

# AOSPINE LATIN AMERICA

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

## EXCELLENCE IN SPINE

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Our purpose and responsibility is to shape our members skills and understanding of spine principles; to establish new values and incentives for the creation of knowledge, the sharing of wisdom, and the development of new tools and techniques that improve the outcome and effectiveness of spinal surgery.



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## AOSLA COUNTRY CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

### AOSPINE LATIN AMERICA CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP 2005 vs 2006

In the end of 2005 the AOSLA Regional office was created with its main functionality as to service all AOSpine members throughout Latin America as well as assisting AOSLA's councils and delegates, along with that combination, the results were very positive; increasing the speed and number of country chapters inaugurations, and growing number of membership as well. Based on the following comparison table, one may see how AOSpine Latin America has demonstrated excellent consistent growth. Given the interest of our staff, country delegates and councils, our number of membership also grew automatically with that same solidity.

Onward with our respective country councils and staff members, all recognizing how unique this organization is, confident that by working together, combining understanding as well as respecting differences, necessities and interest of each country, we will be able to maintain momentum and continue to increase rapidly and harmoniously within Latin America and propagating democratically this great organization's philosophy and mission. We are expecting an excitingly positive outcome for 2007.

#### AOSLA MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

COUNTRY	MEMBERSHIP GROWTH		
	Sep 2005	Nov 2006	%
Argentina	44	112	155%
Bolivia	6	9	50%
Brazil	361	506	40%
Chile	33	64	94%
Colombia	48	98	104%
Costa Rica	75	88	17%
Ecuador	22	43	95%
El Salvador	1	3	200%
Guatemala	5	65	1200%
Honduras	3	3	0%
Mexico	97	208	114%
Nicaragua	7	9	29%
Paraguay	2	3	50%
Peru	52	80	54%
Rep of Panama	8	31	288%
Uruguay	8	16	100%
Venezuela	38	114	200%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>1452</b>	<b>79%</b>

## AOSLA COUNTRY CHAPTERS INAUGURATION

Country	Launch	Chairman	Educ Ortho	Educ Neuro	Sci Marketing	Research
Venezuela	May-05	V.Davila	J.Otero	E.Gonzalez	JA.Finocchio	D.Onay
Brazil	Jul-05	M.Taricco	P.Cavali	G.Sá Carneiro	E.Vialle	H.Defino
Chile	Aug-05	A.Urzúa	S.Pantoja	P.Bustos	R.Lopez	O.Hernandez
Argentina	Oct-05	N.Fiore	A.Betemps	A.Cervio	M.Valacco	E.Galaretto
Mexico	Oct-05	R.Chapa	F.Cisneros	JC.Reina	M.Tejada	C.López
Peru	Feb-06	A.Vasquez	R.Machiavello	M.Medina	H.Valdivia	D.Cauti
Ecuador	Feb-06	M.Hernandez	P.Zumarraga	E.Vargas	R.Pavon	L.Guijarro
Colombia	Mar-06	P.Vela	A.Rodriguez	N.Taboada	C.Mora	R.Londoño
Costa Rica	Nov-06	M. Solano	O. Uribe	J.Brenes	H. Dobles	M. Esquivel
Guatemala	Nov-06	O. Alvarado	G.I Murga	J. Pozuelos	J.P. León	L.F. Cruz

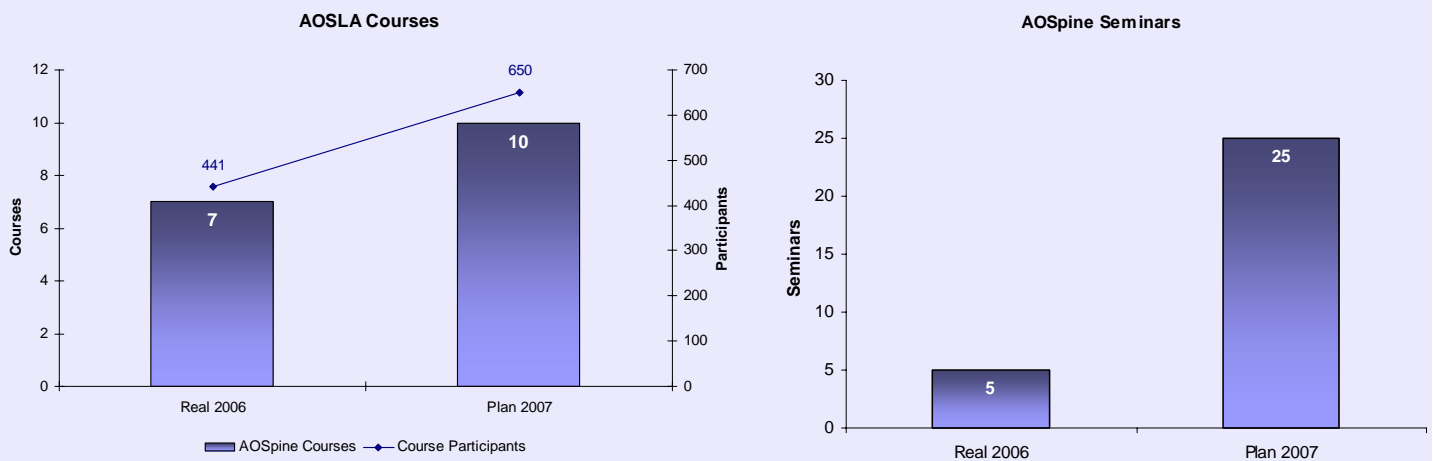


### 2006 AOSLA COURSES

In 2006 AOSpine Latin America had an extremely productive year. All seven courses were rated very successfully. The high quality of the scientific program, as well as having internationally and regionally recognized faculties were probably some of the main attributes for having eager registrants where in most courses exceeded the available numbers expectancy for participants. The participants have shown their satisfaction for the courses through the evaluation responses. We gathered their information through the ARS (Audience Response System).

AOSLA courses reputation are spreading so rapidly, that their Regional Office was the official organizer for the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine (ISSLS) Course in August, 2006 at Curitiba, Brazil. The entire international course faculty was very impressed with the organization of this event, so impressed that they are planning to have yet another one in Latin America sometime next year. They have received favorable feedback from all courses participants concerning the organization. AOSLA's regional office is hopeful that the high quality of the courses and seminars will be well propagated throughout the entire AOSpine community and that Latin America will be even more recognized internationally.

## AOSLA COURSES 2006 vs 2007



**Interactive Spine Course**  
**Lima, Peru**  
**Feb 02-04, 2006**  
**Swissotel Lima**



This course program was prepared intentionally to favor the interaction between the participants and lectures during the course. The themes were elected with the intent to cause controversy and were presented in a format to stimulate practical discussions throughout the lectures. Hoping that at the end of this course, all of the participants would be suitable to apply AO concepts in all of their therapeutic decisions.

This Interactive Spine Course in Peru was the very first course for AOSLA in 2006, not to mention the one which opened a series of very well organized courses for AOSLA during 2006. Both scientific program and hand picked faculty members were the main reasons why we have anxious participants who started registering for the course in 2005 and only stopped at the very last minute. Feedback from our international faculty as well course participants was excellent.

**Course Chairman**  
 Osmar Moraes  
 São Paulo, Brazil

**Course Director**  
 Alfredo Vásquez  
 Lima, Peru

**Regional Faculty**  
 Germán Ochoa  
 Bogota, Colombia

Luis Carlos Morales  
 Bogota, Colombia

**National Faculty**

Einer Concha; Diego Escalante; Gabriel Polo;  
 Marco Medina Pajares; Marco Zúniga; Raul Macchiavello; José Castillo; Miguel Vizcarra; Alicia Becerra; Pedro Chacón

Luiz R. Vialle  
 Curitiba, Brazil

Mario Taricco  
 São Paulo, Brazil

**XII AOSpine Course in Brazil  
Complex Spinal Issues  
March 23-25, 2006  
Costão do Santinho Resort  
Florianopolis, Santa Catarina**



This course envisioned the interaction of experienced spine surgeons with the intent to improve their knowledge in controversial complex issues concerning spine surgery. The course was based in case presentations and case discussions, involving the participants and faculties through ARS. The presented cases illustrated complex spine problems, including trauma, degenerative disease, deformities as well as tumors. Short lectures served as base to facilitate the discussion of topics with the participants.

At the end of this course the participants were able to:

- Discuss latest advancements in controversial treatment in complex cases of spine surgery.
- Describe and to demonstrate AO's principals for spine surgery trauma, deformities, degenerative diseases and tumors.
- Interpret diagnostic problems concerning treatment of complex spine diseases.

The Complex Spinal Issues course was very high evaluated by its participants; participants which came from various parts of Brazil and other countries as well. Countries such as Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, causing Costão do Santinho's auditorium to be filled with participants eager to watch the discussion of complex clinical cases and controversial studies concerning the spine area. The course program, consisted of short lectures, which allowed a very intense participation from the audience, both audience and faculty were able to interact through ARS (automated response system). A very special characteristic of this course was the fact that the AOSLA office organized the entire event, allowing it to be as scientific as possible, counting on the endorsement from the Brazilian Spine Society and the Brazilian Orthopedics Oncology Society.

One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the international group of experts in tumor from AOSpine, known as AOSTEG (AOSpine Tumor Experts Group). This group is formed by internationally known surgeons who presented their experience in the treatment of tumor lesions in the spine through lectures by Drs. Roberto Biagini (Italy), Dr Gautam Zaveri (India), Dr Norio Kawahara (Japan), Drs. Laurence Rhines and Ehud Mendel (United States), and also of Dr Peter Paul Varga (Hungary). In a meeting after the course, this group of surgeons that along with the participation of Dr. Luiz Roberto Vialle (Brazil), established parameters for a research group studying spine tumors.

The Florianopolis course was a very unique event, counting with the presence of greatly experienced surgeons from various countries that generated productive discussions with a highest scientific caliber. The format in which the lectures were presented, brought out great interest from the audience, the lectures most certainly brought an impact on their daily practices, stated Emiliano Vialle, course Director in agreement with Drs. Paulo Cavali and Marcelo Gruenberg.

**Course Chairman**  
Marcelo Gruenberg  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Course Director**  
Paulo Tadeu Cavali  
São Paulo, Brazil

**International Faculty**  
Bartolomé Marré  
Santiago, Chile

Ehud Mendel  
Houston, USA

Emiliano Vialle  
Curitiba, Brazil

Gautam Zaveri  
Mumbai, India

Laurence Rhines  
Houston, USA

**National Faculty**  
Marcus Alexandre Mello Santos; Mario Taricco; Mauro Volpi; Osmar Moraes; Ricardo Ribeiro; Roberto Basile

Norbert Boos  
Zurich, Switzerland

Norio Kawahara  
Kanazawa, Japan

Peter Paul Varga  
Budapest, Hungary

Roberto Biagini  
Rome, Italy



**AOSpine Interactive Course**  
**April 06-08, 2006**  
**Marriot Hotel**  
**Av. Venezuela com Calle**  
**Mohedano, El Rosal**  
**Caracas, Venezuela**

This AOSpine Interactive Course in Caracas was directed towards experienced surgeons, surgeons that have practices predominately in the area of spine surgery. The course included topics such as trauma; degenerative, as well as tumors and basic concepts for deformities, and it's program was established to allow full interaction between the faculties and the audience, which did not only allow the participants to share their personal interest in certain clinical cases but it allowed them so show how helpful the cases would be in their daily practices.

The highlight of the course was during the Spine and Wine session, which allowed the participants to share their personal experience amongst other participants and faculty members without any discomfort, and also in a more informal and less rigid environment. One of our members of the international faculty, Dr. Randall Chestnut from Seattle's Harborview Medical Center was very impressed with the course organization and the scientific program, who also stated that he would be very pleased to participate in more Latin American Courses in the future.

**Course Chairman**

Michael Dittmar  
 Jalisco, Mexico

**Course Director**

Manuel Alvarado  
 Caracas, Venezuela

**International Faculty**

Randall Chestnut  
 Washington, USA

**National Faculty**

Fernando Bellera; James Cardona; Luis Lara; Daniel Okay;  
 Wilfredo Cuauero; Adolfo Damas; German Medina;  
 Armando Pineda; Victor Davila; Marlon Diaz; Jose Ramon  
 Medina; Aniello Romano; Jose Finocchio; Edgar González;  
 Freddy Moreno; Axel Tavares; Luis Lara; German Medina;  
 Pablo Vasconez

**Regional Faculty**

Nestor Fiore  
 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Osmar Moraes  
 São Paulo, Brazil

Alejandro Urzúa  
 Santiago, Chile

Luiz Vialle  
 Curitiba, Brazil

**AOSpine Vertebral Trauma Seminary**

**April 8, 2006**

**Santa Eugracia Hospital**

**Avenida Frida Kahlo No. 108**

**Colonia Valle Oriente**

**Monterrey, Mexico**



This seminary was mainly and most importantly an opportunity to demonstrate the classification of fractures as well as the types of treatment for different fractions. The participants were able to discuss different approaches, implants types and complications. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about AOSpine's mission and vision. They've all learned about the benefits of being an AOSpine member.

**Chairman:**

Roberto Chapa

**Faculty**

Hernando Cuevas; Felix A. Sanchez;  
 Catarino Lopez; Jorge Larruz; Alejandro Gallegos;  
 Marco A. Salazar

**AOSpine Comprehensive Course**  
**July 06-08, 2006**  
**Hotel Real InterContinental Guatemala**  
**14 Calle 2-51, zona 10**  
**Guatemala City, Guatemala**



This course was directed to Orthopedists, trauma surgeons and neurosurgeons, all very experienced surgeons in management of lesions in the vertebral spine. One of the most important objectives of this course was to share knowledge and experiences concerning pathologies of the vertebral spine. Guaranteeing the learning of the AO fundamental diagnostics and training in spine lesions, favoring the interaction of the participants amongst themselves as well as international and regional faculties.

This course was also an opportunity for participants to learn about different methodologies and tendencies of treatment and pathology of the vertebral spine. This course also had positive outcome, the comments by the participants were always complementing how satisfied they were with the scientific program, and how helpful to their daily practices, and all of our International faculty members, Dr. Roberto Chapa from Monterrey, Mexico; Dr. Pablo Vela from Pereira, and Dr. Helton Defino from Ribeirão Preto, Brazil were very pleased with the course organization, and rated this course in Guatemala as one of the best courses in 2006.

**Course Chairmen**

Luiz Vialle  
 Curitiba, Brazil

Germán Ochoa  
 Bogota, Colombia

**National Faculty**

Carlos Rayo; Luis Fernando Cruz; Edgar Rosales; Juan Francisco Diaz  
 Monroy; Gabriel Murga

**Course Directors**

Otto Alvarado  
 Guatemala, Guatemala

Axel Lemus  
 Guatemala, Guatemala

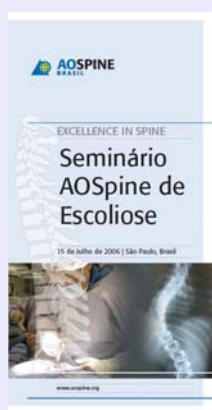
**International Faculty**

Roberto Chapa  
 Monterrey, Mexico

Pablo Vela  
 Pereira, Colombia

Helton Defino  
 Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

**AOSpine Latin America Scoliosis Seminary**  
**July 15, 2006**  
**Hotel Blue Tree Morumbi**  
**São Paulo, Brazil**



**Chairman**  
 Paulo Tadeu Cavali  
 São Paulo, São Paulo

The complex knowledge in treatment of vertebral deformities has been attracting interest in a large growing number of surgeons. This seminary had as a main purpose, the interaction amongst well experienced spine surgeons in order to consolidate concepts and discuss new perspectives.

This seminary was formed by lectures, clinical case discussions and workshops with the very active participation and contribution from its faculties as well as from its participants. Short lectures had the purpose of serving as base for discussions and at the end of this seminary, participants were able to:

- Interpret, diagnose and discuss the natural history for scoliosis cases
- Create a logical meaning for the classification of deformities
- Discuss therapeutic possibilities
- Knowledge and avoid possible complications for highly complex cases

#### Faculty

Amâncio Ramalho Jr  
Helton Defino  
Eduardo Puertas  
Roberto Basile

Eduardo Von Uhlendorff  
Elcio Landim  
Marcus Alexandre Mello Santos  
Carlos Eduardo Oliveira

**XIII AOSpine Course in Brazil  
Comprehensive Course  
August 03-05, 2006  
Casa Grande Hotel & Resort Spa  
Avenida Miguel Stéfano No. 1001  
Guarujá, Brazil**



This course was combined with modern techniques lectures and workshops with the main goal of bringing the participants useful information to be applied in their daily practice. The selection of themes visualized the greatest number of different pathologies of the vertebral spine and our faculty was carefully chosen based on their experience and competence.

At the end of this course all of the participants had a modern vision for different types of treatment and their correct indications, as well as learning about the advantages of becoming a member of an outstanding educational organization such as AOSpine.

XII AOSpine Course in Brazil was also very successful, the positive feedback from the participants showed that we had done it again, the organization of the course was impeccable and the participants also showed through the evaluation questionnaire, that the scientific program was extremely helpful and the information was found very useful, and that the learning during this course will be applied in their daily practices.

The evaluation questionnaire also showed that the participants were also very satisfied with our faculty members. Both international and national scored very highly in the evaluation questionnaire. Our course chairman Dr. Manuel Alvarado from Caracas, Venezuela stated how please he was with this course results and our international faculty members. Dr. Darrel Brodke, from the University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City, Utah; Dr. KV Menon from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), located in Kerala, India and Dr. Roberto Chapa from I.M.S.S. Orthopedics and Trauma Hospital in Monterrey, Mexico were happy with the organization of the course, the interest shown by the participants and the interest in being faculty in future AOSLA courses.

**Course Chairman**  
Manuel Alvarado  
Caracas, Venezuela

**Course Directors**  
Geraldo Sá  
Recife, Brazil

Paulo Tadeu Cavali  
São Paulo, Brazil

#### National Faculty

Amâncio Ramalho Jr.; Augustin Malzac; Eduard Von Uhlendorff; Elcio Landim;  
Emiliano Vialle; Jefferson Galves; Luiz Vialle; Marcus Alexandre Mello Santos;  
Mario Taricco; Mauro Volpi; Osmar Moraes; Ricardo Ribeiro; Wagner Pasqualini

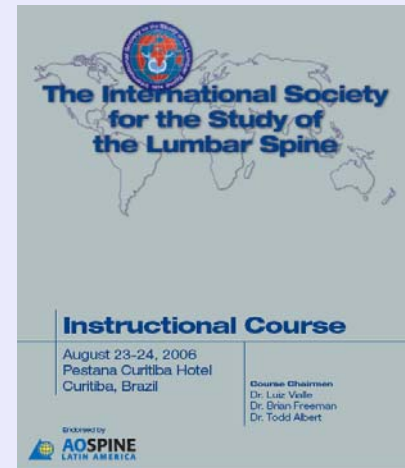
#### International Faculty

Roberto Chapa  
Monterrey, Mexico

Darrel Brodke  
Utah, USA

Menon KV  
Kerala, India





**The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine (ISSLS)  
August 23-24, 2006  
Pestana Hotel & Resort  
Curitiba, PR  
Brazil**

The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine (ISSLS) chose AOSLA to endorse and host their Instructional Course. AOSpine Latin America was honored to be one of the proud sponsors for this event as well as managing the courses organization and logistics in Latin America. ISSLS's faculty members were very pleased with the positive outcome expressed by all course participants, so pleased that are extremely excited to have yet another ISSLS event in Latin America very soon, as long as they can count on AOSLA's administrative support. This course's success was yet another demonstration on how AOSpine academic credibility are being greatly recognized and expected. AOSLA is now hopeful that the high quality of the courses and seminars will be so well propagated throughout the entire Spine community and that Latin America will be even more recognized internationally.

**Course Faculty**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Luiz Vialle (Brazil)      | David Hall (Australia)   |
| Brian Freeman (UK)        | Max Aebi (Switzerland)   |
| Todd Albert (USA)         | Marek Szpalski (Belgium) |
| Eugene Carragee (USA)     | Mike Adams (UK)          |
| Robert Gunzburg (Belgium) | Patricia Dolan (UK)      |



**AOSpine Comprehensive Course in Argentina  
September 07-09, 2006  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Hotel Emperador Buenos Aires**

This was a basic course which the main objective was to utilize our faculty's experience and exchange concepts amongst the participants, covering mainly the pathologies of the spine. The course consisted of three activities:

1. Interdisciplinary sessions presenting clinical cases, exposing distinct aspects of the presented topic, the participants had the opportunity to discuss each case at the end of the session.
2. Topics actualization concerning specific pathologies in infants as well as adults.
3. Workshops regarding technical tactics in where faculties presented detailed tricks showing how to realize certain practices.

Through our ARS (Automated Response System) evaluation questionnaire, we were able to see how pleased all of the participants were with the scientific program, throughout the course we have excellent question posted by our faculties and very responsive participants; the know how of our faculty members as well as the organization of the course, both international and national faculties are greatly recognized by our participants, and the scientific program once, was aimed to please the audience who responded that all of what they've learned during this course was to be applied in their daily practices. The response from our international faculty concerning the course was also very positive.

**Course Chairman:**  
Luis Carlos Morales Sáenz  
Bogota, Colombia

**Course Director:**  
Néstor Fiore  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

International Faculty  
Paul Arnold  
Kansas City, USA

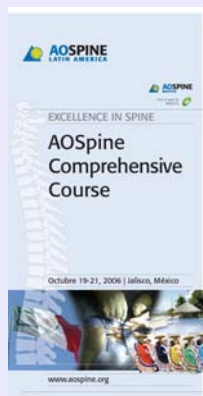
Milan Munjin  
Santiago, Chile

Helton Defino  
Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

**National Faculty**

Alejandro Betemps; Milan Enrique Bricchetti; Aldo Castagno; Enrique Reina; Andrés Cervio; Ernesto Bersusky; Carlos Legarreta; Jorge Cancinos; Carlos Sola; Jorge Hokama; Diego Sola; Diego Suarez; Jorge Shilton; Eduardo Galaretto; Marcelo Gruenberg; Marcelo Valacco; Ricardo Prina; Pedro Luiz Bazán; Osvaldo Romano

**AOSpine Comprehensive Course**  
**October 19-21, 2006**  
**Calle Paseo del Prado #20**  
**La Floresta en Ajijic**  
**Jalisco, Mexico**



This comprehensive course was directed to neurosurgeons as well as orthopedists, who are experienced in lesions of the vertebral spine. The main objective of the course is to analyze most frequent lesions of the vertebral spine, both degenerative and traumatic, since its etiology, diagnosis of surgical and conservative treatment; they were able to expose different approaches and implants. The course program covered very problematic areas the can be observed on their daily practices assuring that the results of all techniques will be reflected within the wellbeing of all of their patients.

This course had an outstandingly positive outcome; the number of participants exceeded the number of places available for registrants, and the case discussion sessions were very efficient, especially during the tequila discussion session, where most of the participants felt comfortable in sharing their personal experience in some of the cases discussed during this session. The interaction between the audience and faculties was greatly effective, and the international faculty members for this course were also very pleased with the results for the course. The scientific program was very well accepted by the participants and it showed to be very useful to be implemented in the participants' daily practice.

**Course Chairman**  
Luiz Roberto Vialle  
Curitiba, Brazil

**Course Director**  
Roberto Chapa  
Monterrey, Mexico

**International Faculty**  
Shashank Kale  
New Delhi, India

**National Faculty**  
Sergio Anaya; Jesus Bernal;  
Federico Cisneros; Francisco Cruz;  
Hernando Cuevas; Michael Dittmar;  
Victor Flores-Verdugo; Miguel Huerta-  
Vasquez; Catarino Lopez; Juan Carlos  
Valle Landa

**Regional Faculty**  
Marcelo Gruenberg  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alfredo Vasquez  
Lima, Peru

Alexander Vaccaro  
Philadelphia, USA

**AOSpine Latin America Deformities Seminary**  
**November 02-04, 2006**  
**Hospital de Pediatría Prof. Dr. Juan P. Garrahan**  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina**



This seminary has as its primary objective the intention to unite well experienced spine surgeons with an inclination towards vertebral deformities in order to discuss actual problems concerning treatment in a more casual environment well these surgeons would feel comfortable to share their knowledge and experience with one another to improve techniques in such pathologies as well as to face appropriate treatments based on more up to date concepts.

We chose the Magna room at the “Prof. Dr. Juan P. Garrahan Pediatric Hospital” to host this seminary, the format in which this seminary was presented had its lectures based on short clinical cases with the appropriate time for having thorough discussions concerning these cases.

**Chairmen**

Ernesto Bersusky  
 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Germán Ochoa  
 Bogota, Colombia

**Regional Faculty**

Paulo Tadeu Cavali  
 São Paulo, Brazil

Helton Defino  
 Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

**International Faculty (video conference)**

Keith Luk  
 Hong Kong, China

Dietrich Schlenzka  
 Helsinki, Finland

Luis Rosales  
 Mexico D.F., Mexico

Ratko Yurac  
 Santiago, Chile

Vincent Arlet  
 Virginia, USA

Robert Campbell  
 San Antonio, USA



**AOSpine Principals in Spine Surgery Seminary**  
**December 01-02, 2006**  
**Bogota, Colombia**

During this seminary, our faculty members were able to share their experience utilizing AO’s principals, and participants had the opportunity to learn about AOSpine’s mission and vision, they’ve also had the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of being an AOSpine member. During this year, we held seminars at: Pereira; Barranquilla; Bucaramanga; Medellin, and Bogota.

**Course Chairman**  
 Ricardo Londoño

**International Faculty**  
 Samuel Pantoja  
 Santiago, Chile

**National Faculty**

Pablo Vela; Javier Patiño; Andrés Rodríguez; Néstor Taboada  
 Javier Patinio; Julio Fonegra; Nestor Guzman; Juan C. Diez;  
 Juan Carlos Morales; Alvaro Silva; Fernando Helo; Luis Felipe  
 Villola; Eduardo Jaramillo and Jaime Segura

## 2006 AOSLA COMMITTEE MEETINGS



**1<sup>st</sup> AOSLA Board Meeting**  
**Feb 17-18, 2006**  
**Curitiba, Brazil**  
**Pestana Hotel**

This was AOSLA's Board very first meeting for 2006. A meeting where the Board members had the opportunity to discuss several pending issues which were utterly important for AOSLA's progress in 2006. Issues such as Country delegate election process and the set goal for specific committee meetings that were scheduled to take place later in the year, and first and foremost the decision of having a general committees meeting where all the AOSLA Council members would have the opportunity jointly plan strategies for 2007.

**AOSLA Chapter Chairmen Meeting**  
**April 21-22, 2006**  
**Curitiba, Brazil**  
**Pestana Hotel**



The Countries Chairmen meeting an was optimum opportunity for each country chairmen to have a more thorough understanding of AOSpine's Regional Evolution history, also about the foundation's structure, the board of Trustees. The Chairmen learned about their goals and what exactly meant, as well as their responsibilities in assisting any country council members' needs in accomplishing their set goals for their term. The Chairmen also had the opportunity to visit AOSLA's Regional office and find out where the fellows library was located and see what the library offered to the AOSLA Fellows and found that they're equipped with computer stations with complete software, scanner, internet access, and research material from books to AOSpine live surgery DVDs.



**2<sup>nd</sup> AOSLA Board Meeting**  
**May 05-06, 2006**  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
**Pestana Hotel**

This was AOSLA's Board second meeting for 2006 and they had the opportunity to review the contents for all agendas planned for the AOSLA's Committees Meetings series that was just around the corner, as well as finalizing all 2006 courses details. During this meeting the Board also discussed important projects for AOSLA's Education Committee; Research Committee; and not forgetting to mention the Scientific Marketing Officers Committee.

**AOSLA Education  
May 19-20, 2006  
Curitiba, Brazil  
Pestana Hotel**



Not only was this the very first AOSLA's Education Committee meeting for AOSLA Education; but it was also where all of AOSLA's committee council members had the opportunity to meet their colleagues from all of our Latin American Countries chapters personally, and present briefly each of their country diagnosis and expose the current education analysis. The outcomes for this meeting were the results of carefully conducted workshops where both groups had the opportunity to propose and vote upon projects for AOSLA's Education Committee to become effective for 2007's calendar. On top of standardized and specific requirements for faculty members, and interesting idea was born. Project "Cirque du Soleil – Saltimbancos", reoccurring traveling seminars throughout; same topics seminars that could be repeated throughout different regions according to the localities educational needs, and also based on day to day cases, complications, and regional interest topics. The meeting resulted in assignments for all Education Committee members that were to be finalized at AOSLA's Strategic Meeting in Recife.



**AOSLA Research  
June 02-03, 2006  
Curitiba, Brazil  
Pestana Hotel**

During the AOSLA Research Committee meeting in Curitiba, the council members were able to share the current research situation for each of their respective countries. Through carried group discussions the councils were able to discuss and vote on possible studies for the very first AOSpine Latin America Research project, and Dr. Alvarado who is our Research representative on the AOSLA's Board was happy to inform the group that we would count on the assistance from AOCID (AO Clinical Investigation & Documentation) and we would also have the visit from AOCID's Project manager, Isabel Diterich during our Strategic Meeting in Recife, which would be where they would further discuss the Research goals and protocol of possible studies in Latin America for 2007.

**AOSLA Sci Marketing  
July 14-15, 2006  
Curitiba, Brazil  
Pestana Hotel**

The Scientific Marketing Committee meeting that occurred in Curitiba was very productive. This was the first time all of our Sci Mkt Officers councils for all Latin American chapters were able to discuss some main objectives for these council members to act upon in order to meet their specific goals for 2007. Two groups were separated to come up with answers for the following topics: Membership; Alliances; Corporate Identity and our Webpage. For each specific topic the group had come up with interesting suggestions on how to act upon them; personalized webpages, more lounges during AOSpine courses and seminars as well as a word of mouth approach to increase membership were suggested, seeking local societies and universities with the same scientific and educational philosophy was suggested as AOSpine Alliances; personalized webpages in local languages, news and access rewards were proposed. However, it was the "points system" idea that broke the boundaries for AOSpine Latin America and caught AOSpine International special attention.





## VIII AOSpine Annual Course AOSpine Latin America Strategic Meeting

This meeting was the topping on all of the accomplishments for AOSLA in the year 2006, it was well structured to accommodate the appropriate time for all of the participants to contribute their most ingenious ideas to be impacted in the 2007 AOSLA year. It started with a general presentation by Dr. Vialle reminding them again of AOSpine's history as well as its progress, followed by the meeting objectives, and AOSpine Regional Evolution and Portrait. Dr. Bartolomé Marré presented AOSpine's Education status and objectives; Dr. Marré is a member on the AOSpine International Board, the only Latin American seating in the international Board, showing once again this foundation's equal opportunity; Dr. Kenneth Cheung, Associate professor at the University of Hong Kong and Chief Deputy for the Spine Surgery Unit, not forgetting to mention he is also part of the AOSpine International Board. He presented AOSpine's Research status and objectives.



A special presentation by Dr. Michael Janssen, who is the Chairman for AOSpine International Board, via Interwise took place during the first part of the meeting, not forgetting Dr. Michael Grevitt from the AOSpine International Board joined us the very next morning via Interwise. The second part of the event was followed by the Committee Meetings: AOSLA Countries Chairmen Workshop; AOSLA Education Workshop, AOSLA Research Workshop, and Scientific Marketing Officer Workshop, each having very special guests from the AOSpine International Board, these workshops were the perfect opportunity for each committee to finalize their thoughts from the previous committee meetings that happened in

Curitiba, and were able to set up goals and strategic planning for 2007.

AOSpine Latin America Strategic meeting was a an extremely important event for Latin America, where we had the presence of all of AOSpine Latin America's council members, the AOSLA Board and some prestigious members of AOSpine international Board. This meeting was a turning point for AOSpine Latin America within the AO Foundation. Strategic planning and goals were set during this event based on the council members' decisions. This meeting also determined AOSLA's maturity as well as its potential contribution to the AOSpine world. All the strategies that were defined in the meeting are to be adapted for implantation within other regions as well as Latin America. Above all, we are proud and thankful to all the participants for their presence.



### AOSLA SCIENTIFIC MARKETING OFFICERS COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael Piccirillo, and Germán Ochoa were our special guests at the Sci Mkt Meeting

We recognize the importance of this evolutionary process for AOSLA, which has been influencing decisions internationally, and we are now in the midst of a renewal, for some of our Board members, it's starting to enter its final phase. The election of a new Chairman, who will be elected by a body of delegates completed by each country chapter, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru. A "Nominating Committee" was established in Recife in order to create the guidelines for this very specific election, by the beginning of 2007, we will be ready to approved the presented candidates by the Countries Councils and initiate this election via internet.

This Board believes that we have accomplished our mission, a mission that was entrusted to us by you, on your interest; your dedication and commitment, and now we would like to emphasize the importance of this process. We are secure that this organization leaves Recife fortified, with each of our members, feeling stimulated and satisfied for helping build the AO of our dreams, and now more then ever – EXCELLENCE IN SPINE – will be a stronger reality.



**AOSLA COUNTRIES CHAPTERS  
CHAIRMEN COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AOSLA EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Bartolomé Marré was our special guest at the Education Meeting



**Le Cirque du Soleil Project: Saltimbancos**

Spinal Seminars  
3 trained faculties  
AOSLA Educ provides program  
At least 3 cities  
About 6 seminars:  
1 – Cervical –Trau/Deg  
2 – Tlumar – Trau/Deg  
3 – All cervical  
4 – All Tlumar  
5 – Deformities  
6 – Tumor/Infections



Different faculties for each group of Seminars:  
Opportunity for new faculties



**AOSLA RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Ernesto Bersusky; Kenneth Cheung and Isabel Diterich were our special guests at the Research Meeting

## FACULTY IMPROVEMENT IN 2006

During our series of AOSpine Latin America Committee Meetings in 2006, Dr. Vialle stressed the importance of having our council members and faculties able to present their lectures and points in the best qualified way possible, therefore all of our council members who attended the meetings had to participate in this training workshop called "Facing the Public: Presentation Skills".

This training workshop was a very straight forward program that showed the participants through very detailed orientation how one should carefully plan and execute a presentation considering areas such as speech, tone of voice, body language as well as which visual aids should be carefully thought through, equipment, and also how to deal with difficult questions.



During this training, the participants were told how to differentiate several presentation types, were shown how to prepare their presentation more effectively and how to rehearse a presentation in order to maintain the appropriate time for their lecture and also were given a series of exercises where each member individually as well as through group activities were able to practice and show exactly what they had learned during this workshop, all of the members found this workshop to be very effective.

### TIPS FOR TRAINERS

**T4T**  
**November 02-03, 2006**  
**Pestana Hotel**  
**Curitiba, Brazil**



The main objective for the Tips for Trainers course in Curitiba, was to choose doctors who have already had participated as faculty in our AOSpine courses, very experienced educators and surgeons who were showed how to improve their teaching skills, knowledge and expertise, with the same objectives Tips for Trainers courses have, the opportunity for participants to explore a variety of teaching methods; concentrating on practical skills rather than on theory, through every class session during this course as well as workshops, the participants were taught how to deliver a lecture and lead discussions; demonstrate the principles of teaching a practical skill effectively and also give and receive constructive feedback.

This event was very well accepted by our chosen AOSLA faculties, the participants were very thankful for the opportunity to be invited to this training course. They were happy with all the tips and training techniques and not only stated this course was helpful in showing them presentation forms and techniques to improve their lectures, but they would be able to apply it to their teaching methods as well.



#### T4T FACULTY



Luiz Vialle



Patricia Pinto



Emiliano Vialle



# AOSLA Reference Centers and Fellowships



Paediatric Hospital "Prof. Dr. Juan P. Garrahan" Buenos Aires - Argentina



Ernesto Bersusky



Luiz Vialle



Cajuru University Hospital – Curitiba Brazil



University Hospital of Ribeirão Preto – São Paulo Brazil



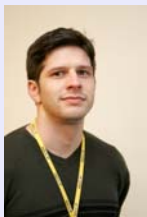
Helton Defino



Hospital del Trabajador – Santiago Chile



Bartolomé Marré



Ubirajara Bley Filho

*Bley*

I had the privilege of being the very first Long-term fellow for AOSpine Latin America in Brasil, and during this fellowship term is where I've had the opportunity to learn more deeply about the areas of the vertebral spine. I was able to participate in some of the AOSpine courses and after only a few months through my fellowship, I became very interested at AOSpine's structure as well as all subdivisions of the spine, such as trauma, deformity, degenerative and tumor. At the end of my fellowship term, I was extremely honored to accept Dr. Luiz Vialle's invitation to become part of the spine staff honored to accept at Cajuru's University Hospital, which is one of the Reference Centers for AOSpine in Latin America.

The AOSLA group has grown tremendously since then, we now have a larger number of fellowships throughout the year, and we also have a library available for the fellows. The AOSLA Library is not only a great place in which the fellows can study with an enormous collection of books, DVDs provided with workstations and internet access, but the library is also where we have our weekly meeting. These meetings consist of their weekly schedule, classes concerning the subdivisions of the spine, discussion of cases which will be operated on as well as defining conduct for them.

AOSpine fellowships is a great opportunity for serious professionals who would like to learn further more about the vertebral spine, and become experienced spine surgeons, the fellows have the opportunity to present cases and become more comfortable at sharing their knowledge, and becoming familiar with the AOSpine's philosophy. Therefore, today I am proud to be part of the AOSpine World.

## AOSLA 2006 FELLOWSHIPS

### SHORT-TERM FELLOWS

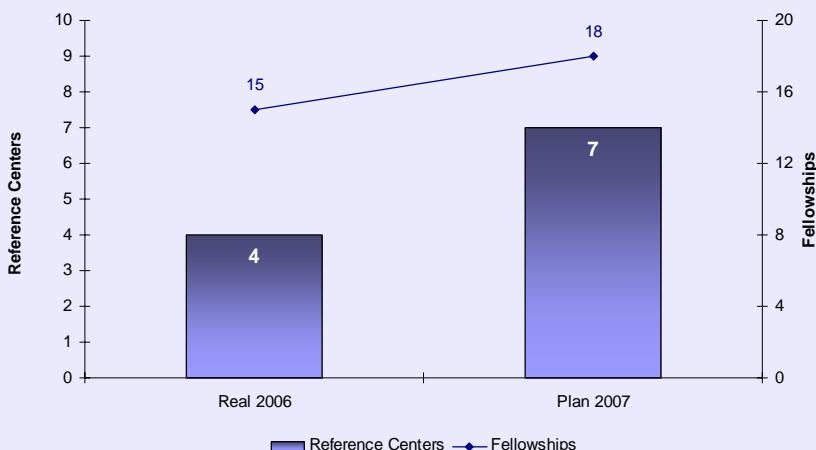
- Pablo Pazmino – USA
- Alfredo Jordán – Ecuador
- Javier Ricardo Méndez – Argentina
- Luiz Gustavo Rocha – Brazil
- Godoy Carrero Wilmer – Colombia
- Miguel Alejandro Alfonso – Colombia
- José Fleiderman – Chile

- Manuel Valencia Carrasco – Chile
- Rafael Vasquez Preciado – Mexico
- Marlon González Rivas – Venezuela
- Daniel Cauti – Peru
- Daniel Mosquera Mayorga - Ecuador
- Juan Sea Aramayo – Bolivia

### LONG-TERM FELLOWS

- Mauricio Santos Gusmão – Brazil
- Túlio A. de Moura Rangel – Brazil
- Rubén Cárdenas Morón - Mexico

AOSLA Ref Centers & Fellowships



DURING 2006 WE ALSO HAD THE FOLLOWING VISITORS:

- Thiago dos Santos – São Paulo, Brazil
- Javier Brenes – Costa Rica
- Pablo Godinho – São Paulo, Brazil

## AOSLA FORECAST

### AOSLA 2007 Courses

Title	Dates		Country	Venue
AOSpine Intervertebral Disc Course: The Past, The Present, The Future	Mar	29-31	Brazil	Curitiba
AOSpine comprehensive Course: Spinal Surgery Principals	Apr	12-14	Chile	Santiago
AOSpine Interactive Course	Apr	19-21	Mexico	Oaxaca
AOSpine Comprehensive Course	May	03-05	Venezuela	Valencia
AOSpine Interactive Course	Jun	21-23	Colombia	Melgar
AOSpine Interactive Course: Non Fusion Thechnology	Jul	12-14	Chile	Santiago
AOSpine Comprehensive Course	Aug	02-04	Brazil	Rio de Janeiro
AOSpine Interactive Course	Aug	23-25	Costa Rica	San Jose
AOSpine Interactive Course: Degenerative Spine	Sep	06-08	Argentina	Buenos Aires
AOSpine Complex Spinal Issues	Sep	27-29	Mexico	Monterrey

### AOSLA ELECTION

The year 2007 is utterly important to our AOSpine Latin American members, and one of the main reasons for that is because of our election. The serving term for some of our Board members is coming towards an end, and although this Board has served and represented our Latin American members as well as has accomplished many things during their term period, it is now the time for Latin America to continue thriving through this organization. The election process is an opportunity for renewal and choosing the right candidate to move forward is the key for continuing progress within the organization, growing rapidly and effectively, and we are counting on you to make the right decision for this process.

#### DELEGATES ELECTION

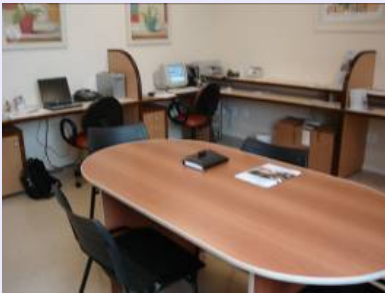
The candidates for AOSLA Delegates information will be placed on our website by March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. **Election Day** is set for March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and the results for the elected candidates will be posted on our website on March 31<sup>st</sup>. You may contact us further with any questions or concerns at: [aosla@aospine.org](mailto:aosla@aospine.org)

#### CHAIRMAN ELECTION

The candidates for AOSLA's Chairman will be placed on our website by April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. **Election Day** is set for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and the result for our next AOSLA Chairman will be posted on the website on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. You may contact us further with any questions or concerns at: [aosla@aospine.org](mailto:aosla@aospine.org)

### Also in 2007

In 2007 AOSpine Latin America will also hold the very first **seminary for Residents Only**; in the beginning of the year, February 02 and 03, 2007 at Curitiba. We are also having 3 (three) **Tips for Trainers courses during 2007**, 2 (two) in Spanish and 1 (one) in Portuguese, and most importantly our Education Committee is scheduling approximately 25 (twenty-five) seminars to occur throughout Latin American countries as part of their very original project of reoccurring seminars – Project "Cirque du Soleil - Saltimbancos" in action.



## AOSLA REGIONAL OFFICE AND TEAM



AOSpine Latin America's Regional Office is located in Curitiba, Brazil, which is also where AOSLA's Team works at; their responsibilities consist of but are not limited to assisting AOSLA's Chairman, supporting him with his CV, agenda, travel and etc. Membership support services such as applications, general inquiries, status, translations, web updates; General documentation maintenance (meeting minutes, country councils and committees support and etc.); AOSpine Latin America website publications (scheduling, translations and etc.); Administrative support to Reference Centers; Fellowship Management (application process, correspondence, documentation), assisting AOSLA's Research Committee as well as the administration of special projects.

Our Regional office is also responsible for the production of all AOSLA's course programs, flyers, brand maintenance, the organization and all logistics for all AOSLA's events (course, seminars, meetings and etc.), supporting Synthes during the AOSpine courses they organize, expenses control, International trading, National Chapters support, budget control and general management activities.



Graduated in Construction Engineering and also has a MBA in Project Management acquired in University of California, San Diego. His background consists of project management for automobile industry and Logistics Company.

*AOSLA's Regional Director, responsible for management activities*

Graduated in Technology Engineering and specialized in Tourism Technology projects. He is fluent in English, Portuguese and Spanish. He is also attending University in Curitiba studying International Business at FAE Business School. His career has been based in hotel marketing management at International Hotels Networks, hotel logistics management, as well as a specialist consultant for the services and marketing industry.

*AOSLA'S Business Administrator, responsible for Course Organization, AOSLA Marketing Brand and General AOSpine Logistics.*



Vania has a Business Administration degree acquired in the United States, which is also where she attended her secondary school and college education. She is currently attending university in Curitiba studying International Affairs. Languages spoken fluently are English, Spanish, and Portuguese with advanced proficiency in French. Her professional experience prior to AOSLA, consists of multinational American companies in the International Public Relations, Insurance and Investments industries and one of her distinguishing characteristics is the ability to work effectively across borders and across cultures.

*Responsible for Fellowship, Membership, Research and general documentation*

## TESTIMONIAL



As a non-medical member I can see how practical the AOSpine membership benefits are. A non-profit medical organization concerned only with overgrowing medical advancements for research and studies of the vertebral spine. An Organization where members have the opportunity to communicate effectively worldwide amongst experienced surgeons, surgeons who are happy to exchange the most up to date knowledge and

experience concerning spine surgery's techniques and advancements.

An Organization where as a member you have access to the highest quality spine-related published materials and some of these benefits are: online access to selected spine-related, neurosurgical, and orthopedic journals; access to extensive **AOSpine webcasts** from AOSpine courses such as lectures, practical's, and live surgeries; our members receive our international news magazine for spine care professionals called **InSpine**. They also have access to our interactive online **case discussions** where they can provide constructive feedback on cases, also receiving our **EBSS** publication, an unbiased review of key literature by AOSpine surgeons, not forgetting to mention access to discounted AOSpine DVDs, courses, seminars and all other AOSpine events. I hope as an AOSpine International member you are fully enjoying your benefits, and if you're not yet a member, what are you waiting for? Join us now! [www.aospine.org](http://www.aospine.org)

*Vania F. Revoredo*

Member No. 14545