Inside EFORT: Statutes changes and relocation

The statutes have been reworked and aligned to the two overarching goals that emerged from the strategy review. One of them is to become a point of reference for MS diseases and injuries. This implies a focus on driving forward the scientific agenda, harmonising training and treatment, encouraging knowledge-sharing and exhibiting an unimpeachable level of integrity. The latter certainly justifies the creation of the new Ethics Committee, chaired by Professor Jean Puget. Substantial revisions to the statutes were presented to and accepted by the last General Assembly. The objective was to keep up with the current pace of business.

Three main items were put to the vote:

1. The Congress location: the Congress venue will be chosen by the Board. The Congress has become a very large and complex organisation, and the venues must be chosen on the basis of many factors, such as congress centre size and location, ease of transport and accommodation options for participants. The ordinary members of the Federation are encouraged to submit applications that the Board will analyse.

2. The terms of office have been changed. The Congress has become annual, so presidential officers will now serve for one year, in line with the Congress cycles. To ensure continuity, a second Vice-President position has been added, so that the members of the Board will each remain in office for four years. This will allow swifter and more effective rotation.

3. Head Office location: The EFORT Board will be able to determine the location of the Head Office, although the GA retains the power to decide the country in which the HO will be based.

Following the last General Assembly meeting held in Berlin last May the Head Office will move to the Western part of Switzerland to the Lake Geneva region at the end of October this year, as the lease at Technopark was coming to an end.

Annual Meeting of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS)
Athens, Greece, 17 – 20 April 2013

EPOS and EFORT: Close cooperation for the benefit of the patient

In April 2013, Athens will host the Annual Meeting of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS), a congress known for the top quality of the data presented there. Prof Dr Muharrem Yazici, professor of orthopaedics at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey and the current president of EPOS, stresses the valuable and active collaboration between EPOS and EFORT in research and education.

“The EPOS annual meeting is the most important convention of the paediatric orthopaedic community in the EMEA region. At EPOS, we are preparing to host members from geographic Europe and from around the world in Athens next April. For this 32nd meeting, we promise attendees the same outstanding scientific quality and warm hospitality as at the 31 meetings before plus unforgettable moments in the lovely city of Athens. Those who wish to submit abstracts for the meeting should hurry, as the deadline for submission is October 15th. Participants can contribute to the scientific side of the meeting not only with presentations but also by taking an active part in discussions,” Professor Muharrem Yazici, current president of EPOS, says, adding: “Everyone intending to spend three to four days next spring taking in an extensive scientific programme on paediatric orthopaedics with impressive Southern Europe as the backdrop is invited to visit www.epos2013.gr and take advantage of the benefits of early registration”.

EPOS meetings are known for the meticulous selection process that abstract submissions undergo before being accepted for presentation. “The EPOS board has never been disappointed by this process. In the last few years, new scientific formats have been included in the programme, alongside high-quality oral and poster presentations. We try to offer a growing number of educational activities to enable attendees to update their paediatric orthopaedic knowledge by revisiting current concepts, especially controversial ones,” explains Professor Yazici.

To Professor Yazici, an expert in paediatric orthopaedics, the close collaboration between EPOS and EFORT is of great importance and more than just a remedy against the “danger of isolation” brought about by subspecialisation: “We do not view EFORT as a competitor, but rather as a team member working for the same objective. As a platform EFORT assists us in our attempt to reach out to general orthopaedists and other subspecialty members. It is an important partner at the level of the European Union and a strong organisation, being the largest network representing European orthopaedics. We recognize that EFORT considers us a respected partner and are very pleased with this collaboration. EPOS is working diligently to prepare the best possible scientific content in EFORT’s activities related to paediatric orthopaedic education. EFORT, for its part, is using its resources to ensure that a large number of practitioners can derive maximum benefit from this content. There are obvious advantages to having two organisations working for the same objective, collaborating closely and achieving synergy to reach a common goal. The leaders of EPOS and EFORT are enthusiastic and motivated about finding new areas of collaboration within this mutually agreed arrangement.”

Professor Yazici cites the EPOS BAT Educational Programme as a perfect example of a joint effort between the two societies, calling it “the most solid and vivid indicator of what can be done when EFORT’s organisational skills and infrastructure are combined with the motivation of a subspecialty society and the dedication of its members.” The programme meets the demands required by the European Board of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EBOT). The eponym BAT arises from Basic Courses, Advanced Courses and TraumaTeaching Courses. EPOS is already making plans for the future of the program, including “the enriching of its content by setting up courses for residents along with those for young specialists, making resident courses compulsory for residents in Europe and using e-learning capabilities for this purpose.” Professor Yazici expects EPOS and EFORT to cross paths even more frequently in the near future: “New activities coming out of this collaboration may make use of the technological capabilities of the modern world such as webinars, synchronous and asynchronous e-education modules, electronic and printed material publications”.

Author
Prof Dr Muharrem Yazici, President of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society

32nd EPOS Annual Meeting
17th - 20th April 2013, Athens, Greece
Tribology Symposium during the 7th International Congress of the Chinese Orthopaedic Association (COA) in Beijing from 15 to 18 November 2012

Prof Dr Yan Wang, President of the Chinese Orthopaedic Association (COA), invited EFORT to make a scientific contribution to the 7th International Congress of the Chinese Orthopaedic Association to be held in Beijing from 15 – 18 November 2012.

Organised and chaired by Prof Dr Karl Knahr, EFORT will hold a symposium on tribology in total hip arthroplasty at this meeting, to which a number of leading tribology experts have been invited:

- Prof Dr Michael M. Morlock is Director of the Institute of Biomechanics at the University of Technology, Hamburg, and will speak about the implications of head size in total hip arthroplasty.
- Prof Dr Robert Streicher, Secretary General of the International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty (ISTA), will describe the latest technological advances in polyethylene and ceramics.
- Prof Dr Christoph H. Lohmann, Director of the Orthopaedic University Clinic in Magdeburg, Germany, will discuss the clinical performance of products made from improved polyethylene.
- Prof. Dr. Aldo Toni, Head of the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute at the University of Bologna, will go into the long-term results of ceramic-on-ceramic articulation.
- Prof Dr Karl Knahr, Director of the Department Orthopaedics II of the Orthopaedic hospital Speising Gmbih in Vienna, Austria, will talk about the benefits and drawbacks of metal-on-metal articulations.

This symposium is another milestone in the cooperation between EFORT and the Chinese Orthopaedic Association. China was a guest nation at the EFORT Congress in Berlin in 2012, and EFORT had the privilege of welcoming Prof Wang at this meeting. EFORT is convinced that this symposium in Beijing will prove to be a further stage in the fruitful cooperation of European and Chinese orthopaedic surgeons and their respective professional bodies.

15th EFORT Congress London 2014 – focus on patients’ safety

The Scientific Committee met to discuss the programme for the 15th EFORT annual congress, which will take place in London in 2014.

The content mirrors the wish of both the BOA and EFORT to present a fully integrated programme. The Robert Jones and Watson Jones lectures, together with The EFORT Honorary Lectures, will welcome distinguished speakers while for the first time ever within an EFORT programme, the BOA revalidation instructional sessions will enhance significantly the delegates’ educational experience. The Committee together with the representatives of the BOA and the specialty societies have agreed to pick “Patient safety” as main theme for this 15th edition.

With AAOS as guest nation we are proud to give you a first glimpse into a truly international programme.

Congress highlights:

- General Orthopaedics What is evidence based orthopaedics?
- Tribology The championship of materials
- Shoulder/elbow, arm/forearm
- The complicated reverse shoulder
- Hip
- Conservative surgery or arthroplasty
- Knee
- Osteous Knee osteoarthritis
- Polytrauma/pelvis Polytrauma in the elderly
- Paediatrics New approaches in managing children’s pain

Advanced Training Programme

EPOS-EFORT BAT 2012/2013 , Vienna
Children’s Orthopaedic Traumatology: 13 – 15 March 2013
Basic Course II: 09 – 11 October 2013

EFORT ExMEx Budapest, 19 – 20 April 2013
Osteoporotic Fractures