Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The regular edition of EPOS summer news was delayed, as we had to wait for essential articles without which the edition would not have been complete. EPOS activities are becoming ever more extensive. In addition to scientific work, other important activities have been introduced, in the form of educational initiatives on the principle of continuous education. The EMCURIE program that was prepared with great precision by Professor Grill has been an invaluable contribution, offering further learning to a large number of young paediatric orthopaedic surgeons. Under EPOS sponsorship various courses are organized in practically all European countries. Joint EPOS-POSNA courses were held for the third time, this year in Romania and Bulgaria. These activities have been possible thanks to the personal commitment of the lecturing experts and are covered mainly from personal resources. Further discussion is certainly needed on the extent of these activities. The future of these events, in terms of location, frequency and logistical support remains uncertain.

For their work in organizing the course in Romania and Bulgaria we should thank doctors Franz Grill, Christof Radler and Walter Strobl (Austria), Darko Anticevic (Croatia), Jiri Chomiak (Czech Republic), Ernesto Ippolito (Italy, EPOS president), Dror Ovadia (Israel) and Carl and Debbie Stanitski (USA). Local faculty presenters were Hariton Novokov, Panayot Tanchev, Hristo Georgiev (Ruse) and Dana Vasilescu (Cluj).

The publishing of our own journal is a great achievement for which Professor Weintroub deserves particular thanks. After gaining IF the journal will certainly be respected and in demand, and will become a publication base that will make it possible to gain credits necessary for academic research recognition. I would like to express my gratitude to the contributors to this issue and would like to wish all EPOS members a successful second half of 2008.

In order to remind us of our close relationship to IFPOS I have attached the report by professor Aronsson.

(Note: All articles are published in their original form without any intervention in terms of the English text or article content)

Prof. Jorg Reimers passed away. We received with deep sorrow an information, that Prof. Jorge Reimers, passed away on March 24. He was an outstanding pediatric surgeon and president of EPOS in the period 1991 - 92.
The 27th EPOS Meeting was held in Warsaw from Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th April 2008 under the Presidency of Prof. Marek Napiontek. Participants from all over the world attended the Meeting. There were a lot of colleagues coming from Eastern European Countries, but numerous pediatric orthopaedic surgeons came from Americas and Asia as well. The Meeting was very well organized: the two cities of Warsaw and Cracovia full of past and recent history were the spectacular frame of an outstanding scientific program.

On Wednesday afternoon, we had the pre-meeting Course on “Dega’s osteotomy of the iliac bone”. The Course, that included all the most frequently performed pelvic osteotomies, was a real success: the conference hall was so crowded that many attending people had to stand up!

The main program started on Thursday morning with the first session dedicated to “Hip deformity in adolescence”. The papers presented and the following discussion reached a very high scientific level. The other session of the morning was on “Neuromuscular Disorders and Upper Extremity”.

The afternoon was dedicated to a very interesting Warsaw City Tour.

On Friday, there were five sessions on “Limb reconstruction”, “Trauma and sports injuries”, “Lower extremity and Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease”, “Spine and infection”, and “Tumors” with 42 presented papers of high scientific level.

On Saturday morning, two sessions on “DDH” and “Foot Deformities” concluded the scientific program.

The scientific program was also enriched by four very interesting Plenary Lectures: 1) “Periacetabular Ganz osteotomy for adolescent hip dysplasia: technical aspects and long-term follow-up” by Moritz Tannast; 2) “Surgical dislocation of the hip” by Michael Millis; 3) “Botulinum Toxin-A in the treatment of gait problems in cerebral palsy – Past, present and future” by Guy Molenaers; 4) “Radial longitudinal deficiency” by Leszek Romanowsky.

The social program started on Wednesday evening with the Opening Ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, the Meeting venue. On Thursday evening, the Presidential Dinner was offered at the Palace of the Water in Warsaw, one of the royal residencies of the Polish Kings.
On Friday morning, at the end of the scientific program, Anthony Catterall and Dietrich Tönnis respectively introduced by Deborah Eastwood and Rudigher Kruspe were awarded with the EPOS Honour Medal Pro Maximis Meritis in recognition of their scientific contribution to the Pediatric Orthopaedic Community.
During the same touching ceremony the EPOS Honorary Membership was given to Michael Benson and Nando de Sanctis, both of them EPOS past-presidents.
A polish traditional dinner was the Friday night clue social event. The dinner was served in a typical polish country restaurant close by Warsaw, where local food and beverage were offered while polish traditional country music and dances were delivered. It was a very pleasant entertainment and all the participants had real fun while dancing and singing.
On Saturday morning, at the end of the scientific program, the best papers of the 2007 Sorrento EPOS Meeting were awarded by Baumann, Klisic and Sharrard prices.
Finally the Celebration Lunch concluded the 27th EPOS Meeting.
Prof. Ernesto Ippolito
EPOS past-president

Jan. 11-12, 2008-Warsaw, Poland- Local Host J. Czubak-
EPOS Co-ordinator-B. Moller-Madsen
POSNA Co-ordinator-Kaye Wilkins

The course was organized by the Department of Orthopaedics, Paediatric Orthopaedics and Traumatology of Postgraduate Medical Education Centre in Warsaw and Polish Paediatric Orthopaedic Society under the auspices of two scientific societies: EPOS and POSNA. The course was held in connection with the 16th edition of the annual nationwide campaign of a charity organization called The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity to raise money for new equipment for paediatric wards in Polish hospitals. In the two previous editions the money which was raised 20 millions $ was used to buy the newest orthopaedic and traumatological equipment. My department was one of the beneficiaries of the action.

The aim of the course was to train doctors who treat the sequelae of trauma in children. It should be noted that in Poland the place of pediatric traumatology is between orthopaedic traumatology and pediatric surgery, and it does not lie in their main interest. Due to this, we have to deal with a problem of insufficient training of both orthopaedic and pediatric surgeons in the field of pediatric trauma, which the course proved.

The course participants comprised 170 orthopaedic and pediatric surgeons (or doctors specializing in these fields). The list of participants had to be closed a long time before the course due to the size of the course venue. It was a low budget course (the fee was initially 50 Euro, later -2 months before the event -100 Euro) aimed at young doctors, which resulted in massive attendance.
Apart from Polish participants, there was also a group of 27 doctors from Lithuania and several doctors from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The faculty consisted of experts in the field of pediatric traumatology, that were representatives of both patron societies:
The course had an interactive character, with direct, natural involvement of the trainees during panel discussions, debates, votes and round table discussions.

All participants received course materials in the form of a 200 page book, including the whole set of lectures given during the course, as well as a certificate of attendance.

On Saturday night, following the course, I had a great honour to treat the whole Faculty with a national Polish dinner in my home. I hope they all enjoyed that evening.

The closing event was a visit of the faculty in the TV studio and a short online interview during the finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity on January 13. The place was loud and very crowded and On behalf of all Polish children and doctors dealing with orthopaedics and traumatology, we had a chance to thank the Foundation for the equipment received in the past two years.

I have an impression that the course has helped to integrate the circles of pediatric and orthopaedic surgeons in Poland, and I also believe it will have an impact on changing the principles of postgraduate training of both groups of doctors. I want to express my thanks to the board of EPOS and POSNA for supporting our efforts connected with the coordination of our course.

Jaroslaw Czubak
Director of the Course

Jan. 21-23, 2008-Ruse, Bulgaria - Local Host-P/ Chobanov -
EPOS Co-ordinator-F. Grill
POSNA Co-ordinator K. Staniski

Jan. 24-26, 2008-Cluj, Romania - Local Host-D. Vasilescu -
EPOS Co-ordinator-Franz Grill
POSNA Co-ordinator K. Staniski

**Current Concepts in Paediatric Orthopaedics**

Under the coordination of Professor Franz Grill, former EPOS Chair of Education, and POSNA member, Professor Carl Stanitski, and local chairs, Professor Pencho Chobanov, Ruse, Bulgaria, and Professor Dana Vasilescu, Cluj, Romania, in co-operation with the Bulgarian Pediatric Orthopaedic Society and the Romanian Society of Pediatric Surgery and Orthopaedics, two and one-half day courses were held in Ruse, January 21-23, 2008, and in Cluj, January, 24-26, 2008. There were approximately 80 course participants in Ruse and 40 course participants in Cluj.

An international visiting faculty representing 6 nations included Drs. Franz Grill, Christof Radler and Walter Strobl (Austria); Darko Anticevic (Croatia); Jiri Chomiak (Czech Republic); Ernesto Ippolito, EPOS President (Italy); Dror Ovadia (Israel); and Carl and Debbie Stanitski (USA). Local faculty presenters were Hariton Novokov, Panayot Tanchev and Hristo Georgiev, Ruse; and Dana Vasilescu, Cluj.

Conference topics included hip disorders from birth to maturity; spinal deformity; sepsis; congenital lower limb deficiencies; club foot; neuro-muscular disorders; tumors; limping child diagnosis; and trauma/fractures. Interactive discussions and case presentations followed the lectures. Very well received hands-on workshops were held on Ponseti management of
club foot, lower extremity deformity analysis and interpretation of hip ultrasonography and arthrography

One of the highlights of the visits was the awarding of Visiting Professorships to the Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Cluj-Napoca to Professors Franz Grill, Ernesto Ippolito and Carl Stanitski during a formal academic ceremony at the school.

EPOS and POSNA offer their thanks to the local course directors, their associates and their societies for their program preparation and assistance and their outstanding hospitality.

Jan.7-8 or 14,15 2008 -Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam-Local Host- Phan Quang Tri-
   POSNA Coordinator-B. Willis
   EPOS Coordinator-Andre Kaelin
Jan. 10-11,2008 or 17,18 2008-Bangkok, Thailand-Local Host-Pornchai Mulpruek-
   POSNA Coordinator-B Willis
   EPOS Coordinator-Andre Kaelin

Continuous Education Course in Paediatric Orthopaedics
Ho Chi Minh City Jan 11 and 12th 2008
Center for Traumatology and Orthopaedics (CTO)
Coordinator : Dr Tri (local), Baxter Willis (POSNA) MD, Dr André Kaelin (EPOS)
Speakers: CTO staff members, Baxter Willis, Ken Kuo, Perry Schoeneker, Scott Hoffinger, Alain Dimeglio, André Kaelin
Subjects: Club Foot; Perthes Disease; CDH; Trauma; Congenital Pseudarthrosis of the Tibia
Workshop : Ponseti method
Number of participants : 90 MD + physiotherapists and rehab. MD's

I don't know if an evaluation has been performed.
André Kaelin
Jean-François Mallet (Caen) is the current president of our Society (2007-2008), the past President is Gérard Bollini (Marseille) and the forthcoming president is Jean-Michel Clavert (Strasbourg). The general secretary is Jérôme Cottelard (Saint-Etienne). The SOFOP is an independent association affiliated with the French Orthopaedics Surgery Society (SOFCOT). The number of SOFOP's members is currently 228.

The SOFOP organised its national meeting in April in Amiens. The topic was "Cartilaginous and bone defects". Two hundred surgeons of different nationalities took part in this seminar. It has been a great pleasure for all the participants to exchange their experience with colleagues from other fields. The SOFOP will also participate in June in a combined meeting with Paediatricians in Nantes. During this congress, many round tables and instructional course lectures will be organized.

Next November, during the national congress of the French Orthopaedics Surgery Society (SOFCOT) in Paris, the SOFOP will participate at this meeting, with half a day devoted to the humanitarian surgery. Two
Lectures will be held up by Roxy Brauman and Marine Jacquemin. Another day will be spent on free papers, and half a day will be devoted to movies about specific surgical techniques.

To contact the SOFOP: web site: www.sofop.org. All the activities of the society are on line on our web site.

Sincerely yours

Jérôme Cottalorda
General Secretary

Jean-François Mallet
President
The Pediatric Orthopaedic Section of the Turkish Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology

The 4th National Pediatric Orthopaedics Congress was held in Antalya between April 23 - 27, with contributions of Stuart L. Weinstein M.D., Vincent Mosca M.D., Pierre Lascombes M.D. The AAOS lectures and case discussions drove great attention and the total attendance was over 300.

The eighth term executive committee was elected on May 11th, 2008. The missions and names were determined as shown below: Muharrem Yazici M.D., President; Nusret Kose M.D., Vice President; Vuslat Sema Unal M.D., General Secretary; Emel Gonen Bas M.D., Treasurer; Bulent Erol M.D., Member; Hasan Hilmi Muratli M.D., Member; Bulent Daglar M.D., Members at-large.

The committee welcomes you for the forthcoming activity in October 2008, that will be held in the fascinating city by the Mediterranean Sea. The 9th Congress of International Society for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (ISMUS) 8-11 October 2008, Titanik Otel ANTALYA. http://www.ismuscongress2008.org.tr

Landin Lennart <

Lennart Landin
President
Swedish Pediatric Orthopaedic Society

Malmö, Sweden 27.05.2008
REPORT

The Swedish Pediatric Orthopaedic Society (SBOF – Svensk Barnortopedisk Förening)
1 June 2007 – 31 May 2008:

The Swedish Pediatric Orthopaedic Society (SBOF) was founded in 1984 with the purpose to promote the knowledge and art of practise of children’s orthopaedics among orthopaedic surgeons who had a special interest in that field. From the start, the aim has been to keep the atmosphere friendly and informal at the meetings where everybody can put forward questions, thoughts and comments irrespective of position, experience or academic grade. This warm atmosphere has prevailed over the decades since the start.

The Society has at present 96 members where the majority is working at hospitals without any specific Pediatric Orthopaedic Unit. Sweden measures 1,600 km in length and is some 400 km wide. The population is at present 10 millions served by 50 departments for orthopaedic surgery. The geography creates long distances between these units and many of these serve a population of only 100,000-150,000 inhabitants which makes subspecialization difficult. However, all these units who also care for children with orthopaedic diseases or trauma have one or two orthopaedic surgeons with children’s orthopaedics as their special interest. Therefore it has been of crucial interest of the Society to promote knowledge in the field of children’s orthopaedics. Only some 20 colleagues are full-time pediatric orthopaedic surgeons in Sweden at present.

Since the start the Society pride itself for keeping the fees low, so that the annual fee for membership has not changed since 1984 and is 100 SEK (€ 10) since the start! One of the purposes is of course to attract junior doctors to the Society. The annual meetings are held in October and are rotated between the units.

Due to generous economical support from the Bertha Neubergh Foundation the annual meeting is held in Gothenburg every second year. This foundation has made it possible for the Society to invite prominent pediatric orthopaedic surgeons from all over the world as visiting professors. Over the years George Loyd Roberts, Lynn Staheli, Stuart Weinstein, André Kaelin, Klaus Parsch and Colin Moseley, to name a few, have been visiting professors and have made significant contributions with presentations in their special fields of interest and in the discussions.

The Society is acting, whenever possible, on the national Swedish orthopaedic scene with symposia at the annual meeting of The Swedish Orthopaedic Society and in the Swedish National Society of Physicians and also at present with two members of the committee for the Swedish Orthopaedic Examination, making it possible to direct the questions and examination towards children’s orthopaedics.

The annual meeting of The Swedish Orthopaedic Society was held in Umeå in late August 2007. SBOF arranged a symposium with the purpose to promote the interest for pediatric orthopaedics among young as well as older colleagues. Göran Hansson made an elegant presentation of the milestones that made children’s orthopaedics what it is today, mentioning the advent of antibiotics, vaccination against polio, the eradication of tuberculosis and modern fracture treatment. Gunnar Ahlström talked on the everyday professional life of a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon covering all aspects from taking care of newborns with congenital
deformities to difficulties and the way to communicate with teenagers with minor aches and pains. Carl Johan Tiderius gave a talk on d-GEMRIC which enables us to monitor early degenerative cartilage disease in for example hip dysplasia. This is made possible by using gadolinium enhanced MRI. Hanne Hedin organised and chaired a symposium “Child abuse – a lethal disease” with Dr Jacquelin Mok from Edinburgh who made an in-dept presentation of the signs of child abuse, its consequences and told us not to be prejudiced. All children are at risk and parents from no socioeconomic group can be excluded.

The annual meeting took place in Gothenburg 10-12 October 2007 with Michael Benson from Oxford, UK, as visiting professor. The meeting was started with an instructional pre-course and Henrik Düppe talked on DDH, Gunnar Hägglund on orthopaedic aspects on cerebral palsy and Bertil Romanus on Perthes disease. This was the first time such a pre-course was arranged, and the aim was to give overviews of a specific problem with young and presumptive children’s orthopaedic surgeons as the target group. All three gave excellent presentations with much to learn also for older colleagues! Michael Benson talked about metabolic disease with particular reference to osteogenesis imperfecta. Olof Risto chaired a session on neuromuscular problems, Bertil Romanus the DDH-symposium.

In 2001 the Society initiated The National Registry on late detected congenital dislocation of the hip in order to discover trends and to monitor the effectiveness of the screening procedure which in Sweden is exclusively based on clinical examination by the pediatricians at the maternity wards. The reliability of the register is based on the reporting by the members of the Society and the data is since a few years collected by Henrik Düppe. Each year 10 to 15 cases with true, complete hip dislocations are detected in Sweden. Early data by Erik Severin, before general screening was introduced in this country, says that the incidence of congenital hip dislocation is 1-2 per 1000 newborns. The birth rate in Sweden is approximately 100.000 per year and this means that the estimated number would be up to 200 new cases with this disabling condition discovered each year. Therefore, the clinical screening can be said to be 90 per cent effective in detecting and preventing complete hip dislocations in the newborn. With this data as a background general screening with ultrasound has never been considered to be cost efficient to introduce in Sweden.

The Assembly accepted a proposal of a National Registry on slipped capital femoral epiphysis, suggested and managed by Bengt Herngren and Stefan Lind. The purpose of this registry is to estimate the number of severe slips, possibly centralised treatment of these and to get a general epidemiological overview of the condition in the country.

Since 10 years a substantial part of the budget of the society goes to a travel grant. The grant is especially dedicated to applicants who plan to work at or take study leaves at centres of excellence in pediatric orthopaedics abroad. The grant is € 700 which does not seem to be much but can be regarded as an extra financial support in the fundraising for a longer study leave abroad. The travel grant for 2007 was awarded Jacques Riad who plans to go to DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware, and after that to participate in the POSNA-meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The organisers of the meeting were also very successful in planning the social program. The first evening of the meeting was spent on a boat, cruising among the rough cliffs and skerries in the wonderful and dramatic Gothenburg archipelago. After a delicious seafood buffet we all disembarked, feeling as salty seamen! The next evening was a magic night; spent at The
Rondo watching the Joe Labero Magic Show, international magician, regularly appearing in Las Vegas. Such a night!

The board is increasing the educational efforts and contributed in 2007 with a wide spectrum of articles in “Ortopediskt Magasin” (The Orthopaedic Magazine) which is a joint publication for The Swedish Orthopaedic Society and The Swedish National Society of Orthopists. The style of the magazine emphasises on informative texts and easy read overviews. Helena Saraste wrote on correction of spinal deformities. Henrik Lauge Pedersen and Katarina Delhusen on leg length discrepancy and Gunnar Hägglund reported on the regional variations in the use of orthoses in children with CP. Björn Tjernström wrote on bone lengthening with the title “Twenty meters of new bone – what have we learned?”

The next annual meeting will take place October 15-17, 2008, and is open to all EPOS-members. The meeting will take place in Karlskrona in the South East of Sweden. The city has been the home of a naval base since the 16th century, has an interesting history and beautiful surroundings. You are all welcome there; please contact pahr.engstrom@ltblekinge.se or peter.munksgaard@ltblekinge.se for information!

The international links have been strengthened during the last year with affiliated memberships to EPOS, thereby JCO and POSNA, which we all highly appreciate!

The website of The Swedish Orthopaedic Society: www.ortopedi.se has a link, Svensk Barnortopedisk Förening, which updates news of the Society, although in Swedish.

For The Swedish Orthopaedic Society,

Lennart Landin
President of the Swedish Pediatric Orthopaedic Society
M.D. Ph.D.
Unit for Pediatric Orthopaedics,
Department of Orthopaedics, Malmoe University Hospital
SE-205 02 MALMÖ, Sweden

Søren Harving
Consultant, Northern Ortopedic Division, Denmark
Report from Danish Paediatric Orthopaedic Society

We are a small group of 28 Danish orthopaedic doctors with special interest in children’s orthopaedics.
During the last year we have been busy participating in planning a new strategy for Danish Orthopaedics due to a new deal in Denmark regarding which patients goes to which hospital.
We have held two meetings within our Society and one well visited symposium on children’s fractures and dislocations around the elbow.
In near future we will focus on orthopaedic treatment of CP, special hip-problems in CP. We will also give lot of attention to keep the responsibility for treatment of children trauma cases in our hands and we hope to develop our relationship with our colleges in Northern Countries, the rest of Europe and the World.

Yours Sincerely

Søren Harving
President, Danish Orthopaedic Society.
Vienna, June 6, 2008

Dear friends,

As discussed in Warsaw I attended the meeting of the EFORT specialty societies on May 30, 2008 in Nice.

The topic was the scientific meeting in Vienna.

Probably we will get the official protocol of the meeting. Nevertheless I would like to give you a head summary before.

The EFORT congress 2009 will take place in Vienna from Wednesday, June 3 2009 to Saturday June 6, 2009, 2 p.m.

EPOS officially has agreed to participate in the Comprehensive Review Course (CRC) which will be held on June 4, Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This Review Course aims to teach the knowledge that is needed for every specialist and tries to broaden the participants Orthopaedic horizon. This Course provides state-of-the-art presentations in 5 major areas:

- Lower extremity
- Upper extremity
- Spine
- Paediatrics
- Basic Science

Attending this comprehensive full day Review Course will provide the necessary knowledge to pass the European Board Examination (EBOT).

This is something like AOS does during its meeting and it’s also worthwhile to go for the BOA-Website and look there for the Syllabus British Society, that offers to prepare for the examination.

EFORT asked EPOS to organize a four hour program officially. But compared to other specialty societies this is not really that much.

EFAS had a full day, ERASS a half day, ESSKA a full day and EBIS four hours just for postoperative infections.
The countdown for the meeting has already started and important dates are:

- July 01, 08: Abstract submission opens
- August 30, 08: Deadline for nomination of the faculty
- September 15, 08: Abstract submission deadline
- October 05, 08: Abstracts are submitted to reviewers
- January 15, 09: Early registration deadline
- February 15, 09: Preliminary program available

As a result we have only a short time to make suggestions and decisions. The deadline for these decisions is 20 June 2008.

Until this date we can choose our topics and can decide whether we would like to have more time than 4 hours for EPOS.

We should nominate the people for the abstract review.

An interesting contribution in the discussion was done by Pascal Boitieu (Shoulder Society) about what – compared to AAOS – is the benefit of the special societies from EFORT. He was complaining about that EFORT does not pay for the speakers, does not give support to the specialty societies, for example some money for the secretariat. The idea was discussed to get the secretaries of the specialty societies partly or fully paid by EFORT.

When I comment on this I would like to say that I find the idea that EFORT offers a professional society management to each subspecialty charming.

Pros and cons where discussed. The conclusion was that EFORT is not AAOS and Europe is not United States. To provide you with the full information about the EFORT congress in Vienna you will receive the first announcement and call for abstracts by separate mail.

With best regards from Nico,

Franz Grill

PS: The letter will be made by my secretary before I will be back in Vienna.
Dear Pavel,

Please be informed about following, that has been discussed with Dietrich Schlezanka and majority of Board members.

Thank you,
Darko

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Dear Manuel,

I would like to kindly ask you to include following information on Zagreb EPOS Annual Meeting 2010 in the electronic distribution of the first announcement for the next year Lisbon Meeting:

29th Annual Meeting of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS)
7-10 April 2010, Zagreb, Croatia
One-day pre-meeting course: Legg-Calvé-Perthes Disease - One Century After
Main Topic: Upper Extremity

For any further necessary information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Darko Anticicvic

4.7.2008
Dear Colleagues,

9th Biannual Congress of the International Society for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (ISMUS) Congress will be held between the dates 8 and 11 October 2008 in Titanic Hotel (5*) of Antalya, Turkey. This congress will be held under the patronage of Pediatric Orthopaedics Section of the Turkish Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology and International Society for Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. Besides this, a pre-congress "Infantile hip ultrasonography course" that will be chaired by Professor Reinhard Graf from Stolzalpe-Austria, will be held between the dates 6 and 8 October 2008 at the congress venue. This congress will be an excellent meeting point for participants to share and update their knowledge on the selected topics. In addition to the outstanding scientific program being offered, we encourage delegates and guests to enjoy the many world famous cultural heritages and natural scenic beauty of Turkey. The congress will include several lectures on selected topics that will be presented by a distinguished international faculty, a mini shoulder USG course, and selected free paper presentations as well as poster presentations. The deadlines for early registration with a reduced fee and submission for abstracts will be 31 July 2008. You can find all the details about accommodation, registration and abstract submission as well as the scientific pre-program of the course and congress, at the official website of the congress www.ismuscongress2008.org

I’ll be more than happy if you could kindly forward this message to your society members whom you think she/he may interest to attend this congress.

I look forward to meeting our colleagues in beautiful Antalya in October 2008.

With my very best wishes,

Hakan Omeroglu, MD,
EPOS Member,
ISMUS 2008 Congress President,
Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology,
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e-mail: homero@superonline.com

4.7.2008
The origin of the International Federation of Paediatric Orthopaedic Societies (IFPOS) stems from an interest by several paediatric orthopaedic surgeons in Europe, including Henri Bersahel and Nando de Sanctis. All of them were interested in discussing an organization or society that would be internationally based, beyond the reach of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS). In 1992 Nando de Sanctis hosted an International Meeting in Naples, Italy, to discuss the concept or idea. Dean MacKwan, Morris Duhaine, and Takao Yamamoto participated in the meeting with enthusiasm. Following this meeting in Naples, discussion started with the successive Presidents of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA). The discussions were lengthy; finally IFPOS was created in 1996.

The 1st IFPOS Meeting was combined with EPOS in April 1998, in Madrid, Spain; there were 700 Registrants. The 2nd IFPOS Meeting was combined with the Japanese Orthopaedic Association (JOA) and the Paediatric Section of the Asian Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) in September 2001, in Sendai, Japan. The 3rd IFPOS Meeting was combined with the Brazilian Paediatrics Orthopaedic Society (BPOS), the Sociedad Latino Americana de Ortopedia y Traumatologia Infantil (SLAOI), and the Brazilian Orthopaedic Society (BOC) in September 2004, in Bahia, Brazil. The 4th IFPOS Meeting was combined with EPOS in April 2007, in Sorrento, Italy. The 5th IFPOS Meeting is scheduled to be combined with the Korean Orthopaedic Society (KOS) and the Paediatric Section of APOA in September 2010, in Seoul, Korea. The 3rd IFPOS Meeting was initially planned to be combined with POSNA in May 2004, but POSNA was not interested in a combined meeting with IFPOS at that time.

Since the last Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie (SICOT) World Congress in 2005, in Istanbul, Turkey, IFPOS has been charged with coordinating the Paediatric Orthopaedic Program for the Annual SICOT International Conferences and the Triennial SICOT World Congress. Since the 2nd International Clubfoot Congress (ICC) in 2002, in San Diego, California, IFPOS has been the Co-Sponsor of the ICC Meeting which is held every 3 years in conjunction with the Triennial SICOT World Congress. The ICC and SICOT provide an excellent forum for pediatric orthopaedic surgeons from both underdeveloped and developed countries to present their work and receive international feedback from an informed audience. The next Triennial SICOT World Congress will take place in Hong Kong, China on August 24-28, 2008.

After its formation in 1996, IFPOS did not have any money or a Dues structure. After some discussion, it was decided to ask all International Societies, as well as Paediatric Orthopaedic Study Groups if the country was small, to contribute $1.00 per member per year to the newly formed IFPOS.

Between 1999 and 2003, many International Paediatric Orthopaedic Societies and Countries contributed $1.00 per member to IFPOS. Contributions came from Argentina, Brazil, Korea, UK, Japan, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Taiwan, Vietnam, Norway Bolivia, Turkey, and the United States.
In 2003, the POSNA Board of Directors (BOD) was concerned that IFPOS did not have any formal Bylaws (this was apparently not true as IFPOS had formal Bylaws written during its foundation in Prague, Czech Republic), did not seem to be well-organized (this was apparently not true, but IFPOS was not yet a major society), and treated all International Societies the same, whether or not they paid Dues. As a result, the POSNA BOD elected not to have a combined meeting with IFPOS in 2004 and elected to stop sending IFPOS $1.00 per member per year.

Unfortunately, although several Societies and Countries continue to pay IFPOS Dues, many Societies and Countries have elected to stop sending IFPOS an annual contribution. As a result, the balance in the IFPOS account has decreased over the last 4 years despite spending very little on operations. Since IFPOS spends very little each year, the Society is currently financially solvent but the decreasing fund balance is a concern. The IFPOS Board of Directors is planning a Meeting in Hong Kong in August 2008, to discuss what to do about the dwindling support for International Societies and Countries. Several ideas have come forth, including have each Society or Country contribute the appropriate amount in their own currency, rather than in U.S. dollars, or decreasing the annual contribution to $0.50 per member per year.

Most IFPOS Members believe that IFPOS provides a unique venue for Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons in developing countries, as well as developed countries in different parts of the World, to share their orthopaedic knowledge with more established organizations, such as POSNA, EPOS, or JOA. More importantly, IFPOS Members believe that the unique venue of the International exchange of ideas should improve the quality of orthopaedic care for children throughout the World, which is central to the Mission of IFPOS.

I hope this information is helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

D.D. Aronsen