

Dear Member,
Dear Friend,

Let us review the Budapest meeting, which took place three months ago. I feel that all participants were greatly satisfied with this most successful Congress. It was successful not only from a scientific, but also from an economic and social point of view. With 604 registered delegates from 25 countries, it reached the highest number of participants of all SECEC meetings. Similarly, the number of submitted abstracts, totalling 339 papers, exceeded by far the expected number. Unfortunately, only 63 of these papers could be accepted for oral and 191 for poster presentation. Most of the papers were top quality, due to a carefully performed abstract selection procedure. The same can be said of the two symposia.

All instructional courses were well attended and highly appreciated. Even the fire-side discussions, which we organised for the first time, turned out to be very popular, despite the fact that they started late in the afternoon, due to the delays caused by the longer than planned General Assembly. In addition, the social programme organised by the local Committee was most attractive. We are also able to confirm that the meeting was also very successful from an economic point of view. I am pleased to report that the financial situation of our society is currently very satisfactory, not least thanks to the valuable contribution of this meeting. Details will be reported at the next General Assembly meeting in Heidelberg. I would like to thank again the local Organising Committee for the perfect organisation of the meeting and the warm welcome the participants received.

Now let us have a closer look at the new business plan for ESSSE/SECEC. One of the major tasks of my business plan is to update the bylaws in response to the maturing of our Society. The changes focus on giving the General assembly more responsibilities (for instance in deciding the main topics and location of future meetings) and appointing both the Executive Committee members and the President for shorter terms in order to involve more people in our society. We would also like to formally include two additional Committees in our structure. In general, the changes of the bylaws can be considered to be an attempt to strengthen the democratic structure of our society. The proposed changes are published on our website from January 2003 and, for the first time, we will have a vote, using the internet, during March 2003. Please, do make use of the opportunity of this new voting tool, as this is intended to introduce a new voting era.

As already announced in Budapest, the society has established two new Committees, the Website Committee and the Eastern Europe Support Committee. The latter has already established contact with the National Delegates from the Eastern Countries and is planning to organise Instructional Courses in some of these countries during 2003. They are also going to fix host centres, where selected people from eastern countries can enjoy a Visiting Fellowship for a few weeks. I believe that one of the major tasks of our society should be to create appropriate and validated classifications for various pathologies that have not been clearly classified to date. Another task is to establish European guidelines and standards for the diagnosis and treatment of hot issues, like first time shoulder dislocations or the treatment of Rotator Cuff tears. In our last telephone conference of the Executive Committee we decided that the R&D Committee will be in charge of long-term preparations of such topics. The results will be presented

within a symposium in one of the future SECEC meetings. The decision about which topics will be chosen for the meeting in Rome in 2005 and the one in 2006 will be made within the next weeks by the R&D Committee and presented at the next General Assembly meeting for consideration and approval.

At this moment preparations are in progress for the next meeting in Heidelberg. Peter Habermeyer, the President of the local Organising Committee tells me the preparation is going very well. The second announcement will be sent out soon. We are very much looking forward to the meeting in Heidelberg. Heidelberg is a marvellous place and Peter Habermeyer and his team will give their best to make our stay in Heidelberg unforgettable.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a successful and happy New Year.

Best wishes,
Yours,

Herbert Resch
President of SECEC