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
  
  o  should ideally have a democratic process
  
  o  should be multidisciplinary
  
  o  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**

  o  Suggested options include: vote by society / by country / by number of members?
  
  o  Suggested method (discussed): Counted on a majority or proportional basis?

  o  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