

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

SECEC Presidential Letter, October, 31, 2006



20th congress of
SECEC/ ESSSE
Athens

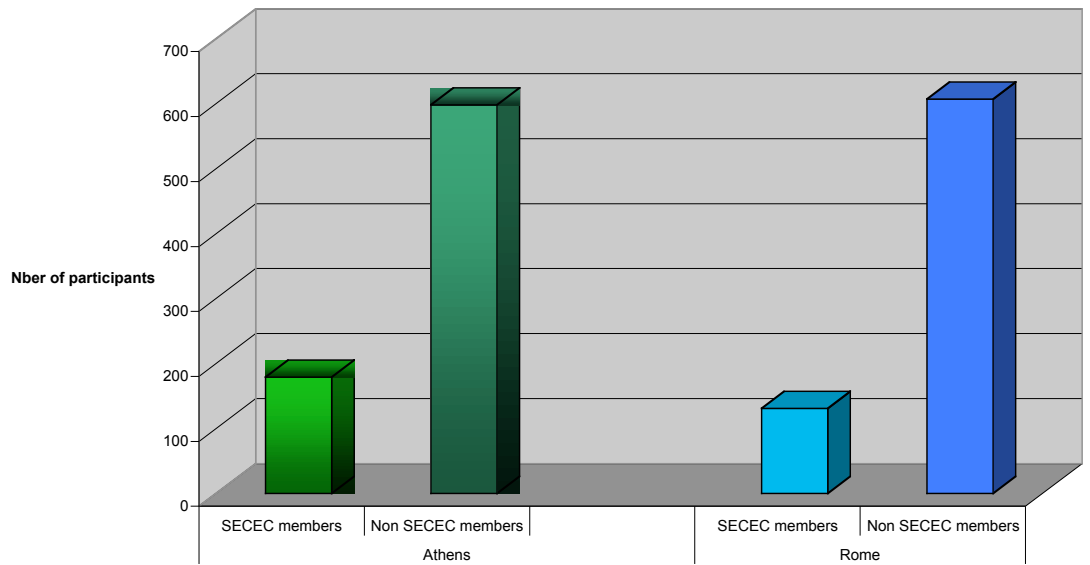
By Peter Habermeyer

Heidelberg, October 31, 2006

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

the 20th congress in Athens was the most successful meeting ever since SECEC/ESSSE has existed. With almost 800 attendants and more than 200 exhibitors the barrier of 1000 participants was broken. It is very satisfactory that in comparison with the previous congresses the number of participating SECEC members increased to about 50%.

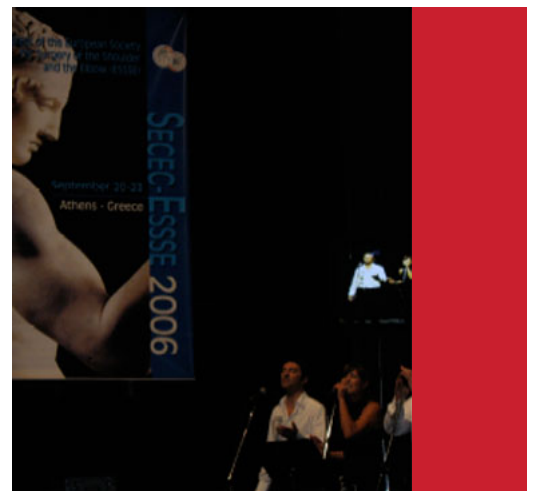
Participation at our 2005 and 2006 SECEC congresses



On behalf of the society, I would like to thank Pan P. Symeonides and John C. Feroussis sincerely for their successful work and organization.



At the closure of the congress in Athens, Gilles Walch finished his presidential period, and the farewell ceremony was accompanied by standing ovations of the General Assembly. Like no-one else he personified with knowledge and charme the spirit of our society and stands in a worthy line with the past presidents.



Besides the excellent atmosphere and hospitality in Athens, there were also comments to be heard which had a critical look at the state of our society. Furthermore please take my apologies that because of the non-expected number of visitors the abstract books and congress bags were not sufficiently available. You can order a CD-Rom with all abstracts from our office (secec@wanadoo.fr).

The legitimate criticism was the cause for me to analyse the present structure of our society. Together with Jaap Willems, our Secretary-General, I met Sylvie Noel on October 21, 2006 in her office in Lyon and we made up a balance of the infrastructure and organization profile of our society. At the end we stated that after 20 years and an increase of members and congress participants, SECEC/ESSSE has to undergo a fundamental organizational re-structuring.

Modification of the SECEC/ESSSE Office

The first modification concerns the SECEC office itself. Sylvie Noel will lead the office as an Administration Manager in full-time. Since until now no contract of employment exists between Sylvie Noel and SECEC, we presently work out a written contract.

Until now, only Sylvie Noel had a legal banking power. In future the treasurer Frank Gohlke and the secretary-general Jaap Willems will also get the right of bank signature.

SECEC will create an own e-mail account so that all Executive Committee and Sub-Committee Members will have the same address, such as@secec.org.

For further professionalization of the Administration Office, an ISDN connection as well as a new computer will be installed.

All in all we got the impression that with the office in Lyon and with Sylvie Noel working full-time, we can create the basis to handle the structural problems of our society in a professional manner. By the enhancement of her work as SECEC Administration Manager, Sylvie Noel can coordinate the activities of our society and can pass forward the corresponding work flow.

Treasurer

At the next Executive Committee Meeting we are going to propose that the treasurer will call an Ad-Hoc Treasurer Committee for the audit on occasion of the SECEC congress which consists of two participants of the congress who will check the accounts. Sylvie Noel will take these books with her to the congress.

R & D Committee

The quality of our congresses is the visiting card of SECEC and I plead for an utmost improvement especially in this field. In the past, the R & D has been misused as a program committee.

When comparing the work of the various committees, the R & D Committee has the largest part of the work. Besides the abstract management, the R & D has to do all the real work of research and development which means planning the multicenter studies, organization of research funding as well as the organization of the Didier Patte prize and the best paper prize. Not even mentioned is here the handling of evidence based guidelines.

I came to the conclusion that besides the R & D Committee a Program Committee has to be created like it is standard in other scientific societies. Of course, R & D and Program Committee have to work together, but the work of the Program Committee is already so much that it interferes substantially within the clinical routine of a surgeon. There must be a specific structure to review more than 600 abstracts. Manpower is absolutely necessary. The abstract process starts in the year before the congress and lasts until the final establishment of the final program.

A Program Committee would further professionalize our activities and would have the positive side effect to involve more members in the core activities of our society

Meanwhile Ralph Hertel together with the R & D members has set up new guidelines for abstract selection.

Education Committee

The new chairman of the Education Committee, Alessandro Castagna, has already taken up his work and plans and organizes the Instructional Courses for Brugge which has to be done in advance in order to nominate the speakers and the topics in good time.

Presenting 300 posters, like in Athens, it is not possible for the congress visitor to get a complete overview. The electronic poster will be the future. Also the selection of the best poster prize must be re-organized.

Membership Committee

During the last Executive Committee Meeting in Athens was already decided that the admission criteria for associate members will be simplified. To make the admission easier, Pascal Boileau as chairman of the Membership Committee was asked to create a simplified application form via internet.

Furthermore new nomination criteria for the admission of corresponding and honorary members will be established.

Website Committee

At the time being a new design for our website is in preparation in Edinburgh. This goes back to Angus Wallace. We must be sure that the Website Committee as well as the webmaster can have a look on the new design before opening.

The new website administrator Alasdair will continue to provide ongoing support for the SECEC website and activities and to contribute to the promotion of SECEC/ESSSE's new profile. Alasdair is responsible for the Director of the Faculty of Health Informatics in Edinburgh and his primary responsibility will be to manage and support the faculty websites and to liaise with the college web development team to ensure that all work requested is done to specification. The faculty is self-funding and any revenue generated is used to cover operating costs in accordance with the college's status as a registered charity. Alice Breton, Director of the Faculty of Health Informatics, gives her assurance that the SECEC website will continue to be a high priority and ongoing support.

We have no overview of how many hits we have on our website and about the number of visitors and their behaviour. We need a list to give us a certain feedback concerning the quality of our website.

The new chairman Rolf Norlin will combine all activities and co-ordinate the flow of information between the various committees so that there will be a unified information politics on our website.

Eastern Countries Support Committee

We must systematically continue the construction work done by Jörg Jerosch and win new members and new National Delegates.

Jeno Kiss as new Chairman will find a ruling for standardized congress fees and to support the East European National Societies at congresses and workshops.

National Delegates

Until now the purpose of the National Delegates in the Board of Directors was not clearly defined. So it is not surprising that only 50% of the National Delegates were present at the last Board of Directors Meeting as well as at the other preceding congresses. In future it will be the task of the National Delegates to submit a report about national events such as natio

nal congresses or the number of new members. This also includes the information about the establishment of sub-societies, i.e. Shoulder Arthroscopy Society, or of an own Journal for Shoulder Surgery in the different European Countries.

The National Delegates may address affirmative criticism to the society in order not to loose contact with the basis.

Closed Meeting 2007 in Frankfurt

Our SECEC/ESSSE Closed meeting will take place from Friday, June 15th to Sunday June 17th, 2007 in Frankfurt-Grevenbroich.

The deadline for abstract submission is January 15th, 2007.

In the year 2007 we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our society to which we shall invite all past presidents. The founding members are kindly asked to put old photographs to Sylvie Noel's disposal for a presentation.

10th International Congress of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery - ICSS

Costa do Sauípe/Bahia is the venue of the 10th ICSS congress from September 16th to September 20th, 2007. I herewith invite you all to actively participate in this congress. You will find a fantastic holiday paradise and I am sure that Sergio Checchia and Osvandre Lech will organize a tremendous congress.

Deadline is December 31, 2006.

Further information: www.icss2007.com

The European delegates for the Board of International Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons are: Jaap Willems, Alessandro Castagna, Pascal Boileau, Jeno Kiss, Rolf Norlin and I myself. The delegates choose the next congress venue of the year 2013.

Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery

I would like to remind you to the last Presidential Letter of Gilles Walch who has asked all European reviewers to support the European Editorial Board with Roger Emery, Frank Gohlke and Pierre Mansat. Please review the manuscripts in due time.

The employment of a secretary for Roger Emery makes the process much easier.

The JSES is the official organ of the European Society SECEC/ESSSE and I kindly ask our members to give preference to publishing articles in this journal as well as reviewing and editorial work.

Shoulder Arthroscopy and SECEC

Two thirds of shoulder surgery can be performed arthroscopically. The tremendous increase of shoulder surgical interventions in Europe is not least because of the success of arthroscopy. Nevertheless the lectures concerning shoulder prosthesis became predominant in the last years which is in accordance with the complexity of the interventions. This unequal allocation of topics to the disadvantage of arthroscopy is the cause that younger colleagues who attended specifically to arthroscopy do not feel at home in the SECEC.

During my presidency I would like to keep a balance between arthroscopy and open surgery by means of parallel sessions emphasizing the important role of arthroscopy.

I stay at your disposal at any time for ideas and questions and am looking forward to maintain a successful co-operation.

Best regards



Peter Habermeyer



**The three
SECEC
Presidents:
Peter Habermeyer
(2006-2008),
Gilles Walch
(2003-2006),
Herbert Resch
(2000-2003)**