Quick Facts:

- **Location**: Beirut, Lebanon
- **Date**: 3–5 October 2019
- **Organising Society**: Lebanese Orthopaedic Society (LOS)
- **Number of participants**: around 80 persons at the symposium (approximately half of the general attendance)
- **EUROSPINE Representatives**: Rachid Salmi (Head of Research Council), Ibrahim Obeid (Member), Ayman Assi (Member and Ambassador), Nour Khalil (Member)

**What was the main topic of the event?**
The objective of the symposium, a plenary one-hour session organised just before the official ceremony of the meeting, was to sensitize surgeons to the importance of research on spinal disorders and provide information on EUROSPINE activities in terms of support for research (training and funding); the spine session of the meeting was also co-organised with EUROSPINE.

**What did EUROSPINE representatives present?**
During the spine session of the congress, Ibrahim Obeid gave three short invited lectures on “Past, present and future of adult spinal deformity”, “Navigation and robotics in spinal deformity surgery”, and “Artificial Intelligence, and the future of orthopaedic research”. The symposium had two parts: 1) Two members, one biomechanist in charge of a local research laboratory and one junior resident involved in research in that laboratory, presented their experience of doing research with limited resources; 2) Clinical research on spine disorders: What should you read and what should you publish? How to make your research relevant for clinical practice, and opportunities for training and funding at EUROSPINE.

**How was the general atmosphere at the meeting? How was the interaction at the meeting?**
There were several exchanges with various representatives of local associations, during breaks; limits of current local research and needs for specific courses were discussed.

**Was EUROSPINE promoted at the meeting? How was it perceived?**
EUROSPINE appeared on slides of the workshop and on all last slides of the papers presented at the free paper sessions by the Laboratory of Biomechanics and Medical Imaging at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Saint-Joseph in Beirut.

**Maybe a few personal words / impressions:**
The needs for training for research are huge. I started discussing these with the TFR faculty and we might make proposals for short courses adapted to similar settings.
Basic principles of critical appraisal

- Know how to choose sources
- Know how to "navigate" in a document
- Understand methods and possible limits
- Keep your common sense in judging the actual relevance of results

Keyword: decisional usefulness