



## SECEC v2.0

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

At the last Congress in Edinburgh, I succeeded to Jaap Willems as President and Alex Castagna was appointed General Secretary. We must be very grateful for all the energy and time Jaap has invested in the SECEC, not only during the past 2 years as President, but also during all the years he spent as an active Executive Committee member.

Serving as SECEC President is, as you can imagine, an extraordinary privilege and a true honour, as well as a great responsibility. On one hand, following in the steps of some “big names” is not an easy task but, on the other hand, it is very stimulating for me. You can be assured that I will do my best to lead our society another step forward.

Since the birth of the society in 1987 many things have changed. Shoulder and elbow surgery is now recognized as a true subspecialty while the number of surgeons interested in the shoulder and the elbow has been growing fast throughout Europe.

After 25 years of efforts to build up the society, the SECEC has grown up and is ready to enter into a new era. The policy and strategy of SECEC for the next years must be clearly re-defined: while some projects must be continued, some others must be initiated. Let's take a look a SECEC v2.0!

### 1) Flying High! - Teaching & Research

The scientific level of the SECEC is incredibly high and has made the reputation of our society inside, but also outside Europe. Our society is respected and reputed in North America, South America, Asia and Africa. One of the reasons is that many of the advancements made in the last years regarding knowledge in shoulder and elbow pathology and surgery have been brought by some of our members. As a result, each year, more and more surgeons *outside* Europe are attending our meeting. Just a reminder: at the first meeting of the SECEC in Paris in November 1987, there were 240 attendees from 12 European countries. For the next SECEC meeting in Lyon we are expecting 1200 surgeons from 48 different countries.

As a scientific society, **our first purpose must be to keep the scientific level of the SECEC higher as possible**. Although this is a real challenge, the only way to do so is to keep on selecting abstracts of a high scientific level to our annual meetings. This has been done once again for the Lyon meeting this year, thanks to the President of the meeting, Gilles Walch and to the members of the Program Committee.

We must keep on stimulating scientific research inside the society. This is why we decided to create a new grant: **the “Paul Grammont Award”**. This new grant will be dedicated to **basic or clinical research in the field of shoulder arthroplasty** and will be launched in Lyon during our meeting. Paul Grammont, by his innovative ap-

proach, has enabled the success of the reverse prosthesis and deserves that an award dedicated to shoulder arthroplasty be named after him. Few months ago, when I contacted him to ask his permission to create this new grant bearing his name, his modesty prevailed and he did not want to be in the spotlight, but thanks to his wife who helped me to convince him, he finally accepted our proposal.

We should also encourage our brightest young colleagues to apply to exchange fellowships. These fellowships allow the selected candidates to visit high qualified teaching surgeons and recognized orthopaedic centres for five weeks, giving them a unique opportunity to observe different techniques and procedures. **We now have three exchange travelling fellowships** organized by the Education Committee, under the chairmanship of Juan Bruguera: **USA, Intra-Europe, and Asia**. All information concerning these fellowships can be found at: <http://www.secec.org/fellowships/actual/index.phtml>. All members interested can easily apply to our different fellowships and send their CV.

## **2) Keeping in Touch! - Website & Web Journal**

**The SECEC website** will be totally renewed: as you will see it soon, it will look great, thanks to the members of the Website Committee under the leadership of Bernhard Jost and with the cooperation of CYIM. The website letters will keep you informed about the latest news on a regular basis.

The idea has emerged recently to create a **SECEC web journal**. We have been working on this project for the last two years and have now established a partnership with Elsevier. This new web journal will be called **E@SE (European @rchives of Shoulder & Elbow)**. This acronym reflects our goal: to make things easier for the members of our society. The SECEC web journal will be a complement of our website. It will not only include the abstracts of the congresses, but also interviews, videos, review articles,... Elsevier will provide us with their existing tools, such as the review platform. By creating a new web journal, we do believe that we will be able to share some ideas more quickly throughout Europe. We are now setting up the **editorial board** and gathering the members to be part of it. We have started to establish a list of surgeons interested in participating in the development of this new scientific tool. **All good wills are welcome!** If you think you can bring your help to this new big project, please feel free to contact me, Alex Castagna or Sylvie Noel.

With this new medium it is certainly not our intention to compete with the JSES, which is and remains THE international journal of shoulder and elbow surgery. This is what I have clearly conveyed to the JSES board members and to Bill Mallon, the Chief Editor, when we met last fall at the American Shoulder & Elbow Surgeons meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## **3) Looking for Support! - Industry Support Policy & Relationships**

Although we are a non-profit organization, we need funds if we really want to reach our goals. Ernst Wiedemann, our new Treasurer, will probably not contradict me! Our industry support policy needs to be clarified and redefined. We need educational grants sponsored by the industry if we still want to be active in research and education. This is why we have written to the different industrial companies to ask them to **support some of our teaching and research projects** financially. Some industrial companies have already answered that they were ready to support our Fellowships and Awards.

On the other hand, it goes without saying that our relationships with industrial partners must be transparent and all **conflicts of interest** must be clearly stated and made public.

## **4) Bringing New Blood ! - SECEC Junior Members & Eastern European Countries**

Some young surgeons interested by shoulder and elbow surgery have the feeling that SECEC is considered as a "closed society" in which the youngest have no role to play. Although this is not the truth, some young surgeons found it difficult to be part of the society. If young surgeons keep on feeling that the SECEC is not open to them, they will turn to other scientific societies. In

fact, some of them have already started to do so. This is why, in my opinion, we should also bring “young blood” into the society while keeping the scientific level of the society as high as possible. **The future of the SECEC is based on our capacity to bring new and young surgeons to ‘embark on the boat’ with us.** Thanks to their contribution SECEC will remain “the place to be” for all those interested in Shoulder & Elbow surgery and pathology.

In order to involve more young surgeons in our society, to teach them and stimulate them to do basic and clinical research, we have already created, three years ago, a new membership category: “**Junior Member**”. Since then, 34 young surgeons, under 40, joined the society. It is our role to incite our young colleagues interested by shoulder & elbow surgery to enter the society. More junior members are wanted and welcome: all interested young surgeons can easily apply at <http://www.secec.org/membership/howto/index.phtml>. The Membership Committee, under the chairmanship of Bo Olsen, is hoping to receive a larger number of applications.

Our goal is also to keep on promoting shoulder and elbow surgery in all parts of Europe, including the **Eastern European Countries** thanks to the Eastern Countries Support Committee. Mehmet Demirhan and his team are working hard to facilitate training, to improve clinical practice and promote scientific research in the eastern part of Europe. Great courses have organized this year again in Poland, Georgia, Turkey, Serbia.

#### **5) Trying to build Europe... again and again ! - Relationships with National Societies**

Believe it or not, even in 2011, it is still hard to build Europe, not only politically... but also scientifically! In the early years of the SECEC (1985-2000), the relationships with the National Shoulder and Elbow Societies were not a problem because most surgeons, whatever their country, put their efforts in the development of our society. Since the last ten years, some surgeons have started to put most of their efforts (if not all!) in their national societies... and are now less involved in the SECEC.

**The temptation in some countries to turn back to the national society and to neglect the SECEC is strong!**...Some national Shoulder & Elbow societies have become very strong with large number of members, while the participation of the surgeons of these countries in our meetings is (surprisingly !) small. For instance, take a national society that has about 400 national members, while only 40 of them are members of the SECEC... I do believe that there is a **risk of the decline of the SECEC** if many countries follow the same path.

If surgeons neglect the SECEC and prefer to work only for their national societies, all the efforts made since 25 years will be lost. As a result surgeons from South America and Asia who have recently turned their eyes to Europe, will turn again to the USA... No national society will be strong enough to compete with the ASES. While still working for their national societies, **it is crucial that each and every European shoulder & elbow surgeon (re) invest his energy in their European society.**

**For this reason the Executive Committee proposes to redefine the role of the National Delegates.** The President (or the Vice-President) of each national society should become the National Delegate for the SECEC. His role must be to stimulate members of the National society to become members of the SECEC and to participate actively in the life of the European society. We hope that everybody will play the game!

#### **6) Staying the Leader ! - Relationships with other European Scientific Societies**

Many other European and international scientific societies (EFORT, ESSKA, ISAKOS, SICOT, HAND SOCIETY,... ), which were initially not interested in (or not even concerned by!) shoulder and elbow surgery, are trying today “to add this topic to their portfolio” and to attract surgeons with it. These societies have realized that shoulder and elbow surgery now represents a potentially “big market” which may interest new members. For example the ESSKA whose scope is mainly the knee and arthroscopy, has created an “Upper Limb Committee”. In the meantime, the EFORT is trying to become the “European AAOS” and to attract all speciality societies.

Since these scientific societies do not have much knowledge and experience in the Shoulder and the Elbow, they are asking some of our members to participate in their meetings and/or to be part of their boards. We must be strict on our conditions to cooperate with these societies. In my opinion we should create **a new Committee in charge of the relationships with the other societies interested by the shoulder and the elbow**. Some of our members must be in charge of the relationships with one society in particular (EFORT, ESSKA, ISAKOS, SICOT, HAND SOCIETY,...). This new subcommittee will allow to facilitate communication and to defend SECEC policy and decisions. We should have no fear: we are the leaders for shoulder and elbow surgery and we will remain the leaders!

### **7) Meeting Together ! - Upcoming SECEC Congresses**

Besides being a scientific society the SECEC is also a place to meet old friends and to make new ones. This is why we are happy to go to **Lyon, on September 14. to 17.** for our next annual meeting. Gilles Walch, Christophe Lévine and Laurent Nové-Josserand have worked hard to make this event unforgettable.

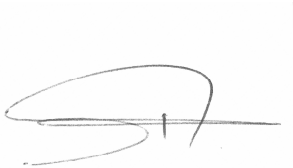
The next SECEC meeting will be held in **Dubrovnik, on September 19.-22., 2012**. Nicola Cicak and his local team, in cooperation with Torres Pardo, the meeting organizer, have already found a nice location and are also working hard to put all the pieces together.

The applications for the organization of the **2014 SECEC congress** will be examined during the Lyon congress. We have received only 2 applications from Bo Olsen and Lars Frick (**Copenhagen**) and from Mehmet Demirhan (Istanbul) as a possible venue for our 2014 meeting.

As you can see, there are still many miles to run and a fair amount of work to do! However, the future looks bright!

I am looking forward to meeting you in Lyon in September.

Best regards,



**Pascal Boileau**  
*SECEC/ESSSE President*