



## Taking steps towards a European Association of Orthopaedic Nurses

Ami Hommel explains why nurses from all over Europe should come to the 11th EFORT Congress in Madrid and attend the nurse session and European Wound Management Association session on Thursday, 3 June.

*In 2010, nurses will once more receive an invitation to take part in the 11th EFORT Congress. What will be the most important topics of the nurse session on Thursday, 3 June?*

**Hommel:** Our major goal is to promote science in nursing by presenting projects and developments, so we have invited nurses to submit abstracts on different topics. Julie Santy, a PhD student from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, will start the session by presenting her research on identifying infections in pin site wounds, which will be a good transition from the morning with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA). Elaine Collins from the Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing in the United Kingdom will discuss the important topic of leadership.

Another aim of ours is to promote the *Journal of Orthopaedic Nursing*. We invite nurses all over Europe to send in the results of their research and reports on their efforts to improve the quality of their work

for inclusion in the journal. At the end of the day, we will have a discussion involving all the attendees. Hopefully we will be able to take steps toward founding a European Association of Orthopaedic Nurses.

*Will local specialists be contributing to the programme of the nurse session?*

**Hommel:** We would very much like to have some lectures from local specialists. At the moment, we are in the process of contacting the local organizations.

*Besides the nurse session on 3 June, there will also be the session of the EWMA focusing on problems with wounds and on pressure ulcers. What was the main reason for inviting the EWMA to the EFORT Congress?*

**Hommel:** Wounds and wound healing both play a big role in orthopaedic nursing. This topic is very important for our daily work. The EWMA has many well-known and highly qualified lecturers who can give us insight into state-of-the-art treatment of problem wounds and pressure ulcers.

We invited them because their contributions are of great interest to orthopaedic nurses and, I believe, even orthopaedic surgeons. So, the EWMA session as part of our "nurses' day" has the potential to attract a big audience.

*Will the lectures in these sessions be translated into other languages?*

**Hommel:** A translation into Spanish could be of great benefit for the Spanish nurses. We will find out if this is possible, but it is too early to promise that there will be a translation.

*What experience did you gain during the last EFORT Congress? Was the nurse session in Vienna a success?*

**Hommel:** For those who attended, the nurse session in Vienna definitely was a success. Unfortunately, we did not promote the session enough, so many nurses arrived in Vienna without being aware that a programme had been arranged especially for them.

*What potential do you see for changes and improvements?*

**Hommel:** I think we have already improved a lot this time. This year, it will be easier to find information about the nurse session on the Congress Web page (see info). I have promoted EFORT at several orthopaedic nurse conferences. Our flyer will be presented on several Web sites, such as the *Journal of Orthopaedic Nursing* and the Inter-



Ami Hommel

## Profile of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS)

Foot and ankle surgery has, within the last 20 years, become a major subspecialty within orthopaedics. One could say that it represents a mini-universe of total orthopaedics in the sense that there is no other surgical procedure in orthopaedics that is not performed in foot and ankle surgery. This is also reflected in the number of diagnoses as well as the operative procedures.

It takes special knowledge and training to cover the entire field. Foot and ankle surgery is a very old European discipline with different schools of training from the Mediterranean to northern Europe. Within the European Union, however, there was no general consensus on the best practices, so the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS) was, among other things, founded in order to establish such general consensus on a scientific basis.

EFAS was founded in 1998 as a merger of the European Federation of Foot and Ankle Societies (EFFAS) and the European Society of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ESFAS). The EFAS is a non-political, non-profit, scientific society offering yearly European instructional courses, biennial European congresses and biennial advanced symposia on foot and ankle surgery.

Currently, EFAS has 2,826 European members plus 36 South African associate members. There are 17 member countries, including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, South Africa (Associate), Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Applications from The Netherlands and Sweden are currently being discussed. Several more are seeking either associated membership or individual membership.

The society is run by a board of executive officers and a council, and the EFAS Secretariat is based in Dublin. The five executive officers are elected to these positions from the council body, and the 10 council members are elected from nominations and ballot at the annual General Assembly.

Furthermore, there are two co-opted  
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national Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nursing (ICON) at [www.orthopaedicnursing.org](http://www.orthopaedicnursing.org).

*What part will the nurse sessions play in future EFORT Congresses?*

**Hommel:** My vision of the future is that the nurse session will be an integral and natural part of the EFORT Congress. The Congress should become a place where orthopaedic nurses share their research findings and their experiences.

**Info** For more information please visit the EFORT portal: [www.efort.org/nurse](http://www.efort.org/nurse)

► continued from previous page (EFAS) members elected to the council for course and congress activities and several working committees (Fellowship, Scientific, Education, Membership, etc.)

EFAS currently offers two annual Traveling Fellowships with industry support, and

EFAS has its own Medline indexed journal – *Foot and Ankle Surgery* – with a London-based publisher and office.

EFAS is a member of the International Federation of Foot and Ankle Societies (IFFAS), which represents Asia, Europe, North America and South America and hosts a triennial

meeting. EFAS is also establishing a co-opt with EFORT during their congresses.

The EFAS website is [www.efas.co.uk](http://www.efas.co.uk) and the Secretariat can be contacted by e-mail at [efas@eventplus.ie](mailto:efas@eventplus.ie)

Author: Hakon Kofoed, President of EFAS

## EFORT: Established progress, prepared for the future

As president of EFORT during 2008 and 2009, I have had the privilege to work with an engaged, enthusiastic and effective Executive Committee, including the affiliated members as well as our staff at the EFORT Central Office in Zurich. There has been fast expansion combined with consolidation of the activities. I will try to highlight various projects.

EFORT's yearly congresses were established in Nice 2008, which was a great success, as was the 2009 congress in Vienna. The attendance of colleagues from outside Europe is increasing. EFORT is now well known internationally for arranging major congresses and thereby being the European platform for the exchange of scientific news and established knowledge.

The congresses are always scheduled between May and June, and next year the EFORT congress will be held in Madrid 2–5 June, followed by Copenhagen 1–4 June 2011. The General Assembly in Vienna decided that the future congresses will be held in Berlin 2012, Istanbul 2013, London 2014 and Prague 2015.

For the Madrid congress, we have received nearly 4,000 abstracts. The Scientific Evaluators scored them during the final weeks of October. The abstract evaluation process has been organised using a Web-based reporting tool and strict adherence to the time schedule, which is necessary now when the scientific work is finalised for one congress and prescheduled for the next at the same time in a rolling scheme. The work load on all involved has increased considerably, and the dedication is much appreciated.

### Addressing members' needs

Being a federation of all national orthopaedic associations in Europe and thereby having around 35,000 members throughout Europe, EFORT tries to fulfill the needs and expectations of its members on several levels. Some members might only be aware of the major yearly congresses, but there are also arranged Instructional Courses and Experts Meet Experts (ExMEx) meetings, Fora at national congresses, as well as travelling fellowships with two yearly groups of young surgeons.

The Instructional Courses (IC) are highly appreciated by the attendees, but they can only reach a limited number of surgeons.

For future instructional courses, EFORT will collaborate more with the national associations in making well-recognised national ICs more European in nature, thereby increasing the course catalogue. An ExMEx forum is meant for a somewhat larger audience and is designed for a higher level of specialisation. These are already organised with the European Speciality Societies, which also has been done for some instructional courses.

The first ExMEx forum will have a spine focus and be held in Barcelona on 19–20 November in collaboration with the Spanish Spine Society. During 2010, there will be an ExMEx on 25–27 March in Berlin with the topic of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) and navigation in knee and hip surgery. Another ExMEx in Bologna on 22–24 April will be dedicated to sports injuries.

### Collaborating with national societies

These events are one aspect of the increased cooperation between EFORT and the national and speciality societies. Another is that members from the speciality societies are now permanently included in the EFORT Scientific Committee for the various congresses, and they will together appoint a representative as an affiliated member to the EFORT Executive Committee meetings.

The national associations are already highly involved in EFORT projects. In the Nice EFORT congress in 2008, the French association SOFCOT was very engaged, as was the Austrian Orthopaedic Society in Vienna in 2009. The Madrid congress 2010 will be structured as a combined meeting with the yearly congress of the Spanish orthopaedic association (SECOT). Furthermore, the collaboration with the representatives from industry has been intensified with agreements both concerning exhibition at the congresses and other types of sponsoring, as well as adopting the new ethical code.

### A voice in the Council of Europe

It is important that orthopaedics and musculoskeletal traumatology has a united voice in the European Union and in the Council of Europe. Therefore, EFORT has started to explore the possibilities of gaining access to the decision makers who are important for our field. At the moment, due to the high cost

involved in such lobbying activities, the work is done through collegial and personal contacts.

In Brussels, EFORT has become engaged by the European Commission in an expert process on the future of the medical device sector, together with other specialities. It is through this kind of committee work that it is possible to influence future decisions.

In the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, EFORT is recognised as an official member of the INGOS (International Non-Governmental Organisations) and is regularly called for and represented at their meetings. Through their committee on ethics, science and education, it will be possible to influence future strategic decisions. All EFORT members who have personal knowledge and connections to support this work are highly welcome to contact the EFORT Central Office.

### Publication efforts

A long and ongoing history of EFORT publications has entered a new phase through the agreement between EFORT and Springer concerning the publication of a new EFORT textbook on orthopaedics and traumatology, as well as the start of the EFORT scientific journal, *European Orthopaedics and Traumatology*. The textbook work is highly advanced with most of the authors delivering chapters by the end of 2009, and the first issue of the journal will appear in 2010. Also, a booklet series called "EFORT Reference in Orthopaedics and Traumatology" is published with different topics in each issue.

Another important step in our publication development was the agreement with SLACK Incorporated to make ORTHOPEDICS TODAY EUROPE the official newspaper of EFORT. In each issue, there will be two pages with EFORT news, which you are reading now.

### The EFORT Foundation

To be able to support individual EFORT members in their research and education, the EFORT Foundation was created. It is important



Early registration deadline  
31 January 2010

SAVE THE DATES

### Forthcoming EFORT Congresses

11th EFORT Congress  
Madrid, 2–5 June 2010

Register now online on:  
[www.efort.org/madrid2010](http://www.efort.org/madrid2010)

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to acquire funds for research and education within our large professional field of locomotor disease and trauma that previously have been lacking. Colleagues from all over Europe will be able to apply for research grants or training grants for visiting fellowships from the EFORT Foundation. The foundation was described more in detail in the May/June issue of ORTHOPEDICS TODAY EUROPE.

The EFORT Foundation will raise funds from various sources such as colleagues, medical centres, industry and private donors. The EFORT Foundation will also run public campaigns to increase the public awareness regarding the need for research and education in our important field.

### Thanks to the co-workers

All of these achievements would not have been possible without the expanded Central Office. Most of the staff have been employed during the last 2 years, and together with the previous employees, the renewed Central Office has worked enthusiastically and efficiently to fulfill all development tasks. For all achievements during years 2008 and 2009, I heartily thank all individuals involved from the Executive Committee and the Central Office, especially EFORT General Secretary Manuel Cassiano Neves.

In the new year, I will hand over the steering wheel of this big ship, with so many sails up, to Professor Miklos Szendroi from Budapest, who will be the EFORT President in 2010/2011.

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