



Presidential Newsletter

Emilio Calvo

September 2020

Dear SECEC Members, Dear Friends

It is with great honour that I begin my SECEC Presidency; as well as a true privilege and an extraordinary responsibility. I started serving SECEC in 2009 as Congress President, and went on to develop several positions in the Executive Committee ever since. Last year I was appointed as President Elect, following the path of big names in shoulder and elbow surgery.

In the time following the election, our world has changed unexpectedly. I take office in a congress wisely conducted by Przemislav Lubiatoński and Philippe Collin, that has been organized virtually as a consequence of the terrible pandemic that is severely impacting our lives. In spite of this, the coronavirus pandemic has allowed us to stimulate new approaches regarding the activity of scientific societies.

Mehmet Demirhan has developed an enormous work for SECEC with dedication and generosity. With the help of a talented Executive Committee, substantial improvements have been completed and new positive projects started. It has undoubtedly been a very productive period. It will be my responsibility together with the ExCom to develop a strategic plan, not only to consolidate and expand these projects, but to lead our society several steps forward. The expansion and growth of SECEC provides us the opportunity to enhance the mission and vision of our society, which is to serve our patients by advancing shoulder and elbow care.

Interest in shoulder and elbow surgery is steadily increasing, and the number of surgeons focused on this area rapidly grows throughout Europe. Advances in the knowledge of shoulder and elbow pathology have permitted the development of innovative techniques and advances in shoulder and elbow surgery. Consequently, now is the time to consolidate the strong position of our Society in this field and to enhance and disseminate its activities.

1 Reinforcing our identity: Teaching & research

The scientific prestige of SECEC is very high. The majority of the milestones and progresses developed in shoulder and elbow surgery have been born in Europe and many of them presented for the first time in our annual meeting. Consequently, SECEC congress is regarded as the most attractive scientific meeting to shoulder and elbow surgeons and researchers. An increasing number of surgeons from all over the world are willing to visit our centres, and our Society is respected and reputed worldwide.

As a scientific society, our first purpose must be to keep on supporting research activity in Europe. A new research prize in the memory of Norbert Gschwend has been created to support research pertaining to the elbow. Samuel Antuña will be responsible to conduct the Research and Development Committee. I know him well and I am positive he will work to keep scientific level of the SECEC higher as possible.

Registries are crucial in researching shoulder and elbow surgery. After the extremely efficient activity developed in this field by the Registry Committee lead by Carlos Torrens, Jeppe Rasmussen -Scandinavian and previous member of the committee- will take over.

As a result of the high prestige of SECEC, the number of surgeons overseas interested in visiting high qualified teaching surgeons and centers in Europe is increasing fast. The current three exchange travelling fellowships organized by the Education Committee, under the chairmanship of Paolo Paladini -USA, Intra-Europe, and Asia Pacific- will probably need to be augmented. This decision should be taken and organized in coordination with our sister societies, especially ASES. The newly created International Committee will play a fundamental role in this task.

Lockdown all over the world due to coronavirus pandemic has sped up the implementation of new methods of online education. As a consequence, the number of educational activities such as webinars and podcasts has risen exponentially. The execution and value of these activities needs to be adjusted to manage the technological challenge in order to maintain SECEC's leadership in shoulder and elbow medical education.

Shoulder and Elbow surgery is now recognized as a true “superspecialty”. European Union is working to harmonize and standardize medical education, and SECEC must play a crucial role in defining the standards of medical education in shoulder and elbow surgery in Europe. The Qualification Committee chaired by Markus Scheibel has carried out a huge work to delineate the SECEC curriculum in shoulder and elbow surgery, as well as to define the conditions to be met to accredit centres and surgeons across Europe. Those SECEC certified centres will also be offered for the SECEC travelling fellowships. This project will be settled down by Patric Raiss and his team, who has been working closely with Markus in the Qualification Committee. Application to become a SECEC qualified shoulder and elbow centre is encouraged.

2. Increasing the community: SECEC membership

SECEC has changed since it was born in the late eighties: From an elitist club of prominent surgeons it has become a society that lights the knowledge of shoulder and elbow surgery globally. We must be attractive to young peers interested in shoulder and elbow surgery. Accordingly, the Membership Committee chaired by Alex Laederman has modified the conditions to become associate and junior member. With the additional help of the Junior Committee we should also be able to bring young talent into the society while keeping the scientific level. Thanks to their contribution, SECEC will remain “the place to be” for all those focused in shoulder and elbow surgery. No matter it they are interested in basic research, engineering, arthroplasty, trauma or arthroscopy. This year we had more than 30 applicants for less than 20 positions available in our committees proving the enthusiasm of our members and the good health of our society. Should you think you can bring your help to this big project, please feel free to contact me, Emilio Calvo, our Secretary Phillipe Collin or Sylvie Noel.

3. Communicating and disseminating SECEC: Website and social media

We must acknowledge the tremendous effort put in by Mario Borroni and the website committee in fully renewing and upgrading the SECEC webpage. The importance of our webpage has been underlined in these difficult months of confinement. It is not only the area to provide a quick

and easy relation between SECEC and members, but also to connect members to each other. It is also the base to follow the online congress and any other SECEC activities.

Social Media are critical to build a brand and to increase our visibility and leadership through building relationships and communications. We need to increase our presence and activity in social media and be present in all major platforms such as Wikipedia. The Website Committee together with the Junior Committee will work hard in this assignment.

4. Connection with physios and civil society

The collaboration between SECEC and EUSSER has been very productive. This year we could not hold the combined meeting. For this reason, Roger van Riet has worked with Alex van Tongel in a combined SECEC-EUSSER webinar. Tjarco Alta as new chairman of the Health Care Delivery Committee will strengthen our relations with physios, but will also work in connecting SECEC with civil society organizations.

5. A win-to-win relation: Support from industry

Relations between medical industry and SECEC has always been synergistic and beneficial. The approval of the new healthcare compliance regulations by MedTech Europe has changed somewhat the scenario. SECEC is a non-profit organization, but we need to be able to fund our educational and research projects. Redefining the role of industry in these projects and a specialized management of SECEC will be the main objectives of our treasurer, Anders Ekelund.

6. Still building Europe

National Delegates are critical in maintaining a dynamic connection between SECEC and the different national societies and Roger Emery had the intuition himself to promote this aspect. Istvan Szabo and his team have worked hard to facilitate training, to improve clinical practice and promote scientific research in shoulder and elbow surgery in Eastern Europe. We will work in increasing the participation of members across Europe to obtain a strong geographical balance.

7. Meeting face to face again! - Upcoming SECEC Congresses

The Poznan 2020 SECEC meeting has been postponed to 2021. Przemolubiatovski and his local team, in cooperation with Torres Pardo, have worked hard to put all the pieces together. Poznan will be our first SECEC presential date. Hope we will be able to meet face-to-face earlier.

As you can see, there is much work behind, but the future challenge is huge. We have a long way to walk together for SECEC. I'm counting on you. Thanks for your support!

Emilio Calvo,
SECEC-ESSSE President

