

Dear Member,
Dear Friend,

A few weeks ago on May 2-5, 2004 the 9th International Conference on Surgery of the Shoulder (ICSS) took place in Washington. The average scientific level of the papers was high. Some of the papers were outstanding and I am proud to state that a good number of them came from Europe.

I would also like to congratulate Edinburgh for having been elected as the venue for the ICSS meeting in 2010. Edinburgh won the vote against the very strong Asian candidate Kyoto. Congratulations to Angus Wallace and Ian Kelly!

After almost three years my term of Presidency of the European Society for Shoulder and Elbow Surgery will finish in a few weeks' time. This is the perfect time to think about the last three years in terms of the current status of the Society.

I think we can state that the Society is very well established with regard to its scientific and economic situation as well as its social life. The vibrant social life within the Society is characterised by friendship between the international members. It can truly be stated that the Society has developed towards being a big European family.

We had excellent meetings in Budapest and Heidelberg. Both meetings were highly successful in every regard.

The scientific level has increased tremendously over the years and has continued to do so over the last three years. It is surprising how high the average level of the presentations has become within the last 10 years. At least one of the reasons for this increased scientific level is the very tough selection process of the abstracts submitted to the SECEC meetings.

According to my business plan, long term preparation of topics for symposia started already last year on "Classification of Rotator Cuff Pathologies" and will be presented the next year in Rome. Another symposium in Athens in 2006 will focus on "Instabilities of the Shoulder". The R&D Committee is responsible for the organisation and preparation of the symposia. We intend to publish guidelines of diagnosis and treatment of burning issues in shoulder and elbow surgery based on those long term studies.

Establishing the Eastern European Support Committee three years ago as part of my business plan has initiated a number of instructional courses in the former Eastern countries. All of them were well attended and the response from the participants was excellent. Furthermore "European host centres" have been established in the former Western countries, which in future will allow young people from the former Eastern countries to stay for several weeks.

Another Committee established as part of my business plan was the Website Committee. Thanks to the work of this Committee our home page has developed to a very effective communication tool within the Society. All information concerning the Society can be obtained by a mouse click. Also abstract handling has changed from paper work toward full electronic work.

The structure of the Society has moved toward more democracy, as a few changes in the bylaws have been made. As a consequence of these changes the location of future

SECEC meetings is determined by the General Assembly. Another change was that all members of the Committees and Subcommittees are appointed by all members. Furthermore the function period of the President was changed from 3 to 2 years and the maximum period of the Executive Committee members from 9 to 6 years. This should promote a higher turnover in the leading positions of the Society.

Due to the very successful meetings in Budapest and Heidelberg I'm very glad to be able to report on the very healthy financial situation of the Society. Based on the present financial situation the Society will be able to sponsor research projects in the future and to support instructional courses in the former Eastern countries.

As you all know it is the responsibility of the outgoing President to organise a so-called Closed Meeting, which is the meeting all our ordinary and associated members are invited to take part in. It will take place on September 23 –25, 2004 in a resort hotel called "Gut Brandlhof" about a 50 minute drive from Salzburg city. The hotel is located in a mountain valley and offers lots of indoor and outdoor leisure activities. The meeting is intended to focus on scientific aspects but also to strengthen the social ties between the members of the Society. It's the right place to go with your family!!!!

In a few months' time the Presidency will be passed on from me to my successor Gilles Walch. Therefore, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who have worked with me in and for the Society and who have supported me so much in the last three years. My thanks go especially to the members of the Executive Committee and all the other Committees as well as to the National Delegates, who contributed so much to our Society that I'm able to hand over a flourishing and stable Society to my successor.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Salzburg in September!

Best wishes,
Yours,
Herbert Resch
President of SECEC