



# Presidential Newsletter

September 2015

## Dear SECEC Members,

As we come to know in the daily news, European policy obviously is getting more and more difficult in terms of balancing the nations' interests, controlling the current economic problems and sustaining progress in future common projects.

Surprisingly, our work has barely been influenced by these challenges and we notice that SECEC is developing rapidly instead. Our annual meetings attract more and more submissions and participants even from Asia and North America due to the high quality of the scientific program.

Last year in Istanbul Mehmet Demirhan and his team supported by the strong Turkish Shoulder and Elbow society, organized an outstanding meeting which was very successful from both the economical and scientific point of view. Thanks to Mehmet and his team for this great effort.

The Congress in Milano, organized by our past president Alex Castagna, promises to be a highlight due to the location, the perfect organization, and the excellent scientific content - not only because of the **Expo** which takes place in Milan at the same time. We received more than 900 submissions – a new record in the history of our society! Because of limited space in our scientific sessions, the rejection rate was very high and a large number of excellent papers could not be accepted as oral presentations, we are very sorry for this.

Each paper was rated by three blinded reviewers experienced in the respective field, most of them working for us as reviewers of the JSES.

Nevertheless, Juan Bruguera our excellent General Secretary has done his outmost together with the entire program committee to create the most interesting selection. Fortunately Marco Conti and his team of the rehabilitation committee could organize very attractive sessions including selected submitted papers combined with invited lectures. I'm convinced that like in Istanbul not only physiotherapists but many surgeons will be attracted to this session.

These climbing numbers of submissions year by year are related to many factors. I feel that this is mainly due to a European feature which especially in the field of shoulder and elbow surgery has proven remarkable strength in clinical and basic research: The diversity of our nations guarantees that each country provides the input of its specific interests and skills embedded in a dense network of competitive scientific exchange. This enables us to be very creative and to adopt new ideas and techniques early. Therefore it was a great privilege for me to follow Alex Castagna as president last year, who often emphasized that this position includes the obligation to serve our society rather than working for personal benefits. He has done a great job together with the entire board of committee members.

Following the idea of respect for the diversity of opinions and ideas within our European community we recently established features like the "Nations' corner", selecting the best papers of national societies. We will continue on this path involving more of our members in a living society. Hence, it was logical to create **new rules for the Instructional Course Lectures (ICL)** by our educational committee chaired by Laurent Lafosse: Members now can propose their favourite topics and apply as chairmen and speakers. We believe that the ICL and symposia represent the two main columns of education, which contributes significantly to establishing guidelines for clinical practice.

Therefore the speakers are requested to create MCQ (multiple choice questions) according to the standards of common European exams, pushed by the EU health administration and EFORT.

Uli Brunner and his team from the **Qualification Committee** put great efforts into introducing basic curricula for our subspecialty on a European scale, creating a pool of MCQ and establishing a certified education system, which is based on meetings according to our guidelines.

Following our policy “strength by diversity” and in recognition of the tremendous work done by Pierre Mansat as JSES Deputy Editor and the board of JSES associate editors and reviewers we start with two new features in Milan:

- **JSES session:**

It is the aim of this session to promote and analyse the European JSES papers which have gotten the highest numbers of downloads and citations. These papers will be analysed by a moderator according to evidence based medicine guidelines (EBM criteria). The moderator interacts with the audience when presenting some typical cases related to the subject. Additionally, we expect a stimulating crossfire discussion between selected experts about a subject which is in the focus of scientific interest.

- **Common Session with local National Society for Arthroscopy and Shoulder & Elbow Surgery:**

In order to strengthen the cooperation with all National societies and promote the special features of the country hosting our Annual Open Congress, we introduced a session (on Saturday) allowing the national delegates of SECEC to organize a panel with their most prominent speakers focussed mainly on arthroscopic techniques. This session provides us with the opportunity to understand the local background and sometimes surprising new solutions related to local challenges.

### **Co-operation with other societies in Europe**

Within the last year our EXCOM and subcommittees worked hard for these new projects mentioned above. Moreover we foster several projects which improve our worldwide network and cooperation within Europe, especially to national scientific societies which are only partially dedicated to shoulder and elbow surgery, e.g. arthroscopic societies. This will help to reduce potential conflicts of timing – a great relief for members who are active in several societies. Anders Ekelund has sent a request to our National delegates in order to evaluate the potential interest of these national societies. Our aim is to obtain written agreements with most of them especially for the purpose of mutually accepting certified ICL and properly coordinating scientific activities.

The cooperation with EFORT, in the past often being difficult, now is in the focus of our interest. European health care administrations have been struggling with severe economic limitations and therefore encouraged EFORT to set guidelines for education. Its authority is especially built on the demanded implementation of the principles of scientific evidence and ethics in a non-profit organization. Following the request of health care administrations for quality control in joint arthroplasty, EFORT started to get control of national arthroplasty registries, first for the hip and knee and recently for the shoulder. The registry of the German shoulder and elbow society (DVSE) with its president Uli Brunner fortunately rejected this attempt and proposed to involve SECEC as the European specialty society in charge instead.

In the past SECEC has been asked several times to be in charge of the field of shoulder and elbow surgery and our EXCOM has now based on improved contacts to EFORT decided to take care of both.

Fortunately a new initiative was successfully started by Alex before his term ended. When I met the EFORT president Steve Cannon in London last April, we had an open and fruitful exchange about all previous points at issue. EFORT has accepted our leadership in education and has asked for support for the scientific content of its next meetings. This matches very well the great effort done by our Qualification Committee chaired by Uli Brunner: They have worked on a detailed curriculum for shoulder and elbow surgery and started to create a pool of MCQ as a base for future online tests. A new tool for the individual planning of certified education will soon be created.

In line with this new approach I participated in the meeting of all presidents of specialty societies in Prague in the course of the Annual EFORT congress and Uli Brunner attended the advisory board meeting, which is responsible for the coordination of activities in the field of education and certification. Luc Favard was appointed to take care of the scientific content in the field of shoulder and elbow as scientific advisor for upcoming EFORT meetings. The next EFORT congress will be held together with the Swiss Orthopaedic society, the latter having in Alain Farron and Bernhard Jost two prominent SECEC members on top that will represent our society well and organize together with our EXCOM members Matthias Zumstein and Luc Favard an excellent specialty day focussed on current issues of arthroplasty.

Following the way of strengthening our National Delegates we had mainly British SECEC members organize the specialty day of SECEC in London in 2014 reinforced by certain speakers from abroad. This way of handling will allow us to reduce costs for travel and accommodation covered by the budget given by EFORT for this event. This year in Prague, Przemislav Lubiatusky from Poland organized an excellent half-day symposium composed of two sessions focussed on the treatment of massive rotator cuff tears and infections. This event received attention in several reports published in online journals.

### **European arthroplasty registries**

Provoked by the EFORT initiative for arthroplasty registries we decided to propose a new committee for registries, which has to be discussed and approved at the upcoming General Assembly. This committee has to analyse the options for a co-operation of already existing obligatory and voluntary national registries for shoulder and elbow arthroplasty to establish a network under the supervision of SECEC. Afterwards it is meant to make proposals for a common interface, which will serve as a future European database. For this project we need applications of members who are experienced with registries. Luc Favard who is familiar with the ideas of EFORT is in charge to analyse the current situation and find people who are interested in this work.

### **International Co-operations outside Europe**

Based on its increasing international importance, SECEC has received several requests for new co-operations. Besides the well-established and friendly contacts to ASES and some Asian National Societies we will have to answer to global challenges.

Last year I attended the annual meeting of the Japanese Shoulder Society in Saga as invited speaker and I was impressed by the huge number of participants and the high standards in this country, which now makes great efforts to open its society to other countries preferably to Europe. Korea must get our full support for the 13<sup>th</sup> ICSES Congress in Jeju 2016. The president Yong-Girl Rhee has frequently visited Europe as a friend of our society. Most of us know Joo Han Oh very well, a member of his organizing team, who visited us as travelling Asian fellow last year together with Hiromichi Omae from Japan. In Jeju, SECEC will apply for the ICSES 2022. At our next General Assembly we have to decide between two excellent candidates, Rome or Munich.

Moreover the EXCOM is in favour to accept a new fellowship which was proposed by Australia and New Zealand.

For four years the Latin American Shoulder and Elbow Society (SLAHOC) has been offering a closer co-operation with SECEC. Recently, it was decided to create a panel supported by three of our prominent members, Alex Castagna, Uli Brunner and Samuel Antuna, which will analyse the different needs and later on propose recommendations for a common scientific exchange and fellowship, which currently exists only between SLAHOC and some European National societies. Uli and Alex are invited as guest speakers at the next annual SLAHOC congress in Mérida and will meet in Mexico Luis Macedo as SLAHOC representative for the first exchange of ideas.

### **JSES**

The JSES is doing extremely well in terms of increasing numbers of submissions and the quality of the published papers. Pierre Mansat, all associate editors and the European reviewers do a very successful and important job for our society. But there is a big concern regarding the declining

number of European reviewers who accept in time invitations for reviews. Therefore we like to organize in Milan an exclusive meeting for all reviewers together with our editors in order to discuss all current issues and questions related to the reviewing process.

Furthermore it is emphasized that a position in our committees is clearly associated with active contributions as reviewer to the JSES. Applications for new committee members are only considered when they are willing to work as reviewers.

Therefore, I strongly support the approval of Pierre Mansat as ex officio member for EXCOM. This important recognition for the work of the Deputy Editor was already stated in 2007 but this paragraph was forgotten to be included when the new bylaws passed the General Assembly in 2012. This point has to be discussed in Milan.

Since last year SECEC is represented by Roger Emery and Jaap Willems in JSES' Board of Trustees. Recently, it was discussed to establish a sponsorship to support fellowships and scientific exchange between the involved societies. We have the honour to welcome Bill Mallon, the Editor in Chief of the JSES and current ASES president in Milan for a guest lecture. He is heartily invited to discuss with us the current policy of the JSES in the reviewers' board meeting.

As you can see, a lot of work has been done and many projects still are in progress. Due to the excellent work of our Website Committee guided by Matthias Zumstein everybody continuously has been informed by numerous newsletters and has got the opportunity to get downloads of the most recent piece of news.

Nevertheless your suggestions, ideas and proposals in personal communication to us by mail or at the General Assembly are welcome and will be well received as relevant contributions to the improvement of our society.

I take this opportunity also on behalf of the entire SECEC Executive Committee to welcome you to our Annual Congress which promises to be an outstanding event, and I hope that you will enjoy the great location in Milan.

**Frank Gohlke**

President of SECEC

and our EXCOM team:

**Juan Bruguera,**

General Secretary and Chairman of the Program Committee

**Matthias Zumstein,**

Chairman of the Website Committee

**Anders Ekelund,**

Chairman of the Membership Committee

**Luc Favard,**

Chairman of the R&D Committee

**Laurent Lafosse,**

Chairman of the Education Committee

**Przemislav Lubiatsky,**

Chairman of the Eastern Europe Support Committee

**Marco Conti,**

Chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee

**Ulrich Brunner,**

Chairman of the Qualification Committee

**Emilio Calvo**

Treasurer

