

EuSSAB Meeting Protocol

Friday, 24 April 2015

EUROSPINE Spring Meeting, Barcelona, Spain

Presenters:

Haluk Berk, President EUROSPINE

Philip Sell, Past President EUROSPINE

Christoph Siepe, Chair EUROSPINE Membership Committee

Joerg Franke, Chair EUROSPINE Educational Committee

Attendees:

Representatives from 15 nations and their corresponding spine societies

Protocol:

Christoph Siepe / Claudia Ortner

Agenda Points from EuSSAB Meeting, 24 April 2015

- **Summary** of key points and conclusions from the previous meeting in Lyon (as summarized in separate meeting protocol from Lyon)
- **Update** on the latest EuSSAB developments
- Establish which societies are eligible for EuSSAB
- Define the democratic process for EuSSAB (i.e. voting rights)
- Design strategy to ensure optimal interaction between EuSSAB and EUROSPINE Executive Committee
(i.e. potential participation of EuSSAB representative in relevant agenda points of EUROSPINE ExCom meetings)
- Overview: Education across Europe

Update

- Since the inaugural EuSSAB meeting in Lyon, between October 2014 and April 2015, a total of **14 societies have joined** EUROSPINE as Institutional Members, **representing approx. 5.000 Associate Members from across Europe**
- Official confirmation letters have been sent to the presidents and representatives of these new member societies
- EUROSPINE 'Welcome letters to Associate Members' have been sent to the national societies, to be forwarded and distributed to their members at their own discretion
(it was reiterated that EUROSPINE will **not** take any steps to contact the members of the national spine societies directly)

The EuSSAB Spring meeting in Barcelona was planned as a preparatory meeting for the more sizeable upcoming meeting in Copenhagen (09.2015), where final decisions will be voted and passed.

General Rules / EuSSAB Policies

- **National Societies which qualify for EuSSAB:**
Basic EuSSAB entry criteria stipulate that the National society
 - should ideally have a democratic process
 - should be multidisciplinary
 - should represent the majority of spine surgeons of a country
- In case there is not one sole multidisciplinary society but several societies per country (i.e. neurosurgical / orthopaedic / trauma), the national societies should vote for **one representative (society) per country**. This representative may alternate on an annual basis or, alternatively, after a fixed term
- Once a final EuSSAB board has been confirmed, **EuSSAB members will vote on the acceptance of any new society member application**
- **Voting Rights**
 - Suggested options include: vote by society / by country / by number of members?
 - Suggested method (discussed): Counted on a majority or proportional basis?
 - The unanimously preferred option was to opt for **1 country = 1 vote (to be discussed and approved in Copenhagen)**.

Communication

- Responsibility is transferred to EuSSAB members. EUROSPINE will provide a communication platform. Priority topics to be addressed and initiatives to solve them will be driven by the EuSSAB board members.
- Recommendation to national societies to send one representative over a prolonged period of time in order to provide continuity.
- Intention to provide a “EuSSAB” sub-category on the EUROSPINE website with updates on the latest EuSSAB developments, information regards past and upcoming meetings, links to the Institutional Members Websites etc.
- Complimentary access to Webcasts of EUROSPINE meetings reserved for Associate Members and societies which have joined EuSSAB, exclusively.

Education

- Strong interest signalled by all Barcelona participants to facilitate EuSSAB as a platform and tool to collaborate on educational programs across Europe.
- Countries with pre-existing educational programs will be approached in order to solve compatibility issues.
- In order to establish the present status of 'Education across Europe', EuSSAB / EUROSPINE representatives (C. Siepe / J. Franke) will develop a questionnaire on national educational programs. The survey will subsequently be distributed to National Societies throughout Europe. The survey results will be presented at the upcoming EuSSAB meeting in Copenhagen.
- Institutional Members can benefit from existing EUROSPINE education curriculum.
Goal: Development of one pan-European and compatible Spine Diploma.
This benefit will be reserved to EuSSAB Institutional Members exclusively.

Next Steps & Tasks for meeting participants

- Update of society contact details – each meeting participant will receive an email shortly and is requested to update all relevant information and contact details.
- Participants are invited to raise potential questions, i.e. on voting rights, at their national societies ExCom meetings.
- Participants are invited to proactively raise topics for discussion at the upcoming meetings.

Agenda Points for upcoming meeting

- Attendees agreed to keep EuSSAB meetings short and concise, as a 'pro-active' platform that moves forward and makes decisions
- **Upcoming meeting** is scheduled for a **2 hour duration on Friday, 4 September 2015, during** the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting (2-4 September 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Agenda will focus on political issues (i.e. voting rights, ExCom representatives etc.) and, as requested by the Barcelona participants, approx. 45-60 minutes on 'Education across Europe' (continued).
- Choose one EuSSAB representative who will be invited to selected EUROSPINE ExCom meetings
- Optional: Prior to meeting- 30. minute 'Introduction to EuSSAB' instructional presentation for new EuSSAB participants

Potential Agenda Points to be raised at future EuSSAB meetings:

- Education (continued)
- A collaborative approach to multidisciplinary spine education
- A spine curriculum for spine surgeons in training
- Spine registers
- Medical indemnity insurance (considerable discrepancies across Europe and amongst specialities)
- European working time directive and spine training
- Setting critical standards of care for specific disorders

Christoph Siepe, MD PhD

Chair of EUROSPINE Membership Committee