EANS Spinal Section Archive Reports

Report on the activities of the Section of Spinal Neurosurgery, 2015
Bernhard Meyer Munich

Further to the report below from June 2015, please note:
- The first postgraduate course in Innsbruck with the new format took place September 6 - 8 2015. The interactive format and the cooperation with our orthopaedic partners from Eurospine was highly successful.

The EANS was thus the first organization to implement Europe’s new advanced education module for spine surgery!
- In order to do the same for the basic modules in the training course, I propose to have the chairman of the section as an essential part of the Committee when planning the next spine TC program.

Bernhard Meyer
Munich 2.10.2015

Report from June 2015
In response to the challenges of the changing environment within the field around us, the Spine Section in accordance with the OEC has taken a decision which will change profoundly the training we deliver to our trainees as well as the postgraduate training in the field of spinal surgery.

We have recognized, that neurosurgical (as well as orthopaedic) trainees nowadays are very much interested in the diploma courses organized by spine societies on a national level and the SSE (Spine Society of Europe) on a European Level.

The most important driver is the fact that most trainees consider these courses important for their future career, because they have a diploma or certificate after their completion, which will be important in the near future.

In effect these curricula already exist in Europe and some countries (i.e. Germany, UK, France, Turkey). All are very similar and are at the moment about to be harmonized. In the years to come, authorities will give accreditation to these programmes only if they fulfil certain criteria with regard to form and content.

We – the EANS – have therefore acted now in order to secure our position as leaders in the field of spinal surgery, because on average more than 60% of a neurosurgical department’s workload consists of spinal surgery. Some neurosurgeons have already chosen spinal surgery as their sole field. This stresses the importance of the changes we are about to see.

Following the proposal to the Open Executive Committee (OEC) in fall 2014 in Prague, it has been decided to harmonize our spine education with the one of the Spine Society of Europe (SSE) in form and content. This means that there is a basic course with 5 modules (1. basics, 2. degenerative, 3. deformity, 4. trauma, 5. Tumor & infection,)
and an **advanced course** with 2 modules (1. advanced surgical techniques and extended indications, 2. Complications and management).
The latter will replace the postgraduate CME training course and Part 1 will take place for the first time this year in Innsbruck.
As a special feature we have integrated high-profile faculty from the SSE, most of them prominent orthopaedic spine surgeons.
The basic courses will be integrated in the spinal part of the general Training Course and will be held for the first time in 2016.
There will also be some changes in the format of the course with defined and standardized learning objectives for all lectures to secure a homogeneous level of education irrespective of faculty. Interactive case based formats will play a major role.
These changes will give neurosurgeons across Europe a distinct advantage, because they will have the best available basic spine training already during their board training, which can then be recognized by the regional and European spine societies. To ask the SSE board for official mutual acceptance of the certificate will be my task after the first course is completed.
Furthermore, I would like to inform you that there are some changes in the board of the EANS spine section: after Petr Suchomel resigned, we are very glad that Jesús Lafuente from Barcelona took over the responsibility for liaison with other societies and Claudius Thome from Innsbruck will be responsible for research.
I encourage you to become individual members of the spine section. If you have questions or suggestions, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Bernhard Meyer
Munich, 16.06.2015

**Previous Report**
This section convened for the first time in Rome during the EANS Congress. The CME course, which has started in Opatja, Croatia was continued until 2010 in Barcelona, Spain and has now moved to Leiden, The Netherlands. It is a very successful and accepted forum for postgraduate training. Since it is supported by a fixed number of industrial sponsors it has also been financially successful so far.
There were first contacts with other societies, mainly the Spine Society of Europe (SSE) and recently also by the AO Spine. Both are interested in common pathways for education and training. So far there are only very loose contacts and no commitments whatsoever. This will be one of the major topics for Rome. The UEAMS initiative of the orthopedic surgeons with regard to a division of spine surgery has successfully been answered.