



SOSORT

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON SPINAL ORTHOPAEDIC AND
REHABILITATION TREATMENT

NEWSLETTER N° 3-2010

EDITORIAL	NEWS	SCIENTIFIC EVENTS	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	LINKS	PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER
			SCOLIOSIS JOURNAL		

EDITORIAL:

Dear colleagues,

Seeing you again in Montreal was great as well as to see new faces interested in this field!

Lot's of news had been generated after this important event! We will try to report them all long this and next editions.

The Board has changed and our new President, Toru Maruyama, starts his presidency with a letter for all members. While our current past-President, Tomasz Kotwicki, resumes his presidential in another letter and exposes us his opinion about our future.

Following our new format we are performing interviews to different authorities in the spinal deformities field. In this edition we publish the interview made to Theodoros B Grivas as Chief editor of our journal. He presents us the current situation and encourages us to collaborate in converting the un-official impact factor in official.

During the Montreal Congress we had the opportunity to record an interview to Lawrence Lenke, one of the most important current spinal surgeons, due to some technological problems we are forced to publish it in the next edition.

All papers presented during the Congress were excellent and gave us knowledge to improve in our daily activity, but just two of them obtained the SOSORT's Award which enable the authors to publish their paper for free on Scoliosis!!!! In this first edition, after the Congress, we have asked Jean Claude de Mauroy to give us a comment on his recently award. On November we will have the opportunity to ask Charles Rivard for his.



The Newsletter Committee thanks all the professionals who participate with us, without them will be impossible to publish the newsletter.

Trying to do the best for our society, we hope you enjoy with this edition.

M. Villagrasa and P. Pizzetti.

LAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER: TOMASZ KOTWICKI

Dear SOSORT Members, dear friends,

The time passes quickly and it has already marked completion of my function as SOSORT President, being accomplished in 2009-2010. This is my privilege to address my word to the Members of our Society. It was my great honor to serve the Society. I would like to thank all of you for your help.

My gratitude is addressed specially to my predecessor, Dr. Theodoros B. Grivas who familiarized me with the function. He gave us an example of remarkable presidency. If you remember, during the Lyon Gala dinner I named Dr. Grivas the "On-line President" due to his incredible accessibility on the Internet. I am also very thankful to Dr. Manuel Rigo for his continuous help in all SOSORT issues, and to Dr. Jean-Claude de Mauroy, a passionate web expert, for his assistance in the everyday life of the Society. I would like to underline the eminent role of Dr. Stefano Negrini, a permanent key person of our Society and I am delighted he was elected for the future Presidency. I appreciate a lot the valuable work and contribution of Monica Villagrasa, Joe O'Brien, Fabio Zaina, Patrick Knot, Charles Rivard acting within the SOSORT Board and I appreciate the work of all SOSORT Members. I wish Toru Maruyama, our new President, a successful leadership.

The Society continues in growing and developing. We welcome new members that joined

the SOSORT this year. We still are not a big group, comparing to many other societies. However, we take advantage of having integrated high level professionals in providing best scoliosis non-surgical care. This particular medical issue is sometimes not rightly considered a niche by the pro-surgical medical community. In fact, taking into account the number of patients concerned, and the potential benefit of avoiding heavy surgery, it seems to be underestimated. Non-surgical and surgical care concern different patients, what is known by those members of our Society who are active spine surgeons.

While being a relatively small group, we begin to be visible and audible. The increasing position of SOSORT can be noticed in Europe and to some extent in the North America as well. Our activities are observed and positively commented. I do hope SOSORT will spread its ideas of high level standard of scoliosis care. This is our next step to do: to evolve from a group of experts coming from a few centers into a worldwide community of professionals respecting the highest standards. Will we be successful in this task? It depends on you, on all the Members already involved and the ones who are ready to join us.

The Official Journal of the Society, the Scoliosis Journal, is our pride and our challenge. The Society Members should keep in mind that they are obliged to work and act together with the Editor-in-Chief to strengthen the journal. The visibility of "Scoliosis" is enormous. The availability of any paper published in "Scoliosis" is more than satisfactory.

We aim to base our professional activity not only on best practice expertise but on scientific evidence, as well. Our previous efforts were enlarged and multiplied in the course of the last year. Enriched with the experience of the USA and the Netherlands, we are closer more than any time before to start SOSORT multicenter prospective studies and SOSORT randomized trials.

The initiative to regularly prepare SOSORT Consensuses was successful and led to a total of seven SOSORT Consensus Papers so far, two of them published last year, summarizing the expertise in various aspects of conservative scoliosis management. I am glad to notice that these papers are read and that they influence the practice. Thus, the level of the care follows the standards indicated by the leading centers. During last meeting we accepted that the Consensuses will be regularly updated to reflect the changing experience and evidence.

There are many new initiatives involving SOSORT, including Surface Topography Study Group, genetic and molecular approach to idiopathic scoliosis, multicenter cooperation for high level education in physiotherapy and many others. I wish they will develop successfully within the next few years.

I'd like to refer to what I wrote with Jacek Durmala in the welcome address for the first Meeting of our Society, held in Poznan, Poland in 2006: The problem of progressive spinal curvatures in children and adolescents remains unsolved. The immense progress of basic and clinical science has failed to protect our patients from this chronic and disabling condition. With the foundation of SOSORT the professionals dealing with conservative management of idiopathic scoliosis: physiotherapists, physicians, orthotists and scientists have found a common forum to exchange ideas and improve the quality of patient care. We cannot prevent a scoliotic curve appearing but we have to be able to stop its progression.

Let's remember that all our efforts are directed to patients with spinal deformities and to their parents. Their satisfaction recompenses our work and gives it the value. I would be happy seeing the patients and the families become engaged in the life of the Society.

I wish you all a very successful year and I am looking forward to seeing you at next meetings of the international Society of Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Treatment.

Tomasz Kotwicki, MD, SOSORT 2009/2010 President



PRESIDENT'S LETTER: TORU MARUYAMA

The SOSORT's 7th annual meeting was successfully held in Montreal. Scientists, physical medicine and rehabilitation doctors, spinal surgeons, physiotherapists, psychologists, CPOs and patients from 17 countries all over the world presented and discussed about conservative management and basic research of spinal deformities. Next year the SOSORT's annual meeting will be held on May 19th to 21st in Barcelona, where the SOSORT was founded in 2004. This meeting will be a great opportunity for us to come in contact with new development as well as to reflect on what we had made in these 7 years. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Barcelona.

The official journal of SOSORT, "Scoliosis" first published in 2006. Its high impact factor and fast publishing process have attracted many authors, and its open access policy allows the readers to access and extract articles with ease. I am convinced of the steady growth of the journal.

Several SOSORT multicenter studies including two brace studies are ongoing or ready to start. The one is regarding the corrective power of the brace in the short-term and the other is RCT of the brace treatment. I hope many researchers will participate in the studies and we can demonstrate the effectiveness of the brace treatment.

The Clinical and Consensus Committee is publishing the nomenclature of spinal deformities, in which the knowledge of specialists from all over the world is condensed.

The Scientific and Research Committee is announcing a project titled: "SOSORT Supports Research". This project attempts to assist clinicians, especially physiotherapists, in developing research ideas and obtaining grant money to get them started. You can find an announcement of this important project in SOSORT Newsletter.

Other many SOSORT committees including Newsletter Committee and Web-site Committee have been hard at work moving this organization forward. If you are interested to help

shape the future of the SOSORT by volunteering for a committee, please contact us.

I hope all of us can help our patients with our best conservative management.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Maruyama

INTERVIEW TO THEODOROS B. GRIVAS ABOUT: THE SCOLIOSIS JOURNAL

NC: We can say that databases like Pubmed or Cinhal or Pedro changed the course of scientific research in any field. How much this happened in the field of scoliosis?

T.B. Grivas:

Research in the field of scoliosis is increasing and databases like PubMed are able to reflect and quantify this trend. Once an article is published in *Scoliosis* it is immediately indexed in PubMed, Medline etc.

Being able to search and cite the latest in the scoliosis research field is an encouraging prospect, and databases like PubMed have played a significant role in this movement. The study of idiopathic scoliosis in the context of natural history, aetiology and treatment either conservative with exercises or braces or surgical has enormously benefited from the publications in databases like Pubmed or Cinhal or Pedro.

NC: To be part of these databases your journal has to be indexed in. Do you think that indexed journals provide a standard of quality of the research published?

T.B. Grivas:

To a certain extent, definitely. Indexing journals allows the published work to be highlighted and it allows authors to track citations for their own work. Journals should be encouraging their articles to be cited which benefits the authors, the journal, and the scientific community. If any research is publishing in an index journal in our days it "exists" otherwise it doesn't.

NC: Actually Scoliosis Journal has an unofficial impact factor 2.9. What does it mean?

T.B. Grivas:

Scoliosis is currently being tracked at the moment for an Impact Factor. Once the initial tracking period of two years has come to an end, the official IF number is calculated and comparable to other journals.

BioMed Central have been able to calculate an unofficial IF for Scoliosis where they have divided the number of times articles published in Scoliosis in 2006 and 2007 were cited in 2008, based on a search of the Science Citation Index database, by the number of articles published in the previous two years (2006 and 2007).

NC: Do you think that this is a real indicator of the quality of the journal or of how much the journal is popular?

T.B. Grivas:

The IF is an excellent way to compare the relative 'importance' of a journal, which is not to say the conditions for IF tracking are not without its flaws. The IF only includes certain article types, and is quite dependent on the number of submissions received as well as the number of citations. These citations may not be entirely positive, and this does not

specifically determine just how popular a journal is nor the quality of work published, but it does highlight a comparable indication of the progress of a journal.

There are a number of ways of indicating the ranking of a journal. As it stands, the SJR ranking (SCImago Journal & Country Rank) for Scoliosis already is in the highest quartile of the 'orthopedics and sports medicine' category, almost in the top 10% (14 of 135). Please visit

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=5800179602&tip=sid&clean=0>

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2732>

NC: Which is the threshold of IF that with your experience you judge scientifically acceptable?

T.B. Grivas:

I would like to cite some famous orthopaedic journals' IF for consideration.

Spine: *Impact Factor*: 2.793 by 20 May 2010.

Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery *American Vol. Impact Factor*: 2.085

Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery - **British Vol. Impact Factor**: 1.870

Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research® *Impact Factor*: 1.893

Having in mind the above mentioned IFs it would be stated that Scoliosis is certainly scientifically acceptable.

NC: What's the difference between official IF and unofficial IF?

T.B. Grivas:

This question has already been covered in the questions and answers above. However the official IF will be determined once the journal has been tracked for an initial 2 year period, yet BioMed Central have been able to calculate an unofficial IF as it currently stands.

NC: Do you think that our IF can change for unofficial to official? And if yes how?

T.B. Grivas:

The official IF is due to be established later this year, hopefully it will not be less than the current unofficial IF. We have been working hard to ensure that quality articles are being published, and we have introduced our first thematic series on brace technology.

NC: And do you think that this change can improve the quality and visibility of our journal?

T.B. Grivas:

Most definitely. Researchers, often international scientists and clinical doctors, will look to publish their work in quality journals, and journals with a strong IF provide a good indication of this.

NC: How Scoliosis was born and how is it organized?

T.B. Grivas:

The SOSORT Board decided to launch a scientific journal for the societies needs. The first Chief Editor was Dr Hans Rudolf Weiss. He made the arrangements with the BMC organization and an open access journal named "Scoliosis" started at March 2006. See *Scoliosis*: a journal dedicated to multidisciplinary research on prevention, control, and treatment of scoliosis and other spinal deformities. <http://www.scoliosisjournal.com/content/1/1/1>. *Scoliosis* is supported by an expert Editorial team, organised into Deputy Editors, Associate Editors, Research Editors, Editorial Board members, Statistical Advisors and Advisory Board. The Editorial team contains a number of SOSORT members, as well as leading experts in the field of scoliosis. Now *Scoliosis*, except of being the official journal of the Society on Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Treatment (SOSORT) is also affiliated with the International Research Society of Spinal Deformities (IRSSD), and is ready to receive manuscripts on all aspects of the prevention, control, and treatment of scoliosis and other spinal deformities.

NC: The Scoliosis journal has different sections where to publish. Can you explain us each section?

T.B. Grivas:

We allow research articles, reviews, methodology reports, case reports and we welcome submissions to the recently introduced thematic series on brace technology.

- Research article: reports of data from original research.

- Review article: comprehensive, authoritative, descriptions of any subject within the scope

of the journal. These articles are usually written by opinion leaders that have been invited by the Editorial Board.

- Methodology article: present a new experimental method, test or procedure. The method described may either be completely new, or may offer a better version of an existing method.

- Case report: reports of clinical cases that can be educational, describe a diagnostic or therapeutic dilemma, suggest an association, or present an important adverse reaction.

This information is also available on the *Scoliosis* journal website: <http://www.scoliosisjournal.com/info/about/>.

NC: Most of us are clinicians, which is your advice for stimulating us to publish?

T.B. Grivas:

Publishing our work and sharing our experience with other colleagues with similar interest is definitely the drive not only to improve ourselves but also to help the scoliotic patients, which is our ultimate aim.

NC: Which criteria are used by the scientific committee for publishing a paper in the journal?

A paper is published in our journal after being peer reviewed by at least two or three peer reviewers. Some papers need to be reviewed by more people.

If some one intend to submit a manuscript he can go to <http://www.scoliosisjournal.com/manuscript/> in our journal and he will have all the instructions needed for submitting his manuscript according to Scoliosis standards. However when a reviewer is assessing the work, he considers the following points:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
7. Is the writing acceptable?

Also In reviewing the revised manuscript, the reviewers consider whether the authors have answered the reviewer's points sufficiently well to allow their manuscript to be published.

The comments are divided into the following three categories:

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

NC: Scoliosis have launched the thematic series and the first issue was on brace technology. Will other themes will be introduced and if yes which ones?

T.B. Grivas:

We are expecting submissions on the thematic series about the recently used braces in Europe and elsewhere. We are planning to introduce one more theme, and this will be on physiotherapy. Dr M. Rigo is preparing now the editorial article with me for this topic.

NC: A direct question : Do you think that the future of research will be totally open access ?

T.B. Grivas:

I certainly hope so, there seems to be a large demand for open access publishing, however I understand not everyone is in favour of this system. The benefits for open access seem to outweigh the arguments against, there should be no reason why anyone should be denied access to research in the scientific community. Likewise it allows the author's work to become available for access in the community so much more immediately.

The traditional publishing model is becoming increasingly unsustainable, with library subscription budgets decreasing, and the continual increase in volume of research, it is

getting harder to justify not proceeding with open access publishing.

NC: And if yes do you think that open access to such information will help patients?

T.B. Grivas:

The more open and transparent we become with our research, the easier it will be for patients and the scientific community to utilise this information. Research should be universally available online without charge.

NC: Thank you for your cooperation and efforts

T.B. Grivas:

Thank you for giving to me the opportunity to answer to your questions related to our journal Scoliosis.

Dr. Theodoros B GRIVAS, MD, PhD

Dr Theodoros B. GRIVAS, MD, PhD

Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgeon
Director of the Trauma and Orthopaedic Department
"Tzanio" General Hospital of Piraeus, Greece
2009-2010 IRSSD President and
SOSORT Past President (2009)
Editor in Chief Scoliosis
<http://www.scoliosisjournal.com/>

SOSORT'S NEWS:

Actual Board:

President: Toru Maruyama

Past President: Tomasz
Kotwicki

President elected: Stefano
Negrini

Secretary: Patrick Knott

Treasurer: Joe P. O'Brian

Member: Jean-Claude De
Mauroy

Member: Monica Vilagrassa

Member: Fabio Zaina

Member: Charles Rivard

Sosort' secretary: Paolo Pizzetti



MONTREAL'S PAPER AWARD: JEAN CLAUDE DE MAUROY

The first feeling occurred when we heard our name during the ceremony of the SOSORT awards was gratitude. Gratitude to the founder members of the SOSORT who recognized our work and gratitude to all the members of our team: physiotherapists, CPO, nurses and secretaries who help us daily. The thought also turns to the children whose we presented the results and for whom all these efforts were not vain.

Then the temptation is to repeat the presentation. It's true that we did not have time to say everything in eight minutes. We are so convinced the realization of a plastered cast improves the global result of the treatment that we hope the whole world would follow the same protocol.

We did not have enough time to explain the concept of tensegrity which is the base of the conservative treatment even if we were able to convince one of our friends anatomist to calculate the resistance of the anterior longitudinal ligament and if its extreme tore resistance confirms the theory ...

(figure 1)

But we also know that each of us has his own truth and that the main thing is that everybody can build his own opinion.

Then the moment comes to remind that the education is also one of the missions of SOSORT and that besides the educational sessions it is possible to follow practical training courses. Therefore you are welcome in Lyon where you can participate in the realization of the plastered casts.

Let's hope that this distinction, which is also the distinction of the conservative orthopaedic treatment, can arouse vocations among our young members of SOSORT and put back in honour some former techniques, the only real alternatives to the surgery whose considerable progress masked those more modest of the not invasive techniques.

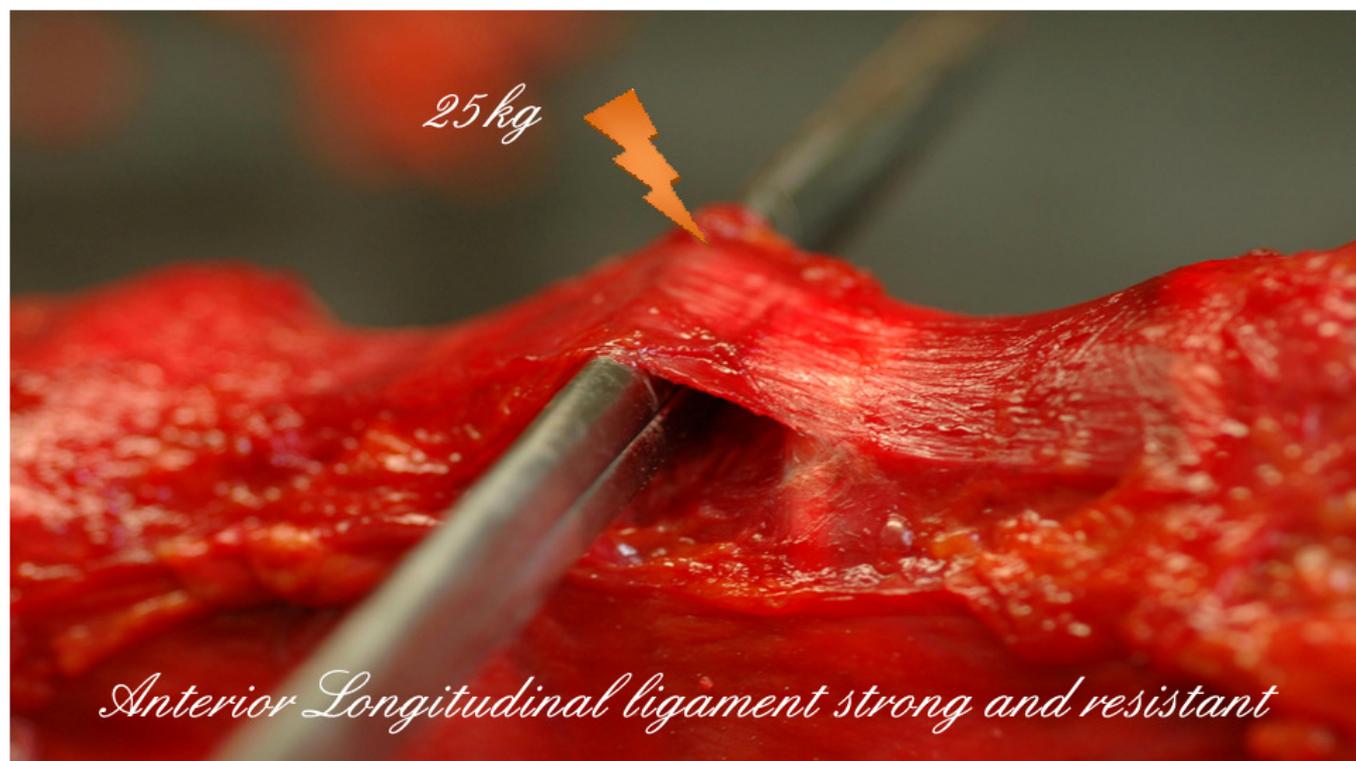


Figure 1

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS:

1st International Congress Scientific Testing of Orthotic Devices - March 22-26 Aix les Bains FRANCE

8th SOSORT Annual Meeting – May 19-21, 2011 Barcelona, SPAIN

World Confederation for Physical Therapy - June 20-23, 2011 Amsterdam Netherlands

LINKS :

Scientific Societies

www.sosort.org

www.sosort-lyon.net

www.spine.org

www.srs.org

www.britscoliosissoc.org.uk/

www.bsrp.co.uk

www.gss.it

<http://www.boa.ac.uk>

Patients associations

www.escoliosis.org

www.scoliosis.org

www.sauk.org.uk

www.scoliosis-assoc.org

www.scoliosis-info-forum.de

www.scoliosis-australia.org

<http://scoliosi.forumfree.net>

www.SpineKids.com

www.scoliosiscare.org

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