— Prof. Carlos Villas

Final comments of the Symposium President on ArgoSpine 2012

When Christian Mazel, on behalf of the ArgoSpine Board, invited me to preside the ArgoSpine Symposium 2012, as a joke, I asked him “Should I be a flower pot man?” He said: “No, you must work hard.”

Right then, I knew for sure that I had to work with alacrity on the tasks assigned to me by Christian: to bring ideas forward for a topic worth being investigated in the Symposium, to help develop the programme and also to identify the ideal speakers. While bringing ideas and helping, I soon realized that my efforts would be supported by the ArgoSpine Board, an excellent group of workers in the Argospine style.

Junctional areas and related issues are seldom the focus of scientific meetings. They are frequently touched upon in brief round-tables as a sub-topic within the main subject matter or in case presentations. This time, disorders in the junctional regions of the spine were addressed in depth, as a whole, without overlooking any aspect, and serving as an excellent update on the possible problems we may encounter in our practice.

At the time of my welcome words to the attendees to the ArgoSpine 2012 congress, I was very happy and I said “Thanks a lot for coming... this Symposium was possible thanks to its participants”. I was right.

I am grateful to all the attendees for their enthusiastic participation in discussions thus creating the rich interaction that ArgoSpine has always enjoyed and encouraged.

At first glance, the selected topic may have seemed too specialized, but all together we thought that there would be enough reasons for it to arouse the interest and curiosity of many potential participants.

The invited speakers and selected presentations, coming from 24 different countries, actively contributed to the smooth running of the programme, which finally had no major flaws or imbalances. Participants appreciated the presentations, cases, round-tables and discussions. What is more, Christian consented to allow the discussion of a specific case (a triple level – double junction – OPPL with ossification of the ligamentum flavum and dura mater) to continue beyond the allotted time because the audience was enjoying this discussion... our objectives were achieved!

Once again, this time at the Maison des Arts et Métiers, the 2012 annual ArgoSpine Symposium proved very inspiring and of a high educational value, notably through this valuable collaborative relationship with all the participants.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to these attendees whose enthusiasm and loyalty are the reasons behind the annual Argospine Symposium.

If I was in a competition, I would be happy with the results. Although I do not feel as though I have won anything. I feel proud of having been part of the organizing committee – an excellent group of friends – always supervised by the ArgoSpine Board.

The Board members approved the result of the Symposium 2012, but they have no time, they are already working with Samo Fokter preparing an absolutely excellent Symposium 2013, a great one. God granted me an opportunity of participating! I have already booked the date in my diary.

I also appreciated the effort made by the speakers in meeting the high standards of the audience. Some of them made a one-day return trip from their country...

Thank you very much, dear friends.

Finally, I wish to express my warmest gratitude to ArgoSpine for giving me a chance to feel a part of its excellent team. See you in 2013! ●

Prof. Carlos Villas