

# EFORT NEWS



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ORTHOPAEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY



Threat or opportunity? On the significance of health service research.

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Passing of Professor Frantz Langlais, EFORT Vice President 2006/2007. An obituary.

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10/2007

## EDITORIAL



Prof. Puhl

*The 8th EFORT Congress, 11th to 15th of May 2007, held in Florence, Italy, was a success and so again it was a step forward for EFORT and the European Orthopaedic Family.*

*The excellent scientific programme was based in the free papers on more than 4.300 reviewed abstracts. Pre-discussed symposia and instructional courses as well as excellent industry symposia were of interest and of benefit to the audience. The congress showed, that there are special topics, which are of highest interest for orthopaedics and traumatology, but not intensively discussed till now. So, it was of interest to speak about osteoporosis and fragility fractures, to speak about pain management in musculoskeletal disorders and non-surgical treatment of osteoarthritis. In general obviously it is more and more of value to discuss not only small sophisticated aspects of a disease but more the whole management of a problem. This for example was the case when the management of infection in endoprosthesis was discussed. Increasingly economical aspects of our daily work have to be discussed. In this sense continuous passive motion became a topic of increasing interest to be included in different surgical treatments of joint diseases and also the late rehabilitation.*

*The EFORT Congress was a place to meet and to welcome guests from abroad, so Richard Kyle, President AAOS, and Marcos Musafir, President SBOT. Inside Europe we did our first step to a cooperation with EULAR and patient organisation. This was linked to the names of Tore Kvien and Neil Betteridge. These contacts have been necessary, for sure helpful and have been a pleasure to all that participated. These activities then have been continued a few weeks later between EULAR and EFORT at the EULAR Congress in Barcelona.*

to be continued on page 2 .....

## Small Effort – Big Gain

### EAR Collects Data on the Survival Time of Implants

LINZ (jp)– 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 EFORT 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 registers 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:** In accordance to the contracts with the National Registers EFORT-EAR will start to collect national data on a central server to build up a large database. These evaluations never compete with the scientific work of the National Registers. A National Register reflects the national standards and circumstances characterising also the public health system of a country and not only the implants. The central data collection allows to consider particular factors of local influence as part of a complex sequence of treatments in which the implant only represents one part.

*What benefit does the EAR give to the surgeon?*

**Böhler:** 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 all implants – even statistical data on rarely used implants: revision implants, very small and large sizes.

*And what benefit do the patient*



Prof. Nikolaus Böhler

*and society in general get?*

**Böhler:** The results of the Scandinavian Registers have shown a 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 re-

sults 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 data bank 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 data will be collected in the EAR database?*

**Böhler:** As the already existing National Registers have shown only objective data should be collected. The main information will be the survival time of an implant and the reason for failures. For this aim the data set can be small and time for documentation is

short. Surgeons will accept this much better because it can easily be integrated into the daily working routine.

*Do you estimate that the EAR is or will be a tool for benchmarking in arthroplasty surgery?*

**Böhler:** National Registers can be used to compare different implants and their survival rate. The European Register can take this comparison to a higher level and with greater statistical significance. It is definitely not to be foreseen that there will be a benchmarking between surgeons or hospitals. But since every surgeon can compare his own results with the average of all the others this will influence the quality of work and the results. Furthermore, it will be possible to compare some aspects of the National Health Systems, the operation techniques and the conservative treatment aspects around an implantation.

*Does the EU support the EAR?*

**Böhler:** The European Union does not support EAR directly. But EAR was invited to join the important Euphoric Project of the EU Directorate General SANCO. The aim of this project is to define parameters for outcome measurement in Orthopaedics and especially in implant surgery. A common project was started and the results will be published at the EFORT Congress 2009 in Vienna.

*Professor Böhler, thank you very much for this interview.*

@ [www.ear.efort.org](http://www.ear.efort.org)

## EFORT Extraordinary General Assembly

ZURICH – The EFORT Executive Committee has been shocked to know that Frantz Langlais, EFORT Vice President 2006/2007 died in a car accident 15<sup>th</sup> 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

27<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 taking place at the Hotel InterContinental in Berlin. At the same time, 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2007, the National Congress of DGU, DGOOC and BVOU will happen 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. Szendroi)

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.

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## EDITORIAL

In the last issue of EFORT Newsletter at the end of this year I will give an overview of the last two years and a look in the next two years. Communication will be our biggest need to our member societies and to the specialty societies.

Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Puhl  
EFORT-President 2006/2007

## "EUROPEAN INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE LECTURES

Volume 8 2007

This eighth volume in the European Instructional Course Lectures series continues the format of educational material cross a wide spectrum of Orthopaedics and Traumatology written by notable surgeons in Europe. It provides up-to-date summaries of major advances covering a range of topics including:

General orthopaedics  
Upper limb  
Trauma  
Foot and Ankle  
Hip  
Paediatric Orthopaedics  
Knee  
Tumours  
Spine  
Fracture healing

All the lectures were presented at the large 8th EFORT Congress in Florence, Italy. The lectures are an authoritative source of information illustrated with radiographs, MRI and CT scans, tables and line drawings. This is a valuable source of instruction for experienced Surgeons and Trainees alike.

It is still obtainable from the EFORT Central Office. Don't miss the chance and order directly via [www.efort.org](http://www.efort.org), costs are only € 25 incl. postage and packing."

# 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 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 their importance for the health system – and their opportunities to demand a balanced representation in research funding, education and priority settings in the health care system.



Karsten Dreinhöfer, MD

- 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%.<sup>1</sup>

There are multiple reasons for these differences, 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 practise 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<sup>2</sup> and a wide variability in the indications for THR<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the willingness of patients to undergo treatment is almost unknown.

A few studies indicate that less than 10% of the patients eligible for THR are finally operated on.<sup>4</sup>

The same applies for treatment of osteoporotic fractures. European surveys show that only 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.<sup>5</sup>

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 uninformed patients, sceptical payers, frus-

trated health economy trials are needed to answer the question of cost-effectiveness for a population paying for this service (efficiency).

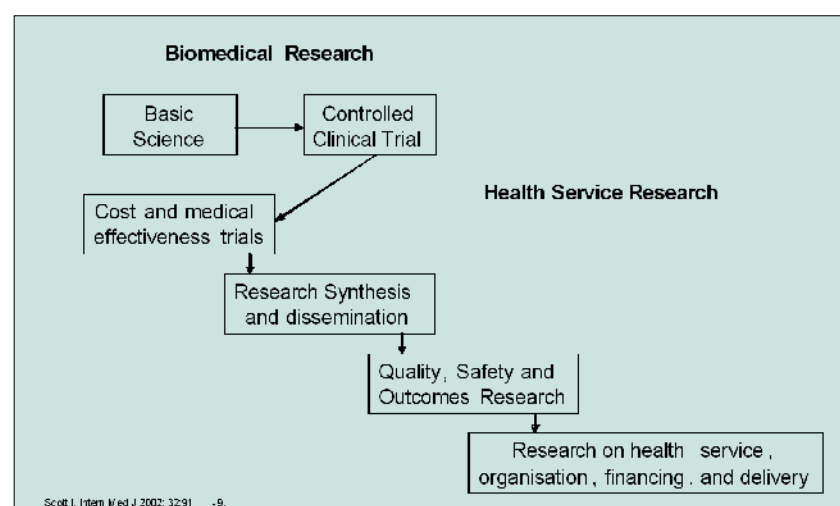
Purpose of Health Service Research is the objective empiric analysis of the health system's ability to deliver effective, efficient, equitable and safe care and to support the health and well-being of the population.<sup>7</sup> In other words, health service research is the scientific analysis of the effects of health services to the individual person and the society in the real health care setting (figure 2). Research topics in health service research are listed in figure 3, instruments primarily used

followed by a Panel discussion "What data are available and what is needed in Europe?".

The next focus will be to develop a book "European burden of musculoskeletal diseases" to provide a solid foundation for further discussions in regard to health provision, research funds and amount of education needed. Beside these epidemiological and health economical issues further interest is directed to health care utilisation and appropriateness of care, like in the succession of the EuroHip project. The committee will hold another workshop focussing on these issues at next year's EFORT congress in Nice before

Efficacy	Effectiveness	Efficiency
Does it work ?	Does it benefit the patient?	How much benefit for how much cost ?
Homogenous patient group	Non-homogenous patient group	Population
Randomised clinical trial	Health Service Research	Health Economy trial

Comprehensive Evaluation of Medical Strategy



The Continuum of Health-Related Research

trated physicians, and besieged health care executives."<sup>6</sup>

To analyse some of these problems on a European level and address the need of pan-European data collection, EFORT has set up a Committee for Health Service Research, but – what is health service research ... ?

"Health service research examines how people get access to health care, how much care costs, and what happens to patients as a result of this care. The main goals of health services research are to identify the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care; reduce medical errors; and improve patient safety." (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2002 )

When evaluating medical strategies different issues need to be addressed (fig. 1):

Looking for the efficacy of a treatment, a randomized clinical trial and a pre-selected patient group are needed to answer the question if this treatment provides any (beneficial) effect. To understand if this treatment has any effect on an individual patient in the real world, the effectiveness has to be examined in a non-homogenous patient group (effectiveness). Finally,

are registers, surveys and interviews in qualitative research.

The mission of the EFORT Committee for Health Service Research is (1) to analyse and demonstrate the burden of musculoskeletal conditions and their consequences, (2) to define indicators for common analysis (3) to analyse and benchmark access to care (4) to analyse and benchmark utilisation, appropriateness and quality of care (5) to identify preferences and develop incentives for patients and providers (6) to demonstrate cost effectiveness and community effectiveness

To follow this purpose the committee organised a first symposium at the recent congress in Florence; topics included "Burden of Musculoskeletal Conditions in Germany" (Dreinhöfer), "A small-area comparison of orthopaedic surgery rates across Switzerland" (Busato), "The MOBILE Programme – assessment, prevention and treatment of walking limitations and joint pain among older people in the UK" (Dieppe) and "EuroHip – A Pan-European Initiative analysing indications and outcome in Total Hip Replacement" (Günther),

releasing the book at the Vienna meeting 2009.

In the mean time, all member societies of EFORT have been asked to nominate appropriate representatives of their country to participate in this committee. So far, some countries have not yet appointed a delegate, but it is expected that this will happen during fall of this year. In addition, individuals with a special interest or expertise in this area are cordially invited to participate and to contact the chairman of the committee, Karsten Dreinhöfer, MD, from the University of Ulm in Germany.

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# Partner for Innovation

## Eucomed – the European Medical Technology Industry Association

**WOLUWE 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 product 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 EF-



Maurice Wagner, director general of Eucomed

TA-countries except the Baltic countries, Cyprus, Luxemburg, 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.

Asked about the economic importance of the medical technology industry, Wagner explains that the Eu-

comed members have annual sales of about 64 billion Euro. "This is a third of the world market in medical technology

industry." On the other hand, medical technology accounts for only 6,1 % of total health care expenses in Europe.

This is only a little more than a third of the expenses for pharmaceuticals (15 to 16 % of total health care expenses). The Eucomed representatives regard this as a disproportion. They argue that

for example a hip implant has a large impact on health and quality of life of the patients. And although the costs for the implant are rather high compared to medicines it is a "one off expense": Once "invested", it helps the patient to return to good health whereas drugs often have to be taken for many years. ■

**i** Link to the joint declaration CPME-Eucomed:  
[http://www.eucomed.org/sitecore/shell/Controls/Rich%20Text%20Editor/~/\\_media/pdf/tl/2007/extranet/whatsnew/06/25/cp-meeucomedjune2007final.ashx](http://www.eucomed.org/sitecore/shell/Controls/Rich%20Text%20Editor/~/_media/pdf/tl/2007/extranet/whatsnew/06/25/cp-meeucomedjune2007final.ashx)



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

# Orthopaedic innovations



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# General Assembly in Florence

EFORT – Visible, Present and Active in the Promotion of Resources

FLORENCE – On the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 to this, contacts have been taken with the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) as well as the orthopaedic associations of Brazil (SBOT), Argentina (AAOT), China (COA) and India (IOA). Co-operations have been started especially with EULAR and several Patient Organisations.

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 solely dedicated to this duty.

Prof. Postacchini as Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the 8<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress in Florence reported that finally over 7,000 participants attended the congress. The congress en-

gaged 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 Härmäläinen from Finland presented his report and was pleased to inform the General Assembly that the outcome of the 7<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress in Lisbon had been good. Furthermore the "Rules for the EFORT Finance Committee" have been finalized 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 a Board member of EFORT. The spokesman of the Finance Committee, Prof. Michael Benson, reported to the GA the discussions within the committee regarding the Financial Statement 2006. The statement was approved unanimously.

Prof. George Bentley as Chairman of the Scientific Committee thanked all involved in the scientific organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress in Florence. He also pointed out that the scientific work for the 9<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress in Nice has already been advanced by Prof. Pierre Hoffmeyer who is the Program Chairman for this congress. The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee is Prof. Thierry Bégue.

As Chairman of the Travelling & Visiting Fellowship Committee, Prof. Miklós Szendroi commented on the Travelling Fellowships in spring and autumn 2006. Unfortunately the Travelling Fellowship in autumn 2006 in Croatia had to be cancelled due to some misunderstandings. All participants who were nominated for this Fellowship were redirected to the Travelling Fellowship in



The EFORT congress 2007 took place in Florence.

Portugal that took place from the 27<sup>th</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2007, shortly after the 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, 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007, in cooperation with the Slovenian Orthopaedic Society. The participants will visit Ljubljana, Celje and Ankaran. The attendance to the Visiting Fellowships which 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), 2 applicants in the year 2006 (Slovakia, Hungary) and so far another 3 in the year 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 & Events committee emphasized that EFORT as organization should stand for a high level of education. This will be achieved mostly through courses dedicated to residents that will be pillars of their knowledge in the fu-

ture. In the year 2006 EFORT started this project organizing 3 instructional courses in Sommerfeld, Geneva and Zurich dedicated to different subjects. During autumn 2007 there will be instructional courses in Budapest, Berlin, Stockholm and Zurich. In this way EFORT will be present all over Europe. (You can read more on page 2 in the Newsletter or find more information on [www.efort.org](http://www.efort.org)).

The Chairman of EFORT Fora and European Arthroplasty Register Committee, Prof. Nikolaus Böhler pointed out that there have been four fora organized with great success in 2006 which have been held at the SOROT Meeting "Total Hip Revision", the DGOOC Meeting "Orthopaedic profiles in Europe", the SIOT Meeting "Ethics in Orthopaedics" and the SOFCOT Meeting "Thromboprophylaxis". For the year 2007 six EFORT fora all together have already been or are being held as follows:

- Austria - ÖGO: "Patello-femoral disorders"
- Spain - SECOT: "Hand injuries"
- Albania - AAOST: "Paediatric Orthopaedics"
- Germany - DGOOC, BVOU and DVO: "Ballsize in THR – Orthopaedic Systems"
- Turkey - TSOT: "Pelvic and femoral fractures"

- Romania - SOROT: "Revision Knee arthroplasty" and "Revision Hip Arthroplasty"

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 EFORT congress venues took place with the following results:

Executive Board 2008/2009:

- EFORT President: Prof. Frantz Langlais, France
- EFORT Vice President: Prof. Karl-Göran Thorngren, Sweden
- EFORT General Secretary: Dr. Manuel Cassiano Neves, Portugal
- EFORT Treasurer for 2008: Prof. Martti Härmäläinen, Finland
- EFORT Members at-Large: Dr. Stephen R Cannon, United Kingdom
- Prof. Maurilio Marcacci, Italy

Congress Venues 2010/2011:

- 11<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress combined with the National Congress SECOT: Madrid, Spain
- 12<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress: Copenhagen, Denmark

Congress Venues for the years 2008 and 2009 will be Nice for the 9<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress and Vienna for 10<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008, right before the 9<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress which will take place May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. ■

 Prof. Karl-Göran Thorngren, EFORT General Secretary

## Passing of Professor Frantz Langlais

ZURICH – The President and Executive Committee of EFORT heard with deep regret of the untimely death of Professor Frantz Langlais on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Frantz 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 their 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 demonstrated his grasp 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.

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

As General Secretary of EFORT he demonstrated his considerable administrative skills with his management of Statutes, agendas and protocols as well as relationships with the nation-

nal societies and specialty societies, bringing them closer together as the community of orthopaedic and traumatology surgeons of Europe has grown.

Frantz 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 (EMSOS, MSTs), 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



Prof. Frantz Langlais †

of U.S.A., Royal College of Surgeons of England etc.

As a person, Frantz was charming and always courteous, with a whimsical sense of humour. He revelled in extreme sports at which he excelled. He and Mereille 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, Frantz was preparing to take up the presidency

in 2008 as well as presidency of SOFCOT – 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 orthopaedics, academia, to his patients and friends but, above all, to his beloved wife Mereille and family to whom we give our profound condolences.

Those who knew Frantz Langlais were privileged to have met a truly exceptional man. We will never forget him. ■

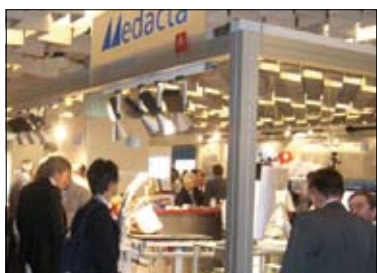
George Bentley, EFORT Past President  
Prof. Wolfhart Puhl, EFORT President  
Prof. Karl-Göran Thorngren, EFORT Vice-President



## 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 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. Gusso (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



MEDACTA booth at EFORT 2007

live surgery was followed in the evening by a very interesting round table discussion at our "Meet the Experts" event, which was held in a congenial typical Florentine hotel. This night was prolonged in the late hours with a live music program...

Medacta International will again be present at this important European Congress in 2008, from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> and we are already pleased to welcome everyone at our booth to discover more about our product portfolio.

Medacta International is a Swiss company developing, manufacturing and distributing joint replacement devices worldwide. Our main focus is the anterior minimally invasive surgery AMIS® for total hip arthroplasty, for which dedicated instruments have been developed, in particular a unique Leg Holder. Medacta international offers a comprehensive educational program to reduce the learning curve associated with this new technique. It is our goal to give a real support to all surgeons starting with this promising surgical technique.

Another main strategical focus is iMNS, the Medacta Navigation System. This simple and time saving concept allows the user to perform the surgery with conventional or MIS instruments while remaining focused on the surgery. The software is fully developed internally allowing a perfect match to the requests of the surgeon. ■

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## Resounding Success

### EFORT 2007 – Congress Review

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

The unique and secure location, together with a perfect organisation 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 dis-

cussed 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! ■

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# MATHYS



European Orthopaedics

Whatever we think, research or  
produce brings **quality of life.**



Mathys has been on the move for mobility for over 40 years. Our innovative and proven concepts with user-friendly instruments have been acknowledged millions of times. The hip, knee and shoulder implants from Mathys keep people moving every single day, all over the world.

...together with passion!



Mathys Ltd Bettlach

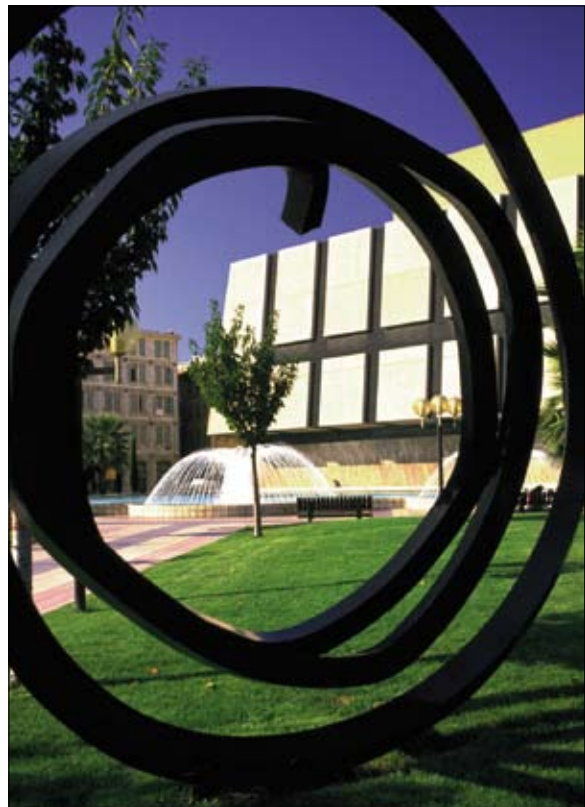
Güterstrasse 5 • P.O. Box • CH-2544 Bettlach • Switzerland • [www.mathysmedical.com](http://www.mathysmedical.com)



# ExMex in Nice

## 9<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress at the Acropolis Palais de Congress

NICE (jp) – Experts Meet Experts (ExMex) at the next EFORT congress from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Experienced surgeons from all over Europe will discuss difficult cases.



Acropolis Palais de Congress

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

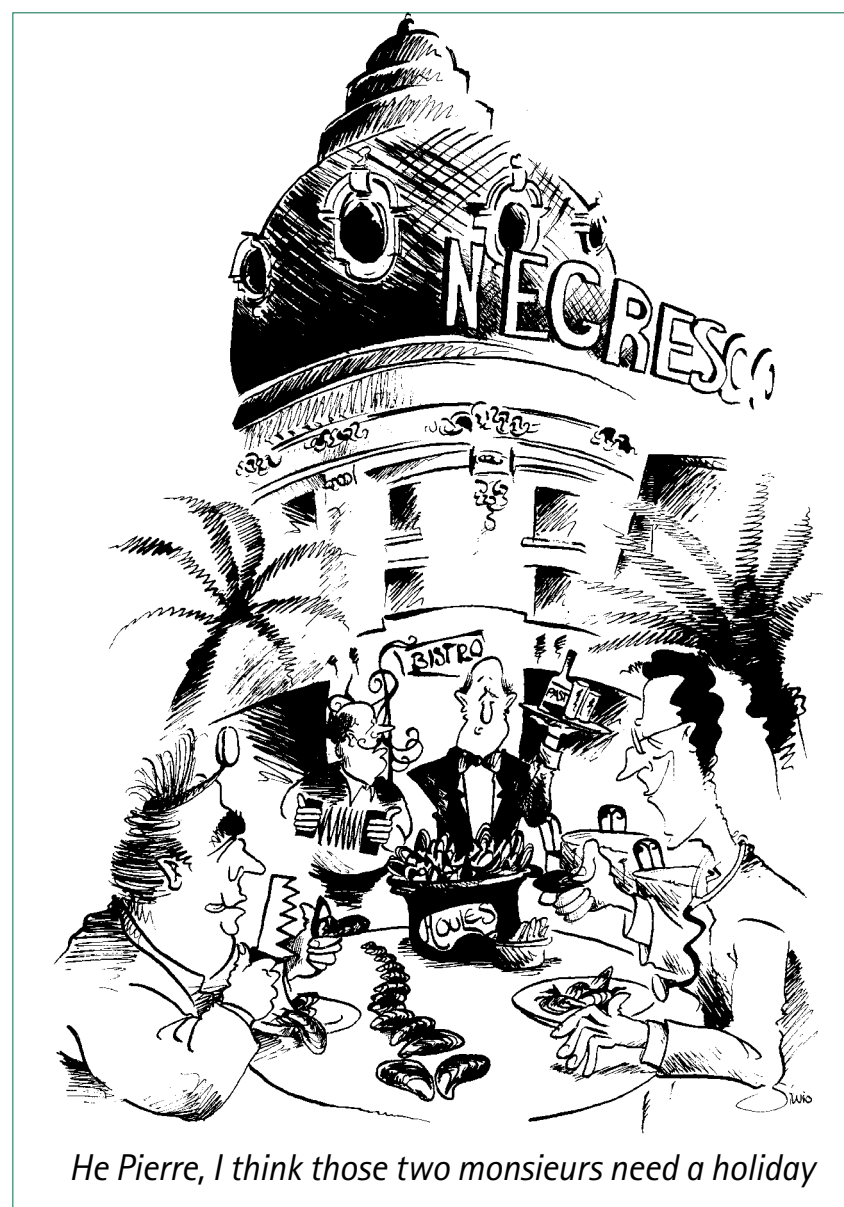
Difficult cases such as revision operations will be an important topic of the congress – the surgeons will exchange their experience, discuss treatment strategies and innovative treatment options. The programme will include symposia and instructional courses as well as lectures held by distinguished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



Prof. Thierry Bégue

**i** For more information see [www.efort.org](http://www.efort.org)

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## 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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](http://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](http://www.efort.org)

**16<sup>th</sup> EFORT IC**  
Stockholm, November 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>  
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

**17<sup>th</sup> EFORT IC: Shoulder**  
Zurich, November 23<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>  
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



Schulthess Klinik



Karolinska University Hospital,

**18<sup>th</sup> EFORT IC: Knee**  
Zurich, November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 1<sup>st</sup>  
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



# 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 a 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.

A new element in the congress procedure were the E-posters: 500 of the overall 1500 accepted posters were



EFORT President Prof. W. Puhl (on the left) and Past Presidents of EFORT Prof. N. Böhler, Prof. P. Gallinaro, Prof. M. Freeman, Prof. G. Bentley, Prof. J. Duparc and Prof. E. Morschner (from the left to the right)

electronically available during the congress and thereafter.

During the congress several long-serving orthopaedists received awards and/or Honorary Membership of the EFORT, namely the past EFORT presidents Jac-

ques Duparc, Michael Freeman, Paolo Gallinaro, Erwin Morscher, Otto Sneppen, Nikolaus Boehler and George Bentley, as well as both, Pierre-Paul Casteleyn and Egon Lavelle, as former congress presidents. Klaus Hug, the Advisory Business

Manager of EFORT, got recognition as well as the Honorary Guest Speaker Bishop Willem Jacobus Eijk.

Delegates also paid tribute to Neil Betteridge, Prof Guixing Qiu, President of the COA (China), Dr. Marcos Esner Mus-

afir, past president of SBOT (Brazilia), Dr. Jorge M. Romanelli, President of AAOT (Argentina) as well as to his colleagues Dres Ochi Takahiro of JOA Japan and KOA (Korea) respectively, and Dr. Richard F. Kyle, past president of AAOS (USA). ■

## 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 freeentrance 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 accomodation).

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



Be part of it!  
Register at  
[www.efort.org](http://www.efort.org)

## 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



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



During the 8th EFORT Congress



Opening Ceremony at the Florence Dome



Florence Night at the Palazzo Corsini

**Save the date!**  
More information soon available on  
[www.efort.org](http://www.efort.org)

**10<sup>th</sup> EFORT Congress Vienna, 3 – 6 June 2009**