

Saint Genis Laval,  
May 9th, 2005

Dear Friends,

We have had our spring meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris during the weekend of May 1st, and it is now the traditional time for me to address you through this Presidential letter.



During the course of the past six months, the Executive Office has had to resolve several different problems. After the unfortunate death of Ian Kelly, European Editor of the JSES, three editors have been nominated to replace him; Roger Emery, Frank Gohlke, and Jens-Olé Soejbjerg. They have had to face a number of organizational problems in addition to reevaluating 230 articles that were on hold from 2003 and 2004. The office of SECEC would like to apologize to those authors whose manuscripts may have been delayed and thank them for their continued understanding and patience. The illness of Ian Kelly has significantly hampered their work; however, the goal in 2005 is to have the entire backlog of articles addressed and to prevent any future delays. To this effect, the time for article review has been shortened to no more than three weeks, and we would ask that the reviewers make every effort to return all articles as quickly as possible. In addition, if you would like to contribute by reviewing articles, you may directly contact any one of our European editors (see the SECEC website) and indicate your specialty (arthroplasty, basic science, biomechanics, trauma, elbow, etc...). We would also ask that the National Delegates inform the Editorial Board of anyone in their respective countries who is able to assist with article reviews. Having more reviewers will mean a shorter review process.

Professor Michel Mansat has completed his term as member of the Board of Trustees of the JSES, and he wishes to step down from his post. The European member of the Board of Trustees is nominated from the Executive Committee and recommended for a vote at the general assembly. Angus Wallace has been nominated to fill this position and will be presented for a vote at the annual meeting in Rome. If there are other candidates who are interested in this position, please inform us as soon as possible.

In June, our two Intra-European fellows, Drs. Sbazo and Papadopoulos will begin their Travelling Fellowships, followed by two American fellows who will make their visits in September. The society would like to compile a list of all the centers that would like to host fellows for three days. The costs of this visit will not be the responsibility of the host institution, but will be handled by our society. We ask that all interested centers contact Sylvie Noel to register. Every two years, SECEC will send fellows to Japan (this year Drs. Kaminemi and Lehtinen), the United States and Europe. Applicants are encouraged to apply for any of these positions, and we would thank you for distributing this information to your younger colleagues, who may not have access to this letter.

The Eastern Countries Support Committee and its chairman, J. Joerosh, arranged for three meetings to be sponsored by SECEC in Hungary. The goal of these meetings was to promote shoulder and elbow surgery in Eastern Europe, and we hope that this type of activity will develop more in the future. Jenő Kiss, Hungarian National Delegate and Vice-coordinator of the Budapest meeting, joined the Executive Committee of SECEC in 2004. He has been an outstanding representative of the eastern countries and will continue to work towards their full integration at all levels.

In 2005, the Executive Committee will have to replace Dr. J.O. Soejbjerg (Denmark), who will leave office after eight years of outstanding service, for which we thank him. Two candidates have been

nominated, Dr. Jacinto Melo MONTEIRO of Portugal and Dr. Rolf NORLIN of Sweden. The voting will take place by secret ballot at the annual meeting in Rome. If there are other candidates who wish to be placed on the ballot, they must contact Sylvie Noel.

During the 2005 meeting in Rome, several sub-committee positions will have to be filled. We are accepting nominations for candidates who wish to help work to promote the society. The candidates must be active members in good standing and ready to sacrifice a little of their time for the good of the society. Prospective candidate information can be addressed to my attention by way of Sylvie Noel at [secec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:secec@wanadoo.fr)

Also, the site of our 2008 meeting must be decided by a vote of the general assembly in Rome. At present, we have only one candidate city. The Belgian members have proposed the city of Bruges. If there are other candidate cities, we will be happy to consider them.

Our next Annual Meeting in Rome has been well organized, thanks to the work of Dr. Franco Postacchini and his organizing committee. I hope for an outstanding attendance and a wonderful meeting in the magnificent city of Rome. We have received 480 abstracts that are being reviewed in the coming weeks. Because we do not wish to have scientific sessions running concurrently, only about 60 will be accepted for podium presentations. On the other hand, we will be able to have a large number of poster presentations. The Scientific Committee will notify speakers before June 15th as to paper acceptance and the type of presentation for which they have been selected.

The Didier Patte award will be given this year. All scientific works should be sent by mail to Sylvie Noel before July 1st, 2005. The research work should have not been published before 1st June 2003. The Education Committee also wishes to organize an annual competition for the best training video. Therefore, we encourage all members to submit videos (CD or DVD). The topics can be varied (clinical examination, operative technique, etc...). The videos must be in English and 10 to 20 minutes in length. To be considered for the annual prize, the videos must be able to be broadcast to other members of SECEC.

At the request of our American colleagues, collaboration between the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES) and SECEC will be strengthened. We hope to see the annual participation of the President of ASES – our sister society at all annual meetings, and we have also agreed to sponsor certain American meetings. The American Society will also sponsor several European meetings, as it has done for the Dominique Gazielly – the 3rd International Congress on Shoulder Arthroplasty, which was in Paris from April 28th to the 30th. This meeting was a great success with the participation of many Americans, and it was a great success for our society. In June, Dr. Laurent Lafosse will conduct a meeting in Annecy with the participation of several well-known Americans and the sponsorship of the ASES. It seems to us that these exchanges have been of great benefit to our society and must be continued in the future.

EFORT has solicited us for more active participation in their bi-annual meeting. We will participate this year at specialty day in Lisbon, Sunday, June 3rd. Ralph Hertel, as Chairman of the Research and Development Committee, will organize a symposium on Anterior Instability of the Shoulder.

We will have to clearly define the exact relationship between EFORT and SECEC. With this in mind, I would like to ask for your personal advice. There are two possibilities:

A negative attitude towards EFORT meaning that we believe that there are already too many organized meetings and that specialty day of EFORT competes with our own annual meeting without assisting with any financial needs of our organization. Also, we could argue that orthopaedic surgery is becoming more and more specialized, and therefore, general meetings

such as EFORT are no longer needed. A positive attitude towards EFORT driven by the thought that the role of the Executive Committee of SECEC is to do everything to develop our specialty by actively participating in EFORT meetings and demonstrating the importance of the shoulder and elbow to the orthopaedic surgeon. At first, this participation would certainly be free, but our society could eventually be made stronger for it. The primary inconvenience would be the additional work required of our Executive Office and committees to organize, not only specialty, but also other symposia and instructional course lectures.

Your advice in this matter will be invaluable. You may send me an e-mail to Sylvie Noel at [secec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:secec@wanadoo.fr). During our meeting in Rome, I will compile all of these opinions, and if necessary, we will organize a vote regarding our relationship with EFORT. The next meeting of EFORT will be in Florence in 2007.

I look forward to seeing you in Rome.  
With my very best wishes,

Gilles Walch, MD  
SECEC President