

FOCUS

ArgoSpine General **Secretary Message**

—Professor Pierre Kehr
ArgoSpine Founding General Secretary

How time flies! In 2013, the ArgoSpine association will hold its 17th annual international symposium. So much ground has been covered since our first meetings. Although from the start our collective experience has been marked by the desire to share knowledge in spine surgery and interact with an international audience by inviting the leading experts on selected topics every year.

Since 2006, a leading and distinguished figure is elected as President of the Congress, with whom the Board of Directors cooperates in the development of the scientific programme and the selection of speakers. Succeeding to Robert MELCHER (2006), Jean Pierre ELSIG (2007), Stefano BORIANI (2008), Jean-Paul STEIB (2009), Denis KAECH (2010), Kazuhiro HASEGAWA (2011) and Carlos VILLAS (2012), the President of the 2013 congress will be Samo FOKTER. We would like to thank him for the tremendous work and dedication he has put into the success of this event over the year 2012.

The question Samo chose to raise is whether Biomaterials, Hardware, Investigation Methods are Additional Keypoints for Success. Cervical and lumbar dynamic fixations, as well as hardware infections will be addressed in four successive symposia on the first day. Moreover, two round-tables will explore the controversies surrounding lumbar dynamic fixation and interspinous devices. On the second day, there will be two symposia,

one on bone substitutes and the other on stem cells, then again, two round-tables, the first dealing with the controversies on intraoperative imaging and the last one addressing intraoperative neuromonitoring. The programme will also be enriched with clinical cases.

In addition, ArgoSpine News and Journal will see a great change in 2013 because it will merge with the European Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (EJOST), creating two bi-annual supplements to EJOST. The first supplement to EJOST will be published around mid-year, and will include scientific articles about spinal issues, which will be submitted and reviewed directly online via Editorial Manager. ArgoSpine News and Journal will further benefit from this union once EJOST is accepted for Medline indexing. The second supplement will be the ArgoSpine Scientific Book focusing on the congress programme and the abstracts, also featuring interviews and biographies. It will be available during the congress as well as circulated to all EJOST and ArgoSpine subscribers.

As the years before, you will find in this scientific book 2013 the abstracts of the lectures and oral presentations, with illustrations provided for most of them. Its clear and concise layout will enable the readers to keep it to hand after the congress is over.

Enjoy the ArgoSpine congress and my best wishes for the year 2013! ●