



## Presidential Newsletter

Philippe Collin

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### To Gather and Unify our SECEC towards 2030

We, scientists, regardless of our specialties, have been applying the same approach and processes for many years: first, we observe a fact, we analyze it, we formulate a hypothesis, we then share it with our colleagues for it to become true until it is proven wrong. The main question is always remaining: how do we know for sure if something we believe in our practice is true or false?



Our aim as physicians, is to improve the daily lives of our patients by diminishing pain and improving function. To achieve this, we are always looking for the "Truth" or the best way to achieve it. We also need a place where we can share and learn, to confront our ideas with others, a place where we can present our results and collect our colleagues' opinions. What we need is a forum for free, open, and independent information exchange and discussions, a place for controversy!

This is where scientific societies such as the SECEC play a key role. Indeed, science is improving thanks to a form of "friendly hostility" and there is no better place for such an exchange than within scientific societies.

I have been given the honour to run our society for the next two years and I would first of all like to start by reminding ourselves of what SECEC is and its founding principles:

In 1987, Didier Patte and Norbert Gschwend created the "Société Européenne de L'Épaule et du Coude" (SECEC). At first, there were 54 members originating from 12 different countries. The official languages were French and English. Today, although all communications are made in English, we continue to call our society "SECEC" as a recognition of our strong heritage. From the early beginnings, two main goals were identified: First, to organize a world class congress with a very high scientific level and second, to increase the knowledge and training of surgeons interested in shoulder and elbow problems (article 3 of our constitution).

Thirty-four years later, we can affirm that these first goals set by our predecessors have been achieved. SECEC has organized as many as 29 congresses in 29 countries. Last year in Dublin, we received around 700 abstracts from more than 40 countries and the acceptance rate for podium presentations was around 10%.

I believe that we can also be confident in our future, remain on our trajectory and strengthen our leadership by continuing to organize the **most innovative world scientific congress in our specialty** every year.

As mentioned above, our mission is to increase the general knowledge and skills of surgeons and ultimately improve the quality of life for our patients. For this, we have to build on what has already been done successfully by the society (research grants, travelling fellowships, webinars, ICL,..) but also to constantly look for new ways to meet the needs of our members.

For this, we need a practical approach. After all, we are surgeons and we are well aware of the difference between theory and practice. Therefore, in a very practical way, we have identified the following 4 targets:

- To launch the SECEC board-certification for shoulder and elbow surgeons
- To start multicentric studies and aim to report on the first one in 2024 in Munich
- To strengthen the links with other national shoulder and elbow societies and with our national delegates
- To create a head office in order to implement the strategy defined by my predecessors Emilio Calvo and Mehmet Demirhan

I know that for this ambitious plan, I can count on a wonderful team made of Emilio Calvo (Spain), Lionel Neyton (France), Mario Borroni (Italy), Philipp Moroder (Switzerland), Olivier Verborgt (Belgium), Pierre Mansat (France), Paolo Paladini (Italy), Samuel Antuna (Spain), Patric Raiss (Germany), Ali Ersen (Turkey), Jeppe Rasmussen (Denmark), Tjarco Alta (Netherlands), Joanna Walecka (Poland) and Sylvie Noel, our SECEC Office secretary.

I would like to thank them all for their trust and for their commitment to the association.

Let's get started and I will report back to you 3 months on our progress on the different topics.

Sincerely yours,

**Philippe COLLIN**