Let me first talk a little bit about the scientific programme? How do you like the abstract reviewing process? We were obviously all already working very well together so far to create great programs.

Thank you very much. I am really glad to be here and honored to be responsible for the program committee. I am an orthopedic spine surgeon from Greece. I first became member of EUROSPINE in 2012 and in 2014 I became member of the program committee. I enjoy working in this committee especially since we constantly try to improve the quality of our programs. Let me first thank the chairman of the committee Prof. Thomas Blattert and all the members who have all worked very well together so far to create great programs.

We were obviously all already very much involved in the abstract reviewing this year and the scientific programme, how do you like the scientific programme?

Let me first talk a little bit about the reviewing processes this year. We had almost 950 abstracts submitted. This was a huge amount of work so it is the most important aspect to make sure that we have a high quality reviewing process so that the truly best abstracts pass and that they are presented at the meeting in order to ensure the high quality of or meeting.

I think we have made some important steps during the last years and now I think we have a solid basis for reviewing, but there is always still place for further small steps for advancement. There are things to improve, things that you can fine-tune, some things of the process and if we take into consideration the coming years, we expect to have more than 1000 abstracts if this trend goes on. I think we have hard work would be able to guarantee a high quality programme also for the coming meetings, starting with Berlin 2016.

There will be a lot of work ahead of you. Do you have any specific goals during your term as the chair of the program committee?

Yes, this year there were some new categories introduced. We really had 200 submissions for this new category “new techniques” and “patient safety”. Three categories will remain in the future and I think they will gain more popularity, achieving even more submissions. What is also important is that we have the spring specialty meeting, which will take place in Kraków, Poland, this coming May, dealing with spinal cord injuries and spinal trauma and I think it is also important for our committee to try very hard every year to improve this relatively new meeting.

We wish you good luck for your new position, thank you for your time.

Thank you very much.

EUROSPINE WAY FORWARD STRATEGY – ON TRACK FOR THE FUTURE

Margareta Nordin, Vice-President

Thomas Blattert, Secretary

Björn Rydevik, Research Council Chair

Stavros Stavridis, Meeting Council Chair

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