

Editorial

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After 24 successful and colourful initial volumes, ArgoSpine News and Journal has moved even more seriously towards maturity, science, and recognition. Indeed, it is published from now onwards as an official supplement to Springer's European Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (EJOST) and is also indexed in the National Library of Medicine, which opens the way for MEDLINE. This, dear readers, is an important step forward in the life of any medical journal and a time to celebrate.

Therefore, ArgoSpine Society has chosen the topic for this first issue of ASN&J supplement to EJOST with special care. After much thought, we decided to focus on those who are small, invisible, and everywhere: microbes. Because they lay down the law. And because spinal infections are the nightmare of every practising spine surgeon.

Living cells in our bodies are outnumbered ten to one by bacteria. For the most part, the microbes inhabiting our bodies are either beneficial ones or unobtrusive freeloaders. However, some innocuous full-time residents might turn our organs into diseased ones as shown by the well-known story of *Helicobacter pylori* provoking gastric ulcers. A recent paper on *Propriionibacterium acnes* published by Albert et al. [1] in European Spine Journal pointed to their possible similar role in lumbar disc degeneration.

This issue opens with the important topic of infection prevention. Written by Ferry et al. [2], a regular author on the subject, infectious disease specialist, and founder of the Lyon Bone and Joint Infection Study Group, all aspects of infection prevention in spinal surgery are covered in an overview style with respected and updated book references.

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Furthermore, special emphasis is placed on spinal infections with hardware by Gorišek Miksić [3], an infectious disease specialist with a special interest in musculoskeletal infections. The importance of multidisciplinary teamwork in the follow-up of patients with postoperative infections of the spine is underlined by Barrey et al. [4], a dedicated neurosurgeon and active member of the Lyon Bone and Joint Infection Study Group. Finally, Bas et al. [5], an orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in spinal deformity, describes the management of chronic infections.

Traditionally, the aim of ASN&J was to be practice-focused for the benefit of busy spine surgeons and of our patients. I strongly believe that you will find a lot of useful scientific and practical information also in this very first ASN&J supplement to EJOST and that the spirit of ASN&J will be continued in the present form as well.

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