

## EUROSPINE's EuSSAB Spring Meeting 2019 - Protocol

### Monday, 18 March 2019, 10:30—17:15h, Munich

#### Chair:

Christoph Siepe (CS)  
EuSSAB Committee Chair

#### Protocol:

Christoph Siepe, Claudia Ortner  
Beat Leimbacher, Robert Conrad

#### Speakers and Workshop Chairs:

Tim Pigott (UK)  
EUROSPINE President

Beat Leimbacher (BL)  
Delegate of the ExCom

Johan van Lerbeirghe (JvL)  
EuSSAB Committee

EDISC	Education
Pierre Côte (PC) Task Force Interprofessional Spine Care	Julie-Lyn Noël (JLN) Director Education & Research
Quality Assurance	Communication
Frank Kandziora (FK) Task Force Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence	Christoph Siepe (CS) EuSSAB Committee Chair
Everard Munting (EM) Task Force Spine Tango	Claudia Ortner (CO) Membership Relations Manager

#### Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Country	Society
Grohs	Josef	Austria	Oesterreichische Gesellschaft fuer Wirbelsaeulen Chirurgie
van Lerbeirghe	Johan	Belgium	Spine Society of Belgium
Perovic	Darko	Croatia	Croatian Society for Vertebrology
Šumonja	Ilijana	Croatia	Croatian Society for Spinal Surgery
Bech-Azeddine	Rachid	Denmark	Danish Society of Spine Surgery
Halme	Jarkko	Finland	Suomen Selkaekirurgiyhdistys
Litrico	Stephane	France	Société Française de Chirurgie Rachidienne
Kothe	Ralph	Germany	Deutsche Wirbelsaeulengesellschaft
Ronai	Marton	Hungary	Hungarian Spine Society
Knoller	Nachshon	Israel	Israeli Spine Society
Luca	Andrea	Italy	Societa Italiana di chirurgia vertebrale - GIS
Müller	Kay	Norway	Norwegian Spinal Surgeon Society
Popescu	Eugen Cezar	Romania	Romanian Medical Society for Spine Surgery
Diez Ulloa	Maximo-Alberto	Spain	Sociedad Espanola de Columna Vertebral
Vázquez Miguez	Alfonso	Spain	Sociedad Española de Cirugía Vertebral y Medular
Möller	Hans	Sweden	Swedish Society of Spinal Surgeons
Heilbronner	Raoul	Switzerland	Schweizerische Gesellschaft fuer spinale Chirurgie
Naderi	Sait	Turkey	Turkish Spine Society

## Goals & Agenda

1. Make further progress in strengthening the cooperation within EuSSAB countries
2. Ensure that needs of EuSSAB members are taken care of
3. Leverage benefits of EUROSPINE core activities at the benefit of EuSSAB countries
4. Ensure a proactive participation of all representatives
5. Give an update about the latest developments that are of importance for EuSSAB

**In order to achieve these goals the meeting was organised in a workshop format.**

### **WORKSHOPS: How to benefit best from EUROSPINE core activities**

Workshop goals:

- Status quo of specific EUROSPINE activity – short presentation / intro
- Find out more about the needs of the EuSSAB countries in that specific field
- Discussion: what's needed to meet the specific needs of the countries

Each group worked with a specialist in this field, who acted as facilitator

The topics of the workshops included:

- Education – Special Focus e-learning
- EDISC (EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care)
- Quality Assurance:
  - Spine Tango
  - Certification of Spine Centres
- EuSSAB Communication across Europe

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## **General updates on EUROSPINE**

### **EUROSPINE Achievements 2018**

1. Successful 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in Barcelona
2. Build e-learning for surgeons
3. Support Task Force Interprofessional Spine Care and booster the concept at the Vienna Spring Meeting
4. Strengthen EUROSPINE's position by intensifying and formalizing our relationship with EFORT, EANS, UEMS, National Spine Societies, etc.
5. Support the continuous development of EUROSPINE EuSSAB and strengthen our position as umbrella organization of national spine societies
6. Develop and inaugurate the Certification for SSCoE (Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence)
7. Support Spine Tango to develop sustainability
8. Standards for prioritizing our activities – re-evaluate and re-confirm way forward strategy
9. Make the Spring Meeting 2019 in Frankfurt a success – still work in progress

### Latest developments since Barcelona – in brief

1. E-learning
  - Signed the e-learning cooperation contract with Medtronic on 1 November
  - Project work has started with an external provider paid by Medtronic supporting us
  - The contract with our external freelancer has been terminated – only having used part of his capacity
  - Goal is to offer a short Eduweek combined with e-learning from 18-20 November 2019
2. Spine Tango
  - Northgate has been selected as new provider and contract has been signed on 5 December 2019
  - The new contract is full in line with GDPR (new data protection rules) and will request bilateral contracts with all participating hospitals
  - Transition phase is ongoing and with existing provider ISPM a prolongation contract is signed
3. New Hiring
  - Robert Conrad has been hired as MANAGER OF REGISTRY & REGISTRATION
  - strong professional business background in project management and e-learning
  - Two master diplomas in “Business Administration and Management” as well as in “Sociology and political science”
  - His focus will be Spine Tango and e-learning

### Six core priorities 2019

1. Meetings
    - Spring Meeting Frankfurt – goal to establish a strong high quality EUROSPINE speciality meeting
    - Helsinki: Keep the high level of quality/expectations like in the former meetings
  2. Education:
    - manage the move from Strasbourg to Geneva
    - ensure good start of EDISC – position EUROSPINE also as a Society for non-surgeons providing best practice education
    - get successful start of e-learning – first Hybrid Eduweek 18-20 November 2019
  3. Spine Tango:
    - manage successful transition to new provider – keeping & increasing number of hospitals
    - get commercial business initiated to ensure payback of big investments
  4. Hospital certification:
    - Transition of successful pilot into fully pledged concept
  5. EuSSAB:
    - more proactive involvement of EuSSAB reps – better leverage of our core activities at the benefit of all partners
  6. New Website
    - Ensure transparency / manage complexity / get costs under control
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## General updates on EUROSPINE's EuSSAB

### EuSSAB Committee & Contributors

- EuSSAB Council (implemented at the last General Assembly!)  
Christoph Siepe, EuSSAB Council  
Johan Van Lerbeirghe, EuSSAB Committee Member
- EuSSAB Representatives  
Ioannis Magras, EuSSAB Representative 2018/2019  
elected by all EuSSAB members to represent EuSSAB in the EUROSPINE ExCom  
Alberto Ulloa, EuSSAB Vice-Representative 2018/2019  
elected by all EuSSAB members to become the next EuSSAB Representative 19/20
- Facilitator: Beat Leimbacher, Delegate of the ExCom
- EUROSPINE Stakeholder Committee  
Margareta Nordin, Stakeholder Council

### Strategic Plan & Responsibilities

- Strategic plan for all core and prioritised 2019 issues
- Clear assignment of responsibilities to all involved participants
  - EuSSAB Communication → Christoph S. together with Ioannis M.  
Communication across Europe / Mutual promotion of events
  - EuSSAB Programme → Johan vL.  
EuSSAB input to EUROSPINE 2019 → Pre-day Course II in Helsinki
  - EuSSAB Membership → Claudia O. together with Christoph S.  
Focus on additional member societies, keep updates, etc

### Next steps & projects

- EuSSAB input to EUROSPINE 2019 in Helsinki
    - Pre-day Course II – Tuesday, 15 October 2019
    - EuSSAB talk about political issues – details to be confirmed
    - Paper about SWOT Analysis 2017/2018 for ESJ  
→ Johan vL. with the support of Margareta N.
  - 2nd round of SWOT Analysis 2019/2020  
→ Alberto U. with the support of Claudia O.
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## Summary of Workshop Results

The workshop concept of this meeting was very well received and we are pleased to report a great success.

To keep up the momentum of these interactive workshops and to get the most out of this meeting, we will present the results of the separate workshops in single topic reports over the next 3 weeks.

## EuSSAB Communication across Europe

In the workshop on communication we agreed on the following new communication concept:

- Every society should create a position for one EuSSAB representative
- EuSSAB representative should ideally have a position in the national ExCom
- Position should be for an extended period of 3-4 years to provide continuity
- Name and duration of the term of EuSSAB representative should be communicated to Claudia O. by email to [ortner@eurospine.org](mailto:ortner@eurospine.org)
- This position should officially be declared by the society for transparency (i.e. website)
- Emails from EUROSPINE go out to this ONE responsible contact person. Others may be copied cc (i.e. secretary and administrative secretary). But only this one person is responsible for all communication. Any additional contact persons must also be confirmed to Claudia O. by email to [ortner@eurospine.org](mailto:ortner@eurospine.org)
- EuSSAB representative responsible for providing feedback back to EUROSPINE, i.e.
  - message passed on to members, actions taken, etc.
  - message received but not passed on and if so, why
- Ultimately, awareness of EuSSAB needs to increase
- General Comment: Communication could be improved by unifying spine societies in countries with several spine societies.
- (Mutual promotion of events, i.e. separate info-newsletter just for events, sorted by region / calendar date)

**The reports to all other workshop topics will follow within the next 3 weeks, based on the following timeline:**

Wednesday, 3 April - Quality Assurance (SSCoE and Spine Tango)

Wednesday, 10 April - EDISC

Wednesday, 17 April - Education

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## Next EuSSAB annual meeting 2019

The next EuSSAB annual meeting will take place during EUROSPINE 2019 in Helsinki on **Thursday, 17 October 2019**.

Every institutional member will receive one free registration to send one representative to participate in the meeting.