

EuSSAB Meeting Protocol

Thursday, 2nd October 2014
EUROSPINE 2014 – Lyon, France

Presenters:

Haluk Berk, President EUROSPINE
Christoph Siepe, Chair EUROSPINE Membership Committee

Attendees:

Representatives from 21 nations and 26 national / specialist spine societies

Protocol:

Christoph Siepe / Claudia Ortner

EuSSAB – Idea & Goals:

- EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, aims to closely connect and link the various national / specialist spine societies throughout Europe and by means of **EuSSAB (European Spine Societies Advisory Board)**
- The national spine societies are invited to connect and meet on a regular basis under one common umbrella and communication platform, defined as **EuSSAB**
- SSE does not intend to become a professional body over national / specialist spine societies.
- The members of EuSSAB will define common goals, challenges and strategies in order to solve them as equal partners
- Having one united communication platform will strengthen the political weight and influence of all EuSSAB members.
- EuSSAB will have the potential to unify processes throughout Europe, i.e. for a common and homogenous educational program, strengthen the united spine surgeons position on an international political scale
- Connecting national spine societies as described above has the potential to create and unite several thousand associate members throughout Europe under one common umbrella. It will **strengthen the political position of all of its partners** as well counterweight the position of other global spine societies.

EuSSAB – The Benefits for Institutional & Associate Members:

- National spine societies would be able to join EuSSAB under EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe (SSE), as **“Institutional Members”**
- Joining of a national / specialist spine society as an institutional member would automatically make all of its members **“Associate Members”** of SSE
- Both the institutional membership as well as the associate membership will be **free of charge** and is intended to be a symbiotic and mutual ‘win-win’ relationship between SSE and all of its allied national / specialist spine societies.

- Associate Members will receive certain advantages such as e-newsletters, annual reports, access to the exclusive member area on the website and to webcasts. They will benefit from a larger networking platform and have the possibility to form alliances with members from other European spine societies.
- **Associate members will not be contacted directly by SSE**, nor is it SSE's intent to receive the full list and personal contact details of any national spine societies associate members. Conversely, any communication between SSE and its associate members will be addressed to the national / specialist spine societies, who are welcome to forward and distribute the information to their members
- In case an associate member decides to take advantage of the full range of SSE membership benefits (i.e. reduced conference registration fees, access to online / print version of the European Spine Journal etc.), an associate member will have to apply for a full SSE membership.

EuSSAB – Next steps:

- It was uniformly decided by vote that the next upcoming EuSSAB meeting will be scheduled in 6 months time during the EUROSPINE spring meeting, 23-25 April 2015 in Barcelona.
- Further detailed meeting information will be announced shortly.



Christoph Siepe, MD PhD
Chair of EUROSPINE Membership Committee