

THE TIMES

Congress Newspaper 2015

EUROSPINE WAY FORWARD STRATEGY – ON TRACK FOR THE FUTURE



Margareta Nordin, Incoming Vice President of EUROSPINE

EUROSPINE: CREATING A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO TACKLING SPINE DISABILITIES

Margareta Nordin shares her insight and priorities as incoming Vice President of EUROSPINE

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE THE FIRST FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT OF EUROSPINE?

I was born in Switzerland, grew up in France and Sweden, and then studied in Sweden and the United States. My first degree was in physical therapy and my second degree, Dr. Med. Sci., is from the University of Gothenburg, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Sweden under the leadership of the late Professor Alf Nachemson and Professor Gunnar Andersson.

In the 1980's I accepted a position to start a new unit at New York University (NYU), Department of Orthopaedics to prevent disability from spine pain. I also directed the NYU Program of Biomechanics and Ergonomics at the Graduate School. In 2011, after my tenure at NYU, I moved back to the Loire Valley in France – a wonderful place. My main interests are the prevention of spinal disabilities, empowering the patient with shared decision-making and creating and implementing effective evidence-based treatments.

In 2011, I set up the Task Force Research (TFR) for EUROSPINE. It has been a truly rewarding experience. I am a person who needs to learn something new every day and I am a dedicated to education and research translating into clinical practice. Seeing patients, students, residents and individuals grow and take on new responsibilities is one of my passions. On a more personal side I am very accessible – I like good discussions, reading, good food

and outdoors activities. I am truly honoured to be elected first female Vice President and will build on my predecessors' prior work to make EUROSPINE the leading Society in Europe.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR?

To make EUROSPINE grow and diversify. We have women of excellence in EUROSPINE but they are too few. EUROSPINE also needs to become more diversified, attracting more basic scientists, chiropractors, engineers, nurses, physical therapists, osteopaths and others to build a spine community to prevent disability. About 15-20% are specific or surgical ailments, but most spine pain in the world is non-surgical. Our Society should reflect more advancement in non-surgical treatments.

As Vice President for EUROSPINE, I will continue to build on the efforts and successes of prior Presidents and Vice Presidents to strengthen our Society by:

- Making our Councils stronger and more successful
- Recruiting new members and promoting current members who want to participate in taking EUROSPINE to the next level
- Promoting collaboration with other spine societies to create a community approach to the prevention of spine disability as the premier cause of disability in the world
- Increasing interest in research to help patients

We can do it and we should do it. It is important to listen and learn what society members want, what MedTech companies would like to achieve, how other spine organisations and institutions would like to collaborate and how we can raise money for more research

to improve lives of patients. Spine disability is complex and we need multidisciplinary and transparent actions across borders by professional, societies and institutions throughout Europe and beyond.

WHERE DO YOU STAND ON EUROSPINE'S PROGRESS ON ITS WAY FORWARD STRATEGY?

2015 has been a tremendous year of growth for EUROSPINE on all fronts – record numbers of new members, affiliation with European national societies and a new organisational structure with well-defined councils (members, stakeholders, education and research, and meetings) to lead the society.

I am committed to supporting each of our five Councils as described below:

1. Membership Council

Christoph Siepe has done formidable work in attracting new members and members' organisations with EUSSAB. The record number of abstracts submitted for the Annual Meeting in Copenhagen is a sign that EUROSPINE is growing and striking the right chord with its activities.

2. Education Council

Joerg Franke has increased participation in EUROSPINE's Master Education – an ongoing success. I would like to integrate a research component into the education so that clinicians feel confident in evaluating

research articles – a must for the future clinicians to sort out the good from the less good with no clinical impact or possible impact in the future. Bringing all education under EUROSPINE has improved the Society's ability meet members' requirements. EUSSAB is a platform for national European Societies to jointly develop a pan-European spine diploma.

3. Research Council

Chaired by Bjorn Rydevik, the Council has three aims: to promote Task Force on Research (Chair Bjorn Rydevik Research courses and Grant Distribution) Spine Tango (Chair Tim Pigott) and Awards (Chair Michael Ogdon).

The Task Force on Research (2011 to 2015) has distributed more than € 500'000 directly back to members for high quality studies and educated more than 70 researchers in research methodology from 17 countries. This creates a research community and is a start. Spine Tango published 16 peer-reviewed articles in 2014-2015 on EUROSPINE registries. Finally, EUROSPINE awarded € 12'000 for best papers at the Annual Meeting in 2014. Research is the key to excellence in clinical practice and I will continue to promote the Research Council.

4. Stakeholders Council

Led by Finn Christensen, this is a very important Council as it deals with the patients, all external organisations, government, patient organisations, press and media and other societies

to promote spine health and disability treatments. It is one of my goals to increase the visibility of EUROSPINE to its networks and increase the feasibility of collaborative projects.

5. Meeting Council

Chaired by Thomas Blattert, this Council organises our Annual Meetings, Spring Meetings, Lunch Symposia and Pre-courses to the Annual meeting. It is a success story, attracting more participants to each meeting every year. Going forward we need to advertise our meetings and collaborate with other spine organisations and institutions for increased participation and success ...

ANY FINAL MESSAGES FOR OUR READERS TODAY?

My role as Vice President is to listen carefully to what members and stakeholders consider important for the Society. A tremendous amount of work has been done by my predecessors. EUROSPINE is growing and I want to thank Haluk Berk, Phil Sell, Ferran Pellisé and Federico Balagué. If you have any suggestions for making our Society even more successful in a cost-efficient way, please feel free to contact me at margareta.nordin@nyu.edu. I will be sure to review and consider all suggestions I receive.

Thank you for the honour of making me Vice President of EUROSPINE.



EUROSPINE APP

Have the most relevant and up-to-date conference information at hand!

Free WIFI is available within the entire congress venue.

Not only will you be able to easily access scientific and logistical congress information (e.g. programme, speakers, sessions, congress venue,...), but you will also be able to participate in

interactive votings, bookmark your favorite sessions and access the exclusive e-version of "The Spine Times".

Download the EUROSPINE app for all smartphones and tablets from <http://app.eurospine.org>.

