

Saint Genis Laval,

Le 15 Juin 2006

Ref : SECEC/ESSSE Presidential letter

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

First of all I would like to start this biannual letter by sending you an SOS: the European Editorial Board of our Journal is facing tremendous difficulties and cannot work properly : JO Soejbjerg resigned and the 2 other co-editors, Roger Emery and Frank Göhlke, are deeply despairing. They receive approximately 250 articles by year and do not get any help from the reviewers who are eminent members of our Society. Some of them briefly answer with the mention "rejected" or "accepted" without any comment ; some of them answer 3 or 4 months later, and some of them never answer despite several reminders sent by the Editors.... ! Our Editors spend a lot of time in reminding and claiming for the review of the manuscripts. This very bad behaviour puts our society in danger.

The role of the journal is of great importance for our Society, since it allows us to spread and to publish the European studies. Before publication the articles need to be reviewed, modified, improved and this is the task of these reviewers. The 2 European Editors, who already spend a lot of time for the Journal, cannot do this job alone. When one of your articles is refused you need to receive a careful review and analysis to know the reasons why your article has been rejected and to have the opportunity to improve it. The Executive Committee of the ESSSE knows that the job done by Roger Emery and Frank Göhlke is essential for the good running of our Society. We consequently decided that the reviewers who do not provide a good analysis of the articles or who do not answer within 3 weeks, will be automatically kept from presenting an article, or publishing in the Journal during a 5 year term. These decisions made by the Executive Committee are necessary and will underline the fundamental role of the Editorial Board within our Society. The 2 European Editors need our full support and I want you to understand how the role of each reviewer is essential.

In other fields our society remains very active and is in continuous development: the Executive Committee held its spring meeting in Athens and had there the opportunity to visit the congress centre which will host the congress in September 2006 : it is a huge and beautiful congress hall located at a 5-10 min. walking distance from all the hotels which have been totally renewed for the Olympic Games. We are confident that this congress will be a great meeting; we already received 546 abstracts and the review process has already started. We will accept 72 papers for oral presentation and approx. 300 papers for poster presentation. Pan Symeonides and John Feroussis did a great job and go on working hard for the organisation so that everything goes smoothly. On behalf of the European Society I want to congratulate and to thank them.

I also want to warmly thank Franco Postacchini and his team who has made a very good benefit from our congress in Rome September 2005 ; he has greatly contributed to the good financial situation of our society.

At the General Assembly meeting which will take place in Athens, we will have to decide upon the venue of the 2009 SECEC/ESSSE congress and we ask the applicants to contact Sylvie Noël. After the Athens meeting we will hold our closed meeting in Frankfurt June 2007 under the Presidency of Peter Habermeyer ; we will then participate in the International Conference in Brazil in September 2007. Our 2008 congress will be organised by our Belgian colleagues in September.

Jaap Willems, Jeno Kiss and Peter Habermeyer gathered their knowledge and experience to make a booklet for the organisation of our next congresses. This booklet is available to all the applicants to congress organisation and will help them and will avoid any regrettable oversight.

We received several inquiries for international exchange fellowships, which testify of the international acknowledgement of our society. Next September Istvan Szabo and Markus Rickert will travel in the US during one month; At the same time we will host in Europe 2 South Korean fellows, who are Past Presidents of the Korean Society (....!!!). The Australian Society is also interested in a travelling fellowship for one fellow during 2 to 4 weeks.

Thanks to our website, created and regularly updated by Angus Wallace, communication inside our Society is now outstanding ; Do not hesitate to visit our website [www.secec.org](http://www.secec.org) ; you will find there any information you may need. Angus Wallace will step down in September and I want to thank him for the great job he did for this new tool of communication inside our society. Rolf Norlin will then chair the Website Committee.

At the Rome congress we announced that the Research and Development committee has created a grant amounting 70 000 euros to stimulate and fund European scientific studies. Until now we did not receive any application. Our members interested in this grant must contact directly Ralph Hertel, Chairman of the R & D committee. This R & D committee is about to organize within the next weeks a survey study about the clinical assessment scores, which are currently used in Europe. This survey study is of great importance to know better the practice of every member in each country in the field of pre and post operative assessment. We all are eager to know the results of this study.

I want to end this presidential letter with an optimistic note and wish to our society a superb congress in Athens thanks to our Greek colleagues who are already waiting for us and prepare us a warm welcome .

Best Regards

Gilles Walch