveness, patient safety, and best practices

The Spine Tango Committee acts as an advisory group in clinical and methodological questions for form improvement, the development of new forms, the acquisition and activation of new ST country modules, the ST benchmarking project and all new and ongoing research projects of ST participant clinics or ST committee members.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2015

In our planning for 2015, we set a number of objectives for Spine Tango. We are pleased that we were able to make significant progress on each and every goal:

- The paper from Staub et al. “Total disc arthroplasty versus anterior cervical interbody fusion: use of the Spine Tango registry to supplement the evidence from randomized control trials” received the “Outstanding (full) Paper Award 2015” in the category Surgical Science from the Spine Journal and was presented at the North American Spine Society Meeting in Chicago.
- The first stand-alone ST User Meeting (STUM) was organised and held in October in Bern. Overall, 27 persons from 8 countries (CH, DE, SE, NL, SL, IT, PT, and UK) participated and enjoyed the very informative and intensive scientific programme followed by a tango dance course.
- In 2014 it was decided to break the very large ST benchmarking project paper draft for LSS into several smaller papers in order to make Spine Tango output more visible and peer-reviewable. The first paper with the working title “Patterns of patients with poor global treatment outcome in lumbar spinal stenosis surgery” was drafted in 2015 and presented at the STUM in Bern. (The submission is planned in 2016.)
- Based on the grant on prognostic models...
of the outcome of surgery for Schulthess data obtained by Anne Mannion and Lukas Staub in 2014, a larger grant was submitted by Emin Aghayev and Anne Mannion to the Swiss National Foundations to fund the external validation of the developed Schulthess models and establishment of their use in Switzerland.

- The **ST conservative form validation study** (in cooperation with NYU OIOC, USA) was completed and the manuscript is in a drafting stage.
- The **ST Annual Report 2014** was released in Copenhagen and included excerpts of the benchmarking of ST centres on surgical and general complication rates for different pathologies and treatments.
- Following the offline import of about 45’000 COMI forms from Schulthess Clinic database into the Schulthess Spine Tango database, a handful of **thousands of new COMI forms** were imported.
- Seven peer-reviewed papers and a book chapter were published in 2015 and two further papers were accepted and are in press.
- The **follow-up calendar** was programmed for the regular use and is available on request.

**ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

We have made great progress in improving content and technology, taking Spine Tango to the top of all national spine registries. Follow-up is still presenting some difficulty, due to differing structures in other countries.

**PLANS FOR 2016**

In the coming year, we plan to continue improving Spine Tango, making the registry more versatile and comprehensive than ever. Our goals include the following:

- **Prepare the next STUM** as a pre-day course in Berlin at EUROSPINE’s Annual General Meeting.
- Continue with the **benchmarking project for LSS** (manuscript writing) and move on with lumbar disc herniation, followed by cervical DH and lumbar spondylolisthesis.
- Release **Version 2016 of the ST conservative form** (Version 2).
- Release **Version 2016 of the ST surgery form**.
- Release the **new implant report for industry**. The report should have the ability to analyse all available relevant data of an implant by a single or grouped article numbers in a descriptive manner – including standard ST outcome parameters.
- Release the **new benchmarking report for users**. The report should benchmark the available data and outcomes between the single user/centre and pooled data of other centres by pathology (the current reports do not discriminate between different pathologies).
- Develop a user-friendly **electronic patient format of the patient-reported forms** within Spine Tango as an alternative solution for paper forms and to allow for a remote documentation by sending the link to the forms electronically. This approach should help increase follow-up rates.
- Develop a **tablet and smart phone adapted presentation of Spine Tango**.
- Continue working on **prognostic models** in Switzerland and integrate these into the ST menu list of clinical tools (depending on the attainment of new grant monies).

As the leading database in Europe for documenting the effectiveness of techniques and treatments for spine disorders, Spine Tango is evolving quickly. Following an extremely productive year in 2015, we are looking forward to maintain our momentum for a highly-successful 2016!
All of EUROSPINE’s educational activities are back under the umbrella of the Society.

In collaboration with EANS, we also developed an advanced course: ‘Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Techniques’

Since October 2014, 22 national societies representing 6,700 spine specialists from across Europe have joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members.

40% of the principal investigators in EUROSPINE funded projects have been women.

In 2015 a new award, the “Best of Outside Europe Presentation” worth €2,000 was created.

The significant increase in abstract submissions marked a new record in 2015 with 900 abstracts submitted.

MEMBERSHIP

2013  641
2014  738
2015  925

The number of membership applications has almost doubled since 2014. The number of new members has increased by 20%, adding up to 187 new members.

Since October 2014, 22 national societies representing 6,700 spine specialists from across Europe have joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members.

€548,573 were distributed in research grants from 2011 to 2015 to spine projects run by members of EUROSPINE.

More than 3600 participants from 81 countries attended EUROSPINE 2015 in Copenhagen.

Thursday, 3 September 2015
17:30h - 18:30h (Members Only)
Copenhagen Bella Centre, Main Lecture Hall
78 members present
3 excused

1. WELCOME

Approval of the last protocol: Lyon, 2 October 2014.

Approved

2. SOCIETY BUSINESS

Financial Statements and Budget
Approval of the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014, Income Statement for years 2014 and 2015, and Budget for 2016. Refer to pages 24-28, including audit.

Approved

Budget for 2016 – approved
FP request: UEMS involvement should be increased, also with additional budget. ExCom will check.

3. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL CHAIR REPORTS

Way Forward Achievements (Berk)

Vision: To be the driving force and primary and preferred partner in Europe for all spinal care issues.

Mission:
• Optimise patient care and work towards the prevention of spinal disorders
• Provide and support “best practice” spine-related lifelong learning and research

• Bring together all spine-related European stakeholders across disciplines, cultures and countries

Strategic Priorities:
• Members - Expand the membership base and establish EuSSAB
• Activities - Improve meetings, education and research services
• Stakeholders - Formalise stakeholder relationship management and sponsorships
• Organisation - Align organisational structure to deliver on promises

Education Committee (Franke)

Following a year of change and transition in 2014, Education was reintegrated under the Society with a focus on new improvements:
• European Spine Course Diploma 2.0
• Development of new programmes for 2016

2015
• 6 – 8 September: Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Techniques in collaboration with EANS
• 25 – 30 October: Education Week, Strasbourg, FR. The programme was re-designed with the help of Lisa Hadfield and additional faculty training

2016
• 13 – 17 June: Education Week, Strasbourg, FR
• 19 – 20 September: Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Techniques and Revisions & Complications

Fellowships
Short-term fellowships (up to 14 days) now
called “Observerships”, are to be individually organised. Participants should be EUROSPINE members or applicants. The Observership Fellow will be granted a stipend of 1500 Euros for demonstrating specific surgical techniques and procedures.

Post Graduate Training (PGT)
Validated by EUROSPINE, 6 months+ of fellowship training in a EUROSPINE-recognised multidisciplinary centre.

European Spine Course Diploma (ESCD) Diploma Equivalence
• Reciprocal diploma agreements between organisations that offer a basic diploma with the same learning outcomes.
• Germany, Turkey
• Strong link with EuSSAB

Research (Nordin)

Awards Committee (Chair M. Ogon)
Election of Full Paper Award 2015:
The decision on the “Best Podium Presentation” and the newly-created “Best of Outside Europe Presentation” will be made together with the Programme Committee.

Spine Tango (Chair T. Pigott)
Spine Tango has about 23,000 patients with follow-up in the data bank, (e.g., in the UK, 8,500 patients with 2 years follow-up). This means a considerable increase of data and participating centres, and all publications (published, accepted for publication or in the works) are sound and reliable.

ST won a US $10,000 prize at NASS for Best Registry Paper 2014. We published 16 more peer-reviewed papers in 2014-2015.

The ST Committee mourns Chris Röder, who passed away shortly before the Annual General Meeting. We very much appreciate the important contribution he made to the Society’s registry. He will be greatly missed.

2015 Activities
• Writing weekend in July 2015, led by Anne Mannion
• Spine Tango user symposium 9 October 2015 by invitation

Both activities are planned again for 2016.

Task Force on Research (Chair M. Nordin)

Grants 2015: 17 applications were received. 16 were reviewed and one was not eligible. Three grants were funded for a total amount of €180,000. We plan to distribute the same grant amount in 2016.

Reaching out to MedTechs: In light of negotiations with MedTechs, TFR believes there is a strong argument for unrestricted research funding with an excellent infrastructure, transparent procedure and proven track record in place. Strategies for funding support from MedTechs are to be developed.

Research Course 2015 in Barcelona: We had excellent evaluation results (published on the website).

Future TFR Research courses and other activities:
• 7—11 March 2016, Milan, Italy, local host Marco Teli
• TFR Course, planned in Istanbul, Turkey, local host Haluk Berk
• TFR Course, planned in Munich, Germany, local host Christoph Siepe
• Abstract Course, planned again as a pre-day course, AGM Berlin 2016
• Biomechanic Laboratory Course, planned for 2016 together with the University of Ulm, Germany
• Literature Review Course, planned in cooperation with IFEC, December 2015, France
• Start of Alumni Network: first meeting taking place during the Copenhagen Meeting 2015

Meetings (Blattert)

Annual Meeting

Short summary of the Lyon 2014 survey: The number of young participants increased from 8% to 12%. The overall quality was rated slightly below Liverpool 2013.

Abstract Submissions 2015: A record number of abstracts were submitted: 949 were valid and reviewed, resulting in nine Scientific Sessions (non concurrent), 94 Oral Presentations, 2 Debates, and 1 Keynote Lecture. There were six concurrent sessions with 75 QuickFires and 140 e-posters. Disclosures were strictly checked and rules applied accordingly.

Organised by the Pre-day and Lunch Symposia Committee: 2 Pre-day Courses (Tuesday) and 6 EUROSPINE Lunch Symposia.

Spring Meeting Krakow 2016: A decision was made to hold a 1.75-day meeting chaired by Phil Sell and Thomas Blattert with a mix of lecturers invited from abstract submissions and case presentations.

Membership / EuSSAB (Siepe)

Membership increased by 20% over the last year, with the most growth from Turkey. 177 new members were ratified by the GA. The introduction of the new Young Member category was successful, representing 47% of all applications. We have a total current membership of 915, with a goal of exceeding 1000 members in 2016.

Membership fee payment rules were revised. A detailed process and timelines with reminders will be applied and included in the business rules. ESJ subscription will be suspended
by 1 April of the first unpaid year. Expulsion after two years if fees are not paid

**European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB)**

EuSSAB was founded in late 2014 at the AGM in Lyon. As of September 2015, **after the first 12 months, 17 national societies have already joined, with an institutional membership of about 5,622 spine specialists.** We expect approximately four more societies to join after their General Assembly later this year.

EuSSAB provides improved collaboration within Europe, allowing common goals and spine education across Europe to be addressed.

Our **objectives for 2016** are to further strengthen EuSSAB as platform for Institutional Members to discuss common goals e.g. pan-European spine diploma. A decision has been made to offer **one free registration per attending society** for our spring and/or autumn meeting.

**4. MEETING REPORTS**

**EUROSPINE 2015 Copenhagen**
More than 3,600 participants from 81 countries attended. 160 exhibitors were present.

**Update on next meetings (Wilke)**

**EUROSPINE Berlin 2016 status update on preparation and organisation:**
Presentation of City Cube Berlin (CCB), room allotments, lecture halls, exhibition area
Social activities: proposed sites for ExCom dinner, official congress evening
Local overview: hotel and transport situation, city of Berlin

**EUROSPINE 2018: Bid and vote on venue**
A bid was put forward for the Annual General Meeting to be held in Barcelona in 2018, hosted by Luis Alvarez and Ferran Pellisé. Accepted by GA.

**5. NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS**

The following offices were elected:

President: Michael Ogon
Vice-President: Margareta Nordin
Secretary: Thomas Blattert
Research Council Chair: Björn Rydevik
Meeting Council Chair: Stavros Stavridis
Spine Tango Chair: Emin Aghayev

The following committee members were approved:

**Education Committee**
Yann Philip Charles
Tim Pigott
Ionnis Magras

**Membership Committee**
Antonino Russo

**Programme Committee**
Werner Schmölz
Emre Acaroglu
Tamás Fekete

**Spine Tango**
Tbd by the ST Committee

**Patient Line**
Anna Hlavsova

**6. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No further issues.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Vice President
Past President
Secretary
Past Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Education Council
Meeting Council
Research Council
Membership Council
Stakeholder Council

CHAIRS

Membership Committee
Educational Committee
Lunch Symposia and Pre-Day Committee
Research Task Force
Spine Tango Committee
Patient Line Committee

PAST PRESIDENTS OF EUROSPINE

Haluk Berk, Turkey 2015
Philip J Sell, UK 2014
Ferran Pellisé, Spain 2013
Jean Charles LeHuec, France 2012
Ciaran Bolger, Ireland 2011
Hans Joachim Wilke, Germany 2010
Federico Balagué, Switzerland 2009
Robert Gunzburg, Belgium 2008
Charles Greenough, UK 2007
H. Michael Mayer, Germany 2006
Max Aebi, Switzerland 2005
Petr Suchomel, Czech Republic 2004
Dieter Grob, Switzerland 2003
Norbert Passuti, France 2002
Gordon F.G. Findlay, UK 2001
Jiri Dvorak, Switzerland 2000
Carlos Villanueva, Spain 1999

PAST PRESIDENTS OF ESDS

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

PAST PRESIDENTS OF ESS

Jürgen Krämer, Germany †2011 1997-1998
Franco Postacchini, Italy 1995-1996
Alain Deburge, France 1993-1994
Michael Sullivan, UK 1991-1992
I wish to extend a warm thank you to EUROSPINE’s Committee Members for your hard work and dedication this year. Thanks to your positive attitude and enthusiasm, EUROSPINE is growing stronger every day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Michael Ogon
President ofEUROSPINE 2015-16

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria (President)
Margareta Nordin, Romorantin, France (Vice President)
Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey (Past President)
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany (Secretary)
Everard Munting, Biez, Belgium (Past Secretary)
Finn B. Christensen, Aarhus, Denmark (Treasurer)
Marco Teli, Liverpool, UK (Assistant Treasurer)
Stavros Stavridis, Thessaloniki, Greece (Chair, Meeting Council)
Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden (Chair, Research Council)
Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany (Chair, Education Council)
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany (Chair, Membership Council)

RESEARCH COUNCIL AND TASK FORCE RESEARCH
Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden (Chair)
Kim Burton, Huddersfield, UK
Christine Cedraschi, Geneva, Switzerland
Pierre Côté, Toronto, Canada
Louis-Rachid Salmi, Bordeaux, France
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium

SPINE TANGO COMMITTEE
Emin Aghayev, Bern, Switzerland (Chair)
Everard Munting, Ottignies, Belgium (Past Secretary)
Andrea Luca, Milan, Italy
Anne F. Mannion, Zurich, Switzerland
Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK
Rolf Sobottke, Würselen, Germany
Thomas Zweig, Bern, Switzerland

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany (Chair)
Jorge A. Draper, Mineiro, Barcarena, Portugal
Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany
Alpaslan Senkölü, Ankara, Turkey
Claudius Thomé, Innsbruck, Austria
Alberto Zerbi, Milan, Italy
Jean Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany (Chair)
Serdar Kahraman, Istanbul, Turkey
Antonio Russo, Stafford, UK
Efthimios Samoladas, Thessaloniki, Greece

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE 2016
Stavros Stavridis, Thessaloniki, Greece (Chair)
Emre Acaroglu, Ankara, Turkey
Cédric Barrey, Lyon, France
Tamás Fekete, Zurich, Switzerland
Martin Gehrchen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt, Germany
Werner Schmölz, Innsbruck, Austria
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany (Institutional)
Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria (Institutional)

LUNCH SYMPOSIA AND PRE-MEETING COMMITTEE
Luis Alvarez Galovich, Madrid, Spain (Chair)
Hossein Mehdian, Nottingham, UK
Klaus John Schnake, Fürth, Germany

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Margareta Nordin, Romorantin, France (Chair)
Ronald Bartels, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
Constantin Schizas, Lausanne, Switzerland
Robert Gunzburg, Antwerp, Belgium (Institutional, ESJ Editor-in-Chief)

PATIENT LINE COMMITTEE
Tamar Pincus, London, UK (Chair)
Anna Hlavsova, London, UK
Vassilis Lykomitros, Thessaloniki, Greece
Adina Carmen Rusu, Bochum, Germany
Ahmed Siam, Bad Berka, Germany

WEBSITE AND E-LEARNING COMMITTEE
Dominique Rothenfluh, Nottingham, UK (Chair)
Alqroon Rami, Dortmund, Germany

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany (Chair)
Ahmet Alanay, Istanbul, Turkey
Helton Defino, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil
Sarvdeep Dhatt, Punjab, India
Baoge Liu, Beijing, China
Jorge A. Draper Mineiro, Barcarena, Portugal

SITE COMMITTEE
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany (Chair) (Institutional)
Judith Reichert Schild, Uster, Switzerland
Finn B. Christensen, Aarhus, Denmark (Institutional)
Michael Ogon, Vienna Austria (Institutional)
Future Events

Subscribe to our events calendar if you wish to get all our event details automatically fed to your calendar!
www.eurospine.org/activities-calendar.htm

For further information please visit: www.eurospinemeeting.org
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