

Editors: Claes Olerud  
Kathleen Domingo

Cervical Spine Research Society  
(European Section)

#### Officers and Committee Chairs

**President :** Claes Olerud  
**President Elect :** Jose Casamitjana  
**Past President :** Jan Goffin  
**Secretary :** Philippe Bancel  
**Treasurer :** Andre Jackowski

#### Program committee :

Bernard Jeanneret (chairman)  
Bengt Lind  
Carlos Villas  
Ronald Bartels

#### Research and education committee :

Jose Casamitjana (chairman)  
Claes Olerud  
Vincent Pointillart  
Robert Melcher  
Carlo Logroscino

#### By-law Committee:

Andre Jackowski  
Philippe Bancel  
Claes Olerud

#### Webmaster : Robert Melcher

#### Boni Award liaison Officer :

Carlo Logroscino  
Dieter Grob

#### Nomination Officer

Dimitrios Korres

#### How to become a member of the CSRS-ES ?

#### Membership Criteria

1. Demonstrated interest in the cervical spine
2. Advanced degree for non clinical specialists or Board Certification for clinical specialists
3. Sponsor and two letters of recommendation, all of which must be from members of the CSRS-ES (three letters total)
4. Attendance of at least one of the CSRS-ES Annual Meetings prior to consideration of your application
5. Presentation of a paper at one CSRS-ES Annual Meeting prior to consideration of your application

Send your Membership Application file together with your C.V. to:

Kathleen Domingo (Administrative secretary)  
info@csrs-es.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members,

My term in office is well over the halfway mark which is why I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the present status of our Society. I was able to attend the CSRS meeting in Austin, Texas. This meeting was, as usual, very good with high scientific quality. This time the focus was on basic science with several presentations on cellular and molecular research on disk degeneration and spinal cord injury. Of course the more traditional surgical presentations were also there, however, this time there was not so much on artificial cervical discs as we have seen at previous meetings. From the society's point of view I wish to mention a few interesting items: An Asia-Pacific section is being launched, very similar to our European section. Their first inauguration meeting will probably be held during 2009, and the first scientific meeting will probably be the year after. We wish our Asia-Pacific friends all the luck with their new society. A proposal from the US society was that all three Societies should arrange a conjoint travelling fellowship. Two or three promising young researchers from each of the three societies should travel together through one of the Societies "home lands" and visit the important sites there. No details were discussed, but I think we should favour this possibility. More information will come in the future.

In our own part of the world, the latest meeting was included as a part of Spine Week last June in Geneva. To be fitted into the larger context of Spine Week our meeting was only 1,5 days long, but we managed to hold it together with our own scientific and social programs. In the end, I think it came out quite nicely. From a financial point of view we still do not know the outcome yet, but judging from the number of guests and participation from the industry it may very well be as successful as the meeting in Porto four years ago. The meeting in Leuven turned out to be successful scientifically, financially and socially. Those of us who are cyclists will probably never forget the training session with Eddy Merckx and his old pro tour team. Another tradition we have started up are Instructional courses in Barcelona with hands on cadaver sessions. The first course was held in March 2008, mainly with local participants, but with a very enthusiastic response. The second was held in October, this time with a more international group of participants, two all the way from USA. A third course is planned for March 2009. The invitation will be posted on our web site. I would like to take this opportunity to express the society's sincere gratitude to José Casamitjana for his great efforts in preparing for this event.



President Claes Olerud and President Elect José Casamitjana enjoying a bike trip in Leuven

As many of you may already have noticed we have a new web site, <http://www.csrs-es.org/>. Robert Melcher is the webmaster. All activities of the society will be posted there, including links to future meetings, and submission of abstracts. We plan to have a "members only" section behind a firewall where minutes of meetings and other internal material can be presented. More information will follow.

I can also inform you of our new administrative secretary Mrs. Kathleen Domingo. Mrs Domingo originates from the US, but has been living many years in Barcelona, Spain. She was involved in the CSRS meeting in Barcelona in June 2003. The location is very convenient as José Casamitjana will become President of our society in June 2009, and the instructional Courses are held there.

The preparations for the meeting in Uppsala are well on their way and I would like to invite you all to come. The website is now open for registration, hotel booking, and submission of abstracts: [www.csrs-uppsala2009.se](http://www.csrs-uppsala2009.se). The deadline for abstracts was 16 January 2009. This meeting will be held June 11 through 13, 2009 at the brand new Uppsala Concert and Congress building that was opened last fall. It will be a traditional meeting with 40 oral presentations, guest lectures, round table discussions, poster session and industrial exhibits and workshops. The topic for the meeting is Inflammatory Spine Disease, but other presentations are of course, also welcome.

I hope to see you all in Uppsala!

Claes Olerud  
President

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

During the Executive Committee Meetings of 2006, there were various discussions of the need to direct CSRS activities towards education. It is well known by all of us that it is not possible to obtain fresh cadavers for training and practice of surgical techniques in many parts of Europe. For this reason, the idea to create courses that involved more practical training than theory appealed to us as a new challenge for our society. At the end of 2007, an opportunity arose to organize in Barcelona a "Hands On Cadaver" instructional course in collaboration with and facilitated by the University of Barcelona. The purpose of this new educational activity stage of the society is to increase our influence in the world of spinal surgery by assisting the training of young surgeons not only in the strictly technical and surgical fields but also in pathologic and therapeutic aspects.

The availability of six cadavers necessitates a limit of 24 participants as more than 4 students per cadaver inhibits the practical nature of the course. In addition, theoretical classes are given by expert surgeons, all CSRS members. These CSRS officials have all participated in the courses voluntarily, exhibiting great enthusiasm and with no regard to personal interest or gain.

The collaboration of companies involved in the industry has been very important in helping young surgeons to become familiar with the use of instruments and implants currently found in the market and indispensable for their future knowledge. Our society has offered an open invitation to all industries interested in cooperating with these practical courses. Up to this date we have worked with DePuy Spine, Metronic, Abbott, Cimer, Aesculop, Vortrom, Acuña and Font Bona. They have assisted by providing material, teams of personnel, and in some cases they have sponsored the participation of surgeons.

Currently, we have organized and held two courses, one in March 2008 and one in October 2008. The Society's goal is to offer two courses annually. In 2009, there is a "Hands On Cadaver" course scheduled for March and also one in October. These dates have been arranged according to the needs of the university's educational activities. We will be able to continue offering these courses as long as we maintain the indispensable cooperation of the University of Barcelona.



*Dr. Casamitjana demonstrating new techniques to last course participants*

With the distribution of evaluation forms to the course participants, we have been able to receive feedback. Scores from the forms show an average of "notable" to "excellent" in both courses. We have also taken into consideration the suggestions given to improve the quality of the courses.

The economic all expense fee of 600 € includes 2 nights in a hotel, the course dinner, work meals and transport. This fee is intended for beginning young surgeons as an attractive, low cost opportunity in the first years of their difficult career.

The Executive Committee, presided by Claes Olerud, has decided unanimously to maintain the high level of quality offered in the courses and also has other plans in the same educational theme to improve the professional level of spinal surgeons although this proposal requires a great effort from all of us.

The dates for the next "Hands On Cadaver" course are March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 and October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 (yet to be confirmed).

Jose Casamitjana  
President Elect



*Faculty and participants at the First Hands On Cadaver Course*



## OFFICER MEETING OF THE CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY (EUROPEAN SECTION) AT THE OCCASION OF THE 23RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, LEUVEN, MAY 30TH 2007

### Leuven faculty club, from 12 to 15h

Present: Eva Maria Bucholz, Bernard Jeanneret, Jan Goffin, Chris Ulrich, Jose Casamitjana, Ronald Bartel, Bengt Lind, Philippe Bancel, Claes Olerud, Dieter Grob, Vincent Pointillart, and Robert Melcher.

Excused: Dimitrios Korres for medical reason, Andre Jackowski, Carlos Villas, Pierre Kher, Christian Mazel, and Carlo Logroscino.

- Call to order
- President report: The president thanks all present and comments on the general organization of the congress, commenting on the support of the companies: two major companies have been the principal support of this congress (Medtronic and Depuy: they are named gold support, others that are well known (Stryker, Eusculap, Howmedica ...) participated slightly (only 10 companies came for the event compared to 19 at Berlin). This is due to competition between the different congresses.
- Minutes for the last EC meeting in Berlin: The success of the meeting was already presented at Paris.
- Matters arising: Nothing to report.
- Secretary report: 3 problems are presented:
  - a) A new collaborator, Nathalie Richard, will replace Marjorie Sale as administrative secretary.
  - b) Due to the board extension with new members, and the modification of executive committees, the executive officers meeting in the middle of the year will be held with a limited group: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairmen of the different committees and the President elect.
  - c) This board has all the power, but each decision needs to be approved by the whole board at each annual congress, and then at the general assembly.
  - d) Concerning the Executive meeting it has been decided that according to more involvement of the society it is necessary to increase the number of meetings: three rather than two, this obliges the organization of the instructional course during the autumn, the Paris meeting is maintained, and the congress meeting. Unfortunately next year Dr Casamitjana cannot organize his meeting in October or December so the decision is to have the Board Meeting during the Barcelona course at the end of February and the beginning of March.
- Secretary report election: Different decisions taken in Paris are confirmed at Leuven:
  - a) Jan Goffin, president, becomes at the end of the general assembly past president for 2 years (2009)
  - b) Claes Olerud becomes President for 2 years.
  - c) Dimitrios Korres becomes Nomination Officer for 2 years.
  - d) Philippe Bancel remains as Secretary for 2 years.
  - e) It has been decided at Paris that Andre Jackowski remains as Treasurer.
  - f) The Program Committee is confirmed with Bernard Jeanneret as Chairman until 2009, Bengt Lind until 2008, Carlos Villas until 2009, and Ronald Bartels until 2009.
  - g) The Research and Education Committee: Jose Casamitjana as Chairman until 2009, Vincent Pointillart until 2009, Robert Melcher until 2009, and Carlo Logroscino until 2009.
  - h) The Membership Committee is organized by Philippe Bancel
  - i) The Bylaw Committee consists of the Secretary, the President and the Treasurer.
  - j) The Web Master will be Robert Melcher who will organize the website as he decided at Barcelona. Eva Maria Bucholz will resign from the executive committee due to personal reasons.
  - k) Boni award liaison officer: Dieter Grob has accepted to rejoin the board but he asked for the assistance of Carlo Logroscino who speaks Italian and knows Mrs Boni, Dr Logroscino accepts to collaborate.
  - l) A new Committee is created: Congress Committee which will be in charge of organizing the annual congress as advisor for the local host. This committee will consist of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary.



*Past, present and future Presidents of the European and American Societies; Claes Olerud, Todd Albert, Jan Goffin, and Tom Zdeblick, biking in Leuven*

- m) Dr Jose Casamitjana is elected President Elect for 2 years, to become President at the Uppsala meeting in 2009
- Treasurer report: Andre Jackowski did not attend the meeting nor the executive meeting board, so he sent a balance report by mail.
  - It has been decided in Paris to change the operating mode of organizing an annual congress. The society guarantees the financial situation of each annual meeting but the members of the program committee become scientific co-organizers with the local host.
  - Membership committee report: It has been decided to increase the number of CSRS-ES members in order to try to be as large as the mother society. Dieter Grob advocates remaining a small society but active and with a good level. An application form will be provided through the website.
  - Accepted as new members:
    - a) R. Assaker from France
    - b) H Pascal-Mousselard from France
    - c) Assieti from Italy
    - d) Petr Suchomel from Czech Republic
    - e) Andrés Combalia from Spain
    - f) Zileli Mehmet from Turkey
    - g) Lebib Hamadi as correspondent member from Tunis.
  - Future annual meetings:
    - a) Leuven: Everything seems to go well.
    - b) Geneva: The congress will be included in spine week with other societies (such as the ESS, Brazilian Society ...) the CSRS-ES will open the week. The members are invited to arrive on Sunday May the 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be grouped all in the same hotel. The congress will start on Monday morning at 07 .45. This year the main topic remains Occipito-cervical junction.
    - c) It is noticed by Dr Jeanneret that until now he has not received any news from the treasurer about the concerns he asked few weeks ago.
    - d) Uppsala: The main topic will be cervical inflammatory diseases: rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. As previously decided an Instructional Course is organized every 2 or 3 years: Uppsala will then organize this course at the end or at the beginning of the annual meeting.
    - e) Greece, Korfu: We have some concern about health problem of Dimitrios. We wish him a speedy recovery. If he has to cancel he asks if Vincent Pointillart's proposal for Bordeaux can replace the Korfu meeting.

- a) Turkey Istanbul: It is recalled that the local organizer who is not a member of the Executive Committee will be obliged to take part at the meeting the 2 years before it's congress.
- b) Netherlands, Ronald Bartels: the selection of the city is not yet decided due to different reasons. The decision will be taken in the near future.
- By laws committee report: As already said this committee due to British Laws has to be composed by the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- Program Committee: Due to new organization, the Program Committee is selecting the papers of the next congress, with blind abstracts, using the website finally sent to the organizer.
- Scientific, Research and Education Committee: It is now the responsibility of the annual meeting, the local host selects the hotel, the congress room, the social events, and the SREC is responsible together with the local host for the scientific program.
  - a) The budget is discussed as already exposed by the Congress committee.
  - b) It organizes the Instructional Course.
  - c) The visiting fellow (still in project)
  - d) the Multi Centric study
  - e) The Instructional Course at Barcelona: Dr Casamitjana gave us some report of the last meeting: about 25 participants attended the meeting (mostly older residents or young past residents). The result for this first course is excellent, the evaluation was between good and excellent.
- Report from the web master: Eva Maria Bucholz does not want to continue to be responsible for the web site. Robert Melcher shows us that his project is already well advanced, (inspired by the US-CSRS website, however he will stay in touch with Dr Bucholz to finalize the previous contract initiated by Eva Maria.
- Mario Boni Award liaison officer: Carlo Logroascino and Dieter Grob are now the 2 officers in charge of the Award. 5 communications and 5 posters are selected before the meeting, and then during the meeting the 2 officers and the President select the final best oral communication and poster offered at the end of the meeting.
- Miscellaneous:
  - a) Patronizing of external courses and symposiums: as in the past, proposal from other societies are coming to the Executive Committee, we reaffirm our decision not to collaborate, if individually officers want to participate it is their own responsibility
  - b) In order to make our society well known it has been decided:
    - i) A contact is recommended with an European Journal (As European Spine Journal) Dr Gunsberg will then been approached
    - ii) Through the website: all information must be included ( congress, instructional course, fellowship, research...)
    - iii) During the annual meeting information has to be provided about the future events
- We are sad to be informed that after 21 years of representation of the mother society at our Executive Meetings and at our society, Chris Ulrich wishes to end this presence and to be represented by the other members of the CSRS-US. We thank him deeply for his contributions and help during this long period and hope to see him frequently.



*The faculty dinner in Leuven when Claes Olerud had just taken over as President*



## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY (EUROPEAN SECTION) BARCELONA. MARCH 13. 2008

- Venue: Hotel Guiltart Grand Passage- Muntaner nº212, Barcelona (Phone: +(34) 93 201 03 06 )
- Timetable: 4:00 - 7.30 pm
- Present: Jose Casamitjana, Ronald Bartels, Bengt Lind, Philippe Bancel, Andre Jackowski, Claes Olerud and Robert Melcher.  
Excused: Dimitios Korres, Carlos Villas, Dieter Grob, Vincent Pointillart, Eva Maria Buchholz, Bernard Jeanneret, Jan Goffin.
- Call to order
- Minutes of the last EC meeting are approved.
- Matters arising  
Proposal of Dieter Grob for the organization of future meetings SSSL is planning to set up a private congress organizing body which could be used for the preparation of our meetings. Dieter Grob asked Claes Olerud if the CSRS-es would be interested in this offer. As the Board exposed different opinions, it is decided not to take any step yet and to wait and see how this idea is evolving.  
Implementation of smooth payment/reimbursement process by the Treasurer. Andre Jackowski explains that any payment requires to be documented. He adds that he does not need to have the originals (officers can send pdf files, for ex.). The decision is made to improve communication and share responsibility between the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.  
Proposal of Carlos Villas concerning abstracts selection. Carlos Villas suggested in a recent e-mail message to have one main topic changing every year. Board members have reservations: good abstracts are rare; submitting an abstract within the chosen subject does not say anything about its quality; there is also the problem of the multicentric randomised studies supported by companies versus an individual author. The process would be as follows: the Board suggests a topic. There are 2 different selection processes: one for the abstracts submitted within the main topic and one for the other abstracts. The distribution should be: 25 to 30% for the main topic and the rest for "open" submissions. The latter can be divided between sub-topics. In the next step, we have the ranking of the abstracts and the meeting of the scoring committee with unblinded abstracts.
- President report  
The American CSRS would like to have the Board members of the European section attend their Board meeting. Only the President is invited. The Treasurer and the Secretary can afford to go only once a year. An e-mail will be sent asking if the latter are also invited.
- Secretary report  
Replacement of Marjorie Salé.  
Nathalie Richard has taken over: contract, payment for services, future.  
Annual meetings: frequency, location, cancellation of the meeting in Paris. All Board members agree on meeting more frequently. Jose Casamitjana agrees to organize two instructional courses: two Board meetings will be held in Barcelona (one in March and the other one in October), another Board meeting in June on the occasion of the annual meeting and a 4th one, ideally in January.  
Is a Senior Course planned in Barcelona in autumn?. Please refer to the above section. A date will be set shortly.
- Treasurer report  
A. Jackowski presents the income and expenditure of the Barcelona course in 2007. He adds that all the delegates got sponsorships. In regard to memberships, the account is not finalized due to pending fees. The Treasurer asks the administrative secretary to update the e-mail addresses of the members. The annual accounts are balanced and we have a small credit balance.  
Financial guarantee insurance for congresses, accounts of the next congress. To avoid problems, the Secretary suggests to create a committee supervising and discussing the expenses for future congresses. This committee should be composed of the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the local host.
- Nomination Officer report  
Pierre Kehr and Christian Mazel resigned. What about Eva-Maria Buchholz and Bengt Lind? Eva-Maria Buchholz is not present and therefore nobody can tell what decision she has made about resigning. Bengt Lind says he would like to stay for two more years in the Program Committee (which is approved by the Board). The decision was made in Paris (January 2007) and confirmed in Leuven (May 2007) to change the Board organization chart. As a consequence, the committees have also been changed and it has been decided that the terms should start from January 2007 for a two-year period. We must encourage stability in the society and avoid any Board member's resignation in 2009.

- Membership Committee report  
Nomination of new members: The applications of Professor Andrés Combalia and Jesus Lafuente are both accepted. Mr. Lofgren had applied when Marjorie Salé was still working for the CSRS but he never knew if his application had been approved. Senior membership will be offered to Pierre Kehr.
- Future annual meetings  
Report on Leuven by Jan Goffin (financial report, attendance...)  
In the absence of Jan Goffin: nothing to report.
  - 2008: Geneva, Switzerland, Bernard Jeanneret (SpineWeek)
  - 2009: Uppsala, Sweden, Claes Olerud. The topic is confirmed: "Inflammatory spine diseases. President says that everything is under control for the Uppsala congress.
  - 2010: Greece, Korfu, 2nd week in June, Dimitrios Korres. Dimitrios Korres is not present. Nothing to report.
  - 2011: Turkey, Istanbul, Sait Naderi. We would like him to attend the Board meeting in Geneva.
  - 2012: Netherlands, Ronald Bartels. Ronald Bartels points out that the meeting in the Netherlands will be held at the same time as SpineWeek.
- Trustees and By-laws Committee report  
The Trustees are responsible for reporting to the Charity commission: nothing to report. We are expanding our educational efforts which the commission will appreciate.
- Scientific, Research, Education, and Program Committee report  
Payment process for registration and general organisation of the Instructional Course. There is a need to improve the process with advance information and announcement on the website. At the time of the writing of these minutes, we can report that the instructional course has been a great success. For the next edition (in Autumn), lecturers must know at least one month in advance about their topic and the time allowed for their presentation.
- Report from the Web Master  
Robert Melcher is currently implementing a restricted area on the website aimed at sharing information among Board members (replacing e-mail correspondence). Overall, the web master is satisfied with the evolution of the website.
- Report from Mario Boni Award Liaison Officer  
Problem of late payment. There has been a delay because the Treasurer did not receive the money from the Boni Foundation. Communication has been difficult since Pierre Kehr, the Liaison Officer resigned.
- Miscellaneous: none.
- Adjournment



Faculty at the course, from left to right: Ronald Bartels, Bengt Lind, Andre Jackowski, Jose Casamitjana, Carlo Logroscino, Andre Combalia, Robert Melcher, Philippe Bancel, Claes Olerud.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY (EUROPEAN SECTION) GENEVA, MAY 26, 2008

- Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel - Geneva
- Timetable: 12:00 - 1.00 pm

- Secretary report (by Andre Jackowski).  
Barcelona instructional course. There are now two instructional courses given in Barcelona: one in March and the other on October 24th and 25th. The course is working very well.  
Change in the terms of the officers. Regarding the issue of the replacement of all the officers next year, we have planned to extend the terms and to allow the possibility of extending or shortening the terms to ensure a smooth running of the society. We also need new blood so if anyone feels that he/she has a quality to bring to the society, he/she should let him/herself be known to Nathalie Richard, the administrative secretary.  
Wilco Peul would be interested in becoming an officer.  
Treasurer report Barcelona instructional course. The course was cost neutral in March and last year. It earns what it costs to run.

- President report
  - a) Nomination and membership: Pierre Kehr has gladly accepted to become a senior member. We have two new members: Ludek Vavpruch and Hakan Lofgren
  - b) Future annual meetings:
    - Geneva, Switzerland, Bernard Jeanneret (SpineWeek): so far, the meeting is very good.
    - Uppsala, Sweden, Claes Olerud. June 10-13th 2009. It is a very nice time of the year to be there. The location is close to the airport, which makes it unnecessary to fly to Stockholm.
    - Greece, Korfu, June 3-5th or 10-12th 2010, Dimitrios Korres. The meeting will be held in North of Greece. Korfu has an international airport connecting to all destinations worldwide. D. Korres has to make sure that no other congress is taking place at the same time.
    - Turkey, Istanbul, Sait Naderi – 2011. Sait Naderi has to come back with fixed dates.
    - The Netherlands, Ronald Bartels – 2012
    - Nothing to report. At the same time as SpineWeek. R. Bartels is involved in the SpineWeek committee.
    - Vincent Pointillart will be the local host in Bordeaux in 2013; Robert Melcher has volunteered for a meeting in 2014 in Germany, most likely in Heidelberg. This city has a university with nice facilities.

On these future possible meeting locations, we would be able to make a decision with a survey to the membership. Andre Jackowski will send an e-mail to all members about the financial situation.

Ronald Bartels says that we have to make a decision by the end of June regarding the meeting in Amsterdam. The main issue is to avoid, as a small society, the impact of our meeting to being diluted by a big event. According to Philippe Bancel, we can only benefit from being part of SpineWeek.

- Trustee and by-laws Committee report  
The society is a company limited by guarantee. We incorporated as a company registered in London on February 23rd, 2005. We became a charity on March 14th, 2006. The objects of our society are the relief of patients suffering from cervical spine conditions, spontaneously arising disease, mouth malformation and conditions affecting human cervical spine. Our aims are the advancement of education and training as well as the promotion of medical research. There are three trustees for the charity, as opposed to the company: Jan Goffin, Philippe Bancel and Andre Jackowski. They have to review risks associated with expansion and try to mitigate these risks. We can genuinely say we are a charity since we now offer cadaver courses.  
The membership of the society is increasing. We agreed during the EC meeting yesterday to reappoint the auditors "Langard Lifford Hall". This decision is approved by the GA.

- Scientific and Research Committee  
Hands-on Cadaver Course in Barcelona.  
We now have two dates annually for the cadaver course. As a charity, we have to spend money for educational purposes. The next date will be October 24th and 25th.  
The feed-back forms following the last course in March ranged between good and excellent.  
We are already working on the dates of the course in March 2009.  
If the membership knows young surgeons who would be interested, feel free to spread the information. We could also make an announcement through the societies, in addition of the website. The course will be announced with a slide at the end of the session of SpineWeek tomorrow.

Bengt Lind suggests to make flyers to be distributed all over Europe. Wilco Peul says that we could send these A4-page announcements to the secretary of the EANS who can cascade to all surgical societies. Philippe Bancel would like to make sure to have feedback on the actions taken and their actual effect.

- Program Committee report  
Bernard Jeanneret described the process of the evaluation of the abstracts for SpineWeek in Geneva: 4 people reviewed the papers. There were 20 to 30% of specific topics and a double ranking system with abstracts within the general topic.  
The president says he discussed in the meeting with the mother society the subject of the disclosure of conflict of interest. It is not mandatory yet in Europe but we will probably have to take this turn. We could store the forms in a database available during coffee breaks. They would be sent to the participants, the moderators and the program committee. The committee should also have a system to opt out from a discussion if a member has a conflict of interest on a particular subject.

- Report from the Web Master  
For SpineWeek, there was a link directly to the SpineWeek website, so it was a bit different from the usual annual meetings. If members should have any comments or suggestions to improve our website, kindly let Robert Melcher know.

- Mario Boni Award Liaison Officer  
Dieter Grob proposed to make rules for the selection of the award recipients. The 5 best papers are selected by the program committee. They are nominated and notified. Then the president and the local host look at this pre-selection. We should ask for more details in the second stage and be able to select also a good presentation. Because sometimes the paper is good but the presentation turns out to be poor. The other advantage of an advanced notification of the potential winners is that we will have a chance to tell them about our new rule: the grant goes to an institution and not to an individual anymore. All the authors should receive a diploma.

- Adjournment



KAZUHIRO HASEGAWA, MARIO BONI AWARD 2008

Kazuhiro Hasegawa and his co-authors Takao Homma, Haruka Shimoda, and Ko Tokano were the recipients of the 2008 Mario Boni Award for their abstract "C5 Palsy as a Partial Symptom of a Transient Spinal Cord Lesion". Dr. Hasegawa comments:

*Postoperative upper extremity palsy, so-called C5 palsy, is one of critical complications after cervical decompression surgery. The etiology is yet to be clarified. Most of previous papers on this subject demonstrated preconceived ideas that an etiology of the lesion is due to the nerve root impediment through studies with single procedure, mostly laminoplasty, and with limited numbers of patients. In CSRS-E 2008 (SPINE WEEK in Genève), we presented the first paper with a large patient population with cervical compressive myelopathy including anterior and posterior procedures, and concluded that an etiology of the palsy could attribute to a transient spinal cord lesion rather than nerve root lesion. We strongly recommend that physicians should inform patients the potential risk of a spinal cord deficit following cervical decompression surgery. The authors appreciate a fair evaluation on our paper by the Scientific Committees. vivina us "Mario Boni Award".*

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY (EUROPEAN SECTION), GENEVA, MAY 25, 2008

- Venue: Restaurant du "Parc des Eaux Vives" – Geneva
- Timetable: 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- **Call to order**  
Present: Jose Casamitjana, Ronald Bartels, Bengt Lind, Philippe Bancel, Andre Jackowski, Claes Olerud, Robert Melcher, Dimitrios Korres, Carlos Villas, Dieter Grob, Vincent Pointillart, Eva Maria Bucholz, Bernard Jeanneret, Jan Goffin, Carlo Logroscino and Sait Naderi.
- The minutes of the last EC meeting are approved.
- **Matters arising**  
Dieter Grob explained his proposal for the organization of future meetings. We could create our own congress organizing company. The advantage is that if the company makes a profit, the dividends will be distributed to the shareholders. At the same time, we would have an individual account for each meeting.  
We are not in a position to make a decision on this now but we are interested in hearing more about how things progress.
- **President report**  
Claes Olerud confirms the need for a Business Class fare to go to the Board meetings of the mother society in the US. This allows to foster close collaboration between our societies and provides an opportunity to meet up with our American colleagues.
- **Secretary report**  
Report on Barcelona and organization of the next instructional course.  
We have raised the issue of the financial responsibility of the local host. In the future, we have decided that since the society is getting bigger and that the risk will get bigger as well, we will have a committee (president, secretary and treasurer) having a closer look on the financial costs. The local host will also have to let the committee look over proposed contracts before signing them. It is necessary for this committee to have at least a monthly conference call.  
Renewal of Bengt Lind's term; the issue of short terms; update on the changes until 2009; board eligibility for a non-member.  
Regarding the issue of the replacement of all the officers next year, we have planned to extend the terms and to allow the possibility of extending or shortening the terms to ensure a smooth running of the society. This decision is approved.
- **Treasurer report**  
The accounts are approved.  
We decide to reappoint the auditors, "Langard Lifford Hall", as they do a very good job.
- **Nomination Officer report**  
Pierre Kehr has gladly accepted our offer for Senior membership.
- **Membership Committee report**  
Applications submitted by Ludek Vavruch and Hakan Lofgren.  
They both have the right profile. We accept their membership. The decision will be announced during the GA meeting.
- **Future annual meetings**  
The president proposes to reimburse economy air fare and accommodation for invited speakers. The treasurer says that it is not easy to give an absolute prescriptive answer on this subject. In general, the principle is that as a charity we cannot pay for spouses. Generally, we pay an economy fare but under these conditions, some lecturers would never accept to come; in which case, we would have to discuss how much we want this lecturer to come. The treasurer and the secretary will have a say and a right of veto in the amounts spent.
- a) Report on Leuven by Jan Goffin (financial report, attendance...). Half the surplus obtained after the meeting has been transferred to the CSRS society. The scientific program displayed very good quality. There were a little less than 300 participants.
- b) 2008: Geneva, Switzerland, Bernard Jeanneret (SpineWeek). Nothing to report yet. Philippe Bancel underlines that a wide range of much debated topics will always be favored by the audience
- c) 2009: Uppsala, Sweden, Claes Olerud. Financial and contractual issues are now resolved.
- d) 2010: Greece, Korfu, 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June, Dimitrios Korres. D. Korres will send a PDF file about the meeting. The scientific topic is not decided yet. It could be tumors or complications.
- e) 2011: Turkey, Istanbul, Sait Naderi. Sait Naderi made a presentation. The venue must be chosen based on provisional budget. The location of the exhibition should not be far from the meeting. The organising company approached by Sait Naderi has been doing a great amount of work. According to their budgetary breakdown, the Marmara hotel seems the best value.
- f) 2012: Netherlands, Ronald Bartels. Nothing to report. At the same time as SpineWeek.
- g) We have to think about the venue of the next meetings after Amsterdam. Vincent Pointillart offers to be the local host in Bordeaux in 2013; Robert Melcher volunteers for Heidelberg in 2014.
- **Trustee and by-laws Committee report.**  
The society is a company limited by guarantee. We incorporated as a company registered in London on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. We became a charity on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The objects of our society are the relief of patients suffering from cervical spine conditions, spontaneously arising disease, mouth malformation and conditions affecting human cervical spine. Our aims are the advancement of education and training as well as the promotion of medical research. There are three trustees for the charity, as opposed to the company: Jan Goffin, Philippe Bancel and Andre Jackowski. They have to review risks associated with expansion and try to mitigate these risks. We can genuinely say we are a charity since we now offer cadaver courses. The membership of the society is increasing.
- **Scientific, Research, Education Committee**  
Evaluation of the Hands-on Cadaver Course in March.  
The next course is scheduled on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with a similar program and the EC meeting on the day before. In March, two different companies were supplying tools but one of them was not willing to collaborate with another company. With now two courses annually, we could have one company at a time. It is also important to encourage the contribution of the companies to our educational activities (grants and fellowship, for example).  
The feed-back from delegates was very good. However, they thought we did not have enough tools. They also expected to get more practical notions, i.e. "surgical tricks". Their aim is to learn a methodology. Philippe Bancel will make sure that his next presentation will be more surgically-oriented, tackling purely technical issues. They appreciated the altruism of the instructors, even if it is not always easy for all of them to be present twice a year in Barcelona. Robert Melcher, Dimitrios Korres, Carlos Villas, Andre Jackowski, Philippe Bancel and Claes Olerud agree to come in October.  
The course will be announced with a slide at the end of the session of SpineWeek tomorrow.
- **Program Committee report**  
In our last EC meeting, we accepted the proposal of Carlos Villas for a double ranking (cf. minutes of Barcelona March 2008; 3.3) with one main topic and "open" submissions. The ranking will be with blind and unblinded abstracts at the final stage to avoid the same institution to have more than 2 papers selected  
The president says that disclosure of conflict of interest should be acknowledged by reviewers when making the decision on abstracts.
- **Report from the Web Master**  
Nothing to report.



*The officers meeting in Geneva*



- Report from the Web Master  
Nothing to report.
- Mario Boni Award Liaison Officer.  
The treasurer received the money for the Mario Boni award and the certificate.  
The 5 best papers are selected by the programme committee. They are nominated and notified. Then the president and the local host look at this pre-selection. We should ask for more details in the second stage and be able to select also a good presentation. Because sometimes the paper is good but the presentation turns out to be poor. The other advantage of a notification of the potential winners is that we will have a chance to tell them about our new rule: the grant goes to an institution and not to an individual anymore. All the authors should receive a diploma.  
Quotation from EC meeting, January 2006, Paris: "According to Claes Olerud's idea, there will be a vote committee of 3 persons. 8 posters and 5 communications will be nominated out of the abstracts. The authors of these abstracts will be informed about their nomination for the awards competition".
- Miscellaneous.  
Concerning the Mario Boni Award, we must write down clear guidelines for the short-listing process. All members of the selection committee must be present and the selection must be made ahead of time.  
Similarly, each committee must follow guidelines and report to the (restricted) Board. For example, we must have guidelines for registrations and abstracts submissions with a fixed deadline, with a copy to the administrative secretary, including for the Mario Boni Award.
- Adjournment





## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY (EUROPEAN SECTION), BARCELONA. OCTOBER 24TH, 2008

- Location: Bellvitge Hospital Laboratory
- Timetable: 17:30 to 19:00

Present at the meeting: Claes Olerud, Jose Casamitjana, Philippe Bancel, Andre Jackowski, Robert Melcher, Ronald Bartels, Carlos Villas, Demetrios Korres, Bengt Lind

- The call to order was given around 17.30 by the secretary, Philippe Bancel, as the minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- President Report Claes Olerud briefly stated that there was nothing new to be added to the President's report.
- Secretary Report  
Jose Casamitjana stated that the next course will be March 27th and 28th also at Bellvitge Hospital in Barcelona. The Executive Committee meeting will be held at the course.  
The decision was made to continue giving the course twice a year in Barcelona. The option of a lecture only course was discussed although cadaver work was agreed to be essential. Jose Casamitjana proposed the idea of a forum for case discussion during a half day before the annual meeting which would be open to all attendees. The idea was well received. This proposition led to the discussion of the schedule of the annual meeting in Uppsala:
  - Wednesday, June 10th - Afternoon officer's meeting and evening dinner.
  - Thursday, June 11th - Business from 08:30 to 1700 and evening meeting.
  - Friday, June 12th - Business from 08:30 to 17.00 and evening banquet.
  - Saturday, June 13th - Meeting ends at midday.

The decision was taken to consider the feedback from the evaluation forms and by simply asking for a show of hands after the course to determine the addition of more case discussions in the future.

It was suggested to advertise more in medical journals such as European Spine Journal and to also send more emails to medical societies in order to increase attendance and reach out to more countries. Another suggestion was to encourage senior residents at the CSRS annual meeting to send their residents to the course. Claes Olerud said that advertising for the Uppsala meeting and the March course will be done through emails to the Spine Week attendees.

Nathalie Richard will be stepping down as the administrative secretary. Kathleen Domingo was introduced as a possible candidate.

No proposal has been received yet from Dieter Grob about the organization of future meetings.

Claes Olerud explained how the Mario Boni Award would be handled at the Uppsala annual meeting. Before lunch on Thursday there will be a Mario Boni Award Scientific session. During that session, 5 or 6 top rank nominees for the award will be presented to the jury. A decision will be made after that session to later be presented at the banquet. Also presented and discussed in the presence of the jury will be the nominees for the Mario Boni Video/Poster award which will also be celebrated at the banquet on Friday. Nominees will be notified of said nominations after the abstracts are scored.



Jose Casamitjana welcoming attendees and faculty to the October Hands On Cadaver Course in Barcelona



- Web Master Report  
Robert Melcher said that there could be possible conflicts with the firewalls used by various institutions that might hinder the process of submitting abstracts and receiving a password. Any problems should be directed to the Web Master by email. Members signing in on the web will be sent a password in order to avoid anyone outside the CSRS from entering the member's section of the website.
- Treasurer Report  
Andre Jackowski said that the accounts are in order.
- Nomination Report  
Demetrios Korres had nothing to report.
- Membership Report  
There have not been any recent applicants for membership.
- Future Annual Meetings  
Claes Olerud added that the Uppsala meeting is running on schedule. There are an estimated 300 participants and 20 companies attending. The topic for the annual meeting in Corfu, Greece, May 26th through 29th, 2010 will be tumors of the cervical spine. There has been some email communication about hotel possibilities for the meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in 2011. Ronald Bartels communicated that Spine Week will be hosted in the Netherlands in 2012 but there is no topic yet. Carlos Villas has offered to host the 2015 annual meeting in Pamplona.
- Trustees Report  
Andre Jackowski stated that the accounts have been filed with the charity commission and are in order.
- Scientific Research and Education Committee Report  
Claes Olerud would like for the officers to provide information about their activities during the year.
- Miscellaneous  
Claes Olerud suggested that in March when the new officers are nominated, the length of term should be revised. It was suggested that not all officers be renewed at the same time in order to provide continuity. Andre Jackowski suggested a discussion on the possibility of allowing an officer to continue his term until he wishes to step down. It was also suggested that those who hold offices with a higher workload should be offered the opportunity to step down.
- Adjournment



# Cervical Spine Research Society

*European Section*

# June 10-13th, 2009 in Uppsala, Sweden

Topic: Inflammatory Spine Diseases



[www.csrs-uppsala2009.se](http://www.csrs-uppsala2009.se)