

## Editorial

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When in the early eighties I moved from general orthopaedics towards spine surgery, two individuals had already started writing their names in golden letters in the big book of spine. Indeed, when I returned to Europe after a spine fellowship in Australia, I encountered both of them wherever I attended a spine related activity.

Michel Benoist, a rheumatologist from Paris, had taken an interest in matters related to the spine such as whiplash associated disorders and the natural evolution of lumbar disc hernia. Over the years he has actively participated in numerous courses, seminars and congresses. He held the highest office in several scientific organisations such as the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine.

Robert Mulholland, an orthopaedic spine surgeon, soon became one of the most sought-after teachers in the field of spine surgery. He also quickly embraced research and he has been an inspiration for generations of spine fellows. Three years after Michel Benoist, it was Robert Mulholland's turn to preside over the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine.

The combined experience and knowledge of these two eminent members of the spinal community led the board of editors of the European Spine Journal to introduce the Yearly Michel Benoist and Robert Mulholland annual review of published articles. For many years they attentively read all the papers published in our journal, dividing them up according to their respective expertise and produced a fascinating and critical 'readers' digest' to the benefit of us all.

As both are now retired from clinical practice, this will be the last edition of this most pertinent column. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michel Benoist and Robert Mulholland for their hard work and wish them in name of the whole editorial board and the whole readership of the European Spine Journal a happy, healthy and deserved retirement!

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