Annual Report
2012/13
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Future EUROSPINE meetings

www.eurospinemeeting.org

EUROSPINE 2013
October 2-4, Liverpool, UK
Local Hosts: Tim Pigott, Martin Wilby

EUROSPINE 2014
October 1-3, Lyon, France
Local Host: Jean-Charles Le Huec
Co-Hosts: Pierre Roussouly, Gilles Perrin, Jean Pierre Steib, Cédric Y. Barrey, Christophe Garin

EUROSPINE 2015
September 2-4, Copenhagen, Denmark
Local Host: Finn Christensen

EUROSPINE 2016
October 3-9, Berlin, Germany
Local Host: Hans Joachim Wilke
Welcome from the President

Dear Members,
Friends and Colleagues,

Success is probably the best word to define the activity of EUROSPINE, the spine society of Europe, during the last year. I would like to thank all our Society members, Officers and Committee Chairs, but particularly our past President, Jean-Charles Le Huec, and our past Secretary, Haluk Berk, for the tremendous work that has been done. The aims and objectives of our not-for-profit organization, as described in the Society Credo and Statutes, were clearly met. You’ll find an in-detail description of the many milestones reached in the various Committee reports included in this 2012 EUROSPINE Annual Report. The excellent revenues from our past annual meetings in Vienna and Milan have enabled the Society to be active in many fields, while allocating considerable funds to expanding our education offer, fostering spinal research, and improving our SpineTango registry.

In 2012, we allocated close to €500,000 to the EuroSpine Foundation, which, together with our Education and Fellowship Committee, is developing and implementing the most ambitious and comprehensive program on the continent in spine education. This has positioned EUROSPINE as the major driving force in this task within Europe and has made it a reference point and resource for all spine societies engaged in similar efforts at a local level. We delivered the European Spine Course Diploma for future spine specialists and the Master Courses for spine specialists at both the national and continental level. The Education Week held in Luzern, covering the full surgical program, was very well received. The non-surgical educational program is currently under development and will soon be a reality, as will the EuroSpinE Diploma Alumni, a project directed toward creation of a network of EUROSPINE graduates. I would like to acknowledge the excellent job done by the Foundation in our educational field.

In addition, €230,000 were contributed to fostering spinal research, including the organisation of the first EUROSPINE Research Course, entitled “Fundamentals of Clinical Research: Learning to Design My Own Clinical Studies”, which was held in Istanbul with a very positive feedback from the attendees, who came from nine countries and worked together intensively during five days. Following a strict, systematic review
of all the applications received, the Society selected and granted funding to seven research projects, which received a total amount of €168,600.

We have also maintained support of the SpineTango registry and have invested €175,000 in this effort. New language versions of the 2011 forms (Greek, Russian, Polish, and Turkish) are now available on the web site. Being visible to its users, the new Tango system provides better data entry management, several new possibilities for data mining and online statistics, and developments in the online follow-up agenda that will facilitate and improve regular data collection and patient follow-up. The ongoing benchmarking project allows users to validly compare their indications and results with those of the relevant pooled data.

More than 3,000 participants representing 79 countries from the five continents attended our annual meeting, shared with the world’s leading spine societies, during SpineWeek. The many advantages of this combined global event are, nevertheless, associated with some drawbacks. The daily EUROSPINE atmosphere was probably diluted and our incomes reduced. We may, therefore, expect some decrease in our society capital, and to maintain our regular fund allocation in education, research, and registry, our expenses will likely exceed our income temporarily. We believe the substantial growth over the last years makes this financial situation tolerable for our non-profit organisation.

In 2013, we’ll work hard to maintain the established standards, open the Society even more to its 614 members, and be especially sensitive to our younger members and future leaders by designing long-term strategies and modelling EUROSPINE to their needs. Growth, leadership, and transparency will be our goals.

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of EUROSPINE, the spine society of Europe, for granting me the great privilege of serving as President for the next year and welcome everyone interested in research, prevention, and treatment of spinal disorders to block out the dates 2 to 4 October 2013 and come to Liverpool to share the unique atmosphere of the EUROSPINE meetings.

My best regards,

Ferran Pellisé
EUROSPINE President
EUROSPINE: Growing Society

This year the EUROSPINE General Assembly made and ratified some important decisions.

The first of which was important to me, to my countrymen and members of the society. EUROSPINE members voted the statutes to decide the outer borders of the society, where EUROSPINE statutes stated that active members could only be from countries within geographic Europe. Ongoing debate on whether members from Turkey should stay as active members or in other words, whether Turkey is located within the geographical confines of the European continent or not was resolved. General Assembly members voted and accepted anonymously that members from Turkey are to remain as active fellows “regardless of the geographical location within Turkey”.

As a reflection of important strategic decision, members have approved the European National Spine Societies advisory board at the General assembly in Amsterdam. This has opened a new chapter in EUROSPINE’s history where national spine societies will have a voice in the executive committee of EUROSPINE, the Spine society of Europe. A call for representation at the advisory board will be made and chair elected by the advisory board will be a full member of the executive committee. The intention is to increase communication and collaboration between the national spine societies throughout Europe, so that we are united in our educational and political goals to become a common platform for the spine specialists.

Education, one of the milestone activities of EUROSPINE has grown in the year 2012. You will find detailed education committee report in the following pages. To me the highlights were:

1. The research course delivered by the Task Force in Research (TFR) in Istanbul.
2. A successful Education week in with all five modules and a surgical skills cadaver component.
3. Completion of a full cycle European Education Diploma courses by a National Spine society (Turkey) that was a dream a year ago to be accomplished.

A special thanks should go to TFR chair Margareta Nordin and faculty members of Research course, EUROSPINE Education committee chaired by Marco Brayda-Bruno as well as EuroSpine Foundation administrative team headed by Gerard Vanecker and Emre Acaroğlu, president of Turkish Spine Society, and many others without whom this could not have happened so quickly or so well.

EUROSPINE education committee synchronized with the EuroSpine Foundation is seeking a further multinational multidiscipline review committee that will standardise the process of European Diploma Courses. Richard Assaker will be leading the committee composed of leading spine specialists and members from the participating national spine society representatives.
This year, EUROPINE convened in Amsterdam, during Spineweek. Participants had the chance of interacting with EUROPINE and sister spine societies. I will take the opportunity and look critical back to EUROPINE congress from 1996 to 2012. Though fluctuating from year to year, both the number of participants and submitted number of abstracts have increased considerably (see Figure 1). As a consequence, acceptance rate has dropped knowing that number of accepted podium and poster (later e-poster or special poster presentations) presentations stayed within a narrow band between 80 to 90 (see Figure 2).

It is speculated that rate of abstract turning into full paper is one of the quality measure of abstract peer reviewing process and the scientific level of the meeting. Abstracts turning into full paper increased from 30% in 1996 to 51.8% in 2005. (Investigation took place in 2009 allowing 4 post congress years). Figure 2 also shows that EUROPINE received less abstract submissions during Spineweek meetings. A follow-up investigation including years 2006 to 2009 will further outline the trend of publication rate in EUROPINE congresses.

Looking at the assets and commitments, EUROPINE The Spine Society of Europe is very health growing society. We are committed to be the leader in education and representation of spine specialists in Europe, and major participants in the International arena.

Personally, this year being my last year in office, I feel privileged to serve as secretary to EUROPINE. I cordially thank members of the society for their confidence in appointing me to run a challenging task. My successor Everard Munting has already overtaken many important tasks; I wish him a very successful term of office.

Haluk Berk
EUROPINE Secretary
The EUROSPINE 2011 Milan final report, balance and audit is presented, the profit received from Milan (before the above regularization) of €1,300,000 is very satisfactory.

It is decided that the society should keep the equivalent of one failed annual meeting in cash reserves on its accounts.

Michael Ogon’s term as treasurer will end this year: He is thanked with applause.


2nd Ratification: Two third of members’ votes could not be reached at the first request (Milan GA 2011), therefore a second ratification is needed: two third of the present quorum.

The elected chair of the European National Spine Society Advisory Board (EuNSSAB) will have a seat in the ExCom. The ratification text was mailed to members together with the GA agenda 30 days in advance.

Approved by more than two third.

One vote against.

See next page for changes regarding Article 19 of the EUROSPINE Statutes.

4. Request to set up a task force for a general revision of the EUROSPINE legal documents, i.e. statutes, internal rules, guidelines. (Berk/Le Huec).

It is proposed to adapt our regulations and the related documents to today’s situation in order to make them more consistent and workable. A task force will be established, results to be reported at the Liverpool 2013 GA.

Approved.
Executive Committee - EUROSPINE Statutes

- **Article 19**
  (EUROSPINE Statutes - existing - change = new)
  “The Executive Committee administers and represents the Society. The members of the Executive Committee act on an honorary basis and are entitled to reimbursement of their out of pocket expenses and cash expenditures. In the event of exceptional services rendered by certain members of the Executive Committee adequate compensation my be paid. Only Active, Senior and Honorary Members may be elected to it.

- It is composed of
  - The President (of the Society)
  - The Vice-President
  - The Past-President
  - The Secretary
  - The Past-Secretary
  - The Treasurer
  - The Assistant-Treasurer
  - The chairman of the next Annual General Meeting
  - Two Members at large”

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Annual Meetings

5. **EUROSPINE 2012 / SpineWeek Amsterdam, report (Szpaliski)**

For the 3rd time, EUROSPINE had its annual meeting integrated into SpineWeek, together with seven other spine societies: ISSLS, ECSRS, NASS, SILACO, SRS and BSS. (Please see separate report on page 22.)

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6. **Up-date next meetings**

- Liverpool 2013 (Pigott)
  Preparations according to schedule, good cooperation between the local hosts and the organizing team and the PCO. For the moment there is a rather cautious budget agreed due to the overall financial situation in Europe.
• Berlin 2016, October 3-8, confirmed. The "Messe Berlin" is building a new venue, the City Cube Berlin (CCB), to be completed in 2014 and which had been reserved for us. A reservation confirmation is due to be signed by Berlin/EUROSPINE.

• Site applications for 2017 will be accepted until mid December 2012. Application criteria are published on our website.

Committees, Projects

7. EuroSpine Foundation (Aebi)

The foundation’s tasks are to create
• a professional management platform, so doctors can concentrate on their core competence:
• a professional network of stakeholders in Spinal surgery and medicine to bundle resources and funds in
  - Education
  - Clinical and basic Research
  - Quality management (e.g. Registry)
  - others

Successful projects in the field of education have been realised in the fields of Education: Courses, OOT, HTA, fellowships and contacts with national societies. Planned are further projects in basic and clinical research.

Courses 2011: 51 participants have graduated, i.e. they have five modules completed.

Educationweek with 5 diploma and 2 master courses with a total of 110 participants. The involved Medtech partners confirmed the success. More industry support is expected in the future as they cannot get CME’s for their own courses.

Next goals: A close collaboration with national specialist societies and federations should be achieved in order to harmonise the education of spine specialists with the aim to get a European specialist diploma with UEMS. To reach this aim a quality management system to optimize outcomes is in preparation.

Please also refer to separate report, on page 40.

8. Program Committee (Sell)

Six core and 15 co-reviewer had to evaluate 497 abstracts, same categories as last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Submissions</th>
<th>Average Scores (0-15=best)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growing Spine/Deformity</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical Spine</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, non-degenerative</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, degenerative</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
84 oral and 58 Quick Fire Presentations, 61 e-posters. Quick Fire were newly introduced (3 min presentation, 2 min discussion) replacing the former Special Posters and were exceptionally because of SpineWeek not given in parallel sessions.

Only two debates in this year’s program:
- Is discography dead in this decade?
- Surgical management of early cervical myelopathy: not yet... not yet... too late!

Furthermore, there was a 15 min Spine Tango presentation and an up-date on the society’s activities, both topics are planned to be firmly installed during Annual Meetings.

To receive all disclosure and copyright statements was difficult: 2012 this was asked for the first time from all (co-)authors. The responsibility is with the submitting author. If not completed it had an important impact on the selection process. Disclosures have to be mentioned with the presentation and the e-posters. The display of the disclosures during the whole presentation on the smaller, separate screen could also backfire and serve as industry promotion. Remains to be discussed and improved within the ProgrCom.

Proposed chair for 2013:
Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany.

Phil Sell, chair of the 2012 Program, thanks his committee and all co-reviewers for having helped with the evaluation of the abstracts therefore in creating a successful scientific program:
Core Program Committee 2012: Phil Sell, Leister, UK, Chair; Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany; Selcuk Palaoğlu, Ankara, Turkey; Thomas Blattner, Schwarzach, Germany; Barend van Royen, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Josef Grohs, Vienna, Austria.

Co-Reviewers: José Casamitjana, Barcelona, Spain; Ashley Cole, Sheffield, UK; Michael Grevitt, Nottingham, UK; Helmut Hiertz, Weisskirchen, Austria; Marinus Kleuver, Nijmegen, the Netherlands; Dimitros Korres, Athens, Greece; Mark Lorenz, Hinsdale IL, USA; Jorge Mineiro, Barcarena, Portugal; Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK; Kai Scheufler, Innsbruck, Austria; Dietrich Schlenzka, Helsinki, Finland; Markus Schultheiss, Ulm, Germany; Lester Wilson, London, UK; Thomas Zweig, Adelaide, New Zealand.

9. Membership (Kaelin/Ganthaler)
In total 22 new members were acquired since the last ExCom Meeting in Bordeaux.
New since the beginning of May are two additional fields in the application process:
1. Describing the special interest in the spine in 100 to 150 words.
2. Indicating the level of commitment.

For a list of new members and more details, please see separate report on page 30.

Countries: Most applications came from United Kingdom and Spain.

New Services for Members: Newsletters, sent since February, monthly mailings

New Communication Channels to attract (younger) Prospective Members:
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/EUROSPINE
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/EuroSpineSoc

Payment of 2012 Membership Fee: Approx. 33% of all members have paid their dues until now.

10. Education Committee (Brayda-Bruno)
First educational week with approx. 110 participants was successful; another one is planned for 2013. It should be tried to appoint a different faculty, in order to relieve those with several commitments during the past two years.
EduCom agreed that all faculty should be members. Regarding participants, EduCom submitted the following request: One year free membership given to those who have completed the whole module circle and faculty.

This is controversial, GA is giving this task to ExCom, a proposal should be ready for the next ExCom meeting.

Question: Who can apply for Fellowships? Or to become Fellowship Centres? Who is deciding?
Le Huec: So far we received four applications for centres, there is a fifth in evaluation. This will be published in October. Everybody can apply to become an approved center, the evaluation is done by the EduCom. Condition: Centers must be multidisciplinary.

There are some requests from overseas for module courses: it is agreed on that it is important to keep our standards. Requests will be evaluated individually. Please also refer to separate report on page 33.

11. Task Force Research (Nordin)
Grants:
13 applications received. Total budget €170,000. TFR decided that the suggested allocation of 1x€100,000, 2x€30,000 and 2x€5,000 could be changed if no application was deemed of sufficient quality for €100,000. 7/13 applications are proposed to be funded in the total amount of €168,600. Agreed by ExCom.
Refer to funded applications report on page 37.

Outcomes and follow-ups are planned to be reported yearly during Annual Meetings.

TFR Course, Istanbul March 2012
Fully booked, with very high satisfactory feedback from participants.
Please refer to separate report on page 38.

The next course is planned for March 2013 in Prague, participants will be increased to 30. Faculty, content and general arrangements will undergo only small modifications.

TFR will further arrange one of the courses preceding the 2013 Annual Meeting on “How to write an abstract”.

12. Spine Tango (Le Huec, Munting)
Future, change of provider (to be voted on)
IEFM (Institute für Evaluative Forschung in Medizin, Bern) was approached with the request that EUROSPINE could get full control of the SpineTango data and the registry software. The answer from IEFM was that they are willing to continue the collaboration with the society and to adapt and work on a commitment to satisfy both parties. Except that they cannot sell the software, this is a basic application which also serves other specialties. ExCom agreed to work and develop a new contract on the base of the one presented by IEFM in December 2011. Draft to be presented at the next ExCom.
In the same time the tender content should be prepared in order to have a back-up possibility.

No vote and no final decision has to be taken by GA for the moment, members will be kept informed. Will be reported an the next GA 2013.

13. Nominations/Elections (Berk)
Nominations received until the deadline and which fulfilled requirements will be considered for election.

Executive Committee:
Vice president candidates for 2013:
Phil Sell and Marek Szpalski, are asked to introduce themselves for one minute each.

Voting result:
Phil Sell, Leister, UK 78
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium 64
Phil Sell is confirmed Vice President 2013 with applause.

Secretary candidates, Everard Munting and Marco Teli are asked to present themselves for one minute each.
Voting result:
Everard Munting, Biez, Belgium 74
Marco Teli, Lainate/Milan, Italy 70
Abstentions 4
Everard Munting is confirmed as our next Secretary, starting 2013, with applause.

The voting for Vice-President and Secretary are done anonymously, with voting slips. Proxys were allowed, collected and checked before the Assembly.

Haluk was thanked an applauded for his hard and dedicated work during the past three years as secretary of the society.

Members at large:
Proposed by ExCom for 2 years:
Michael Ogon, Austria Approved.

Proposed by ExCom for 1 year*:
A combination Member at Large and Chair of EduCom, because ExCom feels that EduCom needs better to be represented withing ExCom. This needs however a separate vote from GA: ExCom have checked beforehand with the lawyer, there is a need to adapt the Internal Rules. (*October 2012 to October 2013)

FP: Points out that such votes should not be done at GA without proper former announcement via the agenda.

Proposed by ExCom for 1 year: Marco Brayda-Buno, Italy Approved by majority, five against.

Assistant Treasurer:
Finn Christensen, Aarhus, Denmark Approved.

Committees and Task Forces:
Program Committee:
Karin Würtz, Zürich, Switzerland Approved.

Education Committee:
Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany Approved.

Spine Tango:
Emin Aghayev, Bern, Switzerland Approved.

Patient Line:
Antonio Faundez, Lausanne, Switzerland Approved.

14. Miscellaneous
None.

Signed

President:
Jean-Charles Le Huec

Secretary:
Haluk Berk

May 31, 2012
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Attachements:
- Balances and Budget Page 16
Ref to separate Reports:
- SpineWeek Page 22
- New members Page 30
- EduCom Page 33
- TFR Report Page 37
- Funded grant applications Page 37
- Foundation Page 40
### Financial Statements and Budgets

Balance Sheet as per
(in EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,916,161</strong></td>
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### Income Statement for the period (in EUR)

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<td>Memberfees</td>
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<td>Training Courses Liberec</td>
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<td>UEMS Spine Working Group</td>
<td>673</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>29,768</td>
<td>21,256</td>
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<td>Spine Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Course Liberec</td>
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<td>35,341</td>
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<td>2 Module Courses (Foundation)</td>
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<td>153,463</td>
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<td><strong>Oversea courses</strong></td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>15,397</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td><strong>Projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>13,753</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>776</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,339</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation (CEO)</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation (profit contribution 20% of annual meeting surplus)</td>
<td>276,244</td>
<td>280,248</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer (projects and administration)</td>
<td>29,148</td>
<td>37,953</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Various expenses (Subscription/ Springer)</td>
<td>71,007</td>
<td>65,700</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td>934,731</td>
<td>800,661</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td>580,866</td>
<td>881,742</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>01.01.2011</th>
<th>01.01.2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross profit (carry forward)</strong></td>
<td>580,866</td>
<td>881,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>157,529</td>
<td>142,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and services expenses</td>
<td>69,392</td>
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<td>19,133</td>
<td>15,740</td>
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<td><strong>Total Company Expenses</strong></td>
<td>246,044</td>
<td>222,386</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before financial expenses</strong></td>
<td>334,812</td>
<td>659,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange income</td>
<td>(1,405)</td>
<td>3,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses realised</td>
<td>(1,370)</td>
<td>(56,033)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses unrealised</td>
<td>21,183</td>
<td>(260,984)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR-translation(^1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>18,408</td>
<td>(277,751)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Profit</strong></td>
<td>316,403</td>
<td>381,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) In 2010, books are kept in CHF, at year-end balance sheet is translated at year-end rate and P&L at average yearly rate. Difference between Balance-Sheet profit and P&L profit is taken to P&L.
Income Statement for the current period plus budget (in EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
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<td>01.01.2011</td>
<td>01.01.2012</td>
<td>01.01.2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Memberfees</td>
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<td>60,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,463,543</td>
<td>1,086,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit SpineWeek Amsterdam 2012</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>850,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profit EUROPINE Liverpool 2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,515,597</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,141,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>910,000</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>21,000</td>
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<td>eMedia</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutes/IR Revision</td>
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<td>Research Task Force, Grants</td>
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<td>100,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
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<td>Research Task Force, Courses</td>
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<td>Patient Line</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<td>Spine Tango 2010</td>
<td>53,809</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Spine Tango</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spine Course</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Course Liberec</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oversea courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>9,454</td>
<td>10,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>11,784</td>
<td>10,500</td>
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</table>

(continued)
### EXPENSES (cont.)

**Projects**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation (€120,000 salary contribution CEO starting 2011)</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation (profit contribution 20% of annual meeting surplus)</td>
<td>276,244</td>
<td>217,200</td>
<td>170,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation: additional 12% on exhibition fee Milano</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>117,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation: adoption profit share to new profit</td>
<td>(24,800)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyer (projects and administration)</td>
<td>29,148</td>
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<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenses (Subscription/Springer)</td>
<td>71,007</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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**Expenses**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>934,731</td>
<td>931,200</td>
<td>1,126,325</td>
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**Gross profit**

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<tr>
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<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>580,865</td>
<td>209,800</td>
<td>(216,325)</td>
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</table>

**Company expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel expenses</td>
<td>157,529</td>
<td>190,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and services expenses</td>
<td>69,392</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td>19,133</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>15,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR Spineweeke 2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT, website</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR, Annual Report</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>246,054</td>
<td>265,500</td>
<td>380,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Profit before financial expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>334,811</td>
<td>(55,700)</td>
<td>(596,825)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange income</td>
<td>(1,405)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses realised</td>
<td>(1,370)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and currency exchange expenses unrealised</td>
<td>21,183</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18,408</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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</table>

**Annual profit / (loss)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>316,403</td>
<td>(54,700)</td>
<td>(595,825)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2011</th>
<th>Budget 2012</th>
<th>Budget 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(596,500)</td>
<td>(596,500)</td>
<td>(596,500)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Treasurer’s Statement

For two years now the society has had an excellent and very competent support from our accountant Mr. Jürg Pfister, Uster, Switzerland. This helped us considerably to professionalize our book keeping and overall finances. He has also been performing audits for all annual meeting incomes directly with the PCOs and he has been arranging yearly audits of the society’s finances starting in 2012, appointed by the AGM.

In the near future we will have to face a considerably lower income due to our participation in SpineWeek Amsterdam 2012. This has always been the case with the current Spineweek setting, because the mutually earned income is shared between the participating organizing societies. We have, of course, considered this in our budget. Therefore, you may expect some decrease of our society’s equity during the upcoming year. Our expenses will most probably exceed our income. After the substantial growth over the last years, this is however tolerable for our non profit organisation.

Personally, I would like to thank the assistant treasurer, Frank Kandziora, our secretary Judith Reichert and Anna Ganthaler, our accountant Jürg Pfister and all ExCom members for their direct support. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to all our members for having trusted me with the management of finances for the past two years.

Frank Kandziora has become our new treasurer for the upcoming two years, starting in October 2012 and Finn Christenson now is the new assistant treasurer. Frank has already gotten good insights in our finances and has done a great job so far. I wish him and Finn all the best and I am sure that our finances are in good hands.

Michael Ogon
EUROSPINE Treasurer 2011/2012

Michael Ogon
EUROSPINE Treasurer 2011/2012
This year’s annual meeting took place during SpineWeek from May 28 - June 1, 2012 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. After Porto in 2004 and Geneva in 2008, SpineWeek 2012 was again a success. Seven spine scientific societies participated this year: EUROSPINE, ISSLS, ECSRS, NASS, SILACO, SRS and BSS.

SpineWeek in figures:
- 3,024 Scientific registrations of which 1,760 were not members of any participating society
- 246 Trainees
- 79 Countries and all 5 continents were represented
- 383 Oral presentations
- 25 Invited lectures
- 60 Special posters
- 574 Posters

The concept of SpineWeek is to have the annual meeting of leading spine societies in one location, thus making meeting logistics easier both for delegates and participating industry. Each participating society keeps its own scientific and social identity.

EUROSPINE’s Program Committee, chaired by Phil Sell (UK) collaborated closely with EUROSPINE’s Lunch Symposia Committee, chaired by Ralph Kothe (Germany) and managed to set-up a wonderful scientific program that was well attended throughout the whole week.

Some features that were successfully implemented in past annual meetings were maintained. The new EUROSPINE 2.0 App was even improved to better meet the needs of participants. The included Audio Response System (ARS) helped participants express their views in interactive debate sessions. The expanded bookmark feature helped participants organize their daily conference life. The App automatically reminded of each bookmarked session 10 minutes before it started. That might be one of the reasons why EUROSPINE sessions were so well attended.

Spine Times, the popular conference newspaper came in a print run of 3,000 and all four editions were gone in no time.

One of EUROSPINE’s aims is to encourage research in the field of spinal disorders. Therefore the society not only awards several prizes that are presented during the annual meetings but also offers Travel Grants for young colleagues all over the world to share their
An architectural highlight is the glass roofing of the inner courtyard. We were lucky enough to enjoy a clear night that allowed us looking at the stars while savouring some Dutch delicacies.

Last but not least, there is always time for networking. EUROSPINE’s Gala Dinner took place at “Het Scheepvaartmuseum”, the National Maritime Museum, which impressively showed how the Dutch culture is closely related with the sea with guided tours through their interactive exhibitions. It is a beautifully imposing and impressive building in the heart of Amsterdam.
The role of the program committee has traditionally been the blind review and selection of abstracts to fill the podium time at the annual congress. As times change so it may be appropriate to change for the future. Consideration should be given to ‘re-branding’ to a ‘Meetings Committee’ with a strategic role in the content of EUROSPINE run meetings, that is the main Annual General Meeting (AGM) and any sub-specialty satellite meetings.

The operational aspects of the program committee work well and have evolved into an efficient component of the EUROSPINE with small changes occurring each year.

The system of blind abstract review system is fair and functional. The process of satellite reviewers reduces the burden on individuals and improves the turn-around time to prepare for a congress. In Milan debates were introduced and an audience response system (ARS) was trialed.

The Amsterdam SpineWeek 2012 technically was unable to support current aspirations for ARS and debates were reduced from four in Milan to two in Amsterdam.

A joint meeting of the workshop committee, program committee and with the local Liverpool organizers occurred. It was very useful. It might be that there should be a ‘Meetings committee’ to deal with the strategy of meetings and having closer working with workshop and education.

Future members should ideally be from the satellite reviewers. There is a need for more neurosurgical and basic science members from more diverse countries of the society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee 2011/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Member</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Many thanks to the satellite reviewers who contributed to this process:

Abstract evaluation process Spineweek:
15\textsuperscript{th} Nov 2011: Abstract submission deadline.
22\textsuperscript{nd} Nov - 31\textsuperscript{st} Dec 2011: Review process.
8\textsuperscript{th} Jan 2012: Review Committee.
502 abstracts submitted and valid for review.

Abstract reviewers
- 1 coordinator (Chairman)
- 5 core reviewers (1 per category)
- 3 co-reviewers per category
  = 15 external reviewers
In theory each abstract is read by 4 reviewers.

Summary changes and recommendations
Abstract scoring: Positive feedback on abstracts to author with comments and scores for accepted and rejected. Remove non-compliant scorers and establish recognition protocol for satellite reviewers. Conflict of interest remains a challenge; consider ‘risk of bias’ statement.

Continue debates and develop Audience Response system further. Spine Tango report to membership is now part of podium time. Awards session needs to occur along with Professional ‘updates’. Traditionally two moderators selected from the program committee and satellite reviewers, and the various executive officers of the society. There is no formal evaluation of the role, in terms of ranking the moderator skills. This should be considered.

There is a need to facilitate questions and discussion from the floor to engage the delegates. A possible solution discussed at the pre meeting planning for Liverpool was to invite specific new or recent members to the society to ask a preplanned question from the floor.

Expert Instructional lectures or keynote speakers on specific topics address the issue of lifelong learning and re-validation which need to be recognised in our professional meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstracts 2012</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Average score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Growing Spine/Deformity</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Science</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical Spine</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>8.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, non-degenerative</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>7.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult thoracolumbar, degenerative</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>6.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2012</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>7.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Officers 2013

Executive Committee
President Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
Vice President Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK
Past President Jean-Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France
Secretary Everard Munting, Ottignies, Belgium
Past Secretary Haluk Berk, Izmir, Turkey
Treasurer Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Assistant Treasurer Finn Christensen, Silkeborg, Denmark
2013 Program Committee Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany
Members at Large Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria
Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy

Chairs
Membership Committee André Kaelin, Geneva, Switzerland
Educational Committee Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy
Workshop Committee Ralph Kothe, Hamburg, Germany
Research Task Force Margareta Nordin, New York, USA
Spine Tango Committee Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK
ES Journal Editor in Chief Max Aebi, Bern, Switzerland

Past Presidents of EUROSPINE
Jean-Charles Le Huec, France 2012
Ciaran Bolger, Ireland 2011
Hans Joachim Wilke, Germany 2010
Federico Balagué, Switzerland 2009
Robert Gunzburg, Belgium 2008
Charles Greenough, UK 2007
H. Michael Mayer, Germany 2006
Max Aebi, Switzerland 2005
Petr Suchomel, Czech Republic 2004
Dieter Grob, Switzerland 2003
Gordon F.G. Findlay, UK 2001
Jiri Dvorak, Switzerland 2000
Carlos Villanueva, Spain 1999

Past Presidents of ESDS
Rudolf Bauer, Austria 1996-1998
Charles Picault, France 1992-1994
Ben Veraart, the Netherlands 1989-1992
G. Monticelli, Italy 1986-1989
Alf Nachemson, Sweden 1983-1986
Pierre Stagnara, France 1982-1983

Past Presidents of ESS
Jürgen Krämer, Germany †2011 1997-1998
Franco Postacchini, Italy 1995-1996
Alain Deburge, France 1993-1994
Committees and Special Functions

Membership Committee
André Kaelin, Geneva, Switzerland (chair)
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany
Hossein Mehdian, Nottingham, UK

Educational and Fellowship Committee
Marco Brayda-Bruno, Milan, Italy (chair)
Martin Repko, Brno, Czech Republic
Martin Gehrchen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Richard Assaker, Lille, France
Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany

Program Committee 2013
Jörg Franke, Dortmund, Germany (chair)
Barend van Royen, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Thomas Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany
Selçuk Palaoğlu, Ankara, Turkey
Josef Grohs, Vienna, Austria
Karin Würtz, Zürich, Switzerland
Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain (institutional)
Everard Munting, Ottignies, Belgium (institutional)
**Lunch Symposia and Pre-Meeting Committee**
- Ralph Kothe, Hamburg, Germany (chair)
- Jean-Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France (institutional)
- Luis Alvarez Galovich, Madrid, Spain
- Pierre Roussouly, Lyon, France

**Website and E-Learning Committee**
- Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK (chair)
- Cagatay Ozturk, Istanbul, Turkey
- Thomas Zweig, Adelaide, New Zealand

**Patient Line Committee**
- Andrea Piazzola, Bari, Italy
- Vassilis Lykomitros, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Antonio Faundez, Lausanne, Switzerland (new 2013)

**International Relations Committee**
- Ahmet Alanay, Istanbul, Turkey
- Ciaran Bolger, Dublin, Ireland
- Helton Defino, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil
- Baoge Liu, Beijing, China
- Jorge A. Draper Mineiro, Barcarena, Portugal

**Industry Relations Task Force**
- Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain (institutional)
- Jean-Charles Le Huec, Bordeaux, France (institutional)
- Philip J Sell, Leicester, UK (institutional)
- Everard Munting, Ottignies, Belgium (institutional)
- Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt a/Main, Germany (inst.)
- Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK, Local Host EUROSPINE 2013
- Martin Wilby, Liverpool, UK, Local Host EUROSPINE 2013
- Judith Reichert Schild, Zürich, Switzerland
- Gerard Vanacker, Lausanne, Switzerland

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EUROSPINE Assistant Treasurer

**Jörg Franke**
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Robert Gunzburg, Antwerp, Belgium
Ferran Pellisé, Barcelona, Spain
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium
Hans Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany

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Kim Burton, Huddersfield, UK
Christine Cedraschi, Geneva, Switzerland
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium
Pierre Côté, Toronto, Canada
Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden

Karin Würtz
Program Committee 2013
Antonio Faundez
Patient Line Committee
Tim Pigott
Chair of the Spine Tango Committee
Membership Committee

Chair: Andrè Kaelin, Geneva, Switzerland
Member: Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany
Member: Hossein Mehdian, Nottingham, UK
Administrative Support: Anna Ganthaler

New Applications 2012

We would like to welcome 40 spine specialists from 18 countries who have joined EUROSPINE in the past year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name, First Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Speciality</th>
<th>Supported by</th>
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<td>Spinal Surgery</td>
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<td>F Kandziora</td>
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Profile of Applications 2012

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>City</th>
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<th>Speciality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ulu Mustafa Onur</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Wada Kanichiro</td>
<td>Hirosaki City</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>H Izuka</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

New Services for Members

- Newsletter “My EUROSPINE News” in new design, sent out monthly.
- Participation at Patient Line is now also available in Turkish
- New communication channels to stay up-to-date
  - Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EUROSPINE
  - Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/EuroSpineSoc
The global structure of Education Week will be the same of 2012 from Monday to Friday, without the Master Courses on Saturday.

C) Review Committee

Creation of the Review Committee: For political issues it has been decided in Amsterdam that the Review Committee will be a EUROSPINE committee. Each National Spine Society interested in the EUROSPINE Course Diploma appoints one ortho and one neuro surgeon as representatives to contribute to the Review Committee effort; furthermore 4 leading experts in the 4 EUROSPINE Diploma Modules topics will be appointed to guide the improvement process of each Module. Nomination would be for 3 years. The EUROSPINE Edu Com will take the lead and will listen to the various proposals coming from the National Societies.

Review procedure: Review Committee will meet twice a year with the objective to review the Core Slides with the aim of maintaining the quality standards of the EUROSPINE Course Diploma curriculum, as a necessary prerequisite. A retrospective review from ESF, which collects all final presentations, can indicate if the Core Slides have been presented.

D) Master Course implementation

Format: A new format approved by Edu Com is proposed as follows:

- First day, with similar format as our first Master Courses, with 2 sessions of short lectures with case discussion;
- The second half day, 1 Cad lab Session with 2 topics, and participants rotating.

Topics: There are 3 topics for each one of 4 Modules (total 12 topics). Cad lab topics remain to be defined, but coherent with Course topic.
II. Strategic issues

A) Education Committee structure and renewal rules
Chairman, Edu Com members and consultants’ election and renewal rules have been accepted. According to the last ExCom decisions, Bernhard Meyer from Munich, EUROSPINE member, will become the new active member of our Education Committee. The last formal approval from ExCom is needed, after which Meyer’s appointment will become effective.

B) Faculty selection at National Level
Draft of guidelines has been prepared by the Ex Com but not finalized. The Faculty expertise and their agreement to comply the set forth standards, while delivering the ESCD, is just as important as the core slides quality, and it is the full responsibility of EUROSPINE to ensure that faculties are qualified to teach according to our quality standards.

C) EUROSPINE Diploma Alumni
EduCom consider it a very important educational and political project, transversal between Membership Committee, EduCom and ESF. The aim of the Alumni project is to create a network of EUROSPINE graduate surgeons, encouraging them to
• take master classes
• become faculty for Diploma courses
• regularly use Spine Tango registry
• participate to preparation of pre and post-learning material for Diploma courses.

It must be promoted a yearly Alumni 1-day meeting (in combination with EUROSPINE annual meeting?), and possibly a “train-the-trainer” course for future faculty.

H) Fellowship
There is no specific activity and budgeting considered in this last part of 2012. Two fellows are currently enrolled in qualified fellowship centers in France and Italy, with applications received at the end of 2011. Two more fellows are scheduled in Dublin and Copenhagen for 2013, with applications submitted in the first quarter of 2012, but actually “frozen” because waiting for new well-defined rules about Spine Centers recognition and Fellows applications (leader Jean-Charles Le Huec).

Also the EUROSPINE Fellowship Certificate needs to be discussed and finalized before the end of 2012.

III. Conclusion

Considering already well established, known and agreed the part belonging to my previous Chair reports (2x2011), all the further parts of this report have been proposed, discussed, modified and agreed by all the Edu Com during the last formal meetings in Barcelona, Milan and Luzern, plus other 4 Skype conference meetings (the last on October 1, 2012).

This Chairman report is then the punctual analysis of all the efforts, work and commitment of all Edu Com members, together with ESF staff, to implement, improve and realize the EUROSPINE Education Plan, keeping quality consistence and preparing future strategies. Therefore the chairman would like to thank all Edu Com and ESF to have successfully accomplished our duty and goals, as it is endorsed by many external independent recognitions.

Marco Brayda-Bruno
Chairman of EUROSPINE Education Committee
ties regarding data mining, online statistics but also for the development of the online follow-up agenda (programming has started). Not visible to the users, it also improves significantly the processing capacities of the whole system. Another complete data export of the ST database has been provided to the EUROSPINE in the summer.

**ST benchmarking project**

The benchmarking project is well on the way with several clinical situations being assessed regarding outcome (axial/peripheral pain, COMI score, complications) of different treatments for the same diagnosis.

- Cervical disc herniation treated by anterior inter-body fusion against total disc prosthesis.
- Lumbar disc herniation treated with decompression.
- Treatment of lumbar spinal stenosis by laminectomy, hemilaminectomy, laminotomy and with or without fusion and instrumentation as well as TDR.

The benchmarking project is a much more complex endeavour than it may seem on first sight. It has already required many hours of work and will require more in the future. (Conceptualization, data analysis, preparation of key results as slides for better communication, writing support for ST members who want to publish...) It involves a huge statistical analysis involving a number of variables in order to identify those factors that are influential on outcome. It is an ongoing process that will allow users to compare validly their indications and results to those of the relevant pooled data. This project will benefit in a major way from the implementation of the “Principles of Conduct” among the ST users. It is a research endeavor of IEFO outside the ST budget.

**Data forms**

2012 saw the introduction of the new “2011” forms: Surgery 2011, Staged Surgery 2011 and Follow-up 2011. The conservative treatment form has been implemented. The validation of the non-surgical questionnaire that received a €30,000 research grant from EUROSPINE has been completed. New language versions of the 2011 forms are now available on the web page (Greek, Russian, Polish, Turkish).

**New software, data export**

The new software release of the MEMdoc was introduced, also applied to the Spine Tango. All old data had to be migrated into the database of the new system, module by module, after the old modules themselves had been replaced by the new ones. This is more cumbersome in those cases where communication with hospital (IT) hosts is needed, as in Germany, Austria, Great Britain and Australia. Migration of these modules is still in progress, Germany and Austria are next.

Visible to the users, the new system gives better data entry management and many new possibilities.

Everard Munting on behalf of the Spine Tango Committee

Spine Tango annual report 2012
Quality reports and benchmarking reports will become available for any-time self-generation via the online interface in the same time window.

Spine Tango adolescent deformity add-on: Development of this form was initiated by T. Zweig and after his fellowship C. Röder has carried on the development. The form draft is nearly finished, but it is difficult to find a deformity expert that really wants to take on responsibility for finishing it. The institute is obviously relying on outside expertise in this case.

Everard Munting
Chair Spine Tango Committee,
On behalf of the Spine Tango Committee

SSE / IEFO Contract
The creation of a proper contract between EUROSPINE and our Service provider for the Spine Tango, the IEFO, based in Bern, has been a long and complicated procedure. A contract was proposed by IEFO in November 2011 and it is expected that the signature of this long awaited document will take place before the end of 2012. The ratification of this contract is as important for the EUROSPINE as it is for the IEFO. It will allow a long-term, constructive collaboration for the further development and improvement of one of the most important and original assets of our Society. Indeed, no other scientific society, hospital, public or commercial institution involved in health insurance or MedTech society involved in the spinal field has access to an international register in spine pathology comparable to the Spine Tango.

Future steps and projects
2013 must be the year of global implementation of the “Principles of Conduct” among all Spine Tango users. The document, which is not so much a contract but rather a moral engagement of the users to adhere to a number of moral (honesty and completeness in data reporting) and technical principles in order to improve the quality and reliability of the ST basic data. Individual and onsite visit for explanation and signature of the document by a society representative is to be organized during the coming year.

The online follow-up agenda, intended to considerably facilitate and improve regular data collection and patient follow-up, is at the stage of IT realization and will be implemented in 2013. This was also dependant of the implementation of the new software release that occurred in 2012.

The online statistics are continuously improved: querying COMI, EQ-SD ODI and NDI data of patient subsamples (defined based on the surgery form) is now possible. Also, non-parametric tests are applied for comparing users against pool comparisons and for certain covariates p-values are calculated.
How do patients form expectations of recovery after a musculoskeletal injury? A cross-cultural qualitative study - Holm Lena, Carroll Linda, Lis Angela, Rasmussen-Barr Eva; Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; €20,000

Cervical Myelopathy: Spinal Cord MRS Predicts Recovery - Craciunas Sorin, Cirstea Carmen Mihaela, Gorgan Radu Mircea; Bagdasar-Arseni Hospital, Neurosurgery Unit IV, 10-12 Berceni Avenue, Bucharest, Romania; €15,000

Motor and fear of movement training for patients with chronic low back pain - Monticone Marco, Ferrante Simona, Dal Farra Fulvio, Mazzocchio Riccardo, Rocca Barbara; Recovery and Care Scientific Institute, IRCCS Salvatore Maugeri Foundation, Lissone, Italy; €30,000

In vitro investigation of PEMF to treat IVD degeneration - University of Zürich, Spine Research Group, Winterturstrasse 190, Zürich, Switzerland; Würtz Karin, Franco-Obregon Alfredo, Ferguson Stephen, Boos Norbert; €20,000

Transcriptional profiling of spinal chordoma - Varga Peter Paul, Sapi Zolton, Lazary Aron, Pocza Peter; National Center for Spinal Disorders, Királyhágó st. 1-3, Budapest, Hungary; €30,000

Molecular mechanisms of sciatica upstream of TNF - Olmarker Kjell; Neuroorthopaedic Laboratory, Department of Orthopaedics, Gothenburg University, Sahlgren Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden; €23,600

Odontoid Fractures in the elderly: A prospective Study - Vleggeert-Lankamp Carmen, Paul Wilco, Jacobs Wilco, Huybregts Jeroen; Leiden University Medical Centre, Albinusdreef 2, Leiden, the Netherlands; €30,000

TFR (Task Force on Research)
Margareta Nordin, France (chair).
Federico Balagué, Switzerland; Kim Burton, UK; Christine Cedraschi, Switzerland; Pierre Coté, Canada; Björn Rydevik, Sweden; Marek Szpalski, Belgium.

13 valid applications were received.

Each application was evaluated by a main and a second reviewer. They submitted a detailed report which was then discussed on behalf of a meeting by the whole TFR Group. There was no conflict of interest, applicants had to submit conflict of interest statements and so had the reviewers and involved staff.

All discussed applications had at least one EUROPINE member within the research group, which is a condition for the application.

Proposed and budgeted funding approved by EUROPINE: 1x€100,000, 2x€30,000, 2x€5,000, this proposed budget was preliminary and TFR could change funding levels for applications. A total of €168,600 was granted as following:
In return for the hard work, the welcome reception and the farewell dinner were arranged. Not only did they offer culinary highlights of the Turkish cuisine but were also the perfect opportunity for gathering and networking, seeing old and making new friends.

Overall, the course was very well received. Teaching quality reached a high level, 80% of participants were very satisfied with the pedagogic competence of the faculty. A mix between lectures and working in small groups of 3-4 participants was appreciated and enhanced the overall learning effect.

The good news:
The course will be continued from
4-8 March 2013 in Prague, Czech Republic!

Stay tuned for updates on:
www.eurospine.org/ResearchCourse

A Selection of participants’ comments
...reflects the positive acknowledgement.

“First of all, I’d like to thank to all. The course was useful and productive for me. It is well designed and well addressed to course topics. More exercise could be added and solved together in the lecture.”

“Nothing to say for such comprehensive evidence based research course, which has recently no present alternatives around the world.”

“The course was very cost effective indeed.”
Greetings from Istanbul...

Pictures...sometimes say more than words.
The EuroSpine Foundation is the professional platform which helps and empowers EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe to achieve its goals.

While the mission of EUROSPINE is purely scientific, the role of the Foundation is to interact with all stakeholders to raise the necessary resources to implement the practical solutions in the areas of Research, Education, Representation and Communication.

To best achieve its mission, the foundation is dedicated to:

**Building a professional support organization for**
- educational programs development
- spine research promotion
- advocacy function
- creation of new tools and values for Spine Specialists and patient benefits

**Raising funds through**
- industrial grants
- donations
- scientific material distribution

EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe and the EuroSpine Foundation (ESF) have found the task of educating spine specialists and developing treatment strategies of great importance.

### Educational program

In 2009, EUROSPINE decided to initiate a European Education Plan for both coming spine specialists and as part of continuous education. To qualify this European Education Program, EUROSPINE delivers a European Spine Course Diploma equivalent at both European and National levels in Europe. The principle of this program relies on meeting standards to allow for cross border collaboration among National Spine Societies of Europe.

From 2012 on, the National and Regional Societies will carry on this European program in local languages while the EuroSpine Foundation will organize a yearly recurrent event: “the Education Week”.

The first edition of the Education Week took place in Lucerne, Switzerland, in March 2012. During this week, the 5 modules of the European Spine Course Diploma as well as two Master courses were presented. As a set forth principle, the Med Techs also contributed to deliver high quality Workshops and Cadaver Laboratories integrated to the curriculum.

110 delegates and 35 Faculties from EUROSPINE as well as EANS representatives contributed to this unique and successful event. All stakeholders’ feedbacks were enthusiastic.

A second edition will take place from March 18 until 22, 2013.

More info at:
www.eurospinefoundation.org
EUROSPINE 2013
OCTOBER 2 – 4, 2013
ACC LIVERPOOL, UNITED KINGDOM

Main Topics
- Growing Spine/Deformities
- Adult thoracolumbar, non-degenerative (trauma, tumor, infection)
- Cervical Spine
- Adult thoracolumbar, degenerative/Deformities
- Basic Science

Committees
Executive Committee
President: Ferran Pellisé, Spain
Past President: Jean Charles LeHuec, France
Secretary: Everard Munting, Belgium
Past Secretary: Haluk Berk, Turkey
Treasurer: Frank Kandziora, Germany

EuroSpine 2013 Local Organising Committee
Tim Pigott and Martin Wilby
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, UK

Dates to Remember
Registration, Submission of Abstracts from Thursday, November 15, 2012
Deadline for Abstract Submission Friday, March 15, 2013
Deadline Early Bird Fee Monday, June 10, 2013
Preliminary Submission Deadline Thursday, August 1, 2013
Deadline Late Registration Thursday, September 12, 2013*

*after this date, onsite fees will apply

www.eurospine2013.eu