



<b>Name:</b>	Michael Ogon, MD PhD
<b>Nationality / Country of residence</b>	Austrian
<b>Date of birth:</b>	17 December 1960
<b>Civil Status:</b>	Married, 5 children
<b>Specialisation:</b>	Orthopaedic Surgery
<b>Member of EUROSPINE since:</b>	2000
<b>Previous Positions within EUROSPINE:</b>	2009 – 2011: Assistant Treasurer 2010: Local Hosts of EUROSPINE Vienna 2011 - 2013: Treasurer 2013 – 2014: Member at Large 2014 – 2015: Vice President 2015 – 2016: EUROSPINE President Institutional Member of Programme Committee & Site Committee
<b>Current position:</b>	2016 – 2017: EUROSPINE Past President

*\*all office terms are carried out from October to October of the respective years*

**1. Could you describe the most important tasks and duties as EUROSPINE Vice President, President and Past President, and the differences between these roles?**

As vice president, you are more of an observer, but you also support the president in developing strategies to guide and manage the society. Of course, you also have room to already get involved and introduce your own ideas.

As president, you are then in the front line and your duty is to represent the society to the outside, as well as making sure the ExCom and staff are all heading in the same direction and work together harmoniously.

As past president, you have again a similar role as during the time as vice president. You are not so much actively involved in guiding the society, but are taking the side of an advisor to the president and the ExCom.

**2. Could you tell a bit about yourself and how your background has brought you to the society and your current role as EUROSPINE President?**

From 1996 onwards I presented our research work from the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Innsbruck at EUROSPINE Meetings. Those days when I worked at the University of Innsbruck I was to some extent involved in the organisation of the combined meeting of the European Spine Society (ESS) and the European Spinal Deformity Society (ESDS) in 1998. This congress was organised by Prof. Rudolf Bauer and during that meeting the two societies joined to build EUROSPINE. Shortly after that congress I joined EUROSPINE as a member.

In 2007 we applied to host the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in Vienna and in 2010 together with Prof. Georg Grohs, I was local host for EUROSPINE 2010 in Vienna. In 2009 I was elected assistant treasurer for two years, which was followed by a two-year term as treasurer. After my position as treasurer I was elected member at large in 2013, a position that was dismissed in 2014 and replaced by the councils. Back then the ExCom included two member at large positions, both were responsible for several committees, supporting and guiding them in accomplishing their work and at the same time representing them within the ExCom. As the number of committees increased, the organisation was restructured, replacing two member at large positions with five council positions – the Education, Meeting, Membership, Research and Stakeholder Councils, all of which lead the respective committees and task forces and at the same time represent their interests within the ExCom.

After my role as member at large, I was elected as vice president in 2015.

**3. As EUROSPINE President, what were visions for the society in a short and long term?**

Expand EUROSPINE membership, build strategic alliances with other societies and strengthen existing ones, increasing collaboration with national spine societies in Europe, expand educational activities, and maintain high quality annual meetings.

**4. What specific goals have you set yourself and the society for the duration your presidency and which actions have you carried out to meet these goals?**

Personally, I set myself the goal to promote tranquillity and therefore stability within the organisation. With our Way Forward strategy EUROSPINE faced a major re-structuring of the whole organisation shortly before my presidency, so my main goal was to make sure that the implantation of the Way Forward strategy would run smoothly in daily practice. I did not want to introduce too many additional changes and new ideas within this year, but allow time for a successful implementation of the previously introduced organisational restructuring.

**5. Do you think EUROSPINE has changed the landscape of spinal care within Europe and if so, how?**

Yes, I think especially with the establishment of EuSSAB, the European Spine Societies Advisory Board, and the restructuring of the education and EUROSPINE Diploma Courses we considerably increased the cooperation between national societies throughout Europe.

**6. What do you think is the secret of EUROSPINE's success story?**

I think the enthusiasm of the people collaborating within the society and their personal interest in the progress within the various fields of expertise are the driving force behind EUROSPINE.

It's also thanks to the personalists of which EUROSPINE is composed, the EUROSPINE Officers and the office staff, but of course also the personal involvement of so many of our members – they are very committed to the society and show their proactivity in a variety of ways. We always receive large numbers of abstract submissions, which support the high quality of our annual meetings; members give us valuable feedback on our various events, which we take very seriously and do our best to meet their needs and therefore keep improving our events from year to year; they proactively approach us with great ideas for improvement or even new innovations, which are carefully evaluated and discussed within the respective committees and eventually ExCom, if considered to have a valuable impact on the organisation and its members, they are of course implemented.

**7. Personally, what have you gained from your interaction with EUROSPINE?**

I was able to build a strong network of colleagues and friends dedicated to spine treatment and spine research. And I learned to be patient in working together with many different groups of people, with sometimes different opinions.

**8. Imagine your term comes to an end and you are responsible to find a replacement – what traits would you be looking for in an applicant?**

I think he or she needs to have a strong personality, but should at the same time be able to step out of the situation to see the whole picture and be considerate of others in order to mediate amongst the various parties involved in a quiet and respectful way without taking sides.

**9. If you could give one piece of advice to a young fellow spine specialist – what would it be?**

With spine you have chosen the best field of expertise in medicine. So believe in yourself, be open minded for new developments, increase your knowledge and practical skills step by step, then you will become very successful for sure!