



EURO  
SPINE

# EUROSPINE

Growing Stronger Together

Annual Report 2016

BERLIN



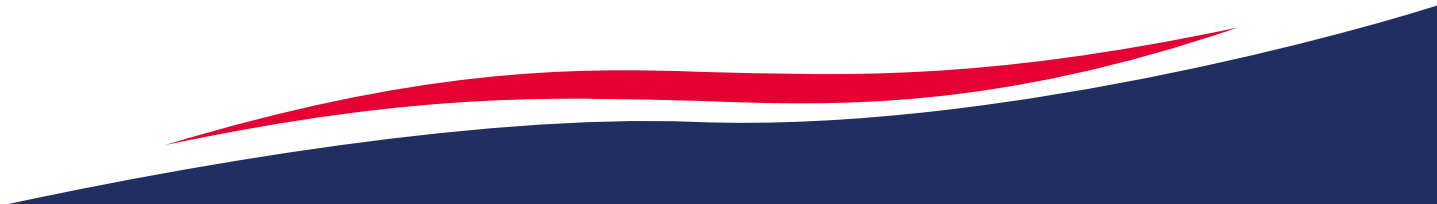
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# Welcome to



**EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, was founded on 26 June 1998 in Innsbruck, Austria.**

**The aims of EUROSPINE are to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of research, prevention and treatment of spine diseases and related problems and to coordinate efforts undertaken in European countries for further development in this field.**

# Welcome Statement from the President



**Margareta Nordin**  
President of EUROSPINE 2016-17

## AN EXCITING YEAR FOR EUROSPINE

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

It is truly an honour and a privilege to be the first female President of EUROSPINE. In collaboration with our more than 1,000 members – and approximately 7,000 associate members through EUROSPINE’s European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) – we are progressing, changing and making an important impact on spine care. Together we are proposing innovation, cooperation and a communication platform for spine stakeholders in Europe and beyond.

Our five Councils (Education, Research, Membership, Meeting and Stakeholder) are strong and continuously adapting to meet all members’ requests and needs. This year, we changed our structure to include a EuSSAB representative as a permanent member of the Executive Committee (ExCom), to ensure that issues relevant to member institutions are addressed at the EUROSPINE table. We have taken great strides toward realising and advancing the priorities set out in the Way Forward strategy by past presidents Michael Ogon, Haluk Berk, Phil Sell and many more. None of this would be possible without all the help from the Executive

Committee, Council Chairs, Committee Chairs and members, who have dedicated many voluntary hours to EUROSPINE. It would also not be possible without our two directors, Judith Reichert Schild (Administration), Julie-Lyn Noël (Education and Research), our Managers, Claudia Ortner, Conny Schmutzer, Anna Faber, and Letizia Lamartina, and the Delegate to the ExCom, Beat Leimbacher. A warm “Thank You!” to all.

It has been a busy year for EUROSPINE. Here are some of the highlights of our accomplishments.

## EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

EUROSPINE aims to have the best education programme for spine clinicians, not only in Europe but much farther afield.

The Education Committee has redesigned the EUROSPINE Diploma (ESD) for surgeons, and will offer our first Advanced Course ‘Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Technique’ in January 2017 in Strasbourg, France. This course is the first module in EUROSPINE’s planned EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma (ESAD). Furthermore, we provide observership grants for

short-term fellowships (up to 2 weeks) to learn a new surgical technique, conservative care or research. To complement these programmes, the Education Committee is currently evaluating the feasibility of introducing e-learning for certain modules.

The Executive Committee is planning to approve a non-surgical diploma programme for EUROSPINE in early 2017, launching the first course in Spring 2019. The programme will be modelled after that of the German Spine Society, who will be offering its first course in 2017.

The EUROSPINE equivalence programme for the EUROSPINE diploma has progressed rapidly through EUROSPINE's European Spine Society Advisory Board (EuSSAB). The German and Turkish spine societies have already been approved whilst other countries such as Spain and Portugal are awaiting consideration. The ultimate goal is to harmonise spine specialty education throughout Europe and make spine surgery a recognised specialty in the European Community.

## EXPANDING THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The Task Force Research (TFR) aims at developing both young and more-established research communities in Europe by offering research courses and grants. The courses currently on offer are:

- Literature Review Course
- Fundamentals of Clinical Research
- Biomechanics Laboratory Research

As requested by members, the one-day 'Literature Review Course' has been made part of the ESD curriculum and will be offered for the first time in Strasbourg as an education module in June 2017. Members have also asked for a Basic Statistics Course which will be offered in 2018.

Since 2012, the TFR has distributed over €1,000,000 directly to its members for high-quality research applications. This represents a direct benefit for EUROSPINE members interested in research.

## THE FLAGSHIPS OF EUROSPINE

The EUROSPINE Annual Meeting has grown exponentially, with last year's Berlin meeting attracting a record high attendance (>3,000 delegates and 159 exhibitors) by members, non-members and guests. The more specialised Spring Meetings are planned farther in advance so participants can mark their calendars. The Spring Speciality Meeting 2018 will be held in Vienna (26-27 April 2018) and focus on 'Prevention Strategies for Spine Disability' – the number one ailment in the world according to the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD).

The importance of the increased attendance at our meetings should not be underestimated, as it demonstrates that EUROSPINE is contributing to the spine community by hosting top-calibre meetings as a forum for innovation in science and clinical practice, discussions and mingling with peers and exhibitors.

In 2018, EUROSPINE will commemorate 20 years as an organisation at the annual meeting in Barcelona (19-21 September 2018). Be sure to mark your calendars to celebrate with EUROSPINE and Frank Kandziora as President.

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The EUROSPINE Stakeholder Council is being reorganised effective 2017 to comprise six distinct areas to better serve this important group. These areas are:

1. EuSSAB
2. Patient Line
3. The MedTech Industry
4. Government/Political Institutions/  
Universities
5. The EUROSPINE Foundation
6. Spine Tango

At meetings, stakeholders have suggested that we work together to meet changing requirements, where stricter rules will dominate regarding sponsorships and partnerships, and



external monitoring for conflict of interest and adherence to new regulations will become more vigilant.

Some very exciting news for our stakeholders is the upcoming introduction of a new Patient Line platform at the annual meeting in Dublin, fundraising by the EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF) for Spine Centre Certification throughout Europe, an improved educational platform for e-learning and communication, and increased potential for Spine Tango registries. EUROSPINE is mindful of the changing conditions affecting stakeholders and willing to adapt as necessary.

#### NOVEL ORGANISATIONAL INITIATIVES

EUROSPINE has established a Nomination Committee to oversee fair and representative elec-

tion procedures in the election of officers. This committee will be headed by the Past President each year, and will be operational for the first time at the General Assembly at EUROSPINE 2017 in Dublin, Ireland.

#### THANK YOU ALL

I am delighted to be the first woman elected as President of EUROSPINE. It is demanding but highly rewarding work. I hope that many more women will take the challenge. It has been a great year so far, with plenty of discussions and serious moments, but also with lots of laughs, innumerable accomplishments and countless agreements reached. This is what makes EUROSPINE the leading spine society in Europe.

# Growing Stronger Together



**Michael Ogon**  
President of EUROSPINE 2015-16

EUROSPINE is evolving – growing larger, stronger and more diverse. Since the creation and implementation of the Way Forward strategy with my predecessors – Haluk Berk, Ferran Pellisé and Phil Sell, and colleagues – our society has undergone a remarkable transition, more than doubling in size, advancing education and promoting research. Our networks have also expanded through our Institutional Members and EuSSAB, with our associated membership now exceeding 7,000 spine specialists.

Serving as President of EUROSPINE during this pivotal time was an honour. Together with the committed team members on the Executive Committee and the Society Committees, this year we continued implementing our action plan with five main objectives:

1. Expand and diversify EUROSPINE's membership
2. Build strategic alliances with other national spine societies
3. Begin development of a comprehensive education and research platform
4. Create high-value learning and networking opportunities
5. Streamline our organisational structure

## ACHIEVING RECORD GROWTH

Over the last five years, EUROSPINE's membership base has more than doubled, **expanding to more than 1,000 members in 2016!** With the introduction of new member categories "*Young Members*", "*Institutional Members*" and "*Associate Members*" two years ago, combined with a number of initiatives to attract new applicants, we have now grown to become one of the largest spine societies in Europe. EUROSPINE is multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary and is delighted to count many of the top spine specialists in Europe amongst its members.

## FORGING STRONG ALLIANCES

EUROSPINE's European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) has proven an exceptional platform for national societies to collaborate on mutual issues. Since its inception in 2014, 27 spine societies have joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members, adding approximately 7,000 Associate Members to our society. Together with EuSSAB and other organisations, such as EFORT, EBOT and EANS, we are continuing our efforts to establish an accredited "European Spine Certification". EUROSPINE is working together with other national societies,



stakeholders and industry to standardise education programmes, take research to the next level and – above all – improve the care and the lives of persons afflicted with spinal disorders.

## CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Last year we transitioned all educational activities from the EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF) back under the auspices of the society, offering partners, members and course participants a single point of contact on all educational matters.

We redesigned the EUROSPINE Diploma, launching it successfully at our Education Week in Strasbourg in October. Furthermore, we entered into a bilateral agreement with the German Spine Society (DWG) and the Turkish Spine Society (TSS) to harmonise the structure of Spine Diploma Courses and recognise diploma equivalence. We are currently finalising equivalency agreements with a number of additional European countries.

## FOSTERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The TFR continually awards large grants to carefully selected, high-quality studies. TFR courses are also a great success. Over the past 5 years we have educated more than 70 researchers from 32 countries.

## CREATING HIGH-VALUE LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

EUROSPINE meetings have become an even broader platform for sharing innovation and research. Based on delegates' feedback, we continually redesign and improve our programmes to offer members and stakeholders cutting-edge educational and scientific content and invaluable networking opportunities.

This year's annual meeting in Berlin was the most successful to date, with a record number of participants and the receipt of more than 1,000 abstract submissions. This demonstra-

tes the growing prestige of EUROSPINE on the European (and world) stage. Our Spring Speciality Meetings, although smaller, have gained a dedicated following thanks to highly-positive feedback from participants.

## REFINING ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Last year we successfully restructured the internal organisation of EUROSPINE to streamline decision-making and give each committee a direct voice in the ExCom. Beat Leimbacher, our former strategic advisor, has taken over the role of Delegate of the ExCom to manage the increasingly complex business aspects of the society. In June 2016, Julie-Lyn Noël, MD MBA, joined EUROSPINE as Director of Education and Research, undertaking the management and development of a comprehensive education platform, course activities and education/research projects in cooperation with the Education Committee and Task Force Research. Our Director of Administration, Judith Reichert, has played an important role in overseeing all of these administrative changes and ensuring the continued smooth operations of our organisation.

## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

As in the start-up phase of any new endeavour, the realisation of our many accomplishments over the past year has not come without significant financial investment. Our hard work and expenditures are already reaping the benefits – 2016 saw a strong upswing on our balance sheet, proving that EUROSPINE is a financially healthy organisation and in an excellent position to continue recovering its costs going forward.

We will continue improve our efficiency by reviewing and prioritising all activities, making our offerings even more attractive to members and stakeholders, and diversifying our sources of income through our education, research, Spine Tango and Patient Line activities.



## SETTING UP FOR LONGTERM SUCCESS

I am delighted with the progress EUROSPINE has made over the past year and the many milestones we have achieved. Serving as President of EUROSPINE has been an honour and I look forward to continuing our efforts to help our society to realise its potential as the leading spine society in Europe.

I wish to extend my warmest thanks to the Executive Committee (ExCom) and Society Committees – Education, Task Force Research, Membership, Spine Tango and Patient Line – for their hard work and tireless dedication. I also wish to recognise our EUROSPINE team, Judith Reichert, Julie-Lyn Noël, Anna Faber, Conny Schmutzer, Claudia Ortner, Letizia Lamartina and Beat Leimbacher, for their invaluable contributions.

And last, but definitely not least, I want to thank you, our members, for your ongoing support and for making EUROSPINE a truly successful society.

# EUROSPINE: Shaping Our Future



**Frank Kandziora**  
Vice President of EUROSPINE 2016-17

Through the successful implementation of our Way Forward strategy over the past four years, EUROSPINE has not only grown in terms of membership, it has made advances on many fronts. Our society is realising its goal of becoming the leading spine society in Europe – through its best-practice education and research activities, internationally-recognised annual meeting and speciality meetings, as well as its fruitful collaboration with other spine organisations. EUROSPINE is an exciting place to be for spine professionals today!

In line with my work as Treasurer and as former Chair of the EUROSPINE Foundation, I am proud to continue my journey this year as Vice President of EUROSPINE.

## STANDARDISING EDUCATION

Education is a key priority at EUROSPINE. A little over a year ago, we launched a newly-designed *EUROSPINE Diploma (ESD)* for surgeons, and we are also offering new advanced courses in combination with a *EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma (ESAD)*. In addition, the Task Force Research (TFR) is collaborating on speciality courses with universities and institutes.

We are putting a tremendous amount of effort into developing our educational platform, serving both new spine professionals and offering cutting-edge advanced education for more experienced practitioners. To achieve our goals, however, we must work together with other national spine societies, standardising curricula and taking steps toward establishing a recognised European Spine Certification.

## DIVERSIFYING OUR EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Until now, our education programme has focussed largely on spine surgery. We are now striving to expand our educational offerings to include other disciplines, culminating in an education diploma for non-surgeons. This NON-surgical education programme will be led by our current president, Margareta Nordin, in close cooperation with the Education Committee and with the collaboration of other scientific organisations.

In addition, the digitalisation trend is having a tremendous impact on our educational activities. Online learning is becoming an essential element of a well-rounded educational programme. Moving forward, we will need to

develop a digital education format to support the content and facilitate access to our courses.

### MAKING SPINE SURGERY A RECOGNISED SPECIALTY

A further objective we plan to pursue is the recognition of spine surgery as a separate specialty throughout Europe. Although spine surgery is an important – and often vital – part of patient care, it is not officially acknowledged as a separate specialty in all European countries. The further alignment of education across Europe remains a high priority for EUROSPINE to ensure the same standards of quality in education are met in every country.

### CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

EUROSPINE is currently experiencing remarkable growth, as witnessed by membership numbers exceeding 1,000 and a strong network of institutional members (approximately 7,000), representing 27 national societies. Continuing this expansion and managing our networks in the years to come will be essential creating a strong voice towards governments, political institutions, insurance companies, and other influential bodies. We will continue to support and strengthen EUROSPINE's European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB), an important platform where national spine societies

can address issues of Europe-wide interest via the EUROSPINE Executive Board.

Based on our mission statement to bring together all spine-related European stakeholders across disciplines, cultures and countries, we will furthermore support the inclusion of disciplines which we believe are underrepresented in our society such as scientists, physiotherapists, chiropractors, etc.

### EUROSPINE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Next year we will be celebrating 20 years of EUROSPINE. A real success story! I am delighted to be able to follow in such a significant year the footsteps of my esteemed predecessors, Margareta Nordin, Michael Ogon, Haluk Berk, Phil Sell and so many other distinguished colleagues.

The challenge ahead is not an easy one – market and economic conditions are constantly changing, demanding that we continue to evolve. We will be making ongoing adaptations to meet the needs of our members and stakeholders, and look forward to introducing new services as required. The team at EUROSPINE is incredibly talented, and I am truly honoured to be able to play a prominent role in helping to achieve the ambitious goals we have set. Working together, EUROSPINE can look forward towards a very bright future.



# 1,000 Members and Counting



**Christoph Siepe**  
Chair, Membership Committee 2015-16



**Serdar Kahraman**  
Chair, Membership Committee 2016-17

EUROSPINE is a dynamic, international society. **In 2016, for the first time, our membership base exceeded 1,000.** At EUROSPINE, spine specialists from 77 countries gather to exchange insights and share expertise across cultures and multiple disciplines. The latest in technology, research and education is brought to the forefront by leading talents from all over the world.

## ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES LEAD TO CONTINUING GROWTH

As part of its *Way Forward* strategy, EUROSPINE has initiated a number of membership benefits to attract the top minds in spine care today. With each incentive, we have seen our numbers increasing. In 2016, we surpassed our goals, achieving record growth in every membership category, and topping 1,000 members! Furthermore, we are very pleased to report that those numbers are continuing their steady upward trend.

This year we continued to build on incentives to attract spine professionals by making educational events more accessible:

- **New fee structure for EUROSPINE educational events**, offering special reduced registration fees for members

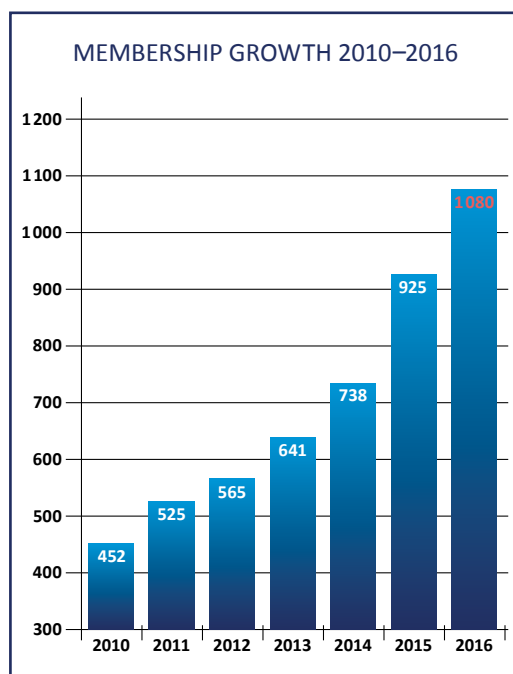
- **Low membership fees** remaining at €140/year (€70/year for Young Members)
- **Discounts for members** to attend the annual meeting, the Spring Speciality Meeting and Task Force Research courses
- **'Young Member' category** offering professional colleagues under the age of 40 the opportunity to join EUROSPINE for 50% of the regular membership fee for the first two years
- **'Institutional Member' and 'Associate Member' categories**, inviting national spine societies to join as *Institutional Members*, with the added benefit that all their members automatically become *Associate Members* of EUROSPINE
- **EuSSAB (sponsored by EUROSPINE)**, a neutral platform for *Institutional Members* to come together and work jointly on common issues
- **Extensive membership benefits**, such as a subscription to the European Spine Journal and access to research grants, the Open Operating Theatre (OOT) platform, Annual Meeting webcasts and more

Thanks to these initiatives, EUROSPINE’s membership base has continued to expand substantially:

- The number of application submissions received per year has doubled since 2014
- The number of new members increased by 10% in 2016 (207 new members vs. 187 new members in 2015)
- The age distribution amongst EUROSPINE members has become more balanced
- The number of countries of origin of EUROSPINE members has increased to 77

The introduction of a new fee structure for EUROSPINE Meetings and Educational Events led to increased member participation:

- The number of members attending our annual meeting increased from 14% in Lyon to 24% in Copenhagen and 26% in Berlin!
- While in 2015 only 14% of all participants at Education Week were members, this number increased to 36% in 2016.



## ‘YOUNG MEMBER’ CATEGORY STILL HIGHLY POPULAR

One of our longstanding goals has been to promote our society to young, active colleagues and to provide support for future leaders. In an initiative to attract bright young minds in spine care, we established a Young Member category in 2014.

Professional colleagues under the age of 40 can join EUROSPINE and enjoy the full range of membership benefits for 50% of the regular fee for two years. This category has proved immensely popular – a full **47% of applications received in 2015 were from young members. The success story continued in 2016, when 55% of all applications received were from young members!**

In 2016 for the first time, the status of the new Young Members ratified in 2014 was changed to Active/Corresponding Members. We are pleased and proud to report that 100% of them have continued their membership with the society.

## MEMBERSHIP GOALS FOR 2017

Next year we will be sustaining our efforts to attract the best and the brightest, with the creation of an honorary membership category and a review of further potential membership benefits. We are also introducing a new database management system to assist with the processing of membership payments.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members and thank all our existing members for your support and your contribution in making EUROSPINE a society that can open new horizons in spine care. It is our goal to attract 200 new members in 2017. If you are interested in working with talented specialists and sharing new ideas and techniques, please join our dynamic organisation!

# EuSSAB – Maturing as an International Spine Forum



**Christoph Siepe**  
EuSSAB 2016

Established by EUROSPINE in 2014, the European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) has become recognised as the primary communications platform for EUROSPINE’s Institutional Members—national spine societies across Europe. Since its inaugural meeting in 2014, EuSSAB has grown to include 27 national societies representing approximately 7,000 members. EuSSAB provides an unbiased, international forum where national spine societies can address common issues related to spine health and education, standardise processes and influence political policy with a strong, united voice.

## WHAT IS EUROSPINE’S ROLE IN EUSSAB?

EUROSPINE founded EuSSAB as a vehicle for bringing national societies together to discuss and resolve issues of common interest to members and patients. Although EUROSPINE acts as a facilitator, the society remains on an equal footing with its fellow spine societies, carrying equal political weight and voting rights. This neutral platform creates a symbiotic dynamic between EUROSPINE and its allied societies, leading to a “win-win” relationship for all. Together, EuSSAB members identify shared challenges and goals, and develop strategies as

equal partners. Important decisions are voted upon by the membership.

## 1 COUNTRY = 1 VOTE

Decisions are generally made based on a voting majority. To ensure fair representation for all, each member country of EuSSAB generally receives one vote. Should a country be represented by more than one member society, those societies must share or alternate voting rights. In cases where a single society represents more than one country, that society will have one vote:

### Voting process

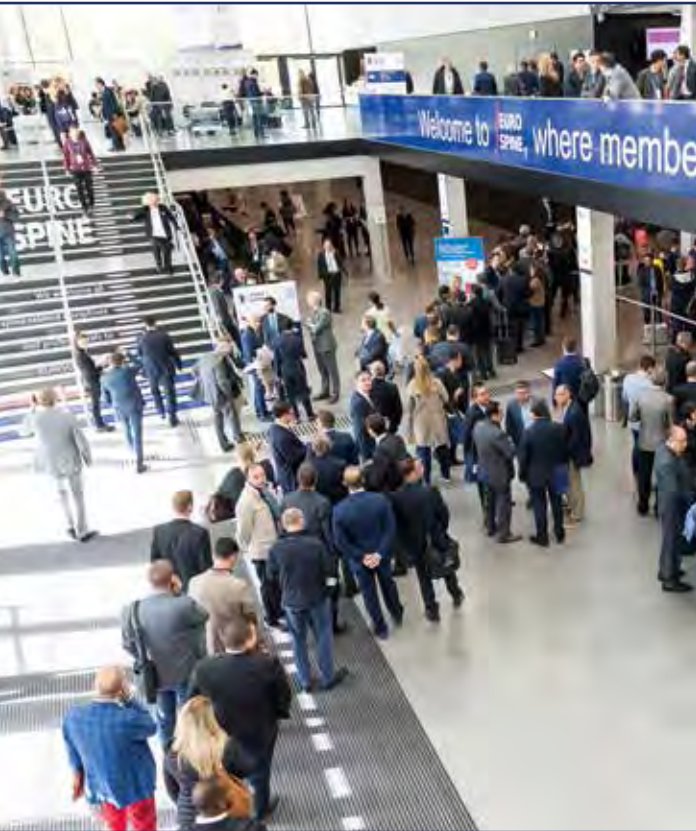
- **1 country = 1 society = 1 representative = 1 vote**
- For countries with more than one society: **1 country = multiple societies = multiple representatives = 1 vote**

Thus, countries with >1 society may have to **alternate voting rights**

- If multiple countries are represented within one society: **1 society = multiple countries = 1 representative = 1 vote**

## NEW APPLICANTS MUST BE VOTED IN BY EXISTING MEMBERS

This year EuSSAB transitioned from an open to a closed organisation, requiring prospective new members to formally apply for membership. To qualify for a EuSSAB membership, a national society:



- Must first be an Institutional Member of EUROSPINE
- Should represent most spine specialists in their country (i.e. be a “relevant” society)
- Should have a democratic process
- Should ideally be multidisciplinary

All applications must be voted upon by the existing membership for approval. At our meeting in Berlin, EuSSAB voted for the first time on two new EuSSAB membership applications:

- **Swiss Spine Surgery Society** - Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Spinale Chirurgie (SGS)
- **Finnish Spine Surgery Society** - Suomen Selkäkirurgiyhdistys (SSKY)

Both societies received a full vote with no objections. We wish to extend our warmest congratulations in welcoming them as EuSSAB members!

## ELECTED EUSSAB REPRESENTATIVE ON EUROSPINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

To maintain an open channel of communication between EuSSAB and EUROSPINE, EuSSAB members decided to elect a EuSSAB Representative to attend specific EUROSPINE ExCom meetings where EuSSAB issues are to be addressed. (The EuSSAB Representative has neither voting rights nor a permanent seat on the ExCom.) A Vice Representative was also elected, who will assume the duties of EuSSAB Representative after the first term ends at the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

We wish to extend our warmest congratulations to **Johan van Lerbeirghe** from Belgium, the first EuSSAB Representative, and to **Christoph Josten** from Germany, the EuSSAB Vice Representative, who were elected at the meeting in Berlin. We would further like to extend our thanks to all candidates for their tremendous support over the last few years.

## NEXT STEPS

Our next meeting will be held in Munich, where the agenda will primarily focus on political issues and decision making, followed by our next Annual General Meeting in Dublin.



# Taking Education to the Next Level



**Jörg Franke**  
Chair, Education and Fellowship Committee 2015-16



**Bernhard Meyer**  
Chair, Education and Fellowship Committee 2016-17

Improving the quality of patient care lies at the heart of EUROSPINE's values. The transfer of knowledge through a comprehensive education programme that transcends borders and languages forms a solid foundation upon which to generate an international standard of excellence among practitioners.

EUROSPINE is working together with national societies to standardise curricula and establish a recognised and accredited European Spine Certification. 2016 proved to be a successful year for the EUROSPINE education programme, with improvements and extended offerings in our research, diploma and advanced courses.

## EUROSPINE DIPLOMA AND EQUIVALENCE WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Eighty-seven spine surgeons from 31 countries attended EUROSPINE's Education Week at the world-renowned IRCAD facility in Strasbourg from 13–17 June 2016, where they had the opportunity to learn from and interact with 40 distinguished faculty members from all over Europe. Pre-course materials, lectures, case-based discussions, plenary sessions and cadaver laboratory workshops all included blended

learning elements. Education Week covers content in five subject areas relevant to the appropriate training of young spine specialists. Upon completion of these courses, the *EUROSPINE Diploma* is awarded. Similar programmes exist on a national level.

EUROSPINE believes that by aligning programmes with other national curricula (that deliver the same learning outcomes for attendees), we are getting closer to reaching our goal of establishing a recognised European Spine Specialty.

On 10 September 2016, representatives from EuSSAB member societies (15 countries) and the EUROSPINE Education Committee attended an Education Workshop in Munich to:

- Discuss spine surgery education issues relevant to the respective countries
- Increase awareness of both the current EUROSPINE educational platform and existing educational programmes throughout Europe

All agreed that diploma equivalence with the *EUROSPINE Diploma* is the way to a common understanding of a core curriculum across Europe, a *European Spine Certification* and, ultimately, a recognised specialty in spine. Furthermore, re-

representatives indicated that they will open discussions and work towards the development of parallel programmes that have shared learning outcomes with the EUROSPINE's *EUROSPINE Diploma*.

More than 30 diplomas equivalent to the *DWG Basic Diploma* of Germany have been delivered since January 2016, and diplomas equivalent to the *TSS Basic Diploma of Turkey* are set to be delivered beginning October 2016. On the way are the equivalence with the *Iberian Peninsula Basic Spine Diploma* of Spain's GEER and Portugal's SPCV as well as the *HSS Greek Basic Spine Diploma*. Talks and negotiations are currently ongoing with France and Croatia.

## ADVANCED EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

A programme for the advanced course modules *Extended Indications and Advanced Operative Techniques* and *Revisions and Complications Management* was developed by the Education Committee to be delivered at EUROSPINE's first-ever Advanced Course on 9-11 January 2017 in Strasbourg, France. Spine specialists from all over the world will have the opportunity to engage in real-world discussions on spine care and exchange ideas in a collegial atmosphere with 19 distinguished faculty members from all over Europe.

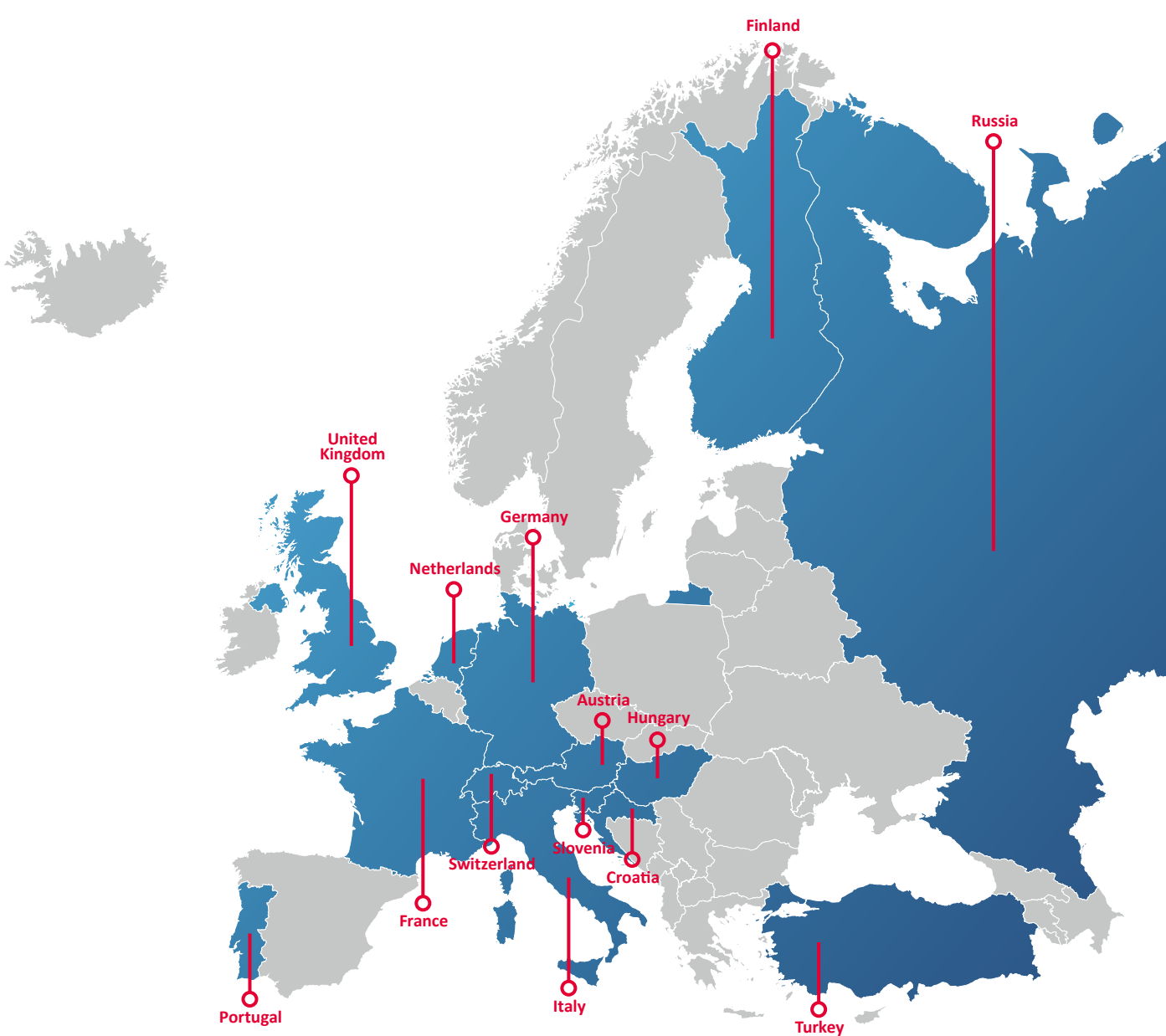
The new programme delivers advanced education with innovative learning opportunities for spine specialists. Participants will take part in classic plenary sessions, highly-interactive and challenging case studies, group case discussions and roundtable discussions with experts. They will also take an active role in practical workshops with cadavers, sawbones and simulators. In addition, course participants will have the opportunity to meet with their peers and interact with faculty – esteemed surgeons from all over Europe. Throughout the course, surgical pearls, notions, up-and-coming innovations and future trends in state-of-the-art spine surgery will be explored.

Completion of the two modules is a step towards earning the *EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma*, certified by EUROSPINE upon completion of the two advanced course modules and a validated fellowship delivered by accredited spine centres or an equivalent fellowship.

## PLANS FOR 2017

2017 is shaping up to be a very successful year for EUROSPINE education with the following:

- **Diploma Equivalence:** We are signing for diploma equivalence effective 1 June 2017 with the *Iberian Peninsula Basic Spine Diploma* of the Sociedad Española de Columna Vertebral (GEER) and Sociedade Portuguesa de Patologia de la Coluna Vertebral (SPCV) and with the *Greek Basic Spine Diploma* of the Hellenic Spine Society (HSS)
- **EUROSPINE Diploma:** Education Week will be held from 19-23 June 2017
- **EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma:** The next advanced course is planned for 9-11 January 2017, followed by an additional advanced course from 16-18 October 2017
- **Accredited Spine Centres:** We encourage more spine centres to become accredited and deliver validated fellowships
- **Observerships (Short-term – up to 14 days with a clear objective – either surgical, conservative or for research purposes):** More applicants will be granted financial support for observerships led by D. Rothenfluh and A. Faundez
- **Sponsorship and Funding:** Advancing and developing our relationships with industry partners is important. We need to constantly improve our teaching, stay up-to-date on the latest technological innovations and educate our basic and advanced diploma candidates
- **Non-surgical Diploma Programme:** A new interprofessional and multidisciplinary education programme is under development. There is a need to offer a non-surgical diploma to the various professionals involved in spine care in order to educate, train and promote evidence-based care to prevent disability



**On 10 September 2016 participants from 14 countries met for the education workshop "EUROSPINE AND EuSSAB" in order to discuss issues of common interest in aligning the educational curriculum and consequently the spine surgeons diploma throughout Europe. In this workshop, all have agreed on the principles of the EUROSPINE equivalence programme. The above map depicts the countries represented.**

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We wish to express a heartfelt thank you to Jean-Charles Le Huec, Jorge Draper Mineiro, Alpaslan Senkoylu, and Claudius Thomé, who, having served three years on the Education Committee, have been involved in the reintegration of education under EUROSPINE, fostering continuous education with the development of the advanced course and observerships, and in the accreditation of spine centres for fellowships.

### EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

EUROSPINE is striving to take education to the next level by delivering a comprehensive education programme for all spine specialists at all stages of their career. With the approach of life-long learning in partnership with national societies, spine centres, MedTechs and other professionals involved in spine care, we hope to enable our participants to excel in patient care and safety.

# Stakeholder Council – A Stronger Focus on Stakeholders



**Jörg Franke**  
Co-Chair of Stakeholder Council 2016



**Christoph Siepe**  
Co-Chair of Stakeholder Council 2016



**Beat Leimbacher**  
Delegate of the ExCom

The Stakeholder Council was set up in 2014 to strengthen relationships with our network of stakeholders, including the MedTech industry, national/international spine societies, government, political institutions and others. Its initial objectives were fourfold:

1. Establish the European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB), originally lead by the head of the membership council and now chaired by two co-chairs
2. Develop a structured approach towards MedTechs, led by the Head of the Education Committee
3. Widen general sponsoring support for other EUROSPINE activities
4. Strengthen our relationship approach to a wider range of stakeholder groups – especially patients and political institutions

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

In the past year, EUROSPINE has made great strides in expanding its network and alliances, both with national spine societies and with industry by:

- **Actively developing EUROSPINE's European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB)**, resulting in 27 national societies – representing

approximately 7,000 Associate Members – joining EUROSPINE as Institutional Members. With a focus on education, diploma equivalency agreements are now in place or in negotiation with many countries

- **Cooperating with key international stakeholders** beyond EuSSAB, such as the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) and others
- **Strengthening our relationship approach with MedTechs** to diversify sponsorships beyond our annual meeting and our education activities
- **Re-establishing Patient Line**, leading to an increase in usage
- **Widening and strengthening sponsorship of education and research activities**

## FORMALISING OUR COUNCIL STRUCTURE

It is our goal to increase cross-council activities and expand beyond coordinating education and research projects. Political institutions will become a primary focus, as we look to the EU, national governments and other political bodies to raise the profile of spine treatment in their priority- and policy setting. In addition, we want to ensure that our investments in the Spine Tango registry, as well as Patient Line, can



be further leveraged. Furthermore, we have just begun to explore the potential of sponsorships from pharmaceutical companies, and we are also planning to evaluate stakeholders such as universities, health insurance companies and patient organisations.

For that purpose, the Stakeholder Council is being restructured and two former council heads, Christoph Siepe and Joerg Frank, who have been heavily involved in driving the individual initiatives, have been named as Co-chair. Beat Leimbacher, as Delegate of the ExCom, will act as facilitator for initiating the different coordination processes.

Additional members will include representatives of Patient Line and Spine Tango, as well as

the EUROSPINE Foundation. One of our former presidents, Haluk Berk, will be in charge of coordinating relationships with political institutions, educational bodies such as EFORT and many others.

#### FUTURE OBJECTIVES

We are very pleased with the progress we have made so far in cooperating with national societies and reaching out to MedTechs. The first meeting of our newly-structured Stakeholder Council is scheduled to take place at the next annual meeting in Dublin. We look forward to developing a proactive outreach plan to establish fruitful relationships with more diverse stakeholder groups and a better coordination process across all of the councils.

# EUROSPINE Foundation: Raising Funds for Spine Research, Education and Treatment



**Everard Munting**  
Chair, EUROSPINE Foundation

The EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF) is a non-profit, charitable organisation with four main objectives:

1. Advance knowledge and understanding of spinal disorders
2. Improve the standard of care, recovery and well-being for patients with back and neck problems
3. Foster the development of new, and the evaluation of existing treatments
4. Support the education of care providers at the highest, evidence-based level

Founded by EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, and the European Spine Journal in 2007, the EUROSPINE Foundation's core activities transitioned in 2016 from educational to fundraising, both for programmes run by EUROSPINE and by World Spine Care. This is a challenging but rewarding task, enabling us to provide support for spinal research and education in emerging countries and for research, education, data collection and analysis and meetings, at both a European and global level.

## LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

This year we completely redesigned the ESF

website to reflect our status as a non-profit fundraising organisation. Our new website describes our goals and planned activities, and provides background on our Board of Trustees and endorsing organisations in both English and German. Furthermore, it explains how to make a donation and how your money will be used to further the science of spine health.

Our next step will be to integrate a payment facility for donations directly on the website. Please visit [www.eurospinefoundation.org](http://www.eurospinefoundation.org)!

## PROPOSED SOURCES FOR COLLECTING DONATIONS

ESF is hoping to receive donations from a number of sources, in particular:

- Members of EUROSPINE
- Patients
- The medical industry
- Corporate philanthropy
- Sponsored activities

We have produced a flyer in English and German to be distributed to patients who have been successfully treated and/or wish to support a cause close to their hearts. We would be



very pleased if members willing to encourage donations to the Foundation from their patients or friends would distribute these flyers on our behalf.

In addition, we rely on contributions from the medical industry to further our quest of supporting spinal research – a virtuous circle that helps both sides meet their objectives.

We also plan to hold sponsored activities, such as runs, hikes or other sports, increasing awareness of our charity and collecting donations.

#### OTHER CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ESF is working together with EUROSPINE on an accreditation project to certify spine centres who meet excellent standards of care. We are also organising a sponsored conference on the **'Prevention of Lower Back Pain and Treatment'**, to be presented by EUROSPINE opinion leaders in industries and companies.

The EUROSPINE Foundation runs at minimal costs. Its work is made possible by the voluntary assistance of EUROSPINE staff, the ESF Board, Beat Leimbacher, George Fraefel from Best View and Arno Ahornegger. Thanks to all for your thoughtful contributions!

#### WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

We hope that 2017 will see the first significant donations to the EUROSPINE Foundation to allow us to fulfil, at least modestly, our goals of providing spinal research support within EUROSPINE and sponsoring education – both within Europe and for spine specialist from less-favoured countries in collaboration with World Spine Care.

We request that you, the members of EUROSPINE, contribute by giving generously. Thank you in advance for your support.

# Financial Statement and Treasurers' Report



**Finn Christensen**  
EUROSPINE Treasurer 2015-16



**Marco Teli**  
EUROSPINE Treasurer 2016-17

Dear EUROSPINE Members,

2016 will mark the first time that we report the current business year's financial figures. Up until now, we have published our financial reports only after presenting them at the General Assembly, requiring a delay of one year. However, based on members' requests to review the figures well in advance of the GA, our Executive Committee has now decided to change that policy.

Therefore, this report will address both the fiscal years of 2015 and 2016.

## HIGH DEPENDENCY ON REVENUES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

EUROSPINE's financial performance over the last three years (2014-2016) reflects a strong correlation to revenues generated by the annual meeting. In years where the annual meeting has been financially successful, so too were EUROSPINE's revenues as a whole. If revenues generated fell below expectations, the result was also apparent on EUROSPINE's bottom line.

For this reason, the ExCom has taken measures to counterbalance the fluctuations of financial results dependant on the annual meeting by adding additional revenue-generating activities to help us reach our cost-recovery objectives year on year.

## FINANCIAL RESULTS 2014 – 2016: THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING OUR WAY FORWARD STRATEGY

In addition to the annual meeting, the implementation of our *Way Forward* strategy had a strong impact on EUROSPINE's overall financial results. From the treasury point of view, these were the two most important contributing factors for the financial results in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Although a solid profit from the 2014 annual meeting in Lyon was instrumental in helping us exceed our budgeted net income of €114,500 with a profit of €382,500, our financial results in 2015 were just the opposite.

## 2015 – INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

2015 was a year of transition for EUROSPINE, requiring a number of investments in our infra-



structure to ensure the appropriate implementation of our *Way Forward* strategy:

- Hiring of additional staff to strengthen strategic and operational management and to manage the operations of our educational activities following the handover from the EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF)
- Evaluation of a new data management system to manage the fast growth of our membership base
- Further expansion of EUROSPINE's European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB) as a platform for all European spine societies with the top priority of aligning education across Europe
- Development of a stronger stakeholder management structure and approach

These measures led to a significant increase in personnel and IT-related expenses (more than doubling the expenses of 2014). Moving all educational activities from the EUROSPINE Foundation back under the auspices of EUROSPINE also generated certain one-off expenses. Although EUROSPINE took over the costs associated with delivering Education Week in 2015, most of the revenues generated were credited to ESF to enable the Foundation to define its future direction and transition to its new setup.

In addition, despite a very successful annual meeting in Copenhagen, with solid participation and a record number of abstracts submitted, costs in Copenhagen were higher compared to former locations, leading to a lower net profit.

In total, investments made in our *Way Forward* strategy and a lower-than-expected income from the Copenhagen annual meeting led to a loss of €520,750. As outlined above, this did not come as a surprise since we have established a fine-tuned controlling and monitoring system to anticipate cost and income changes compared to budget well in advance.

As treasurers, we are happy to conclude that, despite this loss of half a million euros,



EUROSPINE remains a financially stable organisation with a very strong balance sheet. As of 30 December 2015, we had a cash position of €1,564,502 and an equity of €1,648,929.

## 2016 – A VERY STRONG FISCAL YEAR WITH AN OUTSTANDING ANNUAL MEETING IN BERLIN

2016 represented a record year in terms of revenue for EUROSPINE. In spite of continued investment in the implementation of our *Way Forward* strategy and higher human resource costs incurred than in previous years due to investment in operational infrastructure, our Annual Meeting in Berlin generated a profit exceeding €1,600,000, our highest to date. This success can be attributed to high attendance and an excellent meeting location with one of the lowest local operational costs for a large European city.

The higher HR costs stemmed from bringing all operational education activities back under EUROSPINE. No further payments to cover ESF's operational costs were made. EUROSPINE staff has taken on an increased operational workload and now provides support for councils and committees, thereby lowering committee costs. These measures will have a positive impact on our efficiency over the longer term.

All of these factors contributed to a net profit of €329,683, a figure much more positive than our budgeted loss of -€94,670. However, due to the planned budget loss of approximately €300,000 for 2017, the ExCom (in accordance with EUROSPINE's accountant and auditor) has taken the decision to make a provision of €300,000 in order to secure the long-term prosperity of the society and to better balance the fluctuations of income generated by the annual meeting in the coming years. After this provision, we are still able to report a net profit of €29,683.

Based on our strong financial result, we are happy to once again report a solid and stable



balance sheet. As of 31 December 2016, our cash and liquidity position remained on a high level at €1,565,406, and our equity remained strong and stable at €1,678,612.

## OUTLOOK 2017

Our Executive Committee is fully committed to our mission and vision, which not only means further growth of the society but also delivering high-quality services to our members and stakeholders at a reasonable cost and with high efficiency.

Our financial dependence on the annual meeting will continue for some time, however we are well on our way to further diversifying our income sources through other activities including education, research, the Spine Tango Registry and Patient Line. This process will require more time and we expect to achieve this goal through a more evolutionary process.

Our financial result in 2017 will be highly dependent on attracting as many participants as possible to attend our annual meeting in Dublin. The overall EUROSPINE budget approved in the last General Assembly forecasts a loss of approximately €300,000 for 2017. We are fully committed to putting in the necessary hard work to further improve our efficiency and get the best out of our ongoing investments.

# Financial Statements and Budgets

## Balance Sheet as of 31 December (in EUR)

	Notes	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,565,406	1,564,502
Other short-term receivables		26,748	15,822
Prepaid expenses	2.1	55,997	65,963
Accrued income			
due from third parties		712,789	268,725
due from members		40,770	38,640
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>		<b><u>2,401,710</u></b>	<b><u>1,953,652</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>			
<b>Short-term Liabilities</b>			
Trade accounts payables		249,059	151,013
Other short-term liabilities		3,836	2,648
Prepayments from members		48,330	41,730
Provision for long-term prosperity of the Society	2.2	300,000	0
Accrued expenses		121,873	109,332
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>723,098</b>	<b>304,723</b>
<b>Society's equity</b>			
Society capital		1,648,929	2,169,679
Profit/(loss) for the year		29,683	(520,750)
<b>Total society's equity</b>		<b>1,678,612</b>	<b>1,648,929</b>
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY</u></b>		<b><u>2,401,710</u></b>	<b><u>1,953,652</u></b>

**Income Statement for the year ended 31 December  
(in EUR)**

Notes	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Member fees	117,361	86,890
Profit EUROSPINE Lyon 2014	0	(6,665)
Profit EUROSPINE Copenhagen 2015	0	1,187,033
Profit EUROSPINE Berlin 2016	1,647,794	0
Profit EUROSPINE Krakow 2016	8,094	0
Education / TFR	269,273	93,041
<b>Total net revenue</b>	<b>2,042,522</b>	<b>1,360,299</b>
Annual meeting	(37,512)	(69,577)
Education week	(192,763)	(182,646)
Education	(14,608)	(84,982)
Research Task Force, Course	(59,419)	(42,465)
Research Task Force, Grants	(213,610)	(183,048)
<b>Total activities</b>	<b>(517,912)</b>	<b>(562,718)</b>
Spine Tango	(171,379)	(164,908)
Patient Line	(16,858)	(21,615)
Journal (Springer)	(68,800)	(66,478)
Foundation (contribution 2014/15)	(3,064)	(198,533)
Awards	(12,650)	(12,000)
<b>Total projects</b>	<b>(272,751)</b>	<b>(463,534)</b>
Ex Com	(37,954)	(41,873)
Research Task Force	(25,414)	(7,635)
Smaller committees	(6,839)	(6,102)
Cooperation with related societies	(1,383)	(25,407)
<b>Total committees</b>	<b>(71,590)</b>	<b>(81,017)</b>
<b>Total activities / projects / committees</b>	<b>(862,253)</b>	<b>(1,107,269)</b>
<b><u>Gross profit</u></b>	<b><u>1,180,269</u></b>	<b><u>253,030</u></b>

**Income Statement for the year ended 31 December  
(in EUR)**

	Notes	2016	2015
<b>Gross profit</b>		<b>1,180,269</b>	<b>253,030</b>
<b>Personnel expenses</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>(613,882)</b>	<b>(527,513)</b>
Office and services expenses		(103,687)	(70,767)
Lawyer (projects and administration)		0	(5,479)
Marketing expenses		(20,143)	(2,163)
IT and website		(48,243)	(82,012)
PR and annual report		( 40,429)	(47,347)
Various expenses		0	(2,260)
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>		<b>(212,502)</b>	<b>(210,028)</b>
<b>Operating result</b>		<b>353,885</b>	<b>(484,511)</b>
Financial expenses / income		(4,538)	(5,062)
Financial and currency exchange expenses realised		(554)	(176)
Financial and currency exchange expenses unrealised		(19,110)	(31,001)
Extraordinary, non recurring or prior year expenses <b>2.2</b>		(300,000)	0
<b>Total financial income and expenses</b>		<b>(324,202)</b>	<b>(36,239)</b>
<b><u>Profit / (loss) for the year</u></b>		<b><u>29,683</u></b>	<b><u>(520,750)</u></b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements 2016

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

These financial statements were prepared according to the principles of the Swiss Law on Accounting and Financial Reporting (Art. 957 - 962 Swiss Code of Obligations).

EUROSPINE has restructured the allocation within the P&L in order to have a more project- and task-oriented disclosure. Prior year amounts were adjusted.

### 1.1 Currency and exchange rates

The functional currency of the Company is Euros, as it is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. The reporting currency of the Company is Euros. In preparing the financial statements of the Company, transactions in currencies other than the Company's functional currency are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions.

## 2. KEY ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

The main accounting and valuation principles used, which are not already specified by the Code of Obligations, are described as follows:

### 2.1 Prepaid expenses

Prepaid expenses are prepayments made for meetings in the following years.

### 2.1 Provision

A provision of €300,000 has been made in order to secure the long-term prosperity of the society and to straighten income fluctuation over the years.

## 3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 3.1 Number of full-time equivalents

The annual average number of full-time equivalents for the reporting year, as well as the previous year, did not exceed 10.

### 3.2 Pension scheme liabilities

In 2016 there are no liabilities towards the pension scheme (previous year: €19,829).

### 3.3 Tax exemption

The exemption from income and capital taxes was approved by the Cantonal Tax Office Zurich on 31 July 2008. EUROSPINE is a non-profit organisation.

### 3.4 Significant events after the balance sheet date

There are no significant events after the balance sheet date which could impact the book value of the assets or liabilities or which should be disclosed here.

## 4. OTHER NOTES

### 4.1 Profit EUROSPINE Congress Berlin 2016 and Copenhagen 2015

Congress accounts prepared by external service providers were audited by the society's accountant for 2015 and for 2016. Overall these accounts were consistent, prior year recommendations have been implemented and compared to previous years. A tight controlling process and monitoring measurements led to a considerable better result.



#### **4.2 Profit Spring Speciality Meeting Krakow 2016**

The society decided not to audit the accounts for the Spring Speciality Meeting Krakow in 2016.

#### **4.3 Transfer to EUROSPINE Foundation (ESF)**

A new funding concept for ESF was implemented in 2014. It was changed from the previous concept of paying a 20% annual meeting profit share in addition to the €120,000 CEO salary contribution to a higher stable remuneration in two parts:

Part 1: Monthly payment of €240,000 per year enabling two Education Weeks.

Part 2: Additional payment for specific courses, meetings on request.

This change allows better planning security for ESF.

However, the annual remuneration was only paid partly in 2015 due to reintegration of education activities from ESF to EUROSPINE in year 2016.

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Report of the statutory auditors  
on the limited statutory  
examination to the  
General Meeting of  
**EuroSpine, the Spine Society of  
Europe**  
8610 Uster

Zug, May 29, 2017

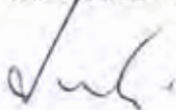
As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of **EuroSpine, the Spine Society of Europe** for the year ended **December 31, 2016**.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of the society. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the society's articles of incorporation.

TREUHAND VON FLÜE AG



H.-P. von Flüe  
lic. oec. HSG  
licensed audit expert



G. Biotti  
auditor in charge  
licensed audit expert

**Enclosures:**

- Financial Statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes)



# Annual Meeting: EUROSPINE 2016



**Stavros Stavridis**  
Chair, Programme Committee 2015-16

## A TRULY 'GLOBAL' EUROPEAN MEETING

**More than 3,600 participants from 85 countries** joined us this year in Berlin, the capital of Germany, for EUROSPINE's Annual Meeting. Delegates were presented with a high-quality scientific programme and the opportunity to interact with spine experts and industry representatives in an impressive modern congress centre, in one of Europe's best-known cities.

*"Getting great 'food for thought', discovering new approaches to hot clinical issues, meeting new people... and all that in the heart of one of Europe's greatest metropolises. I really loved it!"*

*M.D.P., Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon, China  
delegate EUROSPINE 2016*

Organised specifically with our delegates in mind, the meeting was structured to allow all participants and speakers to take part in animated discussions, facilitate networking and foster innovative ideas on the provision of best practice spine care within Europe and worldwide.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 2016: HURDLING THE 1,000 SUBMISSION BARRIER

This year marked a new high point in EUROSPINE's history. **More than 1,000 abstracts were submitted for the Berlin meeting** – highlighting the growing acceptance for EUROSPINE's Annual Meeting as the leading spine congress in Europe and one of the most important spine meetings worldwide. Our hard-working Programme Committee had many outstanding papers to choose from, forming the basis of an exceptional and well-balanced scientific programme. Following a rigorous and accurate selection process, 87 were chosen as oral presentations, 84 qualified for oral 'Quick-Fires' and 146 were presented as e-posters.

The scientific programme was rounded out by **two lively debates** dealing with the ongoing controversies of modern spinal care, and was greatly appreciated by the delegates, as demonstrated by the high rates of attendance and strong evaluations in **the EUROSPINE 2016 Delegates' Survey**.

## EUROSPINE 2016 IN NUMBERS

Participation		Countries Represented	81
<b>Total Number of Attendees, (excl. Pre-day)</b>	3,629		
<b>Registered Delegates</b>	2,246	<b>Top 10 Countries</b>	
<b>Industry Representatives</b>	1,383	Germany	184
<b>Participants at Pre-day Courses</b>	185	UK	97
		Mexico	96
<b>Scientific Programme</b>		Spain	91
<b>Pre-day Courses</b>	2	China	91
<b>Scientific Presentations</b>	87	Switzerland	84
<b>Debates</b>	2	Italy	81
<b>QuickFire Presentations</b>	84	Japan	73
<b>E-Posters</b>	146	Brazil	72
<b>EUROSPINE Lunch Symposia</b>	6	France	71
<b>Industry Lunch Workshops</b>	20		
<b>Exhibition</b>			
<b>Total Number of Exhibitors incl. Spine Village</b>	159		
<b>Gold, Silver Sponsors and Contributors</b>	5		
<b>Industry Exhibition in net sqm.</b>	2,700		

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE 2016

Chair and Coordination	Stavros Stavridis	Greece	
<b>Members</b>	Karin Wuertz-Kozak	Switzerland	Basic Science, Biomechanics/Biology
	Cédric Barrey	France	New Techniques, Imaging, Patient Safety, Infection, Complications
	Martin Gehrchen	Denmark	Adult Deformity, Growing Spine
	Frank Kandziora	Germany	Thoracolumbar: Trauma, Tumour, Infection
	Emre Acaroğlu	Turkey	Cervical Spine
	Tamàs Fekete	Switzerland	Thoracolumbar: Degenerative

We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to our **co-reviewers**, for their huge contribution and support:

<b>Basic Science: Biology &amp; Biomechanics</b>	<b>Thoraco-lumbar Spine: Trauma, Tumour, Infection</b>
Stephen Ferguson, Switzerland	Cumhur Oner, Netherlands
Hendrik Schmidt, Germany	Zdenek Klezl, United Kingdom
Werner Schmözl, Austria	
<b>New Techniques, Imaging, Patient Safety, Complications</b>	<b>Cervical Spine</b>
Yann-Philippe Charles, France	Luca Papavero, Germany
Enrico Tessitore, Switzerland	Peter Vajkoczy, Germany
<b>Adult Deformity, Growing Spine</b>	<b>Thoraco-lumbar Spine: Degenerative</b>
Thomas Borbjerg Andersen, Denmark	Aron Lazary, Hungary
	Frank Kleinstueck, Switzerland

## PRE-DAY MEETING AND LUNCH SYMPOSIA: A VITAL PART OF OUR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Our industrious **Lunch Symposia and Pre-day Meeting Committee** presented two well-structured **pre-day meetings**, providing valuable information for **Spine Tango** users and new insights into the **Future of Spinal Surgery**. Another meeting high point, the always well-received lunch symposia, successfully covered both surgical and non-surgical “hot topics” of modern spinal care in six sessions.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks for their most valuable contribution:

- Luis Alvarez Galovich, Spain (Chair)
- Hossein Mehdian, UK
- Klaus John Schnake, Germany

## PATIENT DAY: EUROSPINE REACHES OUT

Berliners showed great interest in the **Patient Day** (held during pre-day), turning it into a tremendous success. In **two parallel sessions**, the

lucky participants who had booked their place on time had the opportunity to ask all their questions, discuss their problems and share their thoughts with the experts. In both the **trauma** and the **degenerative sessions**, the only complaint we received was: “Such a pity we could not attend both!”

## AWARDS 2016: THE COMPETITION HOTS UP

After an impressive contest among the top papers, the audience delivered its final verdict via the conference app for this year’s **“Best EUROSPINE Podium Presentation”**. Many thanks to our Awards Committee, who did a terrific job evaluating the first-class papers that fought hard for the prestigious **“EUROSPINE Full Paper Award 2016”**. Two further awards were also presented at the ceremony: the **“Grammer/European Spine Journal Award 2016”** and the **“Max Aebi Award for Clinical Sciences”**.

***Our warmest congratulations to all the winners!***

## MEDAL LECTURE: A VIEW OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER

A true highlight of this year's meeting was the "Extraspinal" Medal Lecture by **Theo Sommer**, former Editor-in-Chief of the German newspaper "Die Zeit". Spine experts are not only interested in the future of spinal care, but also in the future of our world. Mr. Sommer delivered an exceptional speech on "**The New World Order**", offering his audience a unique opportunity to try and understand the challenges of the future by correctly interpreting the messages of the past.

## THE KEY TO SUCCESS: THE RIGHT MIX OF GERMAN ORGANISATION AND HOSPITALITY

The 2016 EUROSPINE Annual Meeting was successfully hosted in Berlin by our colleagues, **Hans-Joachim Wilke**, **Peter Vajkoczy** and **Michael Putzier**. Thank you so much for your great efforts and warm hospitality in the famous German capital!

## DEALING WITH NEW CHALLENGES

A significant step forward in our meeting's programme structure was the introduction and successful implementation of a **new, improved and more detailed submission evaluation system**, aiming to further ensure a high-quality, unbiased selection process and successfully address anticipated increased submission loads in the future. Changes were also made to create an even more "user-friendly" submission procedure, and the questions in the "**Delegates Survey**" were enriched.

## DIVERSIFYING FOR THE FUTURE

Spine care covers an entire spectrum, extending far beyond surgery. We're developing new submission categories to enhance and spice up our programme "menu" in Dublin.

## WE'RE LISTENING: SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

We were amazed to realise that **the number of full responses to the "Delegates Survey" almost doubled in comparison with last year**. We received valuable input and some great ideas and we really want to thank you for that. Constantly improving the quality of our meeting is our priority and your contribution to this is priceless. In Dublin, you will see for yourself that your voice has been heard. We are here to listen to you and **shape the future of EUROSPINE together**.

## THIS IS YOUR MEETING. YOU ARE EUROSPINE.

*We're looking forward to welcoming you in Dublin next October for another great EUROSPINE Annual Meeting!*

### EUROSPINE Spring Speciality Meeting Krakow 2016

The 3rd EUROSPINE Spring Speciality Meeting "**Trauma and Emergency Spine Surgery: Past, Present and Future**" was held in Krakow, Poland from 12-13 April, 2016.

135 delegates from 32 countries enjoyed six sessions focusing on modern spinal trauma care—including lectures from key opinion leaders, hot topic debates, oral presentations and interactive case discussions.

We wish to thank our Meeting Chairs, Phil Sell (UK) and Thomas Blattert (Germany) for helping to make this event a great success.

# Research Council Committee Report



**Björn Rydevik**  
Chair, Task Force Research 2015-16

## FOSTERING A RESEARCH COMMUNITY FOR BETTER SPINE CARE

EUROSPINE recognises the importance of research in the practice of spine care. The Research Council aims to stimulate, facilitate and promote a research community within EUROSPINE, with the ultimate goal of better care for the spine patients.

The Research Council's main objectives are:

1. Support spine research
2. Educate spine researchers
3. Foster an active spine research community within the society

These objectives relate to fostering researchers and new groups of researchers who will produce high-quality studies published in peer-reviewed journals.

The Research Council is responsible for managing three programmes:

1. Task Force Research
2. Spine Tango
3. EUROSPINE Awards

## SUPPORTING RESEARCH: RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Task Force Research evaluates applications for research grants. The paperless system for applications can be accessed on the EUROSPINE website at: [www.eurospine.org/rules-for-submission-of-proposal-for-funding.htm](http://www.eurospine.org/rules-for-submission-of-proposal-for-funding.htm), available to members of EUROSPINE. The grant applications are undergoing a rigorous review process by the Task Force Research to determine and propose which grant applications should be funded. Funding is then distributed according to decisions made by the EUROSPINE Executive Committee.

There are 3 grant categories:  
([www.eurospine.org/types-of-grant.htm](http://www.eurospine.org/types-of-grant.htm))

1. Development grant – up to €10,000
2. Pilot study grant – up to €30,000
3. Main grant over 3 years – up to €100,000

A total of **€908,573** has been distributed in research grants from 2011 to 2016 to EUROSPINE members running research projects. Funding has been provided to groups from 13 countries: Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Awards Committee manages awards presented at the annual meeting:

1. The “**EUROSPINE Full Paper Award**” (€10,000)
2. The “**Best EUROSPINE Podium Presentation Award**” (€2,000)
3. The “**Best of Outside Europe Presentation**” (€2,000)

## EDUCATING RESEARCHERS: RESEARCH COURSES

### 2016 Research Course

The 2016 Research Course “**Fundamentals of Spine Research Methodology: how to make your research more relevant, feasible and publishable**” was held in Milan, Italy from 7-11 March 2016. The local hosts were Alessio Lovi and Marco Teli. Faculty were Task Force Research members, ExCom members, and other EUROSPINE members led by Course Director Rachid Salmi. Nineteen participants from nine countries attended, with multidisciplinary areas of expertise, including anaesthesia and intensive care, chiropractic, clinical research, spine surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, and physiotherapy. This four-day course – with a format of lectures, small working groups and workshops – was well appreciated by all participants.

### Basic Biomechanics Workshop

The “**Basic Biomechanics and Biomechanical Methods for Experimental Research of the Musculoskeletal System**” workshop, sponsored by EUROSPINE and organised by the University of Ulm in Germany, was held from 19-22 July 2016. The course was conducted by Lutz Claes, with the aim of training clinicians and unexperienced biomedical engineers in the basic principles of biomechanics. It allowed participants to gain knowledge in planning and conducting biomechanical experiments through a balanced mixture of seven lectures and 12 laboratory workshops. The Task Force Research funded the registration of four EUROSPINE members from Austria, Switzerland and Turkey at this course.

### Critical Appraisal of the Spine Literature

Institut Frano-Européen de Chiropraxie and EUROSPINE collaborated for the second time to deliver “**Critical Appraisal of the Spine Literature: The Fundamentals**” on 8 December 2016 in Toulouse, France. Attended by 17 participants composed of chiropractors and a spine surgeon from France and Portugal, the course focussed on the skills needed to critically appraise the quality of spine literature. Learning methods included lectures, group work and workshops.

### FOSTER AN ACTIVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The networking alumni gathering was held for the second time during EUROSPINE’s Annual Meeting in Berlin, Germany. Previous research course participants and research grant recipients gathered together in the spirit of exchange and community.

### PLANS FOR 2017

2017 promises to be a successful year. The Research Council will ensure the continued delivery of EUROSPINE research grants, development and delivery of high-quality research courses and the growth of an active research community of spine researchers.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We would like to thank everyone who has been, or currently is, involved in the Research Council’s important work. Such commitment and contribution is helping EUROSPINE to reach its goal to be the leading spine society in Europe.

### EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

EUROSPINE’s aim of fostering and supporting the spine research community will hopefully enable the delivery of excellence in research, which will translate into the delivery of the very best care to spine patients.

# Spine Tango Committee Report



**Emin Aghayev**  
Chair, Spine Tango Committee 2016-17

Spine Tango (ST) is an international registry that documents the effectiveness and safety of spine care, treatment techniques and technologies. It has two main objectives:

1. To track diseases and outcomes over time by aggregating and analysing patient data, quality management, and research
2. To generate a (collective) evidence base for prevention, treatment effectiveness, patient safety, and best practices

The Spine Tango Committee acts as an advisory group in clinical and methodological questions for form improvement, the development of new forms, the acquisition and activation of new ST country modules, the ST benchmarking project and all new and ongoing research projects of ST participant clinics or ST committee members.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

In our planning for 2016, we set a number of objectives for Spine Tango. We are pleased that we were able to make significant progress on each and every goal:

- The second **ST User Meeting (STUM 2016)**

was organised and held in October in Berlin in conjunction with the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting. Almost 50 participants from several countries enjoyed the highly-informative and intensive scientific programme, followed by a tour and dinner at the famous Clärchens Ballhaus.

- The **ST Annual Report 2015** was released in Berlin at the annual meeting and included excerpts from the benchmarking of ST centres on surgical and general complication rates for different pathologies and treatments, as well as trends in spinal surgery.
- **Eleven peer-reviewed papers** (up from seven in 2015) were published in 2016 and two further papers have been accepted and are in press.
- The **new surgery form 2017** was developed and represents the most mature content of the spine registry. A few confusing or redundant question items were removed, and some important new items added. Among the most significant improvements is the ability to assign treated segment(s) by surgical measure.
- The **German Spine Society (DWG) Registry** adopted the new surgery form 2017 as content for their national spine registry to go live on 1 January 2017. Use of the Spine Tan-



go platform guarantees compatibility of the German Spine Registry's recorded data with the international data set. The German Spine Registry has therefore built on the Spine Tango platform, and is drawing upon its contents.

- The **new implant report for industry** was developed. This report includes all available relevant data for an implant (by single or grouped article numbers) in a descriptive manner – including standard Spine Tango outcome parameters.
- The follow-up calendar can now send patients a **link to a patient form via email** and allows for remote data entry. This approach should help increase follow-up rates.

- **New benchmarking reports for users** have been developed and are in production. The report benchmarks available data and outcomes between a single centre and pooled data from other centres by pathology.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

We have made great progress in improving content and technology, taking Spine Tango to the top of all national spine registries. Follow-up is still presenting some difficulty, due to differing structures in other countries.

## PLANS FOR 2017

In the coming year, we plan to continue refining Spine Tango, making the registry more versatile and comprehensive than ever. Our goals include the following:

- **Prepare the next STUM** as a pre-day course in Dublin at EUROSPINE's Annual General Meeting
- Release **Version 2017 of the surgery form**
- Prioritise further development of the conservative form. A great deal of input on changes to the form has been collected and a workshop is planned in 2017 to finalise a revised form for testing by end of 2017, for roll-out and release in 2018. Development of a **tablet- and smartphone-adapted presentation of Spine Tango** is also in the works
- Conduct a **registry participants' survey** to better understand user needs and make further improvements to the registry
- Continue work on **prognostic models** in Switzerland
- Open a **dialogue with industry** to discuss how we can coordinate our efforts to meet future regulatory changes

As the leading database in Europe for documenting the effectiveness of techniques and treatments for spine disorders, Spine Tango is evolving quickly. Following an extremely productive year in 2016, we are looking forward to maintaining our momentum for a highly-successful 2017!



# General Assembly Report

**Thursday, 6 October 2016, 17:30 – 18:30  
(Members Only)**

**Berlin (Germany) City Cube, Main Lecture Hall  
53 Members Present  
4 Excused**

## 1. WELCOME

Approval of the last protocol: Denmark,  
3 October 2015.

*Approved*

## 2. PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

### Major Activities and Achievements 2015/16

#### Fiscal years 2015 and 2016

- 2015 was a year of transition & major financial investment
- In 2016, EUROSPINE started to see benefits from its investment

#### Way Forward Strategy: A Success

- EUROSPINE has experienced unprecedented membership growth
- 25 national societies have joined EuSSAB
- The Education Programme has been redesigned
- EUROSPINE meetings have become an even broader platform for sharing innovation and the latest research
- Education Week has been reintegrated under the auspices of EUROSPINE
- TFR Grants are being awarded to carefully selected, high-quality studies on an ongoing basis
- Further improvements have been made on information platforms for patients and clinicians
- The process to streamline EUROSPINE's organisational set-up has been implemented

#### Despite our successes, the future still holds challenges

- The society's funding relies heavily on the profits from our annual general meeting
- Financing of future activities will remain a challenge
- Due to limited funding, many good ideas will have to be carefully reviewed

## 3. SOCIETY BUSINESS FINANCIALS

### Financial Statements and Budget

- Approval of Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015, Income Statement for 2015 and 2016; and Budget 2017. Refer to details, incl. Audit 2015, pages 23–25

*Approved*

- 2017 budget

*Approved*

- Re-election of Treuhand von Flüe AG, Zug, for Financial Year 2016. Suggested that auditors be re-elected

*Approved*

## 4. ORGANISATION

### Optimising our Organisation to Ensure Implementation of the Way Forward Strategy

Refer to the EUROSPINE Organisation Chart, page 40

- The ExCom established the role 'Delegate of the ExCom' to manage the *Way Forward* process and asked Beat Leimbacher, our former Strategic Advisor, to take over this role effective May 2016
- The new statutes approved at the GA 2014 in Lyon outlined several issues to be regulated in EUROSPINE's "*Internal Rules*". The ExCom

therefore developed a preliminary version of internal rules called “*Organisational Governance Directives*”. This is still a work in progress – a final version will be presented at the next GA in 2017.

### **The EUROSPINE Foundation: Future Focus and Priorities**

ESF will focus on its original mandate and primary goal: raising funds for spine education and research.

#### Fundraising

- ESF will support the development of new treatments, evaluation of existing ones and the education of care providers
- The ESF Foundation will sponsor charity events to support spine health and will also sponsor events for those with spinal disabilities

#### Think Tank

ESF is committed to fostering the best spine care by:

- Promoting research and education in spine projects
- Acting as a think tank to find ways to improve spine treatments
- Supporting spine care in 3rd world countries in collaboration with other charities such as World Spine Care

#### Sponsorship

- ESF plans to sponsor the education of care givers, research, audit, registries and patient support and information

The Board of Trustees is comprised of three to seven members who oversee and govern all Foundation activities, including fundraising and the proper distribution of moneys received. It ensures that the Foundation’s expenses are reduced to a minimum and provides full transparency over finances and activities. Board Members receive no remuneration for their activities. The Board reports to the Swiss Foundations Authority.

## **5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL CHAIRS**

### **5.1 Meetings, Programme Committee (Stavridis)**

#### Major Achievements: Last 12 Months

- A new record was set in numbers of abstract submissions for the Berlin Annual General Meeting with more than 1,000 abstracts
- A new, improved and more detailed scoring system for the abstract reviewing process was successfully implemented

#### Scientific Programme Berlin

- The basic science content in our scientific programme was augmented by increasing the number of abstracts presented and incorporating them into relevant clinical sessions
- The structure of the Pre-Day Meeting and Lunch Symposia was modified to include the whole spectrum of spinal care (surgical, non-surgical, research)
- Additional questions were added to the “*Delegates’ Evaluation Survey*”

#### Key Goals & Priorities: Way Forward

- Further ensure a well-balanced, high-quality scientific programme that can address future challenges successfully
- Make the Annual General Meeting more attractive to delegates worldwide
- Improve the quality and visibility of Pre-Day Meetings as an essential part of the Annual General Meeting
- Further improve the submission and reviewing process to meet future needs and increased submission loads
- Promote the importance of the “*Delegates’ Evaluation Process*” as an important tool of improving the quality of future meetings
- Establish the Spring Speciality Meeting as an important scientific event

## 5.2 Education (Franke)

### Major Achievements Last 12 Months

- Education Weeks
  - 25-29 October 2015 – Strasbourg, France. 99 participants from 25 Countries. Diplomas: 51
  - 13-17 June 2016 – Strasbourg, France. 78 participants from 30 Countries. Diplomas: 26
- Other Courses: FORTE and CHINA Course
  - The FORTE Summer School 2016 took place in Faro, Portugal, 22-26 August 2016. It was organised by FORTE, Joao Vide with the Patronage of EUROSPINE
  - CHINA: Module 1 was held on 23 September 2016
- Diploma Equivalences
  - DWG Equivalence: From January 2016 to August 2016: EUROSPINE received 28 requests. 28 diplomas were awarded
  - Turkish Spine Society Equivalence: Upcoming and new for 2017
- Fellowships
  - Observerships/Fellowships 2016: Observership Member to Member. Short term (up to 14 days) funded grant for learning specific surgical techniques and procedures (€1,500)
  - Validated Fellowship Members: Validated by EUROSPINE, PGT 6 months+ of fellowship training at a EUROSPINE-recognised multi-disciplinary centre
- Accredited Spine Centres
  - A total of 10 Spine Centres have been accredited: Belgium (1), Denmark (1), France (1), Germany (2), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Spain (1), UK (2)
- EuSSAB Education Workshop

In September 2016, a EuSSAB Education Workshop was organised in Munich (attended by 17 participants representing 14 countries), focused on:

  - Working towards a common understanding of curriculum and training across Europe

- Discussing pertinent spine surgery education issues in respective countries
- Working towards equivalence of the European Spine Diploma with diplomas of European countries
- Spine Course and Advanced Diplomas
  - Delivery of high-quality European Spine Course Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses
  - Delivery of validated fellowships and observerships
  - Common curriculum and equivalence across Europe
  - Delivery of equivalent Spine Course Diplomas across Europe

### Key Goals & Priorities: *Way Forward*

- To foster excellence in spine care through:
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Offering and implementing educational programmes
  - Delivery of quality assessment programmes
- European Spine Diplomas: Basic and Advanced
  - A commonly-agreed, accredited “core curriculum” is an absolute must across Europe
  - A non-surgical/conservative management education programme is in development

## 5.3 Research (TFR) (Rydevik)

### Major Achievements: Last 12 Months

- Task Force Research (TFR)
  - A review of research grant applications was undertaken to provide funding recommendations to the ExCom
  - A research course took place in Milan, Italy, from 8–11 March 2016
  - TFR hosted a Biomechanics Summer Course at the University of Ulm in Germany from 19–22 July 2016
- Awards Committee
  - The committee selected the winners of the Full Paper Award and the Best Podium Presentation

- Grant Applications 2011–2016
  - From 2011 to 2016, EUROSPINE distributed €758,573 to the best grant applications from EUROSPINE members following reviews by TFR
  - Funding has been sent to Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the USA
  - 40% of the principal investigators are women
  - There are three types of grants available:
    - Development Grants (up to €10,000)
    - Pilot Study Grants (up to €30,000) (majority of funded projects)
    - Main Grant up to €100,000

#### Key Goals & Priorities: Way Forward

- Promote a research community within EUROSPINE
- Distribute research grants to EUROSPINE members to support and encourage high-quality research (application deadline: 31 January 2017)
- Develop and run research courses and collaborate with renowned institutions or organisations
- Distribute awards during EUROSPINE Annual Meetings

#### **5.4 Membership / EuSSAB (Siepe)**

##### Membership

- Membership is growing at an unprecedented rate (>1,000) and the EuSSAB platform is becoming more established
- The corresponding member category has grown significantly (the significant increase in members from South America and Asia could lead to further growth of the society)
- 207 new members attended the GA (record number)

##### EuSSAB

- 25 Institutional Members have joined EUROSPINE since the inaugural meeting

in Lyon in October 2014, representing approx. 6,850 spine surgeons from across Europe

- The EuSSAB Representative is invited to attend relevant ExCom meetings as a guest with no voting rights. The EuSSAB Representative term is one year

#### **5.5 Stakeholder Council – Achievements and Alignment of Set-Up**

- The Stakeholder Council was established in 2014 to handle different stakeholder groups
- The Council was tasked with facilitating 3 major initiatives:
  - Establish EuSSAB
  - Develop a structured approach towards MedTechs
  - Ensure financing for educational activities
- Under the new set-up, the Council aims to coordinate initiatives across other councils
- Christoph Siepe and Joerg Franke are acting as Co-chairs with other assigned team members:
  - Tamar Pinkus – Patients / Patient Line
  - Haluk Berk – Political Institutions
  - Joerg Franke – Sponsoring & MedTechs
  - Everard Munting – ESF Chair / Sponsoring
  - Outsourced: Press & Media

#### **5.6 Spine Tango Committee (Aghayev)**

##### Major Achievements: Last 12 Months

- The Award Paper by Staub et al. was published in the Spine Journal: *“Total disc arthroplasty versus anterior cervical interbody fusion: use of the Spine Tango registry to supplement the evidence from randomised control trials”*
- In 2015 and up to September 2016, seven and nine peer-reviewed articles were published respectively
- The 1st Spine Tango User Meeting (STUM) was organised and held in October 2015 in Bern with 27 participants from 8 countries

- The 2nd STUM was held on 4 October 2016 in Berlin as a pre-day course
- An electronic follow-up calendar for the planning of FUs, and for the administration of forms, was programmed and is available upon request
- An extended search tool is now available
- An implant report, including several outcome measures, was developed and is now on offer to industry
- A new detailed benchmarking report was developed and will be available to each active department in the next weeks
- A new, significantly-improved version of the surgery form is currently being finalised

#### Key Goals & Priorities: Way Forward

- Prepare the next Spine Tango User Meeting (2017)
- Continue with the benchmarking project
- Release version 2016 of the surgery form
- Release version 2016 of the conservative form
- Develop a user-friendly electronic patient format of the patient-reported forms as an alternative solution for paper forms and to allow for remote documentation (by sending a link to the forms electronically). This approach should help increase follow-up rates
- Continue working on prognostic models
- Submit research grants to fund projects
- Strengthen cooperation with industry
- Try to bridge Spine Tango to other EUROSPINE Councils (Education, Stakeholder, Meeting, Membership)

## 6. MEETING REPORTS

### 6.1 EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting 2015 Copenhagen (Christensen)

The Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen was successful, with a high satisfaction rating.

### 6.2 EUROSPINE Spring Speciality Meeting 2016 Krakow (Blattert)

High praise was given to the educational content by delegates and via survey. The financial outcome was better than expected, generating a small surplus. Overall, our goal of increased awareness and better visibility was achieved.

#### Spring Speciality Meeting Strategy:

- Focus on a speciality topic
- Positive assessment of the last three meetings
- Stick to the yearly cycle
- Goal to break even
- Analyse potential partnerships

### 6.3 EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting 2016 Berlin (Wilke)

The Annual General Meeting in Berlin was attended by more than 3,600 delegates from 85 countries. 159 exhibitors were also present.

### 6.4 EUROSPINE 2017 Dublin (Bolger)

Presentation of Conference Centre Dublin (CCD), room allotments, lecture halls, exhibition area. A first information meeting with MedTech and exhibitors took place in Berlin.

### 6.5 EUROSPINE Spring Speciality Meeting 2018 Vienna (Nordin)

- The Spring Specialty Meeting 2018 will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 26–27 April 2018 in collaboration with other organisations and associations
- The theme is preventing disability in spine ailments – the number one ailment in coming years: *“Prevention Strategies of Spinal Disability – A Global Burden and A Concern for All Communities”*
- This meeting is geared towards a broader audience: Physician, Surgeons, Epidemiologist, Physical Therapist, Chiropractors, Osteopaths, Researchers, Economists, Insurance

Companies, Policy Makers and others interested in preventing disability in spinal disorders

Joerg Franke (one year in the function as past Chair)  
Antonio Faundez

### **6.6 EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting 2019: Bids and Vote for Venue**

Venues in Helsinki and Milan were presented by Teija Lund and Marco Teli respectively as possible locations. Helsinki was selected to become the venue for the EUROSPINE Annual General Meeting 2019.

#### **e-learning Committee:**

Lukas Panzenboek  
Mohammed Tohamy

#### **Patient Line Committee:**

Erland Hermansen  
Federico Balagué

#### **Pre-Day and Lunch Symposium Committee:**

Pedro Berjano

## **7. ELECTIONS (Blattert)**

### **The following offices were elected:**

Executive Committee

President:

Margareta Nordin, Romorantin, France

Vice President:

Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt, Germany

Assistant Treasurer:

Zdenek Klezl, Derby, UK

Membership Chair and Council:

Serdar Kahraman, Istanbul, Turkey

Education and Fellowship Chair and Council:

Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany

### **The following committee members were approved:**

#### **Membership Committee:**

Lisa Roberts

#### **Programme Committee:**

Ibrahim Obeid

Matti Scholz

Paulo Pereira

#### **Education and Fellowship Committee:**

Dominique Rothenfluh

Bart Depreitere

Esat Kiter

#### **Awards Committee:**

Finn B Christensen

Martin Wilby



# Organisation and Officers

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Margareta Nordin
<b>Vice President</b>	Frank Kandziora
<b>Past President</b>	Michael Ogon
<b>Secretary</b>	Thomas R. Blattert
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marco Teli
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Zdenek Klezl
<b>Education Council</b>	Bernhard Meyer
<b>Meeting Council</b>	Stavros Stavridis
<b>Membership Council</b>	Serdar Kahraman
<b>Research Council</b>	Björn Rydevik
<b>Stakeholder Council:</b>	Joerg Franke
<b>Stakeholder Council:</b>	Christoph Siepe

## CHAIRS (list of committee Chairpersons)

<b>Membership Committee</b>	Serdar Kahraman
<b>Education and Fellowship Committee</b>	Bernhard Meyer
<b>Programme Committee</b>	Stavros Stavridis
<b>Pre-Day and Lunch Symposia Committee</b>	Luis Alvarez Galovich
<b>Task Force Research</b>	Björn Rydevik
<b>Website and E-Learning Committee</b>	Dominique A. Rothenfluh
<b>Patient Line Committee</b>	Tamar Pincus
<b>International Relations Committee</b>	Thomas R. Blattert
<b>Spine Tango Committee</b>	Thomas Zweig
<b>Awards Committee</b>	Frank Kandziora

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF EUROSPINE

Michael Ogon, Austria	2016
Haluk Berk, Turkey	2015
Philip J Sell, UK	2014
Ferran Pellisé, Spain	2013
Jean Charles LeHuec, 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
Norbert Passuti, France	2002
Gordon F.G. Findlay, UK	2001
Jiri Dvorak, Switzerland	2000
Carlos Villanueva, Spain	1999

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF ESDS

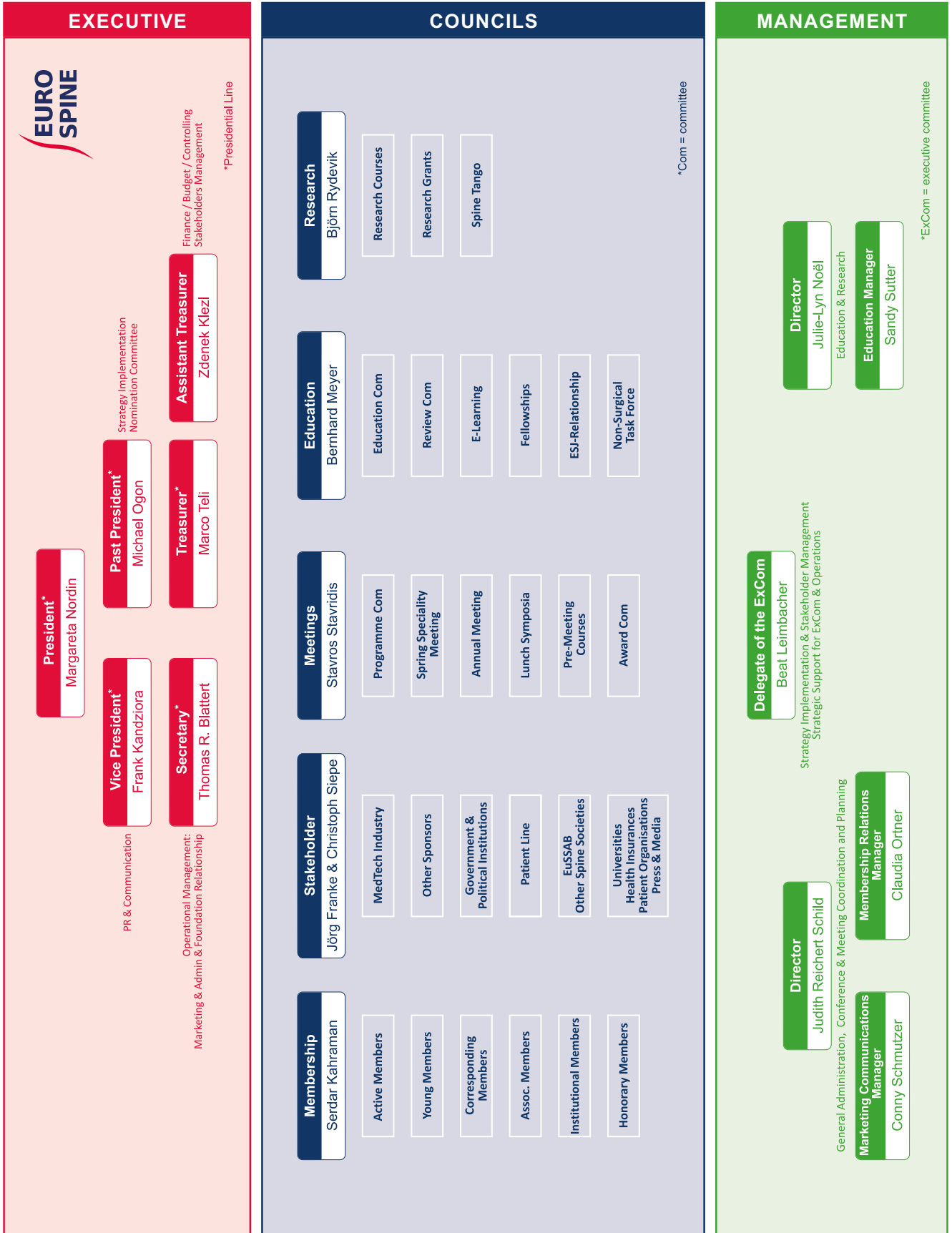
Rudolf Bauer, Austria	1996-1998
Alan Gardner, UK	1994-1996
Charles Picault, France	1992-1994
Ben Veraart, the Netherlands	1989-1992
G. Monticelli, Italy	1986-1989
Alf Nachemson, Sweden	1983-1986
Pierre Stagnara, France	1982-1983

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF ESS

Jürgen Krämer, Germany †2011	1997-1998
Franco Postacchini, Italy	1995-1996
Alain Deburge, France	1993-1994
Michael Sullivan, UK	1991-1992



# Organisation Chart 2016/17



# EUROSPINE Committee Members

*A warm thank you to all EUROSPINE Committee Members for your hard work and dedication. Thanks to your positive attitude and enthusiasm, EUROSPINE is growing stronger every day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!*

## **Margareta Nordin**

President of EUROSPINE 2016-17

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Margareta Nordin, Romorantin, France (President)  
Frank Kandziora, Frankfurt, Germany (Vice President)  
Michael Ogon, Vienna, Austria (Past President)  
Thomas R. Blattert, Schwarzach, Germany (Secretary)  
Marco Teli, Liverpool, UK (Treasurer)  
Zdenek Klezl, Derby, UK (Assistant Treasurer)  
Stavros Stavridis, Thessaloniki, Greece (Chair, Meeting Council)  
Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden (Chair, Research Council)  
Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany (Chair, Education Council)  
Serdar Kahraman, Istanbul, Turkey (Chair, Membership Council)  
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany (Co-Chair, Stakeholder Council)  
Joerg Franke, Magdeburg, Germany (Co-Chair, Stakeholder Council)

### RESEARCH COUNCIL AND TASK FORCE RESEARCH

Björn Rydevik, Gothenburg, Sweden (Chair)  
Kim Burton, Huddersfield, UK  
Christine Cedraschi, Geneva, Switzerland  
Pierre Côté, Toronto, Canada  
Rachid Salmi, Bordeaux, France  
Marek Szpalski, Brussels, Belgium  
Karin Wuertz-Kozak, Zurich, Switzerland

### SPINE TANGO COMMITTEE

Thomas Zweig, Bern, Switzerland (Chair)  
Andrea Luca, Milan, Italy  
Anne F. Mannion, Zurich, Switzerland  
Rolf Sobottke, Würselen, Germany

### EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Bernhard Meyer, Munich, Germany (Chair)  
Joerg Franke, Magdeburg, Germany (Past Chair)  
Yann Philippe Charles, Strasbourg, France  
Bart Depreitere, Leuven, Belgium  
Antonio Faundez, Geneva, Switzerland  
Esat Kiter, Denizli, Turkey  
Ioannis Magras, Thessaloniki, Greece  
Tim Pigott, Liverpool, UK  
Dominique A. Rothenfluh, Oxford, UK  
Alberto Zerbi, Milan, Italy

#### WEBSITE AND E-LEARNING COMMITTEE

Dominique A. Rothenfluh, Oxford, UK (Chair)  
Rami Alqroom, Dortmund, Germany  
Lukas Panzenboeck, Vienna, Austria

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Serdar Kahraman, Istanbul, Turkey (Chair)  
Philipp Becker, Vienna, Austria  
Lisa Robert, Southampton, UK  
Efthimios Samoladas, Thessaloniki, Greece

#### PROGRAMME COMMITTEE 2016

Stavros Stavridis, Thessaloniki, Greece (Chair)  
Emre Acaroglu, Ankara, Turkey  
Tamás Fekete, Zurich, Switzerland  
Ibrahim Obeid, Bordeaux, France  
Paulo Pereira, Porto, Portugal  
Werner Schmoelz, Innsbruck, Austria  
Matti Scholz, Frankfurt, Germany  
Thomas R. Blatter, Schwarzach, Germany (Institutional)  
Margareta Nordin, Romorantin, France (Institutional)

#### PRE-DAY AND LUNCH SYMPOSIA COMMITTEE

Luis Alvarez Galovich, Madrid, Spain (Chair)  
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Hossein Mehdian, Nottingham, UK  
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The first  
**EUROSPINE  
Advanced Course**  
was prepared to be launched  
in January 2017

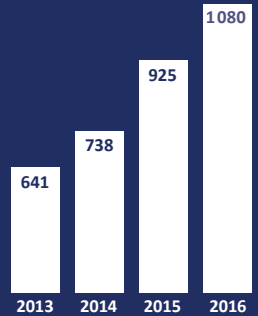


Since 2012  
**6 EduWeeks** have run  
**217 diplomas** were given



Since 2013,  
**5 TFR Courses** with **71 participants**  
**2 biomechanics courses**  
in collaboration with  
Ulm University  
**2 Literature review courses**  
with **69 participants**

**Membership**  
steady increase  
membership grew  
to more than  
1,000 members



The number of **membership applications** has more than **doubled** since 2013. The number of new members has increased by over 20%, adding 208 new members to the EUROSPINE family.



Since October 2014,  
**27 national societies** representing more than **7,000 spine specialists** from across Europe have joined EUROSPINE as Institutional Members in **EuSSAB**



**€ 908,573**

were distributed in research grants from 2011 to 2016 to spine projects run by members of EUROSPINE



EUROSPINE 2016 welcomed **9 spine related societies** to the Spine Village in Berlin



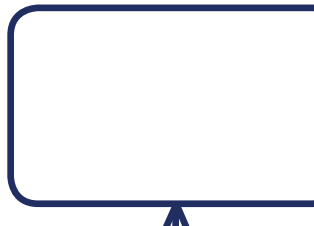
**52,298** monthly users on **Patient Line** section of society website

More than **3600 participants**



from **85 countries** attended EUROSPINE 2016 in Berlin

2016 saw a **significant increase** in submitted **abstracts** and the 1,000 barrier was broken



**First surgical fellowship started 2016**

Launched in fall of 2016  
Grant of 1,500 EUR for 2 weeks fellowship or observership to **Young EUROSPINE members** with a clear education purpose



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