

Dear Member,  
Dear Friend,

Let us review the Heidelberg 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 634 registered delegates from 33 countries, it reached the highest number of participants of all SECEC meetings. Similarly, the number of submitted abstracts, totalling more than 200 papers, transgressed the expected number. Unfortunately, only 71 of them could be accepted for oral and 70 for poster presentations.

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 transmission of life surgery from the operating theatre, which we organised for the first time, turned out to be very popular.

In addition, the social programme organised by the local Committee was most attractive.

We happily confirm that the meeting was also very successful from an economic point of view. Thirty-six exhibitors with 135 people from the industry attended the meeting which was the highest number so far.

We dare say that the financial situation of our society is very satisfactory, not least thanks to the valuable contribution of this meeting.

I would like to thank again the local Organising Committee for the perfect organisation of the meeting and the warm welcome the participants received.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Daniel Molé for his outstanding work for the society as General Secretary. He has had this function now for 9 years and his term ended now in Heidelberg. I have had the privilege to work with him almost all this time in the Executive Committee and now for two years as President of the Society. The Society wouldn't be as it is without his contribution. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the Society not only in the last nine years but also from the very beginning of the Society.

I would like to congratulate Athens on being elected as the location of the SECEC meeting of 2006. We are looking forward to Athens and we are confident that it will be another great meeting in a wonderful place.

I also would like to congratulate Edinburgh for having been elected as the European candidate for the ICSS meeting in 2010. We are confident that the vote in Washington in May 2004 will definitely choose Edinburgh as the location of the 2010 ICSS meeting.

Now let us have a closer look at the new business plan.

One of the major tasks of my business plan was the change of the bylaws. The letter vote on the new bylaws took place in March 2003. Two thirds of the ordinary members took part in the vote and of them 96% voted in favour. The changes of the bylaws can be considered as an attempt to strengthen the democratic structure of our society. The new bylaws are published on our website.

One of the major tasks of our society is to establish European guidelines and standards for the diagnosis and treatment of hot issues. The R&D Committee is in charge with long term preparations of such topics. They are going to prepare a classification for RC pathologies which will be presented in a symposium in 2005 in Rome. The topic for 2006 in Athens will be Instability of the shoulder.

The next important meetings for the society will be the 9th ICSS meeting in Washington from May 2-5, 2004, the "SECEC/ESSSE Shoulder&Elbow Update Meeting" in June 24-26, 2004 in Innsbruck and the Closed Meeting of SECEC on September 23-25, 2004 near Salzburg.

The "SECEC/ESSSE Shoulder & Elbow Update Meeting" in Innsbruck is organised by SECEC together with EFORT and the European Hip Society. We are going to organise this meeting as many members asked for an "Update Meeting" guided by SECEC. In the year where we have no SECEC meeting it seems to be a good opportunity to have such a meeting. It can be seen as a contrast to the annual SECEC meeting which primarily focus on scientific papers. For SECEC Angus Wallace is in charge of the organisation. On June 24, 2004 a hands-on course on cadavers will take place in the Anatomical Institute of Innsbruck University.

The Closed Meeting which is the meeting of all our members, ordinary and associated, will take place in a resort hotel called "Gut Brandlhof" about 50 min. drive time away from Salzburg city. The hotel is located right in the mountains and offers many indoor and outdoor leisure activities. It's the right place to go with your family!

We are very much looking forward to all these meetings.

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

Best wishes,

Yours,

Herbert Resch  
President of SECEC