



Dear SECEC Members,

It is a great honour to serve as your President and contribute to the continuing success of our society. My presidency started at the highly successful Antwerp meeting, arranged by Denise Eygendaal, Olivier Verborgt and Roger van Riet. The first task was to host the Asian and Japanese travelling fellows, Drs Young-Lae Moon and Yoshiaki Itoigawa in London. These fellowships exemplify the values of our society, namely the dialogue between colleagues from many parts of the world, and the constant exchange of ideas and views.

I have been fortunate to inherit an excellent team of individuals on the executive committee, and have to acknowledge Frank Gohlke's dedication in steering the society over the last two years. His legacy will undoubtedly be the creation of a more balanced and open society.

We welcome four new members to the executive committee, Denise Eygendaal, Nicole Pouliart, Markus Scheibel and Roger van Riet as well as a strong group of younger members to serve on the various subcommittees. My initial aims have been to create a broad-based membership, attracting young members from all parts of Europe. The society must be considered inclusive, and I believe that the way forward is to promote the organisation through its national delegates and their respective national branches. The concept of the young forum has been rapidly adopted by an extremely active group of residents who have made concrete and impressive plans for the future.

There are many tasks to undertake in 2017: I would highlight the importance of the Registry Committee being chaired by Luc Favard, who has kindly agreed to continue serving the society. The committee is an invaluable component of outcome studies, and is an integral step to delivering value-based shoulder and elbow surgery. It is also important to support the journal of shoulder and elbow surgery, and in particular Pierre Mansat, who requires all members to review at the dawn of the exciting new open-access journal, which I believe could serve the European society very well.

Markus Scheibel has made good progress with the Qualification Committee, allowing the society to contribute to the important aims outlined by EFORT. The basic exam in orthopaedic surgery is emerging, and our society has contributed by providing a syllabus. The greater challenge is the concept of providing "certification" for sub specialists in our field: There are many different issues that will need to be carefully considered in the years ahead. The first step is to expand the curriculum, and this has already been largely achieved through Uli Brunner's chairmanship. It will be important to consider the mechanism of how such a certificate would be awarded; i.e. the necessary standard achieved by potential candidates. We need to understand who this certificate would cater for, particularly with respect to the different geographical and professional requirements. Any such proposal would need to be durable, desirable to the candidate, and not merely a further compliment to their own country's endeavours in providing an assessment of expertise.

The society continues to provide extremely high-quality continuing medical education, but we must not forget that primary-care and our physiotherapy colleagues are equally, if not more important in delivering treatment for conditions of the shoulder and elbow. We have well-established links with the physiotherapist community, who arrange excellent meetings running in parallel with our international congress.

Furthermore, we need to maintain a high level of interest in our subspecialty and it is interesting to note that there has been a decrease in the number of young surgeons applying for shoulder and elbow fellowships in the United States of America. We need to be ambitious and support the concept of ethical practice of evidence-based, high-quality and cost-effective surgery.

It is important to recognise that a Continental society functions differently from a National society, and can have a global impact on the quality of shoulder and elbow surgery: above all through its leaders and their involvement in medical education, scientific research and patient advocacy.

The Berlin Congress in 2017 looks to be a very exciting meeting, I know that arrangements are well underway and I hope that over the festive season you and your team are all offering the highest quality submissions for presentation in September.

I wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas as well as a successful New Year.

Roger Emery

