



Dear colleagues,

As this year comes to an end, we reflect on what has happened within our Society in the past twelve months. First of all, we remember the passing of two of our colleagues who contributed greatly to the activities of our Society.

Ron te Slaa from the Netherlands passed away on May 3 at the age of 53 years. He had a large shoulder practice at the hospital in Delft and was very active in the Dutch Shoulder and Elbow group.

On June 4, **Jochen Lohr** died suddenly while participating in the EFORT Congress in Vienna. He had finished his job in Germany and had recently begun a practice in Switzerland, his home country. For both colleagues an obituary has been written which you can find on our website (www.secec.org).

THE MADRID CONGRESS

Under the supervision of Emilio Calvo and Samuel Antuna, the 22nd SECEC/ESSSE Congress was held in Madrid from September 16-19. Again a record was broken, with more than 1000 participants joining us in Madrid at a modern congress centre. The organisation was perfect; both the scientific part as well as the social events met all possible high standards. We received 535 submissions of abstracts, out of which 110 were accepted as oral presentations and more than 200 as E-posters.

Although there were some technical problems with the E-posters, the Congress has shown that this worthwhile scientific information is now accessible to the participants; it is especially useful, when sitting in the lecture room, to be able to scroll down the E-posters on your laptop. Thanks to the WIFI facilities in the Congress centre this information was accessible through our website.

The second *European Society for Shoulder and Elbow Rehabilitation (EUSSER) Specialty Day*, as a parallel session on Saturday, was a success as well as the Saturday afternoon sessions on *Tips and Tricks in Arthroscopic Surgery* and *New Techniques and Developments in Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*.

The prize for best paper was won by **Sven Lichtenberg** (Germany) for his paper "Are the advantages of the combined Latissimus Dorsi transfer according to l'Episcopo compared to the isolated Latissimus Dorsi transfer according to Herzberg after a long term follow-up?" and the best poster prize was won by **John Sperling** (USA) for his poster entitled "What is the stabilizing mechanism of the Latarjet procedure?"

The opening ceremony was a thrilling experience: drinking our cocktails and meeting together while admiring the soccer temple of Real Madrid. The gala dinner took place in the magnificent palace of Royal Tapestries Factory and we were entertained with an impressive flamenco show.

During the General Assembly, which was very well attended, **Prof. Jochen Eulert** was appointed honorary member for all the work he has done for our Society. He initiated the European contribution to the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery* as well as started the Didier Patte prize.

Pascal Boileau was appointed as President-Elect, while **Alex Castagna** succeeded him as General Secretary. **Ralph Hertel** finished his eight-year term in the Executive Committee and was succeeded by **Bernard Jost** from Switzerland.

The questionnaire we sent out after the congress showed that the majority of the participants were pleased with the scientific level of the educational events, such as the ICL's and symposia as well as the oral presentations and E-posters. Altogether we can look back on a very successful Congress, for which the local team under the leadership of **Emilio Calvo** and **Samuel Antuna** deserves the highest of compliments.

UPCOMING CONGRESSES

ICSES:

The International Congress on Surgery of the Elbow and Shoulder will be held in Edinburgh from September 5-8, 2010, and will undoubtedly attract many participants from all over the world. The organisation is headed by Steve Copeland and Angus Wallace. The SECEC will not organise a closed scientific meeting, as in the past during the ICSES congresses (Windsor, Salzburg and Frankfurt), as the ICSES is in Europe this time. However, we will have business meetings for all the committees on Saturday, September 4, prior to the Congress.

I would suggest that all committee members reserve this date in their diaries.

On Saturday evening, September 4, a dinner will be held in the National Gallery in Edinburgh for which reservations must be made, as we could not find a venue large enough to host all members with their partners. At the beginning of next year more information will be sent to you. Please note that reservations will be made on the basis of first come-first served.

On Sunday morning, September 5, before the ICSES Congress convenes at 1:00 p.m., a General Assembly will be held on the premises of the Congress. It would be much appreciated if all the members would arrive in Edinburgh in time to join the General Assembly, even though they may not attend the dinner the night before.

The 2011 and 2012 Congresses:

Gilles Walch with his Lyon team will organise our 23rd Congress in Lyon in September 2011. During the General Assembly in Madrid it was decided that the 2012 Congress will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia under the leadership of Nikola Cicak.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Chairman: Juan Bruguera

The new DVD on “Surgical Techniques in AC Joint Reconstruction”, composed by several SECEC members and sponsored by Arthrex and Synthes, was given for free to SECEC members and very well accepted; for the first time it was sold to non-members in the SECEC booth at the Congress and was very popular! The DVD project for 2010 will be on surgery of the elbow and will be supervised by the new chairman of the Education Committee, **Juan Bruguera**. The DVD prize in Madrid was awarded to **Markus Scheibel** for his video on the arthroscopically assisted acromioclavicular joint stabilization for chronic instability.

During the General Assembly **Mario Borroni** from Italy and **Matthias Flury** from Switzerland gave their report on their visiting fellowship in the USA in 2008. **Christophe Bartl** from Germany and **Giacomo delle Rose** from Italy reported on their trip through Europe in June 2009.

We had two visiting fellows from the USA and another two from “down under” from Australia and New Zealand; all of them continued to travel through Europe after the Madrid Congress.

Website Committee

Chairman: Rolf Norlin

Petra Magosch has left the committee where she functioned as webmaster during the past years. We owe her great thanks for all the work she did for our website. She streamlined several processes of the website and helped Sylvie Noel extensively.

The cooperation with CYIM has resulted in a great improvement of our website. More functions of our Society are increasingly being facilitated via the Internet by this company. The submission of papers for our Congress functions well; the online application for membership, after some start-up problems, is now also working. In the future, the registration for our Congresses will be done through the website as well.

Recently we decided to record ICL's and Symposia as a “flash conference” during the upcoming congresses, which will also make it possible to attend these sessions after the Congress. Last year we showed a try-out of one of the ICL's in Bruges on our website.

The website committee continues to improve the appearance of the site. We would be pleased to receive any feedback to make the website even better!

Research and Development Committee

Chairman: Andrew Carr

It was decided that funds will be made available to start a web-based survey on surgical strategies in cuff surgery, headed by Nicole Pouliart.

The Didier Patte prize this year was won by **Richard Benson** (UK) for his study on pathology of rotator cuff failures. The research grant was granted to **Dr Derk van Kampen** from the Netherlands for his study on the evaluation of diagnostic and prognostic performance of patient history, orthopaedic shoulder tests and shoulder-specific questionnaires.

It was also decided in Madrid that the selection process of the best paper will be changed. Up to now, the ten best papers of all the abstracts reviewed by the large group of referees were regarded as the best papers of the Congress, which might have given some preference for clinical papers. In the future, all the selected abstracts for oral presentation will be reviewed by the R and D Committee, which will select the five best papers, out of which the best paper will be chosen after presentation during our Congress.

Membership Committee

Chairman: Bernard Jost

Under the leadership of the previous chairman, Juan Bruguera, the application process was modernized. During the General Assembly, thirty-three new members were inaugurated. Until Madrid, new members could be admitted only once a year. From now on this can be decided by the Membership Committee throughout the year. Since the change in the application process, more than 100 applications have been received so far!

Eastern European Support Committee

Chairman: Jenő Kiss

This committee has been very active in either organising or participating in several courses in the eastern European countries. Next year Nikola Cicak will again organise a course in Zagreb; in Poland a cadaver course will be supported by the SECEC.

JOURNAL OF SHOULDER AND ELBOW SURGERY

Frank Gohlke succeeded **Roger Emery** as deputy international editor of the JSES. Roger Emery gave a report during the General Assembly and showed us that the process of considering submissions was greatly improved. We were also informed that Europe is one of the largest contributors of articles to the Journal. Roger did a great job and we would like to thank him for all he has done for our Journal!

Nicole Pouliart and **David Stanley** were appointed as Associate Editors for the JSES.

We decided during the General Assembly to proceed with our project of a web-based journal in Europe. In the meantime we have received signals from the ASES that they would like to join this concept. In the near future we will continue to develop this new web-based journal.

CONCLUSION

This year has showed again that the **SECEC** is very much alive: This is illustrated by all the many activities of our members throughout Europe, either by educational activities such as organising courses or congresses (do not forget to ask the Education Committee by sponsoring your Congress with the logo of SECEC!), or with

scientific work presented in the ever-growing number of articles from Europe in either our JSES or other journals.

I would like to thank all the committee members and the referees for all their work, either for selecting papers for our Congress or for reviewing articles for the JSES.

If you have any questions or comments about the activities of the SECEC, please contact us. The more we communicate, the better we can progress.

I wish you all a happy and successful 2010!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Willems', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jaap Willems,
President SECEC

The 2009 DVD on “Surgical techniques in AC joint reconstruction” is enclosed for those members, who did not receive it in Madrid.