

EFORT Foundation: Science and Education for a better life

EFORT launches its own fundraising organisation

The time has come: As already announced in the last EFORT newsletter, the EFORT Foundation will be launched officially at the 10th EFORT Congress in Vienna, the proclamation being part of the opening ceremony on Wednesday 3 June 2009.

The primary goal of the new non-profit organisation is to promote science and research in the fields of orthopaedics and traumatology in order to make progress in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries. The overall aim of the foundation is to improve the level of orthopaedic and traumatological care throughout Europe by supporting knowledge exchange and training. Furthermore, public awareness regarding the importance of research in the development of new surgical technologies and products should be increased. The financial support for research and education to be given to surgeons and researchers includes grants for research projects, fellowships for long and short research visits, as well as for congress visits.

A very short history

"The idea to establish an EFORT Foundation came up for the first time at the beginning of 2008", says Karl-Göran Thorngren, chair and initiator of the new organisation. The project developed by the EFORT Executive Committee was then presented to the General Assembly in Nice. By the end of

2008, most of the bylaws had already been drafted. "However, various legal procedures took more time than expected," says Thorngren.

Located in Zurich, the EFORT Foundation has recently been registered with the Registry of Commerce of the Canton Zurich. It has been endowed by its founder, EFORT, with the initial necessary funding capital of 50,000 CHF (approx. 33,000 EUR). During the start-up phase, the EFORT Foundation will be situated in the premises of the EFORT Central Office in Zurich. The new foundation will soon start to collect funds from donors such as institutions, industry and colleagues as well as from the public sector. First contacts with industry partners have already been established. Provided the fundraising proves to be successful, the foundation plans to publish first calls for application by early 2010. Thus, first grants could be assigned during 2010.

Demonstrating its alliance with EFORT, the EFORT Foundation will be present at the EFORT booth at the Congress in Vienna. The foundation has its own Internet representation and is assigned a separate domain within the EFORT web portal (www.efort.org/EFORT-Foundation.aspx). As a first public activity and the first fundraising action, the EFORT Foundation will carry out a charity event during the congress in Vienna in the form of a 5-km run and a 2.5-km walk in the early morning of 5 June – the perfect possibility to exercise for a good cause before the sessions start (for more information, please visit www.efort.org).

Foundation Board, Standing and Advisory Committees

Besides raising funds and financing projects to accomplish its purposes and goals, the EFORT Foundation will also develop networks and establish collaborations and partnerships with public and private institutions. All activities of the foundation will exclusively focus on fulfilling charitable, scientific and educational purposes. Starting in 2010, the new foundation is supposed to issue an annual report in order to publicly account for its activities as well as the assignment of donations and other funds. Every sponsor and donor is given immediate confirmation upon receipt of their donation. Major sponsors will receive a regular update according to the progress of target-oriented research projects carried out with their support. A possibility to raise funds from the private sector – besides campaigns like the famous "hip marches" – are legacies from former patients who want to support the development of this medical speciality.



The foundation board chaired by Thorngren represents the supreme governing body of the EFORT Foundation and consists of 10 members elected for 2 years. Vice Chair is Pierre Hoffmeyer, Geneva, Switzerland (for the composition of the board see box). Some board members with an initial three-year term will ensure continuity in the starting phase. The board meets at least twice a year and issues bylaws and other internal guidelines and procedures required for the administration and management of the foundation. Day-to-day operations are executed by the Secretary, Manuel Cassiano Neves from Lisbon, Portugal.

In order to be able to delegate part of its central functions, the foundation board of the EFORT Foundation will establish standing board committees such as the Grants Committee Education and the Grants Committee Research. Additionally, an Advisory Committee Research will be formed, which will assist the Grants Committee Research with the evaluation of anticipated research grant applications. The committee is to be composed of a large number of experienced colleagues from all the European National Associations and Speciality Societies. There will also be an Advisory Committee Education as well as one for the realisation of public campaigns.

Who can apply for grants?

The EFORT Foundation intends to support colleagues who are successful and committed to their field of work or who particularly emphasise needs in their area of

specialisation. Any experienced European orthopaedic or traumatology researcher or surgeon who is a member of one of the national associations can apply for grants, irrespective of the project idea relating to basic or clinical research. Although the grants to be assigned by the EFORT Foundation will be generally unrestricted in terms of an independent evaluation base, a preference for the funding of clinical research and method development projects might occur at the beginning.

Short-term and medium-term fellowships are designed to enable junior or young senior researchers to carry out research visits at renowned clinical centres or research institutions. The foundation is presently compiling a list of recommended clinical and research institutions. Decisions are taken on an individual basis. "We will try to identify the most promising and realistic proposals. But we would also like to consider the possible benefit for the institution or the country where the applicant is working. In many European countries, travel funding is very low," Thorngren said. However, decisions will be based on quality, originality and research demand.

"Our vision is that the EFORT Foundation might become a preferred partner for funding research in the field of musculoskeletal diseases and injuries in Europe, and an organisation large enough to give substantial support to many major projects in this area," Thorngren said. ■

EFORT Foundation Board

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Pierre Hoffmeyer (Vice Chair)
Geneva, Switzerland
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Emerging third-world orthopaedics: An opportunity to make a difference

by Prof. Martin Salzer

The essential content of any orthopaedic project is always the "know-how transfer." But it is not sufficient that a team goes to Africa or to another place, stays there for some days or weeks, carries out operations, then leaves and returns a year later.

To bring a highly disabled person to Europe and perform difficult operations or expensive treatment here is a noble humanitarian action, but it cannot be considered orthopaedic development cooperation. Effective development aid means sustainable development aid. This sustainable development cooperation is the only possible chance to achieve a permanent improvement of the situation in developing countries.

To reach sustainability, it is important to do very exact strategic planning of a project.

- The focus of the project must be matched to the specific local needs.
- Local resources must be defined and the demands must be evaluated through a fact-finding mission.
- The physicians must acquire their first practical experiences through a pilot project.
- After evaluating the results, project

officials must establish a long-term project and arrange ownership and alignment (see Paris Declaration below) with the local government.

- Finally, educated local specialists must take over the project and foreign experts must withdraw as soon as possible.

The Paris Declaration

In 2005, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was resolved to enhance the development cooperation. The main points of the declaration are:

- Ownership: The government of the recipient country takes over the responsibility for the future project.
- Alignment: Donating countries get oriented through the system of the recipient country.
- Harmonisation: Coordination of support occurs among the different local working national governing organisations. These "new" guidelines have become more and more important for planning and implementing the development cooperation projects.
- For everybody who decides to join a third-world project, this is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This is



Prof. Martin Salzer

true for young orthopaedic doctors as well as for experts who donate their experience on a professional and personal level.

Miracles can happen

The experience you gain from such a project is based on the fact that even with small medical interventions, miracles can happen, and a human life can be redirected from a negative path to a positive direction.

For all colleagues who are interested in third-world projects, this symposium will offer plenty of time for discussion and exchange of experience. ■

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info The EFORT symposium, "Emerging Third-World Orthopaedics," will be held on Saturday, 6 June from 10.00 to 12.00 in Room D at the Austria Center Vienna.



SAVE THE DATES

Forthcoming EFORT Congresses

11th EFORT Congress
Madrid, 2-5 June 2010

12th EFORT Congress
Copenhagen,
1-4 June 2011

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EFORT News

EFORT names ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY EUROPE as its official newspaper

EFORT is pleased to announce that newly formatted ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY EUROPE is now the official newspaper of EFORT through an agreement with SLACK Incorporated.

For nearly 30 years, SLACK has published ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY in the United States and, since 1998, has published ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL for the European, Asian/Pacific Rim and Latin American orthopaedic communities.

A few months ago, the name and focus of the publication changed to ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY EUROPE.

Likewise, EFORT also published its own newsletter, the EFORT News, for many years. Now both organisations put their efforts together in the newly branded ORTHOPAEDICS TODAY EUROPE with mixed content from both publications.

The chief medical editor, Prof. Per Kjaersgaard-Andersen, from Denmark, who is a co-opted member of the EFORT Executive Committee, will, together with the Editorial Board, consisting of surgeons from all over Europe and the world, help oversee content of this publication. ■

info To subscribe or unsubscribe for the new publication, please send an e-mail to: office@efort.org

EFORT Portal

Portal activities during the 10th EFORT Congress in Vienna

During the 10th EFORT congress in Vienna, the EFORT Content Steering Group will meet to discuss the next steps to generate new, valuable and useful content to all portal visitors.

Five scientific reporters will visit the scientific sessions and summarise the most important messages and findings, which will be posted on the Web portal the next morning. In addition, a scientific video reporter will generate compiled videos of different sessions during the congress.

Have a look at the EFORT portal and see what is going on during the 10th EFORT congress in Vienna. ■

info www.efort.org

Springer establishes strategic partnership with EFORT

Heidelberg/New York, 2008

Springer has established a strategic partnership with EFORT to publish their journal, a major reference work, and a book series, as well as develop an e-learning component for their portal. Publication of these works began in 2008 and will further strengthen and expand Springer's orthopaedics portfolio.

European Orthopaedics and Traumatology will be the title of EFORT's new official journal. Its mission is to connect member societies and encourage a strong link to their umbrella organisation as well as to communicate the gold standard in the treatment of musculoskeletal diseases. It aims at the harmonisation of orthopaedic knowledge and training in Europe. A collection of papers in each issue, dealing with a specific topic and followed by a consensus discussion, will enhance a common understanding of the field within

Europe and the member societies of EFORT. Original articles will complement each issue.

In addition to the journal, Springer will publish a major reference work for EFORT on surgical orthopaedics and traumatology. Furthermore, a book series (*EFORT Reference in Orthopaedics and Traumatology*) containing all topics relevant to EFORT will be produced. Springer will also develop an information and learning network for their portal.

Springer (www.springer.com) is the second-largest publisher of journals in the science, technology, and medicine (STM) sector and the largest publisher of STM books. ■

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