

Dear Member,
Dear Friend,

The meeting of the Executive Committee took place on the 25th and 26th of April, 2003 in Heidelberg and now I would like to fill you in about what has been going on in the society during the last few months.

All participants in the meeting were very pleased to see how far the preparations for the upcoming congress have progressed. The venue of the meeting will be the Stadthalle Heidelberg, which provides excellent conference facilities. As far as participation of companies is concerned Peter Habermeyer was very proud to report that 3 main sponsors and 30 exhibitors (the highest number so far) have already signed up.

270 abstracts were submitted and have already been scored via Internet voting by the Scientific Committee. 73 abstracts were accepted for oral and 70 for poster presentations. In order to obtain maximum objectivity the jurors were not given the names of the authors nor their institutions. The average quality of the papers was very satisfactory. The final programme will be distributed by the end of June.

Now let us focus on the Executive Committee meeting itself.

First of all, I would like to say that I am very happy about the outcome of the vote on the changes of the bylaws. As you know we have initiated a few changes to our constitution which has provided the General Assembly with more rights. This is an attempt to strengthen the democratic structure of our society.

The most important changes are:

1. The main topics and location of future meetings are determined by the General Assembly
2. A shorter term of appointment for the members of the Executive Committee (6 years instead of 9 years)
3. A shorter term for the President (2 years instead of 3 years)
4. The introduction of two additional committees - the Website Committee and the Eastern Europe Support Committee.

The vote on the new bylaws was performed by a postal vote in March. About two thirds of the ordinary members participated in the vote. The new bylaws were accepted with 96% of all those who voted supporting them. I am absolutely sure that these changes will lead to even more active participation by all our members.

Our Website, for which Angus Wallace and his team are responsible, has proved to be a most efficient tool of communication within the society. The abstract evaluation was greatly facilitated by electronic voting via our Website. In the meantime it has been further improved. All information concerning our society can easily be obtained by mouse click and comments and opinions can be exchanged on the discussion board, for example on difficult cases. Furthermore you will find a list of all our members with e-mail address.

Please visit our Website regularly. Our Website address is www.secec.org.

The Eastern Europe Support Committee has identified "SECEC Shoulder Host Centres" for Eastern Europe fellows and is going to organise instructional courses in 2003 in the Ukraine, Hungary, and Poland.

The report from the treasurer should also be of great interest to all our members. Peter Habermeyer was very happy to report that the financial situation of our society is excellent due to the success of the past meetings, and particularly due to the very successful meeting in Budapest. Once more I would like to thank Peter Balvanyossy and his team for the great job which they did.

Establishing European guidelines and standards for the diagnosis and treatment of hot issues presents a major task that will be dealt with in the future. The R&D Committee has been charged with the long-term preparations of such topics. The topic to be presented in Rome will focus on Rotator Cuff pathology and the results will be presented in a symposium and summarised in a booklet. During the next General Assembly meeting in Heidelberg the topic for the meeting in 2006 will already be announced.

All in all it can be said that the Executive meeting in Heidelberg was very successful and included many discussions focussing on the future plans for our society. In order for us to continue in this direction it is very important that as many members as possible will take part in decision-making in the General Assembly.

The outcome of the Heidelberg Executive meeting and the high submission rate of abstracts, reflects the great interest which is developing in our next SECEC-ESSSE meeting, let us look forward to a most successful conference in September. Heidelberg is such a marvellous place and we have every reason to expect this meeting to be most successful. Peter Habermeyer and his team will give their best to make our stay in Heidelberg unforgettable.

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

Best wishes,
Yours,

Herbert Resch
President of SECEC