



Saint Genis Laval,
May 14., 2007

Presidential Letter SECEC

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

Let me start this letter with really pleasant news.

At this year's annual meeting of the "American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons" and the "Orthopaedic Research Society" in San Diego, *Christian Gerber* was honored for his pioneering work in shoulder surgery up to 2005. He is the first European to receive the Kappa Delta / OREF Clinical Research Award regarded as perhaps the most prestigious award in orthopaedic surgery, comparable to the Nobel prize.

And the "American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES)" presented the Charles S. Neer Award for the third time to Christian and his team for their top-rated scientific paper.

Congratulations on behalf of all our members.

Also from a further event can proudly be reported. *Daniel Molé* and his team have organized a *shoulder arthroscopy course in Val d'Isère*, the 6th in series, with more than 300 participants and they all were enthusiastic about the load of insider informations and ideas. This was a training course of highest standards.

Following the Val d'Isère course the Executive Committee of SECEC gathered for an unscheduled meeting in order to progress the development and improvements of our society.

We agreed upon some important changes for the *congress in Bruges 2008*. The congress will not end on Saturday in the afternoon, but will be proceeded with two sessions on "Tips and Tricks in arthroscopic Surgery" and "New Techniques and Developments in Shoulder Surgery". New techniques especially in the field of arthroscopic surgery will be included in the program. The congress gains more relevance to the present situation because early or preliminary results can be published. For the first time we shall present electronic posters. The instructional courses will be subdivided into three levels: beginners, advanced and experts, in order to cover everybody's need of knowledge.

With endeavours for more efficiency the Executive Committee decided to split up the initial work of the *R&D Committee*. In the future the R&D Committee can attend to its central task and can define the scientific focus for our society. In the meantime a brain storming meeting of the R&D Committee took place in which the redefinition of the tasks of the R&D was discussed and on occasion of our Closed Meeting Ralph Hertel will present his plans.

In the future the R&D Committee is released from the abstract selection, this work will be given to a *Program Committee*. In accordance with our bylaws we founded in unison an ad-hoc program committee chaired by Jaap Willems. Further members of this ad-hoc committee are Geert Declercq as next year's congress president, I myself as president of the society as well as U. Lillkrona, R. Nyffeler, P. H. Flurin and M. Rickert. This Program Committee will perform the entire abstract review process, the abstract selection and the abstract handling as well as the preparing of the abstract book for the congress in Bruges. We shall suggest to the General Assembly to change the bylaws and, like in other similar societies, to appoint an own Program Committee. Since the quality of the accepted papers is of great importance for the success of a congress I am absolutely convinced that the General Assembly supports our proposal.

Pascal Boileau, chairman of the Membership Committee, presented another suggestion and idea. By means of a new electronic application form the application should be easier, it should not arise much "bumf". He wants to open the society for younger interested colleagues and pleads for a *Junior Membership*. The criteria for an admission should be simplified.

Concerning the *Associate Members* Pascal Boileau pleads for a voting right for Associate Members to avoid different classes within our society. In the annual fees of EUR 99 the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery should be included for Associate Members.

Another form of a membership could be an *Affiliated Membership* for those persons who are occupied with shoulder and elbow surgery in a broader sense, such as physiotherapists, rheumatologists etc.

The new committees effect that more members are involved in the work of our society.

These proposals will be discussed in Frankfurt within the General Assembly and in September we shall have an electronic voting.

In the near future, SECEC will be represented in the *Eastern European Countries* in a much better way. Jenő Kiss develops an enormous activity and supports congresses and instructional courses. Next year Nikola Cacak organizes in Croatia a certainly successful instructional course which will be supported by our society to a high degree.

Tremendous work causes our website. Because of various reasons we did not succeed until now to implement a new webdesign and especially to update and to clearly arrange the content. This should be, at the time being, the main task not only for the *Website Committee*, but also for each member of the Executive Committee.

Some trouble and problem gives us, to be frank, the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*. The problems however are so to speak home-made, because some of our own reviewers are not aware of their important work and they slow down the review process. More discipline could be helpful.

In the meantime our three editors Roger Emery, Frank Gohlke and Pierre Mansat had a meeting in Toulouse and they took steps for an improvement. Robert Neviasser wrote a letter informing us that he wants to reduce the very long backlog by tightening up the electronic review process and accepting only short papers. As soon as a paper is accepted it is already electronically published.

Let me give you a short report about our negotiations with *EFORT* concerning our participation in the Specialty Day. Under certain conditions SECEC is prepared to participate and, comparable to the open meeting of ASES, to organize one day with free and invited papers. We are going to have a meeting in Florence on occasion of the EFORT congress. We shall discuss again the requirements of SECEC and present the results during our Closed Meeting in Frankfurt.

A propos *Frankfurt*: You all received the invitation to participate in our *Closed Meeting*. Please find enclosed the agenda for the General Assembly.

The *General Assembly* starts for all members and associate members on Friday, June 15, 2007 at 4.30 p.m. We count on a great number of participants, but in case you should not be able to attend please send a proxy to Sylvie Noel.

The Meeting coincides with the 20th anniversary of our society which was founded in the year 1997 by Didier Patte and Norbert Gschwend in Paris. This 20th anniversary will be celebrated in an appropriate manner.

We have selected 27 papers for the scientific session on Saturday and Sunday mornings and there will be a large opening for discussion.

In this meeting we will present for the first time a *How to Video Session* covering arthroscopic techniques on elbow and shoulder joint.

On Saturday afternoon we have organized pleasant entertaining programs such as a *cart race* at the Heinz-Harald Frentzen cart center as well as a nine hole *golf course* at the Golfclub Lindenhof.

Following these activities we will gather for a *Gala dinner* in a festive ambience with music. Accompanying ladies are welcome.

I am looking forward to welcoming you in Frankfurt, and for those who are unable to attend I wish you a pleasant summer.

I remain
Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Habermeyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Habermeyer
President