



October 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Members of SECEC/ESSE,

We have just concluded a busy September in Madrid where two important events took place under the SECEC/ESSE banner. In the beautiful and sunny Spanish capital we organized the First International Advanced Course on Elbow Surgery (IACES) immediately followed by the SECEC Closed Meeting.

Both were highly successful not only in terms of participation but especially in terms of high scientific content according to SECEC/ESSE tradition.

I must express my gratitude and appreciation to Samuel Antuna and Pierre Mansat for the unbelievable amount of work they put in to run such a perfect in elbow event. My thanks also to the strong support they received from our Education Committee. More than 250 participants were attracted by an outstanding Faculty (from the whole

of Europe and North America) and by a very detailed and exhaustive program. The result was the greatest satisfaction of the attendees with an enthusiastic request to replicate “soon”.

It is clear that the interest in elbow pathology is ever increasing and I am glad that our Society is leading the activity of teaching interested surgeons. As you probably noticed maximum care has been used in the training of elbow, including the very successful Cadaver Course in Nice. Once again thanks to the entire “Elbow Group” and the Education Committee of SECEC/ESSE.

The SECEC Closed Meeting commenced immediately after the IACES. As you probably remember it was originally planned to be held in Nagoya last April, during the ICSES. After listening to many requests from our Members to choose a more reachable destination, for the first time in our history, I decided to ask for a public referendum among our Members. An overwhelming majority of 83% choose the Spanish location for the closed meeting.

The Closed Meeting is restricted to Ordinary Members and International Corresponding Members and the submitted papers must be original studies with no support from Companies. This Meeting is the best arena for intense and high profile discussions with no intimidation. Nevertheless we got 104 submissions for the 36 slots available and the choice was not easy for the Program Committee.

The final program was very interesting and thought provoking which was reflected in a crowded room for all sessions. The attendees appreciated the newly introduced “Clinical Cases Discussion” and the “How to” sessions where new surgical techniques were describe in detail.



This closed meeting was made possible by the great work of the two Closed Meeting Presidents, Juan Bruguera and Emilio Calvo. Both demonstrated their organizational skills and their strong dedication to SECEC/ESSSE.

The Closed Meeting was also the occasion for the appointment of new office bearers and committee members who are important for the life blood of our Society. A number of important meetings also took place during these days including a very long and detailed Executive Committee Meeting, meeting with Companies presenting the detailed plans for SECEC/ESSSE Istanbul 2014, Board of Directors Meeting and finally the General Assembly.

The 24 hours Executive Committee Meeting focused on the many issues, problems, solutions and proposals regarding the activity of every single Committee. The work that the subcommittees have done and are doing is tremendous and preparing a strong Society for the future especially for hard times. As is tradition I encouraged all the Chairmen of the subcommittees to report in detail their activity and program in a newsletter to be posted on our website and sent to every Member via Mass Mail.

I want specifically mention the issue of Istanbul 2014. Some concern was raised about safety after the riots in Istanbul last springtime. So I asked Mehmet Demirhan to provide me with detailed information about the situation and I must admit he was really reassuring. Also during the Company Meeting nobody raised any concerns about the venue or the country. Hence we have decided that Istanbul is confirmed as destination of our Congress in 2014.

The General Assembly was the occasion for the ASES travelling fellows to introduce themselves to our Members at the start of their European experience. Dr Ryan T. Bicknell from Canada and Dr. Robert Z Tashjian from USA are presently visiting many Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons in Europe and they are a symbol of the friendship and reciprocal support among Scientific Societies for teaching and cultural exchange.

An important link to this latter point is about our economy: the Treasurer, Ernst Wiedemann, outlined that about 75% (!!) of our Members are behind with the payment of the yearly membership fee. This is not acceptable. With the little contribution of our membership we support grants, research and teaching events that are the life of our Society. So please use the easy online PayPal or contact Sylvie Noel to ensure that all fees are paid.

During the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors meetings we also discussed about the next SECEC/ESSSE President. The role of President is a great honor, an acknowledgment to the carrier and the contribution to the life of our Society through the years. But it is also a lot of work, I can assure you! So we needed a figure that was matching all of these characteristics and the proposed name that was approved unanimously was Frank Gohlke. I am sure that Frank will continue the construction and work started by his predecessors. In his brief speech of acceptance he recalled the motto of my presidency "we are to serve". He will stay on this line for sure for the benefit of SECEC/ESSSE. Congratulations Frank!

Some new positions in our subcommittees were changed as old terms ended. The applications were more than the available slots which certainly reflects on vibrancy and vitality of our society. I strongly encourage those we could not accept this time to keep on responding to our invitations in the future. Many other issues were discussed but again the subcommittees Chairmen will report in detail.

One important note is regarding the JBJS submission fee that was highly criticized by the greatest majority of our Members and I am preparing a detailed response letter to be sent out.

In conclusion a very busy but effective week end in Madrid, which confirms that our Society is active, updated and carrying out its teaching role at the highest level.

Thanks to the work and contribution of our members.

SECEC/ESSSE is us!

