



Saint Genis Laval,
October 15., 2005

Presidential letter

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

The Rome Congress was a genuine success (835 registered participants). On behalf of the Society, we warmly and sincerely thank Franco Postacchini and the Local Organizing Committee. Thanks to their dedication and their work they organized a Congress which will be remembered and which was also a credit to our Society. Several American surgeons were present amongst them there were three previous Presidents of the American Society: Tom Norris, who was invited to give the Presidential Guest Lecture; Bob Cofield; and Bob Neviasser, who is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery. Bob Neviasser reminded us of the place that Europe holds and must hold within the Journal itself. The electronic submission of manuscripts should be progressively implemented before the new year. It will lessen the time required to review and make necessary corrections to the manuscripts prior to publication. He also reminded us of the role that the European Editorial Board played in catching up with the delays encountered after the regrettable death of Ian Kelly. We join him in warmly thanking Roger Emery, Franck Gohlke, and JO. Soejbjerg for the additional workload they accepted to take on.

Our next Congress will take place in Athens (Greece) from September 20th to the 23rd, 2006. Pan Symeonides and Jon Feroussis were present in Rome and they already reassured us as to the quality of our Society's 20th Congress, which has a promising scientific and social program. It is encouraging to note that our Congress is becoming a "must" not only for Europeans, who are always participating in increasing numbers, but also for our American and Asian colleagues who appreciate the high quality of the scientific works which are presented. We are going to continue to work on improving our Congress and the Executive Committee, along with the Research and Development Committee, has decided to award "Research Grants" to the European members to stimulate research, as well as scientific innovation.

Our previous President, Herbert Resch, wanted to establish guidelines within the Society for the diagnosis and treatment of the main pathologies; the Research and Development Committee ran into a huge problem because the cultural and scientific diversities are so important on our continent. The Research and Development Committee proposed to organize

surveys of all our members to analyze the positions of all the countries pertaining to the problems related to diagnosis, imagery, treatment, and procedure. These surveys will certainly be fascinating to analyze and present to our Society in order to ponder what we can improve and recommend regarding the care of the pathology of the shoulder and the elbow, simultaneously respecting national “sensitivities”.

This is the moment to mention the primordial and essential place that our website plays and will continue to play. It is a unique tool for all our members to use in order to contribute to the life of our Society and to regularly stay up-to-date of all our events: fellowship organization, committee work, patronage of European congresses, etc. Computers and electronic communication are becoming essential daily tools. It is very easy to visit our website “www.secec.org” on a weekly basis. Angus Wallace has been working for the past three years to make this site user friendly and the different committees have committed to report on the progress of the work that concerns all of us several times a year (and especially our younger colleagues who must show their enthusiasm, their wishes and their opinions through this site). For those who do not have their password to access the member page, know that it is extremely easy to obtain it either through our organization administrator (Sylvie Noël), or through our webmaster.

JO. Soejbjerg, from Denmark finished his tenure within the executive office and he is being replaced by Rolf Norlin from Sweden. The renewal of the subcommittee members has also been completed and it will also be published on our site.

This year Europe welcomed its intra-European fellows: I. Szabo (Hungary) and A. Papadopoulos (Greece) as well as American fellows, S. Steinman (Mayo Clinic, Rochester) and “Butch” Sumant Krischnan (Dallas, Texas). The interest that they all expressed during our Congress highlights how much international exchanges are desirable and necessary; our younger colleagues must be encouraged to “come forward” as soon as possible and apply for the next fellowships in Europe, the United States and Japan.

We received requests from the Korean and Australian societies to organize a new fellowship with our Society. Although we eventually wish to be able to organize a fellowship with the Asian continent rather than with national societies, we need to increase our “host centers” list to give our visitors a wider choice. Thank you in advance to those who are not yet on our list.

During the Board of Directors General Assembly, several important decisions for our Society were also made:

- Peter Habermeyer (Heidelberg, Germany) was elected President Elect for a year and he will be our next President for 2007 and 2008.
- Our Belgian colleagues offered and obtained the organization of our 2008 Congress to be hosted in Bruges, which is also known as “Venice of the North”. We can only congratulate them and encourage them to organize an outstanding Congress in this crossroads between Northern and Southern Europe.
- The Didier Patte Prize was awarded to Nicole Pouliart (Brussels, Belgium) for anatomical works on the anterior capsule-ligamentary elements of the shoulder and on the understanding of anterior instability lesions. She received a 3000 euro check.

- The Best Paper Prize (1000 euros) of the Congress was awarded to Dominique Meyer (Zurich, Switzerland) for his experimental work on sheep, which allows to better approach the problem of fatty infiltration in the muscles of the rotator cuff.
- The Best Poster Prize (1000 euros) was awarded to Paolo Paladini (Rimini, Italy) for an excellent study on revision arthroplasty with Reverse Prosthesis

The last important point that I would like to bring up with you concerns our relationships with EFORT, which is the European Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology. Ralph Hertel, Chairman of the Research and Development Committee, successfully organized the Specialty Day of our Society in Lisbon in June 2005. This strengthens our opinion as well as the opinion of some of our colleagues who responded to our “inquiry” in the last presidential letter: we cannot and we do not want to be absent from this Society which organizes an open congress every two years. There were close to 5000 participants in Lisbon. Although we are all highly solicited by the very numerous national and international events, the EFORT is a large gathering of general orthopaedics and it seems to us that it is the role and duty of our Society to ensure “the spread of knowledge and the teaching” of the pathology of the shoulder and the elbow. Not only by organizing the Specialty Day but also the potential symposia, Instructional Course Lecture or the oral sessions dedicated to the shoulder. The EFORT Congress might compete with our annual congress in regards to financial profits, but we must be able to come to terms with our colleagues in order for this relationship to be mutually beneficial to both our Societies and to all the patients who suffer from a pathology of the shoulder and elbow. In addition, by joining forces on the scientific level we will be in a stronger position to defend “the good practices”. This is not negligible when confronted with the fact that our profession is becoming increasingly litigious.

I wish you an excellent end to 2005.

Very best regards,

Gilles Walch