



Presidential letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the hottest European summer on record, and looking forward to early autumn on Lake Geneva. The 28th Congress will be, as usual, a scientific meeting of the highest quality, and a wonderful opportunity for communication. A return to Switzerland, the home of so many of our contributors and in particular our co-founder Norbert Gschwend, is always a pleasure; and the venue of Geneva is an ideal location as it is a cradle of so many NGOs and an exemplar of what Europe can achieve through active co-operation.



Our major theme will be health economics with a focus on how we deliver treatment to our patients, and on how we ensure effectiveness with respect to both outcomes and healthcare costs. We need to evaluate how our scientific output changes our clinical practice. Once again we have included technology not only for current procedures but also to understand what is available and how it could potentially change our discipline.

Carefully chosen instructional courses and literature analysis are the bedrock of our congress. This will be supplemented by symposia and communication through full a wide range of communications whether oral, e-poster or video presentations.

This structure also provides the building blocks of continued medical education and advanced sub-specialty training, which inevitably forms part of our Curriculum which eventually leads to future certification. These contributions by our members, and our webinars deserve a better platform than is currently available on our website. The EXCOM is committed to the introduction of a new website which better matches our needs and those of the future. The preferred options are being actively discussed and the importance of making the right decision is fully understood.

The educational material being promoted, and the requirements and choice of formats vary from country to country. Our decision as to which form this should take needs to be thoroughly debated and we are fortunate to have an active group of national delegates – I personally look forward to debating this topic in the forthcoming Board of Directors meeting.

Our society's commitment to education is underlined by our relationship with EFORT. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and enjoy a good symbiotic relationship with shared goals and ambitions. It is an important platform for attracting young surgeons to our sub-specialty, and an efficient platform for providing CME for the generalists. SECEC views

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on the methods of ensuring high standards for our patients have been well received, and our position of leadership in this field needs to be maintained.

Our congresses and membership numbers continue to grow and this is reflected in the level of worldwide interest and expansion in the breadth of our membership: It is important that we use our different categories of membership to our best advantage and consider that membership should be dynamic, reflecting the inevitable evolution of our careers. The young forum and junior membership should be a stepping-stone to long-term commitment to our society whether it be as an ordinary or associate member. The two membership designations remain, but we have actively made the society more inclusive by reducing the barriers to entry to the Society. Our individual professional activities change do over the course of a career and the current two tier system needs to adapt, without the need for senior professionals to undergo time-consuming application processes and the potential for rejection. The peer review process is the key to the success of our Journal, and should involve all of our members. The traditional printed version is well established and universally supported, however we wish to support the open access movement and see enormous opportunities for the online edition. It has been agreed that regular commitment to providing a modest number reviews over a contained time period is sufficient to generate an invitation to become an ordinary member.

We have categories of membership that are under-represented, most notably the Affiliate category. The potential for broadening our practice and our understanding could be hugely enhanced, and I welcome the new physiotherapists and engineers as members . I would like to see this extended to basic scientists, healthcare economists, rheumatologists, practitioners in sports medicine and primary care physicians.

As always our congresses are characterized by professional friendship and generosity. Delivering high quality science requires the well-established structure and a degree of formality at our meetings. However, in Geneva we have veered away from the traditional gala dinner and introduced an event in a spectacular venue. The event will be totally inclusive and give us the opportunity to celebrate SECEC and its Congress with all the contributors, be they clinicians, conference organisers or industry partners. In this spirit I encourage you come along and “party” together

I look forward seeing you in Geneva !

Roger Emery
President, SECEC