Small Effort – Big Gain

EAR Collects Data on the Survival Time of Implants

LINZ (gjr) - EAR President Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Böhler on the aims and structure of the European Arthroplasty Register (EAR).

EAR, the European Arthroplasty Register, has been launched in 2001 – what has been achieved in the past years?

Böhler: 2001 the EAR Executive Committee launched EAR. All existing National Registers agreed to join the project and to give the other members of the network access to their experience. The growing network activities lead to the foundation of EFORT-EAR in 2005, a non profit scientific society. EFORT and EFORT-EAR cooperate very closely on different levels of organisation. The members of EFORT-EAR are either delegates of a National Register or they represent a project aimed at the foundation of a National Register that is supported by the National Orthopaedic Society. At present 23 registrars in 19 countries are members of the EAR.

At first the society agreed on minimal data sets as central standards to improve the comparability of national reports. Furthermore, the EAR network supports the foundation of new National Arthroplasty Registers. These activities are primarily based on the exchange of experience and solutions for common problems in organisation, documentation and evaluation.

An EAR internet page was integrated in the EFORT-Homepage. All websites of National Arthroplasty Registers have been combined on this user-friendly page. Furthermore EAR Symposia as part of the EFORT Congresses and National Conferences support publication activities.

- What are the goals for the next years?

Böhler: We may refer to different implants in different surgical treatments of joint diseases and also the late rehabilitation. As per today there are on average 30000 procedures on the hip joint and about 15000 on the knee joint reported every year in the European Union.

Böhler: The results of the Scandinavian Registers have shown a steady decline in revision rates as an effect of the registers. Ineffective implants may be identified earlier and therefore the revision burden drops significantly. This leads to a better long term results and better health of the patients and it is a considerable financial improvement for the health system.

- How far has the cooperation with the International Arthroplasty Register Society grown?

Böhler: EFORT-EAR is cooperating with the International Arthroplasty Register Society. One of the common goals is a centralized product database allowing a precise and standardized registration of all types of implants. We have to realize that implant names are not always precise and that one name may refer to different implants in different countries.

What benefit does the EAR give to the surgeon?

The surgeon gains access to information on the outcome of different types of implants and information on the effect of the National Health System, e.g. the effect of thromboprophylaxis, antibiotics, rehabilitation. In addition EAR gives an overview of different implant manufacturers – even statistical data on rarely used implants: revision implants, very small and large sizes.

And what benefit do the patients and society in general gain?

Böhler: The results of the Scandinavian Registers have shown a steady decline in revision rates as an effect of the registers. Ineffective implants may be identified earlier and therefore the revision burden drops significantly. This leads to better long term results and better health of the patients and it is a considerable financial improvement for the health system.

EDT 23/24 - Dr. Peter Böhler, President of the European Arthroplasty Register, attended the EFORT Congress 2009 in Berlin and won the annual EULAR Prize for Osteoarthritis Research.

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EFORT 2007 Page 6

ZURICH – The EFORT Executive Committee has been shocked to know that Franz Langlais, EFORT Vice President 2006/2007 died in a car accident 15th of June 2007. As he had been elected incoming President for 2008/2009 new elections have become necessary.

Regarding the Article 24 and 57 of the EFORT Statutes the Executive Committee is committed to call as soon as possible to an extraordinary General Assembly. For that reason there will an extraordinary General Assembly on the 2nd of October 2007 taking place at the Hotel InterContinental in Berlin. At the same time, 24th to 27th of October 2007, the National Congress of DGU, DGUOC and BVUO will be held in Berlin. The new elections for the EFORT Executive Committee 2008/2009 will be the main topic of this meeting. The votes will concern the following positions: President (elected for 08/09: Prof. F. Langlais) Vice President (elected for 08/09: Prof. K.-G. Thorngren) Member at Large (elected for 08/09: Prof. M. Szendro)

Another topic will be the elections of the Finance Committee Members. According to the regulations of the Finance Committee it needs six elected Members. As per today there are only three members. The final agenda will be sent out to all National Member Societies soon. The EFORT Executive Committee will be pleased to welcome all national delegates of the General Assembly at the Hotel InterContinental in Berlin and is looking forward to an interesting and fruitful meeting.
Threat or Opportunity
The Significance of Health Service Research for the Orthopaedic Community

ULM – Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries impose an enormous burden on individuals and society. A recent German analysis demonstrated that 20% of all medical expenses are caused by musculoskeletal problems; every 5th health care operation is performed due to bone and joint disorders and injuries. In addition, musculoskeletal problems are responsible for 40% of all indirect medical costs incl. sick leave, disability pensions and early retirements. The orthopaedic community needs to understand these enormous gaps between evidence-based health care – and their opportunities to demand a balanced representation in research funding, education and priority settings in the health care system.

- Access to Care
- Fairness and Equity
- Utilization and Appropriateness
- Incentives and Preferences
- Community effectiveness
- Cost effectiveness

Research Topics in Health Service Research
Epidemiological and health economy data are of enormous relevance to the Orthopaedic communities in all European countries – but these data are still lacking in many countries.

In addition, reports document the enormous gap between evidence-based recommendations and practice for both preventive services and chronic illness care. A recent investigation in the US reports that across a wide range of healthcare services, on average, patients only receive approximately 50% of the care recommended, patients with osteoarthritis or hip fracture receive appropriate care in 57% resp. 23%.

There are multiple reasons for these deficiencies, but one of the causes is that the types of clinical trials that are usually reported are of little relevance to practicing clinicians, administrative decision-makers, or policymakers. Evidence-based treatment recommendations usually rely on randomised clinical criteria in a homogenous patient group with strict inclusion and exclusion criteria, eliminating many patients. In addition, these studies are being conducted by paid research staff and experts in tertiary care settings.

However, these studies do not reflect the situation in “real life”. In heterogeneous populations with many confounding factors incl. patient characteristics, physician knowledge and preferences as well as economic limits, health care is not practised as expected by the recommendations or guidelines. This “last mile” in the health care system is reflecting everyday practice reality – but very little is known about it. Furthermore, access to care and the utilisation of care differs greatly between the countries as shown in huge variations in total hip replacement rates across Europe and a wide variability in the indications for THR. In addition, the willingness of patients to undergo treatment is almost unknown.

The same applies for treatment of osteoporotic fractures. European surveys show only that a very small percentage of patients suffering from a fragility fracture are treated for the underlying disease and will receive appropriate medical care to prevent a second fracture across all countries. This is not a new problem. Already 20 years ago Ellwood stated, that “the problem is our inability to measure and understand the effect of the choices of patients, payers, and physicians on the patients aspirations for a better quality of life. The result is that we have unformed patients, sceptical payers, frus-
Partner for Innovation

Eucomed – the European Medical Technology Industry Association

WOLUVE ST. PIERRE (jp) – Innovation in orthopaedic surgery is only possible in cooperation between medical specialists and the medical technology industry.

Eucomed, the European Medical Technology Industry Association calls itself “the voice of the medical technology industry in Europe and beyond”. Thus it is EFORT’s industrial counterpart. It represents a large number of companies – many of them small and medium size enterprises – who help improving patients lives. Maurice Wagner, director general of Eucomed, introduces the organisation: “We have two groups of members – association members (national trade and pan-European associations) on the one hand, on the other hand about 62 international manufacturers. 23 national associations are members of Eucomed – most of the EU and EFTA-countries except the Baltic countries, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Iceland and Bulgaria. Altogether about 4500 manufacturers are represented in Eucomed, 80 percent of which are small and medium size enterprises.”

The aim of Eucomed is to improve patients’ and clinicians’ access to modern, innovative and reliable medical technology. To achieve this objective, Eucomed had conducted several projects with other organizations, such as EFORT. Eucomed and EFORT have for instance been in touch in connection with the recent commission proposal to up classify orthopaedic implants.

“Innovation”, says Wagner, “is the result of a discussion between the specialist and the manufacturer”. Both depend on each other and their cooperation is essential for success. On the other hand, this cooperation has to follow specific rules. “We have to make sure, that the cooperation of doctors and industry is based on a solid ethical ground”, Wagner explains. The “Joint Declaration on the Cooperation between the Medical Profession and the Medical Technology Industry” is meant to be this solid ground. The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and Eucomed agreed on the declaration in June 2007. A Eucomed press release points out: “CPME and Eucomed, aware of their responsibilities vis-à-vis patients and society, consider it essential to establish jointly accepted guidelines so that they can serve as a framework at both European and national level in the relationship between doctors and medical technology companies.”

Besides this declaration Eucomed agreed on a “code of business practice” in the nineties. The latest revision entered into and thus became binding for all members already at the beginning of 2005. And Wagner is sure, that the Eucomed members take both, this code and the Joint Declaration, serious.

54th Nordic Orthopaedic Federation Congress
Amsterdam | The Netherlands
11 - 13 June 2008
Orthopaedic innovations

www.NOFl2008.org
Add our website to your favourites! Use our website to subscribe to our free Newsletter and remain updated on the congress.
FLORENCE – On the occasion of the 8th EFORT Congress in Florence this year's ordinary General Assembly was also held in Florence. Over 50 participants from EFORT National Member Associations, EFORT Associated Scientific Members and the EFORT Executive Board joined the Meeting at the Grand Hotel on 10 May 2007. Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Puhl as EFORT President 2006/2007 chaired the meeting.

The General Assembly started with greeting welcome all participants and giving many thanks to the little staff of the EFORT Central Office in Zurich who has worked hard during the last year and performed well.

Prof. Puhl pointed out the importance of EFORT to be visible, present and active in the promotion of resources for the orthopaedic and traumatologic area. In close connection with this, events have been taken with the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) as well as the Orthopedic association of Brazil (SBOI), Argentina (AAOT), China (CAO) and India (OA). Co-operations have been started especially with AAOS and several Patient Organizations.

Prof. Pierre Hoffmeyer from Switzerland has been co-opted to the Executive Committee to work for the scientific program first for Nice and then to continue for Vienna. Also Prof. Enrique Caceres Palou became a co-opted member to overtake with all his experiences the increasing important work of an educational committee so solely dedicated to this duty.

Prof. Dr. George Bentley, the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the 8th EFORT Congress in Florence reported that finally over 7,000 participants attended the congress. The congress engaged 15 parallel meeting rooms with close to 1,000 oral presentations and 1,500 posters apart from numerous symposia and instructional course lectures.

The Treasurer of EFORT, Prof. Martti Häämäläinen from Finland presented his report and was pleased to inform the General Assembly that the outcome of the 27th EFORT Congress in Lisbon had been good. Furthermore the “Rules for the EFORT Finance Committee” have been finalised and were approved by the General Assembly. The Finance Committee will in the future consist of 6 elected members from the National Societies with voting right. They will elect their spokesman. The Chairman of the Finance Committee will be the Board member of EFORT. The spokesman of the Finance Committee, Prof. Michael Remenik reported to the GA the discussions within the committee regarding the Financial Statement 2006. The statement was approved unanimously.

Prof. George Bentley, Chairman of the Scientific Committee thanked all involved in the scientific organization of the 8th EFORT Congress in Florence. He also pointed out that the programs of the Travelling Fellowships all have a high scientific level and are more and more increasing their standards according to the requirements of EFORT.

The next Travelling Fellowship will be in Slovenia, 21st to 28th October 2007, in cooperation with the Slovenian Orthopaedic Society. The participants will visit Ljubljana, Celje and Ankanar. The attendance to the Visiting Fellowships are foreseen for young orthopaedic surgeons is unfortunately not very widespread. There has only been 1 applicant in the year 2004 (Hungary), 3 in 2005 (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary) and so far another in 2007 (Germany, Hungary, Slovakia).

High level of education: EFORT instructional courses and fora

Dr. Manuel Cassiano Neves from Portugal who is Chairman of the EFORT Education Liaison Events committee emphasized that EFORT as organisation should be visible, present and active in the promotion to this, contacts and collaborations wherever they were necessary, for example in the U.S.A., South America and the Near and Far East countries, for the benefit of EFORT.

As General Secretary of EFORT he demonstrated his considerable administrative skills with his management of the EFORT Co-operations as follows:

- Austria – ÖÖO: “Patello-femoral disorders”
- Spain – SEOCF: “Hand injuries”
- Albania – AADST: “Paediatric Orthopaedics”
- Turkey – TSOT: “Pelvic and femoral fractures”

Besides the reports of the Chairmen of the different EFORT Committees and Task Forces the elections of the EFORT Executive Board and for the next the EFORT congress venues took place with the following results:

Executive Board 2008/2009:
- EFORT President: Prof. Franz Langlais, France
- EFORT Vice President: Prof. Karl-Göran Thoren, Sweden
- EFORT General Secretary: Dr. Manuel Cassiano Neves, Portugal
- EFORT Treasurer for 2008: Prof. Martti Häämäläinen, Finland
- EFORT Members at-Large: Prof. Włodzimierz Kucharski, Poland Prof. Mariusz Marcacci, Italy

Congress Venues 2010/2011:
- 11th EFORT Congress combined with the Annual General Assembly SECOFT: Madrid, Spain
- 12th EFORT Congress: Copenhagen, Denmark

Congratulations to the years 2008 and 2009 will be Nice for the 9th EFORT Congress and Vienna for 10th EFORT Congress.

By unanimous voting the delegates of the General Assembly approved the activities of the EFORT Executive Committee as well as the financial handling during the period up to this meeting including the release of responsibility.

The General Assembly 2007 was closed with the decision to hold the next General Assembly in Nice on 28th and 29th May 2008, right before the 9th EFORT Congress which will take place May 29th to June 1st 2008.

PASSING OF PROFESSOR FRANZ LANGLAIS

ZURICH – The President and Executive Committee of EFORT heard with deep sense of sorrow the untimely death of Professor Franz Langlais on the 15th of June, Franz joined the EFORT Executive Committee as the French National Delegate in succession to Professor Jacques Duparc, the first President.

From the beginning it was apparent that he had an excellent background with a reputation as a first-class academic orthopaedic surgeon, teacher and researcher as head of the university unit in Rennes. He quickly showed a unique ability to view matters in his entirety and then to express his views lucidly. He always spoke quietly with conviction and without compromise or fear and, above all, without rancour. We all benefited greatly from his wisdom. As a member and chairman of the scientific committee he had contributed to the satisfaction of what was possible in Europe and those colleagues who could assist EFORT in developing modern standards of clinical practice, education and research throughout the community and even worldwide.

Franz had the vision to see beyond France and Europe where he made extensive contacts and collaborations where ever they were necessary, for example in the U.S.A., South America and the Near and Far East countries, for the benefit of EFORT.

As General Secretary of EFORT he demonstrated his considerable administrative skills with his management of the Statutes, agendas and protocols as well as relationships with the national societies and speciality societies, bringing them closer together as the community of orthopaedic and traumatology surgeons of Europe has grown.

Franz was recognised by his membership of many international academic and orthopaedic societies, including the International Hip Society, European and North American Societies of Musculo-skeletal Oncology, Musculoskeletal Fist, European Orthopaedic Research Society (EORS), ORS, European Association of Musculo-Skeletal Transplantation (EAMST – President 1992), International Society of Limb Salvage (ISOLS – President 1989) such as Orthopaedic Research Society of U.S.A., Royal College of Surgeons of England etc.

As a person, Franz was charming and always courteous, with a whimsical sense of humour. He revelled in extreme sports at which he excelled. He and Merelle travelled the world seeking challenges and knowledge. He was intelligent, energetic and innovative and sought the best in all he did. He was a true Frenchman and an inspiration to us all. We will miss him desperately.

As Vice-President of EFORT, Franz was preparing to take up the presidency in 2008 as well as presidency of SOF-CDF – an indication of the high regard in which he was held by his colleagues in France. At his funeral service in Rennes, the hundreds of people from all walks of life who paid their respects showed the great esteem with which he was regarded. His passing is a profound loss to orthopedics, academia, to his patients and friends but, above all, to his beloved family and to whom we give our profound condolences. Those who knew Franz Langlais were privileged to have met a truly exceptional man. We will never forget him.

George Bentley, EFORT Past President Prof. Wolfhart Puhl, EFORT President Prof. Karl-Göran Thoren, EFORT Vice-President
Resounding Success  
**EFORT 2007 – Congress Review**

**FLORENCE** – This year’s highlight on the congress scene was most definitely the EFORT Congress 2007 in Florence.

Amongst the various hip and knee products exhibited at the booth, the congress participants had also the possibility to listen to different live presentations around trendy topics in the orthopedics field. However, the highlight of our activities was the live surgery performed by Dr. F. Laude (France), assisted by Prof. Dr. M. Gussio (Italy) and moderated by PD Dr. C. Dora (Switzerland) in front of more than 350 surgeons. The total hip surgery was performed through a minimally invasive technique with the anterior approach (AMIS®).

The unique and secure location, together with a perfect organization and an interesting scientific program contributed to a positive impression for all visitors from both medical and industrial fields.

Mathys Ltd presented an innovative and interesting product: the ceramic components, now being marketed under the name “ceramys” were an often discussed product. Our shoulder prosthesis Affinis™, together with the knee system balanSys™ were further highlights. Especially balanSys™ with its various, customisation possibilities attracted a great deal of attention amongst the surgeons attending the congress and exhibition.

**From past to future**

Mathys is proud to say, that the lunch symposium was a resounding success! Speeches ranged from the past to the future and from the RM Classic to the most recent scientific perception around the knee.

**Booth well visited**

With ice cream and a coffee bar, the Mathys booth was a well visited meeting point to discuss not only professional subjects. Surgeons from all over the world met at Mathys to debate new trends with development experts in a jovial atmosphere, and also to dispute with colleagues about what they had just heard in the speeches. To make a long story short: EFORT 2007 was a great experience and a great success. We are looking forward to welcoming you next year to the Mathys booth in Nizza!

**More Information:**
Mathys AG Bettlach
Güterstrasse 5
P.O. Box
CH-2544 Bettlach
Switzerland

tel.: +41 (0)32 644 1 644
fax: +41 (0)32 644 1 161

E-mail: info@mathysmedical.com
web: www.mathysmedical.com

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**MEDACTA at this Year’s EFORT Congress**

**FLORENCE** – At this year’s European Orthopedic event, the EFORT congress in Florence, Medacta International was present for the first time with the largest booth ever in his short history, which started in the year 2000.

Amongst the various hip and knee products exhibited at the booth, the congress participants had also the possibility to list to different live presentations around trendy topics in the orthopedics field. However, the highlight of our activities was the live surgery performed by Dr. F. Laude (France), assisted by Prof. Dr. M. Gussio (Italy) and moderated by PD Dr. C. Dora (Switzerland) in front of more than 350 surgeons.

The total hip surgery was performed through a minimally invasive technique with the anterior approach (AMIS®). This...
ExMex in Nice
9th EFORT Congress at the Acropolis Palais de Congres

Prof. Thierry Bégué, head of the Local Organizing Committee, wants to focus on scientific excellence. He is confident of making this meeting in the Acropolis Palais de Congres a memorable event.

Difficult cases such as revision operations will be an important topic of the congress – the surgeons will exchange their experience, discuss treatment strategies and innovative treatment options. The programme will include symposia and instructional courses as well as lectures held by distinguished speakers from all across Europe. The abstract acceptance will be confirmed until December 31st. The early registration deadline is January 15th, 2008, and the preliminary programme will be available from January 30th, 2008, on.

For more information see www.efort.org
Venue: NICE-ACROPOLIS
1 Esplanade Kennedy
F-06302 Nice cedex 4
France
tel: +33(0)4-93928331
fax: +33(0)4-93928348
web: www.nice-acropolis.com

EBOT exams

VIENNA (jp) – A universal level of knowledge and skill among European orthopaedic surgeons: This is what the European Board of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EBOT) as a section of UEMS wants to ascertain in organising the annual EBOT exam for specialists in orthopaedic surgery and traumatology.

The next exam is coming up on October 6th and 7th 2007 in Vienna. The purpose of the exam is to facilitate recognition in the European Union, although the title “Fellow of the European Board of Orthopaedics and Traumatology” is not legally binding. Since 2001 when the first EBOT exams took place 87 candidates entered the exams and 57 of them passed, proving that they fulfill the requirements of EFORT and UEMS for orthopaedic skills and training. The written part consists of multiple choice questions. The oral examination covers five subjects: basic science, spine, upper limb, lower limb and children’s orthopaedics. The examiners come from all over Europe. Every one has to take a special examiner’s course in order to ensure similarity of the examinations. Candidates who are interested in attending the EBOT exam should have passed the national specialist exam – if such an exam exists – or they should be trainees in the last year of training. The candidates should be recommended by their national specialist association.

Further information can be found on the EBOT website: www.ebotexam.20m.com

EFORT Instructional Courses

ZURICH (jp) – Until the end of this year, four EFORT Instructional Courses (IC) give the opportunity for high class education on different topics.

Online registration at: www.efort.org

16th EFORT IC
Stockholm, November 9th-10th
Venue: Karolinska University Hospital, Solna
SE-17176 Stockholm
Sweden
Main Topics:
Basic Science / Spine / Upper extremity / Lower extremity / Children’s orthopaedics
Highlights:
This course will prepare the attendees for the EBOT (European Bachelor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology) Exam (see page 6) Roundtable discussion

17th EFORT IC: Shoulder
Zurich, November 23rd-24th
Venue: Schulthess Klinik Lengghalde 2 CH-8008 Zurich Switzerland
Main topics:
Primacy joint replacement / Rheumatoid Arthritis / Fractures of the proximal humerus / Arthroscopic Rotator cuff repair

18th EFORT IC: Knee
Zurich, November 30th – December 1st
Venue: Schulthess Klinik Lengghalde 2 CH-8008 Zurich Switzerland
Main Topics:
Latest advancements in TRK / Latest advancements in Result Analysis / Latest advancements in Kinematics of the Knee / Latest advancements in Tribology and Materials / Latest advancements in bio engineering

Further information can be found on the EBOT website: www.ebotexam.20m.com
8th EFORT Congress

Setting Standards

FLORENCE (ek) – “Florence is a perfect venue!”, exclaimed one of the delegates after the opening ceremony of the 8th EFORT congress at the Duomo – at the end of the sometimes strenuous conference days most of the nearly 7000 participants agreed with him.

Five sunny days packed with an extraordinary scientific programme (concentrating on implants of the bigger limbs), with official meetings and personal talks seem to be a very successful outcome, which will set standards for the future.

Some of the highlights were genuine "premieres", as for instance "EFORT-TV" with its daily transmissions, and the first appearance of a member of a patient’s organisation on an EFORT congress stage. Neil Betteridge, CEO of Arthritis Care UK, praised EFORT's engagement in more supporting patient’s lobby groups.

Furthermore a global alliance to fight osteoporosis was in Florence, uniting EFORT, IOF, BJD, and ISFR in their effort to raise awareness for medical treatment after fragility fractures, to educate medical doctors and to enhance research in this field.

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HELP US......

to improve!

We are happy to present you the new version of the EFORT News. You will have realized that quite some changes have been made. However this is just the first step. Together with the EFORT we aim to provide you with a newsletter which brings the European Orthopaedic family closer together by presenting the EFORT, its mission, partners and activities as well as its members. Therefore we want to encourage you to present your topics and activities in the EFORT News.

In order to meet your needs as an EFORT member, we appreciate your feedback. Enclosed you will find a fax reply. Please fill it out and send it back to us. Among all fax replies received we draw five free entrance tickets for the EFORT Congress in Nice in 2008 as well as ten free-entrance tickets for an Instructional Course of your choice (does not cover travel costs and accommodation).

We are looking forward to receiving your feedback!

Yours sincerely

The EFORT News Team

EFORT 2008 – Nice, France
Advanced update on Orthopaedics and Traumatology
29 May – 1 June 2008

Instructional Courses, Case Discussions, Symposia, Free Papers and Hands-On experience with the Experts meet Experts sessions

Congress Highlights

- Hip problems: Current solutions
- Knee: Always progression
- Trauma: Leaping forward
- Shoulder/Elbow: Novel approaches
- Foot/Ankle: Today’s solutions
- Paediatrics: A fresh look
- Sports: The evolving athlete
- Hand and wrist: Original answers
- Bone Tumours: Functional solutions
- Osteoporosis: The silent epidemic
- Basic Science: The future
- Infection and inflammation
- Disease burden and health care policy
- Pain control

Science, Education, Culture
In 2008 the European Orthopaedic Community meets in Nice
Impressions of the 8th EFORT Congress in Florence

Exhibition Opening at the Fortezza da Basso

During the 8th EFORT Congress

Opening Ceremony at the Florence Dome

Florence Night at the Palazzo Corsini

Günter Schug from Zimmer (on the right) received one of the EFORT Industry Awards for the main sponsors of the congress.

Save the date!
More information soon available on www.efort.org

10th EFORT Congress Vienna, 3 – 6 June 2009