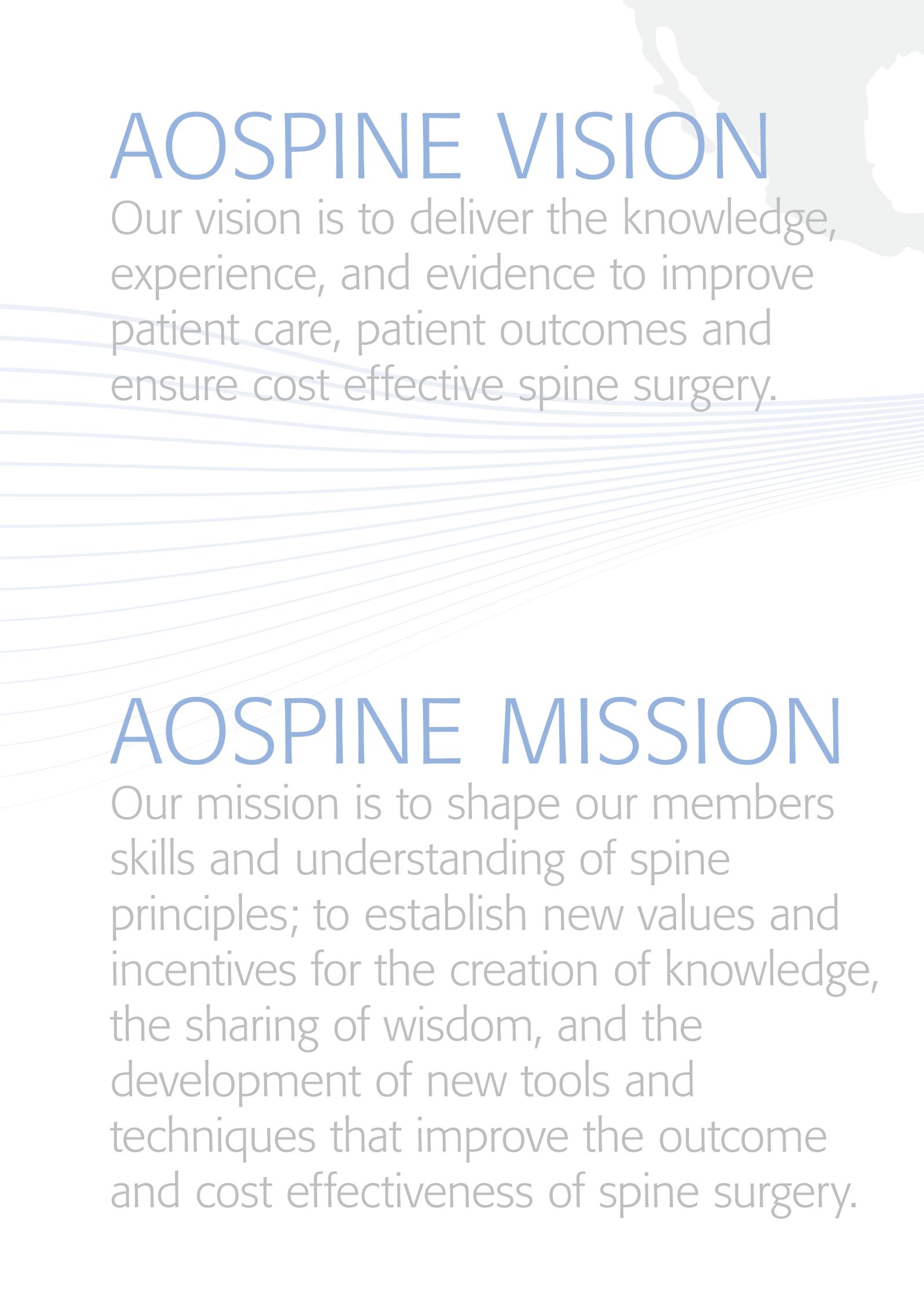


ANNUAL REPORT 2008



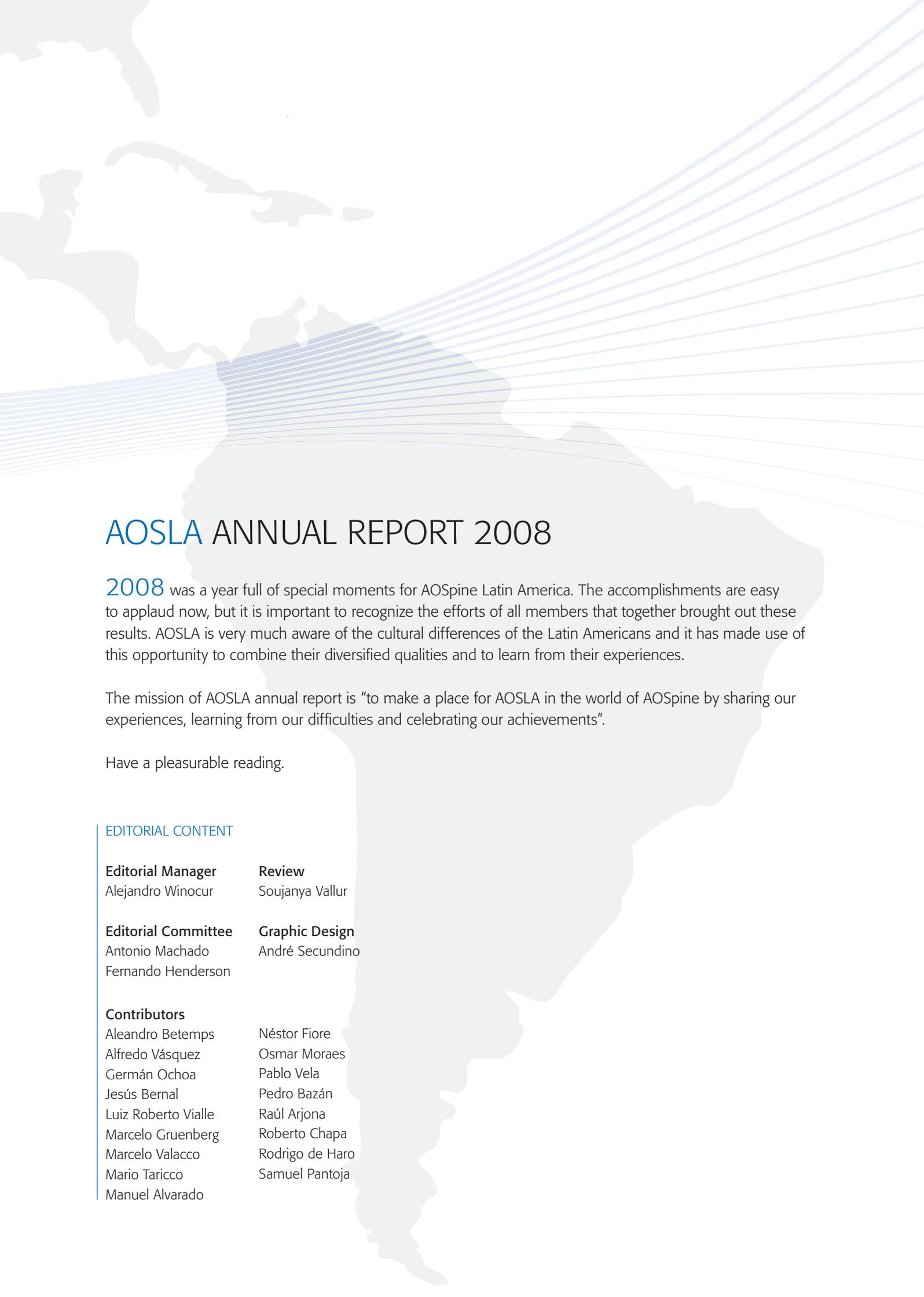


AOSPINE VISION

Our vision is to deliver the knowledge, experience, and evidence to improve patient care, patient outcomes and ensure cost effective spine surgery.

AOSPINE MISSION

Our mission 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 cost effectiveness of spine surgery.



AOSLA ANNUAL REPORT 2008

2008 was a year full of special moments for AOSpine Latin America. The accomplishments are easy to applaud now, but it is important to recognize the efforts of all members that together brought out these results. AOSLA is very much aware of the cultural differences of the Latin Americans and it has made use of this opportunity to combine their diversified qualities and to learn from their experiences.

The mission of AOSLA annual report is “to make a place for AOSLA in the world of AOSpine by sharing our experiences, learning from our difficulties and celebrating our achievements”.

Have a pleasurable reading.

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AOSLA's Structure

Regional Board

Board Member	Position	Country
Marcelo Gruenberg	Chairman	Argentina
Néstor Fiore	Education (Ortho)	Argentina
Mario Taricco	Education (Neuro)	Brazil
Manuel Alvarado	Research	Venezuela
Roberto Chapa	Scientific Marketing	Mexico
Pablo Vela	Fellowship & Reference Centers	Colombia
Luiz Vialle	Past Chairman	Brazil

Country Councils

Position	Chairperson	Education (Ortho)	Education (Neuro)	Scientific Marketing	Research
Argentina	Alejandro Betemps	Pedro Luis Bazán	Andrés Cervio	Marcelo Valacco	Eduardo Galaretto
Brazil	TBE	Paulo Cavali	Geraldo Sá	Emiliano Vialle	Helton Defino
Chile	Alejandro Urzúa	Samuel Pantoja	Patricio Bustos	Rodolfo López	Omar Hernández
Colombia	Andrés Rodríguez	Ricardo Restrepo	Néstor Taboada	Carlos Mora	Ricardo Londoño
Costa Rica	Mario Solano	Oscar Uribe	Javier Brenes	Hugo Dobles	Miguel Esquivel
Ecuador	Martha Hernandez	Patricio Zumarraga	Ernesto Vargas	Jaime Pavón	Luis Guijarro
Guatemala	Otto Alvarado	Gabriel Murga	Julio Pozuelos	Juan Pablo De León	Luis Cruz
México	Jesús Bernal	Federico Cisneros	Juan Carlos Reina	Martín Tejeda	Catarino López
Panamá	Raul Arjona	TBE	Antonio Mock	Hector Crooks	Laurent Bruggerman
Peru	Alfredo Vasquez	Raul Macchiavello	Marco Medina	Hernán Valdivia	Daniel Cauti
Venezuela	Victor Dávila	TBE	Edgar González	TBE	Daniel Onay

TBE - To be elected

National Delegates

Argentina

Jose Monayer, Ricardo Prina, Ernesto Bersusky

Brazil

Ubirajara Bley Filho, Ricardo Ribeiro, Antonio Braconi, Mauricio Calais, Fabiano Canto, Luis Eduardo Carelli, Sérgio Daher, Luiz H. Damasceno, Rodrigo Diniz, Fernando Façanha Filho, Alexandre Fogaça, Jefferson Galves, Amauri Godinho Jr., Mauricio Gusmão, Elcio Landim, Augustin Malzac, Delio Martins Filho, Cristiano Menezes, Carlos Oliveira, Wagner Pasqualini, Luiz Otavio Penteado, Amancio Ramalho Jr., Túlio Rangel, Carlos Ribeiro, Luis Eduardo Rocha, Luiz Gustavo Rocha, Alexandre Sadao, Julio Santiago, Marcio Vinhal, Mauro Volpi, Eduardo V. Uhlendorff, Sergio Zylbersztejn

Colombia

Luis Felipe Villota, Juan Uribe, Germán Ochoa

Costa Rica

Miguel Mejia, Alexander Valverde

Peru

Alfonso Basurco

Mexico

Felix Sánchez, Luis Rosales, Francisco Cruz, Juan Carlos Valle Landa, Ramiro Ramírez, Oscar Martínez, Gustavo Casas, Ismael Cruz, Alejandro Gallegos, Hernando Cuevas, Michael Dittmar

Venezuela

José Elías Duran, Luis Lara

Courses

AOSpine Tips for Trainers Course

January 18-19, 2008

Hotel Camino Real | Mexico DF, Mexico

Course Chairman: Luiz Roberto Vialle (Brazil)

Faculty: Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina)

AOSLA Education: Fernando Henderson (Brazil)

Number of participants: 15

Participants (Mexico)

Armando Alpizar Aguirre, Víctor Flores Verdugo, Juan Carlos Reina Gama, Ricardo Andaluz, César Gonzalez, Luis Rosales, Jesus Bernal, Catarino López, Federico Cisneros, Oscar Martinez, Martin Tejeda, Hernando Cuevas, Aurelio Ramirez, Juan Carlos Valle Landa



What makes a good teacher? In addition to the technical knowledge and experience each course requires, teachers also need to have public speaking and pedagogic skills. In order to help faculties develop and improve such abilities, AOSLA offered the AOSpine Tips for Trainers course, held in Mexico, in January.

In this course Education Expert Fabiana Reboiras taught participants the principles of learning, while Dr. Luiz Vialle talked about the importance of interactive classes. Fernando Henderson enriched the classes by providing participants with some PowerPoint tips and tricks.

The course was extremely practical, which helped students actually see their progress. There were groups of discussion and skills practices. In the end, doctors exchanged their views on the course, which was deemed as highly useful.

"It is always a pleasure to be a T4T instructor. It was heartening to see a group of surgeons, young and more experienced, participating actively and open to hear criticism of the other class participants. The comments were rewarding and confirm the value of this course."

Luiz Roberto Vialle



AOSpine Tips for Course Chairpersons

February 16–17, 2008

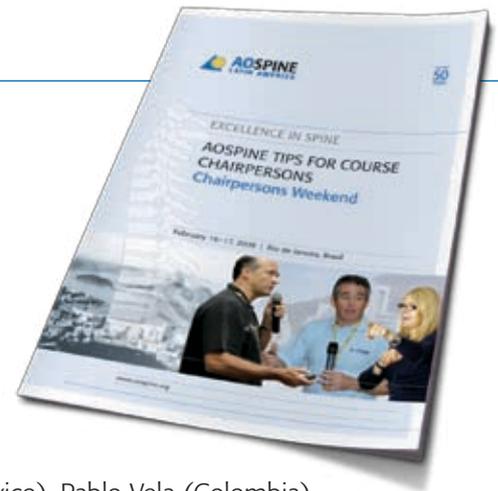
Pestana Rio Atlantica Hotel | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Course Chairperson: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)

Educational Director: Lisa Hadfield-Law (UK)

Faculty: Doris Straub Piccirillo (Switzerland)

Guest: Michael Piccirillo (Switzerland)



Participants

Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela), Mario Taricco (Brazil), Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Pablo Vela (Colombia), Nestor Fiore (Argentina), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

The Sugar Loaf, Christ the Redeemer and probably the Girl from Ipanema usually attract people from all over the world to visit Rio. In February there was something else: AOSpine Tips for Course Chairpersons, a special course targeted at all established, this-year course chairpersons, who had ideally completed the AOSpine Tips for Trainers course.



The main purpose of the event was to establish a baseline competency for all AOSpine course chairpersons. The agenda included presentations on AOSpine (vision, mission and use of templates); relationships with Synthes (past, present, and future); differences between regional, national and international course organization; process of appointing chairpersons; the role of the chairperson; use of the AOSpine Course Chairperson checklist;

resource management and organization of an effective faculty team. Needless to say that there were plenty of practical exercises and discussions, where participants could voice their opinions, ask questions and exchange experiences.

The success of this particular course could be noticed in all other AOSLA's 2008 courses, where high quality organization and state-of-the-art knowledge were the main features.

AOSpine Surgical Approaches

March 27–29, 2008

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná PUC-PR | Curitiba, Brazil

Course Chairperson: Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

Course Director: Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

International Faculty: Vincent Arlet (USA)

National Faculty (Brazil): José Augusto Araújo, Carla Menini-Stahlschmidt, Nelson Bergonse, Fernando Meyer, Ubirajara Bley Filho, Osmar Moraes, Geraldo Carneiro, Ricardo Ribeiro, Carlos del Valle, Luis Carlos Von Batten

ORP Chief Staff: Graziela Cancian Gomes, Brazil

Faculty Assistant: Marcell Araujo (Brazil), Antonio Krieger (Brazil), Luiz Felipe Carvalho (Brazil), Luiz Gustavo Rocha (Brazil), William Contreras (Colombia), Juan Suarez Henao (Brazil), Fernando Coutinho (Brazil), André Vidigal (Brazil), Cláudio Dorigo (Brazil), Pablo Godinho (Brazil), Guillermo Holtmann (Argentina)

Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 1,250 / Non Members USD 1,500

Number of Participants: 48



Spine care involves a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of painful and limiting disorders of the spine – of both the back and the neck. Over 48 participants from most Latin American countries flew to Curitiba, in southern Brazil, to attend the course. The event was a complete success. Both the lectures and the practical sessions on pigs – one of the course main attractions – aimed to discuss and teach about anterior approaches to the spine, including its indications, technical aspects and complications.

Participants' feedback was very enthusiastic and there are already plenty of application requests for 2009. "The great organization and the academic atmosphere of the university was the perfect combination for such an important event", enthused Emiliano Vialle, course director.



"The union between AOSpine and a University joining efforts to offer an ultimate course on "Surgical Approaches" provided to 48 students a unique opportunity to practice anterior spine approach. The outstanding faculty and instructors combined with a genuine interest of the participants made this course a highlight of all AOSpine courses in Curitiba."

Luiz Roberto Vialle

AOSpine Latin American Course: To fuse or not to fuse

May 08–10, 2008

Hotel Santa Cruz Plaza | Santa Cruz, Chile

Course Chairperson: Alejandro Urzúa (Chile)

Educational Director: Bartolomé Marré (Chile)

International Faculty: Michael Grevitt (United Kingdom), Frank Kandziora (Germany), Jeffrey Wang (USA)

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela), Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Nestor Fiore (Argentina), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Mario Taricco (Brazil), Pablo Vela (Colombia), Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty (Chile): Milan Munjin, Samuel Pantoja

Special Guests: Helton Defino (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), German Ochoa (Colombia), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Number of Participants: 50 invited participants. No registration fee.



To be or not to be? William Shakespeare's worldly famous quotation inspired the name of AOSLA's course held in May in Chile, To Fuse or Not to Fuse? Just as the English poet became a reference in world literature, AOSpine courses stand out in the spine world.

The success of this particular course can attest to that. Over fifty participants from various Latin American countries attended the lectures and enjoyed the unique atmosphere of Santa Cruz. In addition to the academic content of the course – techniques of fusion and movement preservation of the degenerative pathology of spine, among other topics – there were plenty of social activities. Participants visited vineyards, tried different types of Chilean wines and had a special session: "enologist for one day". Undoubtedly, a course to be remembered.

In addition to the course, a separated session, with all 11 AOSLA Countries Chairpersons, AOSLA Board and Regional Director, was held on the previous day of the course. The main topics discussed were the roles of Council Members and activities and projects models organized by Country Chapters.



AOSpine Principles Course Degenerative Spine

May 22–24, 2008

Swissotel Lima | Lima, Peru

Course Chairperson: Mario Taricco (Brazil)

Course Director: Alfredo Vásquez (Peru)

Regional Faculty: Néstor Fiore (Argentina),
Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia), Osmar Moraes (Brazil),
Pablo Vela (Colombia)

National Faculty (Peru): Alfonso Basurco, Marco Medina,
Daniel Cauti De la Cruz, Gabriel Polo, Carlos Cárdenas, Jesús Robles



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 540 / Non Members USD 600

Number of Participants: 25

Degenerative disease affecting the spine is a major cause of chronic disability in the adult working population. The main objective of this course was to debate the most modern knowledge on diagnosis and treatment of spine degenerative disease. Participants and faculties could exchange ideas and learn about alternative therapeutic techniques. There were seven case discussions and several workshops that enabled participants to fully benefit from the course.



At the end of the first day, Osmar Moraes presented the advantages of being an AOSpine member and the benefits one can have after subscribing to the new membership scheme, i.e., access to publications (European Spine Journal, EBSS, MyAOSpine, InSpine, among others), case discussions, global network of doctors, discounts in courses and AOSpine merchandizing, etc.



"The course had a very important and interactive participation from all participants and faculties involved throughout the discussions of all topics presented. And most important, in my opinion, was the possibility to spread the idea of AOSpine Principles.

It was with great joy that I corroborate the success of the course."

Mario Taricco

AOSpine Principles Course

June 26-28, 2008

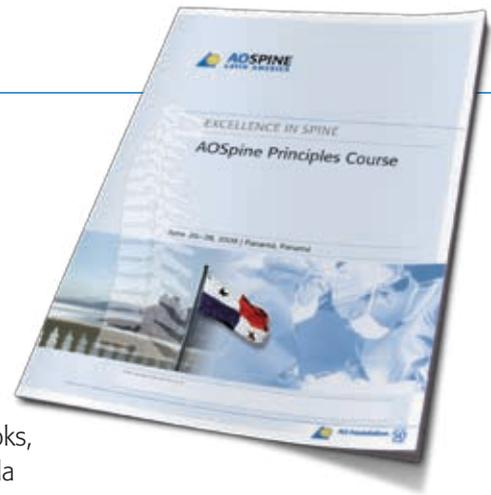
Hotel El Panama | Panamá, Panamá

Course Chairperson: Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Course Director: Raul Arjona (Panama)

Regional Faculty: Jesús Bernal (Mexico), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Mario Solano Salas (Costa Rica)

National Faculty (Panama): Carlos Briceño Sarasqueta, Héctor Crooks, Carlos Martínez Castañeda, Antonio Mock, José Neira, Nelson Sopalda



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 702 / Non Members USD 780

Number of Participants: 20

It was a great satisfaction for the AOSpine Panama chapter organize a course aimed to neurosurgeons and orthopedics, with experience and interest in the management of spine injuries.

The main objective of the course was to analyze the frequent spine injuries and their types, ways to diagnose and the right treatment, in either conservative or surgical approaches, moreover showing the different types of techniques and implants with the objective to solve them in most effective way, hoping that at the end of the course all that work is reflected in the welfare of our patients.

"First of all it is important to mention that this course was the first after the formation of the Panamanian chapter. This course was meant to spread the AOSpine principles for spine injuries treatment both degenerative and traumatic, in addition were workshops in which the participants performed different surgical techniques. An important aspect of this course was the beginning of a new era. The transmission of Marcelo Gruenberg's presentation through Internet, directly from Buenos Aires (Argentina), he talked about the thoracolumbar fracture classification and interacted with the course answering questions from regional and local faculties. Panama City was the perfect atmosphere to initiate and reinforce the bounds of friendship that are brought up by AOSpine."

Roberto Chapa

"The course was the first of its kind in Panama and the organization achieved their goals. The participants were mainly medical residents and young professionals, who discuss collectively and together with the national and international Faculties took with a very good impression about AOSpine and a very nice course experience. I think we opened the doors to continue the growth of the organization in this area."

Raúl Darío Arjona Serrano

AOSpine Principles Course

July 03-05, 2008

Hotel Camino Real Veracruz | Veracruz, México

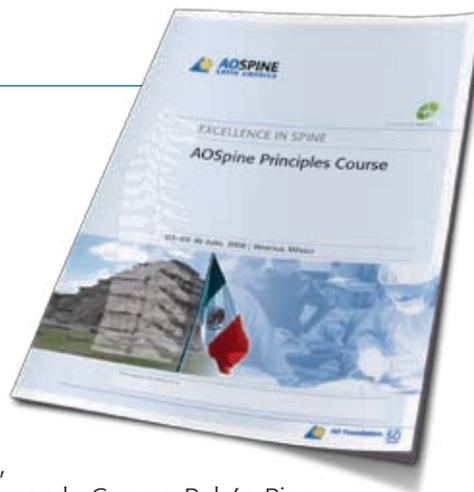
Course Chairperson: Pablo Vela (Colombia)

Course Director: Jesús Bernal (México)

International Faculty: Carlo Bellabarba (USA)

Regional Faculty: Alejandro Urzúa (Chile),
Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez (Perú)

National Faculty (Mexico): Armando Alpizar-Aguirre,
Catarino López, Ricardo Andaluz, Aurelio Ramírez, Hernando Cuevas, Rubén Ríos,
Michael Dittmar, Lino Ruperto Torres Vallecillo, Juan Carlos Valle Landa, Concepción Zamora



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 540 / Non Members USD 600

Number of Participants: 60



If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas. – G.B Shaw

With all the information resources that surround spine surgeons these days it is crucial to them have the possibility to exchange ideas and concepts in the best way for the young spine surgeon and for the more experienced.

This course attempted to accomplish that purpose by discussions and updating the concepts in common pathologies in spine surgery, such as degenerative diseases and

trauma. It took an effort to ensure that at the end of the course, all the participants would take home a clear message about all the pathologies mentioned to be applied in everyday medical and surgical practice.



"In the course of Veracruz, because of the faculty's presentation, the level of the workshops, the observations during the debates and the discussion of clinical cases from all participants, the level that this course took is far from basic, since the intensity was excellent in all subjects treated, and the satisfaction expressed by participants very close from 100%, the cost-benefit of the course was well balanced."

Jesús Bernal

"The course of Veracruz had an international faculty – Dr. Carlo Bellabarba, Seattle (USA) – who had an active participation and his presentations a very good response. The two regional Faculties – Dr. Alejandro Urzua (Chile) and Dr. Alfredo Vasquez (Peru) – were also very active throughout the course, not only participating in the discussions but stimulating the participants. Dr. Jesus Bernal was the course director, his effort to the organizational and academics aspects before and during the course were invaluable, reliable and unimpeachable. The sixty four participants, including one from England, involvement during the discussion sessions were active and enriching, the overall level was very good."

Pablo Vela

AOSpine Complications & Controversies How to Avoid and How to Deal

July 03–05, 2008

Hotel Four Seasons | Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course Chairperson: Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

Course Director: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina)

International Faculty: Max Aebi (Switzerland), K. Daniel Riew (USA), John Webb (United Kingdom)

Special Guests: Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil)

Regional Faculty: Samuel Pantoja (Chile)

National Faculty (Argentina): Pedro Luis Bazán, José Monayer, Ernesto Bersusky, Matias Petracchi, Andrés Cervio, Jose Ricardo Prina, Eduardo Galaretto, Carlos Solá, Marcelo Gruenberg, Marcelo Valacco

Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 500 / Non Members USD 625

Number of Participants: 140



“Great minds **discuss** ideas; Average minds **discuss** events; Small minds **discuss** people” – Eleanor Roosevelt. A complete knowledge development can be achieved through the discussion of cases with unsuccessful initial outcome and with discussions about strategies to prevent complications.

The main purpose of this course was to discuss ways to plan the best solution for those complications, discuss controversial points, whose application are not unanimous among surgeons and tried to establish a consensus. And last but not least to discuss the best strategy, in some complex cases of trauma, tumor and degenerative disease.

In 2008, the year that AO Foundation turned 50, AOSpine celebrated its 5th anniversary. AOSpine Latin America decided to celebrate this with an important event in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires: the Course of Complications and Controversies. A memorable moment where Max Aebi, Marcelo Gruenberg, Luiz Vialle, John Webb and many other surgeons gathered to celebrate the success of the entire community.

“AOSpine and a University blending to offer a course is in my opinion the highlight of the year. I have been involved with the idea of this format for some time, something totally new in the world AOSpine, and was a great satisfaction to see 140 participants involved in ongoing discussions over 3 days. I write out the words of Max Aebi, one of the faculty: “Thank you for inviting me for a course like this: one of the best of my life”.”

Luiz Roberto Vialle



AOSpine Advances Course Non Fusion Techniques and Deformities

August 28–30, 2008

Hotel Intercontinental de Medellín | Medellín, Colombia

Course Chairperson: Osmar Moraes (Brasil)

Course Director: Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia)

International Faculty: Dante Marchesi (Switzerland)

Regional Faculty: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty (Colombia): Luis Arango, Ricardo Restrepo, Fernando Helo Yamhure, Germán Ochoa, Mario Herrera, Nestor Taboada, Luis Carlos Morales Sáenz, Pablo Vela, Guido Pugliese



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 844 / Non Members USD 950

Number of Participants: 47

There are countless challenges in the daily routine of a spine surgeon. Degenerative diseases and deformities are unquestionably two of them. The program of this course was aimed to discuss current topics and the more representative issues in dealing with those situations.

This course took place in a historic moment, when the participants had the opportunity to meet the great precursor of education

activities in Latin America, Dante Marchesi, and the Chairman of AOSpine Latin America, Marcelo Gruenberg, among many other significant personalities who built our history.



It was in a great atmosphere that the participants had the opportunity to hear the personal experiences and to discuss the latest trends and technologies in an interactive environment.

AOSpine Principles Course

October 2–4, 2008

Windsor Barra Hotel | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

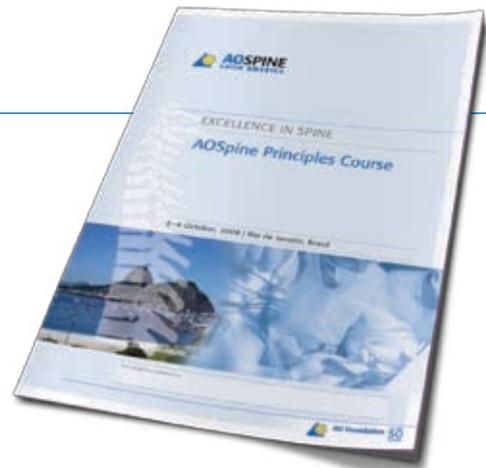
Course Chairperson: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)

Course Director: Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

Regional Faculty: Roberto Chapa (México),
Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

National Faculty (Brazil): Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Helton Defino,
Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Carlos Ribeiro, Ricardo Ribeiro, Mario Taricco, Luiz Vialle, Mauro Volpi

Table Instructors (Brazil): Ubirajara Bley Filho, Albert Brasil, Jefferson Galves, Amauri Godinho, Rafael Souza,
Carlos Tucci, Marcio Vinhal



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 1,400 / Non Members USD 1,500

Number of Participants: 63

Designed especially for the participant, this course was prepared with the latest guidelines, to update and review of the diagnostic and therapeutic principles.

The course was a new form of educational activity prioritizing the interaction and resolution of the clinic issues and doubts at the same time as the case discussion

The AOSpine Principles Course in Rio de Janeiro was directed to young surgeons. It was presented the latest information about how to treat the most frequent pathologies, also participants had the opportunity to practice many surgery techniques in workshops and participate in unbeaten clinical cases discussion.



The attendance were very pleased due to the high interactivity of the course. The city of Rio de Janeiro also offered a number of activities to do at the end of the meetings and courses.

"The AOSpine Principles Course in Rio de Janeiro was excellent because it was directed at young surgeons and people interested in spine, since was presented the latest information in how to treat the most frequent problems or injuries, also participants had the opportunity to practice of many surgery techniques in workshops and participate in clinical cases session.

This is a course that the surgeons attend very pleased because of the high interactivity and also because of the city Rio de Janeiro that offers a many activities to do at the end of the meetings or the end of the course."

Roberto Chapa



AOSpine Cadaveric Course: 3D Anatomy and Surgical Techniques

November 07–08, 2008

Hotel Corregidor | La Plata - Bs.As., Argentina

Course Chairperson: Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Course Director: Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina)

National Faculty (Argentina): Alejandro Betemps, Juan Emmerich, Jorge Lambre, Osvaldo Romano

Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 1,330 / Non Members USD 1,550

Number of Participants: 12



This was a two day course designed to share experiences on spinal surgical techniques and instrumentation. It was provided a short theoretical explanation on various topics to be discussed and later hands on lab to develop the various techniques selected.

The main objectives were to learn about different spinal pathologies, evaluate and analyze their surgical treatment; detailing the anatomical relationship with the technique. To update the participants on different surgical techniques and instrumentation, not forgetting the innovative 3D anatomy module, an unique opportunity.



"In one of the traditional fields of the Medical Sciences Anatomy at the National University of La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina) was carried out this cadaveric course of spine surgical techniques and 3D anatomy. In a fraternity atmosphere the participants shared their experience with the Faculties from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico. The course had a high scientific level with an interesting social activity."

Néstor Fiore and Pedro Bazán



AOSpine Advances Course: Deformities

November 13–15, 2008

Hotel Camino Real Monterrey | Monterrey, Mexico

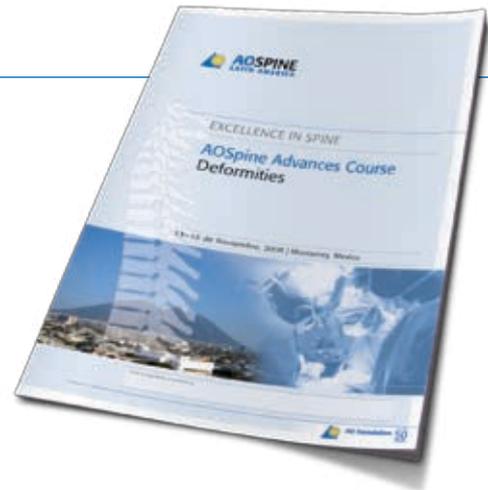
Course Chairperson: Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina)

Course Director: Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

International Faculty: Robert Campbell (USA)

Regional Faculty: Helton Defino (Brazil), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty (Mexico): Catarino López, Luis M. Rosales,
Virgilio Ortiz, Luis Ordoñez Conde



Registration Fees: AOSpine Members USD 800 / Non Members USD 900

Number of Participants: 50



During the course were reviewed the most frequent spine deformities diseases, in a dynamic and interactive way. Through the ARS system, which provides us with a high level of communication and interaction between the audience and faculties, it allows us to analyze the issues, or discuss clinical cases exposed and see the different treatment options that are used, in a local and regional point of view.

For that time there were surgeons specialized in deformities and with experience developing new techniques to solve patients problems in different pathologies.

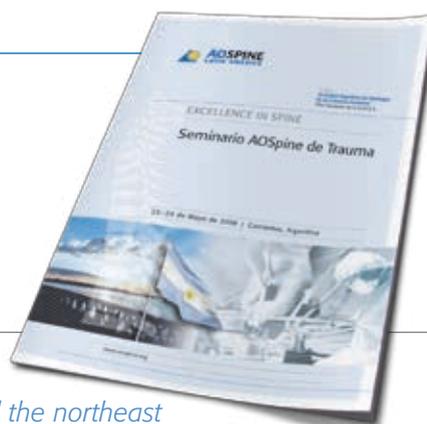
Seminars

AOSpine Trauma Seminar

May 23–24, 2008

Corrientes Plaza Hotel | Corrientes, Argentina

Seminar Directors: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina),
Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)



"Having trauma as the main topic, this seminar was held under the auspices of SAPCV (Argentinian Spine Pathology Society) and the northeast subsidiary of the SAPCV. There were about 20 professionals from the area (Chaco, Corrientes, and Misiones). An interactive model was arranged which was later applied in the workshop for residents in Buenos Aires. The seminar was well received by the participants."

Alejandro Betemps

AOSpine Seminar Chile: Cervical Trauma

June 21, 2008

Hotel Atton Las Condes | Santiago, Chile

Seminar Directors: Samuel Pantoja (Argentina),
Omar Hernández (Brazil)

Regional Faculty: Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

National Faculty (Chile): José Fleiderman, Rodolfo Lopez,
Enzo Mantelli, Sebastian Mobarec, Milan Munjin, Roberto Postigo,
Ratko Yurac, Alejandro Urzúa



Supported and accredited by the Chilean Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (SCHOT), this seminar focused on spine trauma. With the involvement of renowned national and regional faculties, the participants had informative lectures, enlightening case discussions and presentations of clinical cases.

There was also a special session about the advantages and benefits of AOSpine membership packages: access to publications (European Spine Journal, EBSS, MyAOSpine, InSpine, among others), case discussions, global network of doctors, discounts in courses and AOSpine merchandizing, etc.

"The seminar Cervical Trauma allowed a group of 46 professionals to acknowledge and update on cervical spine injuries, its diagnosis and treatment. The discussions of cases were particularly rewarding, by the direct participation of all involved. Emphasized was laid on the importance to base the recommendations on scientific evidence. In general the level of the presentations was of a high standard."

Samuel Pantoja

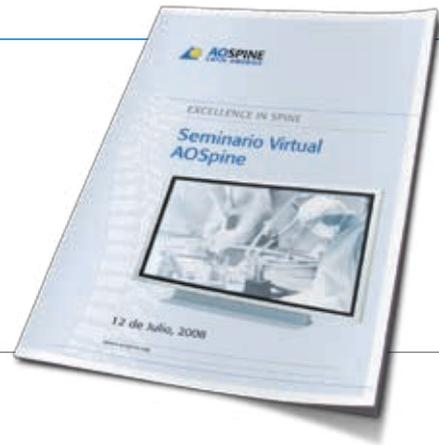
AOSpine Virtual Seminar

July 12, 2008

Connected Auditoriums in: Costa Rica, Panamá, Guatemala

Seminar Director: Germán Ochoa (Colombia)

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela), Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Roberto Chapa (México), Néstor Fiore (Argentina)



Highlights: Cervical Degenerative, Lumbar degenerative, Occipito-cervical

Technology and knowledge came together to make this virtual seminar a success. With this seminar 44 participants from four different countries had the opportunity to watch live presentations.



This Virtual Seminar in Latin America with auditoriums connected in Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala, had a

scientific program intended to discuss important topics for any spine surgeon such as:

- Fusion still is the best solution: the evidence – Luiz Vialle
- Non Fusion alternatives: today's situation – Emiliano Vialle
- Alternatives for treatment via anterior approach – Manuel Alvarado
- Laminoplastia – Néstor Fiore
- Efficacy of the AOSpine classification in daily practice – Marcelo Gruenberg
- Pediatric fractures: is the treatment different? – Roberto Chapa
- Treatment of congenital deformities from the union occipital-cervical – Ernesto Bersusky
- Surgical treatment of the union occipital-cervical from traumatic injuries – Osmar Moraes
- Description of a surgical technique to fuse C 1 / C 2 in children – Germán Ochoa

AOSpine Seminar – Surgical Techniques: Cervical

August 21, 2008

Hotel Intercontinental Real | Guatemala City, Guatemala

Seminar Director: Otto Alvarado (Guatemala)

Regional Faculty: Jesús Bernal (Mexico)

National Faculty (Guatemala): Juan Pablo de León



This main purpose of this seminar was to show and discuss with the participants the latest surgical techniques to treat rheumatoid arthritis, to compare the fusion versus non-fusion in cervical spine and to analyze the minimally invasive surgical techniques in fractures caused by insufficiency.

Based on the strength of the explanations and discussions there is no doubt that the seminar objectives were reached with success.

AOSpine Seminar: Traumatismos of the Thoracolumbar Spine

August 23, 2008
Hotel Atton Las Condes | Santiago, Chile

Seminar Chairperson: Alejandro Urzúa (Chile)
Seminar Directors: Patricio Bustos, Milán Munjin, Rodolfo López
Regional Faculty: Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil)
National Faculty (Chile): Omar Hernández, Milán Munjin, Francisco Ilabaca, Bartolomé Marré, Enzo Mantelli, Rodolfo Labarca, Rodolfo López, Alberto Marti, Julio Urrutia, Ratko Yurac, Miguel Lecaros, Patricio Bustos



The main objective of this seminar was to analyze the various traumatic injuries of the spine thoracolumbar, and discuss their treatment by exploiting the exchange of experience among the participants. It had intended to increase the knowledge and therapeutic decision level against these diseases.

A Spine and Wine session was organized for the participants where, the participants and the faculty had an opportunity to discuss their clinical cases in a relaxed informal atmosphere. This session began with wine presentation and tasting.

This was a wonderful event which combined work with cultural activities.

AOSpine Deformities Seminar

September 19, 2008
Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca El Olivar Lima | Lima, Peru

Seminar Director: Alfredo Vásquez (Peru)
Regional Faculty: Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina)
National Faculty (Peru): Carlos Cárdenas, Daniel Cauti, Raul Machiavello, Marco Medina, Jesus Robles



The seminar was designed for spine surgeons of AOSpine Peru. It was intended to update, motivate and to build knowledge among professionals who desire and have concern about this surgery.

The incidence of spinal deformity pathologies occupies an important space in the work of spine surgeons. This pathology is spread in Peru and there isn't any health institute specialized to match up the population needs. Patients and their families often find themselves helpless in the absence of any proper solution to their problem.

"The deformities seminar took place thanks to the collaboration of Dr Ernesto Bersusky, and with the participation of national faculties. This event was the first on deformities that was done in Peru, not only by AOSpine, but in general. The attendees were very satisfied and with a desire to continue to expand their knowledge of these pathologies."

Alfredo Vásquez

AOSpine Residents Seminar: Trauma

October 14, 2008

IREP – Instituto de Rehabilitación Psicofísica | Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seminar Director: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina)

National Faculty (Argentina): Pedro Bazán, Andrés Cervio, Carlos Mounier, Marcelo Gruenberg, Carlos Mounier, Marcelo Valacco



Organized in a very lively atmosphere, the participants received information about ways to examine, diagnose and classify a raquimedular injury. They were also informed regarding the algorithm of diagnosis and treatment of a traumatic cervical injury. The participants were also made aware of the AOSpine principles to classify thoracolumbar fractures and know the current approaches in spine trauma treatment.

"The first AOSpine seminar for resident's trauma was a big step for the academic activity conducted by the national chapter AOSpine Argentina. Residents from various hospitals had the opportunity to discuss cases, seek different opinions from the one that they receive in their residential training, learn basic tricks in spinal trauma and were able to obtain information on how to keep connected to AOSPINE and its profits, in an informal atmosphere for a whole day. Anyway, I think that being able to share and disseminate some basic concepts with young people who surely will demand new courses in the future was an interesting option."

Marcelo Valacco

AOSpine Seminar in Jamaica

December 2, 2008

Hilton Hotel | Kingston, Jamaica

Seminar Director: Germán Ochoa (Colombia)



There was a presentation of AOSpine International and AOSLA, followed by a case presentation and discussion on Thoracolumbar fractures and afterwards a lecture on AOSpine classification of ThL fractures.

It was a good environment when local surgeons visit the General Hospital and The University Hospital.

It was the first AOSpine visit to Jamaica where the interaction with the local surgeons was very successful. Dr Ian Neil (Orthopedic) and Dr Carl Bruce (Neurologist) were nominated coordinators of the local activities looking to constitute the Jamaican Chapter in 2009.

AOSLA Board Meetings

First 2008 Board Meeting

February 16, 2008
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The first Board Meeting of 2008 was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Participants discussed and approved the course calendar for 2008 and 2009, as well as took care of the faculty invitations.

With regard to the Research Department, Manuel Alvarado informed that nine centers had confirmed to participate in the Assessment of Surgical Techniques for Treating Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy – International Multi-center Study.

Roberto Chapa presented the initial statistics of AOSLA's membership and briefly explained the marketing strategies the office would carry out in the near future to boost the number of subscribed members.

In addition to this, Marcelo Gruenberg informed that AOSLA is willing to finance special projects related to any department: Research, Education, Membership, etc. Therefore, he invited members to submit proposals for special projects.

Second 2008 Board Meeting

April 9, 2008
Puerto Iguazú, Argentina

On April 9 2008, AOSpine Board Members gathered for their second formal meeting of the year. Each participant presented the status of the projects of their department after Marcelo Gruenberg, AOSLA Chairman, and Luiz Vialle, AOSLA Past Chairman, provided participants with general information on the organization. It was also announced that Marcelo Gruenberg is the new AO trustee.

The new membership scheme, launched in December 2007, was one of the most important topics of debate. Roberto Chapa presented membership statistics and participants agreed on the growing importance of this department, especially as it will have increasing weight in the region's budget over the years.

Néstor Fiore then emphasized the pivotal role Education can play in attracting new paying members for AOSpine, both in terms of infrastructure and scientific content. According to him, AOSpine should aim to be a leader in Education in order to guarantee strong presence in the market. He took the opportunity to present and discuss with the board the AOSLA faculty guideline: a complete manual.

Third 2008 Board Meeting

October 04–05, 2008
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This meeting was organized after the AOSpine Principles Course. Here the entire board and the guests had the opportunity to discuss and interact about a number of topics; important among those were the approval of the education plan for AOSLA and how to balance with accuracy the councils, delegates and board administration because of their different purposes and acting positions.

Regarding the research projects for 2009 were presented and approved two new studies: Syringomyelia and Basilar Invagination.

The guideline for reference centers was presented and approved with some considerations, also the AOSLA fellowship guidelines was approved.

It was decided to continue with the lounges or booths in major conferences. The aim of these activities is to build a personal relationship between AOSpine Latin America and community. It was also decided to continue the seek of partnership with academic organizations.

AOSLA International Meetings

In addition to all activities carried out in our continent, AOSLA has been gaining an important role in AOSpine's world scenario. In 2008 the AOSLA team has attended several international meetings and its contributions have been acknowledged as useful for the entire organization.

AOSLA's participation in international meetings in 2008:

Date	AOSLA	Position	Meeting	Where
Jan 14–16	Fernando Henderson	Education Manager	AOSpine International Meeting – Website Shakedown	Zurich, Switzerland
Jan 22	Antonio Machado	Regional Director	Regional Directors Meeting	Miami, USA
Mar 22–23	Marcelo Gruenberg Antonio Machado	AOSLA Chairperson Regional Director	AOSpine Regional Chairpersons Meeting	Miami, USA
Apr 08–12	Fernando Henderson	Education Manager	AOSpine Education Managers Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
Apr 08–12	Carolina Berard	Former Marketing Manager	LASSMC Meeting	Puerto Iguazú, Argentina
Apr 10–12	Rodrigo de Haro	Research Manager	Research and Fellowship Meeting	Puerto Iguazú, Argentina
Apr 16–17	Carolina Berard	Former Marketing Manager	AOSpine Marketing Coordinators Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
Jun 06–08	Roberto Chapa Antonio Machado	Scientific Marketing Regional Director	AOSpine Scientific Marketing Commission Meeting	Chicago, USA
Jul 05–06	Mario Taricco Néstor Fiore	Education Neuro Education Ortho	AOSpine Education Commission Meeting	Florence, Italy
Aug 24–28	Antonio Machado	Regional Director	Represent AOSpine at SICOT meeting	Hong Kong
Sep 13–15	Marcelo Gruenberg	AOSLA Chairperson	AOSpine International Board Meeting	Bonaire, Netherland Antilles
Sep 16-19	Fernando Henderson	Education Manager	AOSpine Education Manager Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
Oct 04–05	Antonio Machado Alejandro Winocur	Regional Director Marketing Manager	AOSpine Induction Program Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
Dec 11–12	Antonio Machado	Regional Director	Regional Directors Meeting	Zurich, Switzerland
Dec 14	Marcelo Gruenberg	AOSLA Chairperson	AOSpine International Board Meeting	Davos, Switzerland
Dec 18	Mario Taricco	Education Neuro	AOSpine Education Commission Meeting	Davos, Switzerland

AOSLA Education

2008 was a busy year for the AOSLA Education Team. Not only did we manage the various events taking place throughout the region as mentioned in the previous pages, we also had new projects such as the AOSLA Education guidelines for faculty and the Education strategy plan delivered this year. It was a special way to ensure the growth of our community as well as maintain the excellence achieved over the past years.

Our statistics for 2008:

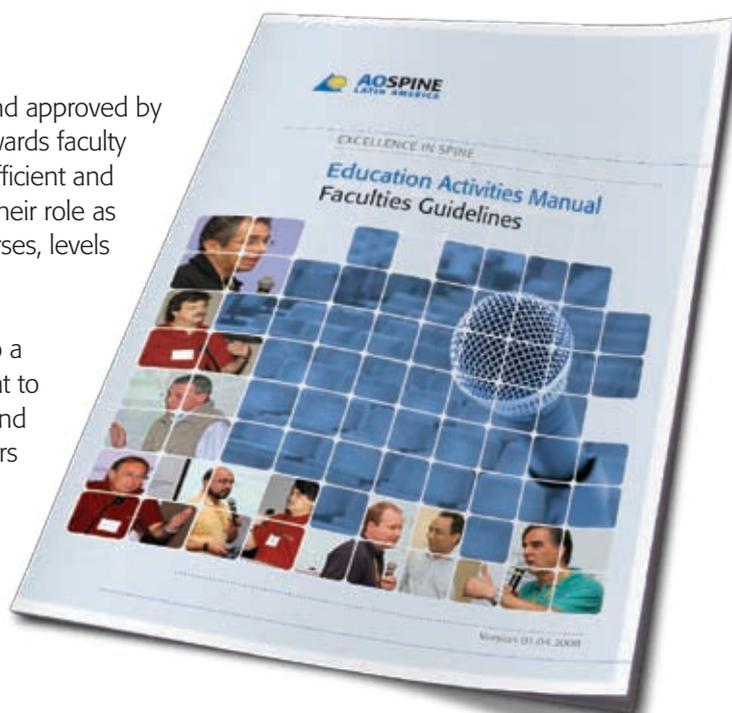
- 19 Educational Events
- 12 Courses
- 2 Faculty training Courses
- 1 Cadaveric and 3D Anatomy Course
- 1 Live Animal Course
- 7 Seminars
- 1 Virtual Seminar

AOSLA Faculty Guidelines

This document, developed by the Education Team and approved by the AOSLA board was one of the main facilitators towards faculty orientation this year. The 10 page booklet provides efficient and easy reading content on faculty duties separated by their role as faculty of the course. Also an explanation on our courses, levels and definitions are available.

The reader can go from a detailed task explanation to a quick responsibility matrix chart. The document is sent to all faculties before the event by email in pdf format and the printed version is distributed at the Tips for Trainers courses to all new faculties.

Available both in English and Spanish (Portuguese version is being developed) the document is definitely a must read!



AOSLA Education Plan

Handling educational activities all over a region is not an easy task, especially when there are several knowledge levels, cultural differences and languages spoken. But although this may seem quite a challenge, this diversity enriches the AOSpine community with its unique potential: their members. With that in mind the Education Team started a strategy plan for 2009-2012.

The main goal of the project is to establish a well-trodden path for an AOSpine member in their own quest for Education. This means that no matter if he/she is a Resident or a well known experience surgeon, AOSpine will focus on their educational needs and provide them with the specific content. Also this initiative will definitely support a better budget distribution by improving our investments and getting opportunities to know more about the local reality.

The project scope also plans to extend AOSLA activities in a midterm to the following countries: Bahamas, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Paraguay, Puerto Rico and Uruguay.

	BRASIL				CHILE			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Expert		Si 1					Si 1	
Intermed	A 1	Ls 1	A 2			A 1		A 1
Novice	Sr 1	P 1 S 1	Cc 1	P 1	P 1 Cc 1	S 1	P 1	

Index
Si Symposium de especialidades (expertos) **P** Principles Course **Cc** Cadaveric Course
S Seminar **Ls** Live Surgery **◆** Milestone or checkpoint
A Advances Course **Sr** Residents Seminar

The Education plan developed by a special AOSLA Task Force together with the national Councils, will establish a 4 year strategy guide with permanent revision and milestones every 2 years. Developed country wise per year, this plan provides a common and standard training and at the same time it also keeps in mind the local and individual needs of the continent.

See how the education plan helps us improve the Education in our continent:

BEFORE	Vs	NOW – Education Plan
Individual Course application		National & Regional plan
Several subjects		Specific planned subjects
No long term strategy		Defined short & long term strategy
Poor Evaluation		Defined evaluation
Lack of measurement		Measure development and goals establishment

AOSLA Faculty Development

Training faculty on the bases of teaching and learning is one important priority towards faculty development in AOSpine. In AOSpine Latin America 105 faculty have gone through this educational program; 91 participated at the well know Tips for Trainers Course, 10 at the Tips for Course Chairpersons and 43 at the 2006 AOSLA workshop for faculty improvement.

In 2009, 16 faculty will take part at the Tips for trainers course scheduled in Bogotá, Colombia in February. Participants will not only learn from experience faculty such as an education expert but will have the chance to be involved on a special workshop in discussion leading, main attraction at AOSpine courses. This new module being implemented at AOSpine Tips for trainers courses provides an important approach to this matter. Not forgetting the Hands-on lab that will be available where PowerPoint tips and tricks will be revealed.

In the matrix shown below you get to know our trained faculty:

Name	Country	T4C	T4T	AOSLA FACULTY IMPROVEMENT
Alejandro Betemps	Argentina		X	X
Alejandro Urzúa	Chile			X
Alexander Valverde	Costa Rica		X	
Alexandre Sadao	Brazil		X	
Alexandre Fogaça	Brazil		X	
Alfredo Vasquez	Peru		X	X
Amancio Ramalho	Brazil		X	
Amauri Godinho	Brazil		X	
Andrés Cervio	Argentina		X	X
Andrés Rodríguez	Colombia		X	X
Antonio Mock	Panamá		X	
Antonio Braconi	Brazil		X	
Armando Alpizar	Mexico		X	
Arturo Morales	Peru		X	
Augustin Malzac	Brazil		X	
Aurelio Ramirez	Mexico		X	
Bartolome Marre	Chile	X	X	
Carlos A. Engelhorn	Brazil		X	
Carlos Legarreta	Argentina		X	
Carlos Mora	Colombia			X
Carlos Mounier	Argentina		X	
Carlos Solá	Argentina		X	
Catarino López	Mexico		X	X
César González	Mexico		X	
Cristiano Menezes	Brazil		X	
Daniel Cauti	Peru			X
Daniel Onay	Venezuela			X
Delio Martins	Brazil		X	
Edgar Gonzalez	Venezuela			X
Eduardo Galaretto	Argentina		X	X
Eduardo Von Uhlendorff	Brazil		X	
Emiliano Vialle	Brazil	X	X	X
Ernesto Bersuski	Argentina		X	
Ernesto Vargas	Ecuador			X
Fabiano Canto	Brazil		X	
Federico Cisneros	Mexico		X	X
Fernando Façanha Filho	Brazil		X	
Geraldo Sá	Brazil		X	X
Germán Ochoa	Colombia		X	
Helton Defino	Brazil		X	X
Hernán Valdivia	Peru			X
Hernando Cuevas	Mexico		X	
Jaime Raul Pavon	Ecuador			X
Javier Brenes	Costa Rica		X	
Javier Martínez	Argentina		X	
Jefferson Galvés	Brazil		X	
Jesús Bernal	Mexico		X	
Jorge Cancinos	Argentina		X	
Jorge Lambre	Argentina		X	
Jose Antonio Finocchio	Venezuela		X	
Jose Otero	Venezuela			X
Juan Carlos Reina	Mexico		X	X
Juan Carlos Valle Landa	Mexico		X	

*T4C : Tips for Course Chairpersons
*T4T: Tips for Trainers Course

*Faculty Improvement (2006): Facing the Public Workshop – Developing Presentation Skills

Name	Country	T4C	T4T	AOSLA FACULTY IMPROVEMENT
Luis C Morales	Colombia		X	X
Luis Eduardo Rocha	Brazil		X	
Luis Guijarro	Ecuador			X
Luiz Gustavo Rocha	Brazil		X	
Luis Miguel Rosales	Mexico		X	
Luiz Felipe Carvalho	Brazil		X	
Luiz Vialle	Brazil	X	X	X
Manuel Alvarado	Venezuela	X	X	X
Marcelo Gruenberg	Argentina	X	X	X
Marcelo Valacco	Argentina		X	X
Marco Medina	Peru		X	X
Marcos Tebet	Brazil		X	
Marcus A. Mello Santos	Brazil		X	
Mario Solano	Costa Rica		X	
Mario Taricco	Brazil	X	X	X
Martha Hernandez	Ecuador		X	X
Martin Tejeda	Mexico		X	X
Matías Petracchi	Argentina		X	
Mauricio Calais	Brazil		X	
Mauricio Gusmao	Brazil		X	
Mauro Volpi	Brazil		X	
Michael Dittmar	Mexico		X	X
Néstor Fiore	Argentina	X	X	X
Néstor Taboada	Colombia			X
Omar Hernandez	Chile			
Osmar Moraes	Brazil	X	X	X
Oscar Martinez	Mexico		X	
Oswaldo Romano	Argentina		X	
Otto Alvarado	Guatemala		X	
Pablo Vela	Colombia	X	X	X
Patricio Alvarez Cosmelli	Costa Rica		X	
Patricio Bustos	Chile		X	
Patricio Zumarraga	Ecuador		X	X
Paulo Cavali	Brazil		X	X
Pedro Bazán	Argentina		X	
Rafael Marcon	Brazil		X	
Ramiro Gutierrez	Argentina		X	
Raul Machiavello	Peru			X
Ricardo Andaluz	Mexico		X	
Ricardo Londoño	Colombia			X
Ricardo Prina	Argentina		X	
Ricardo Ribeiro	Brazil		X	
Robert Meves	Brazil		X	
Roberto Chapa	Mexico	X	X	X
Rodolfo Lopez	Chile		X	X
Ruben Cardenas	Mexico		X	
Samuel Pantoja	Chile			X
Sergio Daher	Brazil		X	
Tulio Rangel	Brazil		X	
Ubirajara Bley	Brazil		X	
Victor Davila	Venezuela			X
Victor Flores	Mexico		X	
Wagner Pasqualini	Brazil		X	
Total		10	91	43

Research

CSM – Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy

The CSM Project is an international multicentric research led by Michael Fehlings and Branko Kopjar. The major aim is to examine baseline MRI and follow-up neurological and functional status. Also the research will investigate differences in CSM causative etiology.

In 2008 several Latin American researchers applied to be part of the project. The deadline to finish the bureaucratic phase was June. Some sites face a lot of legal issues with the IRB and Ethical Committees due the fact they are not used to be part of a study of this magnitude. Although there was huge effort from the researchers coordinated by AOSLA Research Officer Manuel Alvarado in order to help the sites and evolve in the project, only two sites were able to start enrolling patients: Riberão Preto – Helton Defino, and Hospital Vargas – Manuel Alvarado.

Considering this, the study coordinators postponed the deadline to 1 November. By then one /two more site(s) is/are ready to become part of the study. Hospital Santa Marcelina – Osmar Moraes, and USP São Paulo – Mario Taricco.

STB – Spinal Tuberculosis

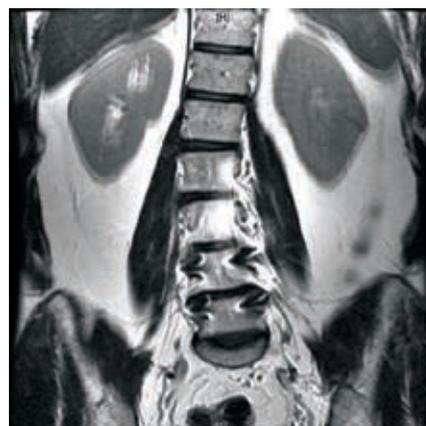
Spinal Tuberculosis is the first Research Project entirely developed and managed by AOSLA. Lead by Manuel Alvarado with the administrative support of Research Manager Rodrigo de Haro. This is a multi-center prospective study that compares the anterior and posterior surgical approaches in patients with and without HIV. Also the TBC study will deviate in another study which evaluates the medical treatment considering bacterial resistance in spinal TB.

Two AOSLA hired investigators, Leandro Nuñez and Egidio Romano, have collaborated with the Main Investigator in order to develop the Protocol and CRFs. Ten centers will participate, (seven in Latin America and possibility of another three in India). Shashank Kale will coordinate the Indian counterparts of this study. A multidisciplinary team of statisticians epidemiologists, translators, and advisors to orchestrate all stages of this study are coordinated by the AOSLA office in order to manage this project.

List of centers participating in the TB study:

- Hospital Vargas de Caracas, Venezuela – Manuel Alvarado
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India – Shashank Kale
- Hospital das Clínicas, University of São Paulo, Brazil – Alexandre Sadao
- Hospital Eugenio Espejo, Ecuador – Luis Guijarro
- Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, Mexico – Jesús Bernal
- Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati, Peru – Daniel Cauti
- Hospital da Restauração, Brazil – Geraldo Sá Carneiro
- Hospital Miguel Perez Carreño, Venezuela – Marlon Diaz
- AIMS Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery, India – Venugopal Menon (TBC)
- Sundaram Medical Foundation, India – Prashant Kekre (TBC)

Patient enrollment will start in 1st quarter of 2009.



Projects for 2009

In 2009 AOSLA will start two more research projects. Syringomyelia and Basilar Invagination.

Syringomyelia

Syringomyelia is a study coordinated by Dr Manuel Alvarado. This project aims to be the first prospective multicentric study to evaluate the techniques in this disease treatment. This project will run in parallel with a correlated one which will assess the CINE MR as an imaging technique.



There will be several Centers in Latin America and Asia, so far the following are confirmed:

1. **Manuel Alvarado, Venezuela**
2. **Osmar Moraes, Brazil**
3. **Mario Taricco, Brazil**
4. **Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Brazil**

Basilar Invagination

Coordinated by Dr. Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Recife) this project aims to evaluate the surgical approaches in the treatment of this disease and will derivate in a correlated assessment of comparing anatomic and genetic differences between occidental and Asiatic populations. By now AOSLA's investigators are collecting all the information to help Dr Sá Carneiro in the Protocol Development.



As the Hospital da Restauração is a Reference Center in this disease treatment, which is a top priority for the local government, AOSLA is studying the possibility of developing a social program, linked to the research, aiming to aid low income population from the Brazilian Northeast region.



Fellowships

It has been an exciting year for AOSLA Fellowships program. We received a considerable number of applications for our Reference Centers and overcome the planned. AOSLA fellows, from different countries of our Region, have experienced the AOSpine high standards of training.

Short-Term Fellows

Name	Country	From	To	RC	Country
William Contreras	Colombia	05 Jan 08	30 Set 08	Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Brazil
Rodrigo Medeiros	Brazil	01 Jun 08	30 Nov 08	Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Brazil
Leonardo Quiroz	Argentina	01 Jun 08	30 Jun 08	Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Brazil
Túlio Rangel	Brazil	01 Sep 08	21 Nov 08	ORTON Orthopaedic Hospital & Research	Finland
Sara Maria Alvarez Vargas	Nicaragua	01 Feb 08	21 May 08	Hospital das Clínicas / USP Ribeirão Preto	Brazil

Long-Term Fellows

Name	Country	From	To	RC	Country
Fernando Coutinho	Brazil	06 Feb 08	25 Aug 08	Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Brazil
Marcelo Arturo Ochoa Valarezo	Ecuador	01 Apr 08	31 Mar 09	Hospital del Trabajador	Chile
Rodolfo Páez	Colombia	01 Jul 08	30 Jun 09	Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Brazil

Also during this year AOSLA Reference Center Officer Pablo Vela developed the regional guideline for the program. This document contains all the information for the Fellowship and Reference Centers management.

Among our AOSpine Fellows, two of them have distinguished themselves for their achievements during the Fellowship:

William Contreras, from Colombia, has showed an exceptional performance on the Fellows regular duties. Therefore, he was awarded an extension of the program to steep in the Column Surgical techniques. Also, he spent some time with Dr Marcos Tatagiba, in Germany adding more international experience to his career. By the end of October Contreras has presented several studies carried on the Cajuru Center by Luiz Vialle, Emiliano Vialle and other fellows, in the CLAN (Latin American Neurosurgery Congress). He tells us the experience:

During 6 days in Bogota, about 1500 Neurosurgeons were in the 33rd Congress. This event, held every two years, congregates the very best group of Latin American experts.

There we found the perfect opportunity to present the results of the work we performed in Curitiba which impersonate all the AOSpine philosophy and principles.

I presented 8 projects, previously accepted by the Congress Committee, in the areas of Cervical Pathology, Anatomy, Anterior Approach and prosthesis. The audience showed a lot of interest in joining AOSpine





once they understood that spine surgery must be treated with experience and evidence.

I would like to thanks Drs Luiz Vialle and Emiliano Vialle, for their support and I invite all the AOSpine members to keep seeking the Excellency.

Willian Contreras

Sara Maria Alvarez Vargas, from Nicaragua, had a great experience during her fellowship in Riberão Preto Center Directed by Helton Defino. She tells us her story of being the 1st Female Orthopedist granted with a Fellowship by AOSpine in Latin America.

After 2 years of experience with Dr César Vargas in Nicaragua, AOSpine offered me a unique opportunity with this fellowship. Knowing that it would be full of challenges and aiming to learn more about the techniques, I made my trip to Brazil to explore the world of spinal surgery with the Dr Helton Defino.

In the spine area there are a lot of challenges and aims to achieve. For me it was to learn the different techniques and develop the skills in the treatment of Scoliosis. As well knowing how to use precisely the instrumentation techniques in the surgeries and develop the ability in the anterior approach in different spine levels.

Although I had the objectives for this Fellowship clearly in my mind, my expectations were exceeded by having been presented to a complete pack of illness such as deformities, degenerative, traumatic, some tumors and infections. I had the opportunity of practice 4 times a week. Also I participated in docent activities once a week when I built a stronger knowledge about the different themes. With no shadow of doubt I had a huge improvement in the instrumentation and surgical approach techniques. In the end all my goals were achieved with the help of my tutor and the Staff of the HOSPITAL DAS CLINICAS – FMRP de São Paulo.



During my Fellowship I had the opportunity of travel to Curitiba, supported by Dr Helton and AOSpine, to participate in the Surgical Approaches Course, ministered by Emiliano Vialle and Luiz Vialle.

But I must confess that I not only learned about spinal surgery but also my tutor Dr Helton Defino showed me that the excellence of a surgeon is based on humbleness. Building a good relationship with the patient, the confidence that one must have on God, his staff and himself despite the difficulties and stress faced daily are musts in order to have the inner peace.

My schedule was very busy but I was able to use part of my spare time to enjoy being in Brazil. With Dr Defino and his wife I enjoyed the traditional brazilian food in special places and at their home. With the brazilian friends I made I visited several interesting places in the state of Sao Paulo. I can honestly say that it has been more than a scientific interchange but a real life experience.

Today, 3 months after my return to Nicaragua I am practicing everything I learned during my fellowship. Also I am sharing the knowledge learnt then, with my local colleagues fortifying our global spine community. To the futures fellows, specially the women, I just can say to, trust and fight for your dreams, because despite all the difficulties you can make it happen.

Sara Maria Alvarez Vargas

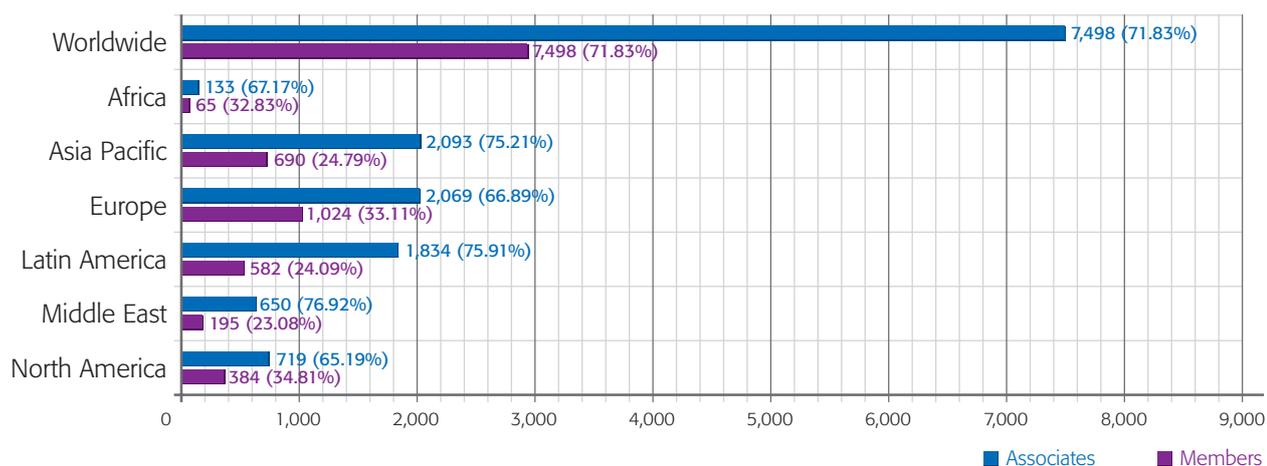
Joint Fellowship

During 2008 AOSLA started a combined fellowship program with local spine communities. During this year the Argentinean Society of Spine Pathologies (SAPCV) and AOSpine Latin America agreed to grant an Argentinean doctor with a Fellowship which combined the traditional AOSpine financial aid with the SAPCV financial aid that includes the airplane tickets. One of the requirements to be eligible for this grant is to be a member of both associations.

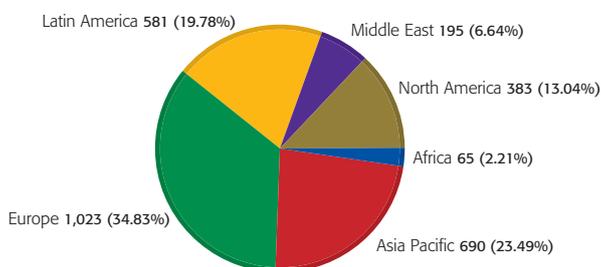
A third part of this program is the Centre that will receive the fellow. Jens Chapman, from Seattle, USA, gently offered his Reference Center to AOSLA and will receive our fellow in the beginning of 2009. The medic elected to be the first one in this new program is Guillermo Kahl, from Buenos Aires. Dr Kahl demonstrated an impressive curriculum and had been chosen among dozens of high qualified candidates. We wish Dr Kahl, good luck in his program and thanks Dr Chapman for his considerable assistance.

Marketing

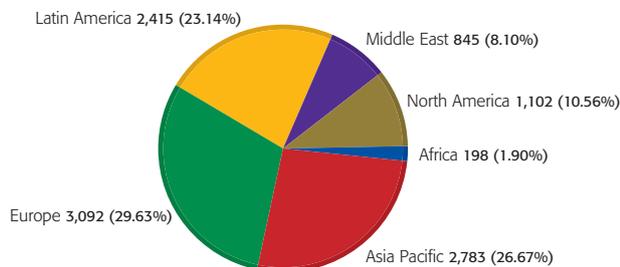
Membership in the World to date Nov 30, 2008



MEMBERS

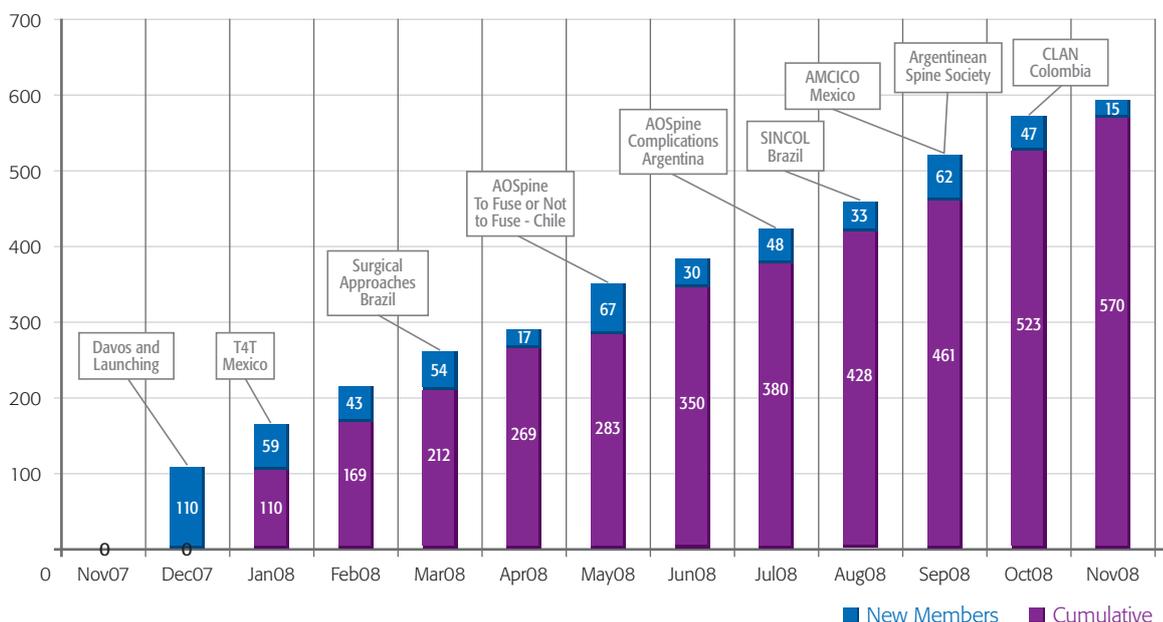


MEMBERS and ASSOCIATES



Membership evolution in Latin America

Since December 2007, when the membership program was launched, Latin America has shown a representative response to the marketing strategies applied, confirmed by the continuous members growth within the region. It wasn't easy but with hard work from the chapters, regional board and office we are happy to say that in Latin America AOSpine has 585 members and 1850 associates. We know that there is a long way to go but with the same enthusiasm that we celebrate the growth we are motivated to search for new solutions to develop our community and improve benefits offered to members.



AOSpine Latin America Lounges and Booths

The AOSpine Lounges and Booths are not only a regular feature but more than that, they are a place where AOSpine members can network. The Lounges are a reference for members, faculties and also for surgeons nonmembers to obtain information about AOSpine.

The base of success and the significance of an AOSpine Lounge is the Marketing one to one with our public. It is a place where spine surgeons develop a personal contact with AOSpine officers and staff.

We try to build more than a personal organization. "This is the way to build a human relation between AOSpine Latin America and Members".



International Spine Symposium (SINCOL)

The International Spine Symposium took place 31 July–2 August in Rio de Janeiro. With over 300 participants, this symposium was a significant event for the Brazilian Spine Community; AOSpine was represented with a Lounge and staff to backup members and also to present all the benefits, publications and courses of our community to surgeons.

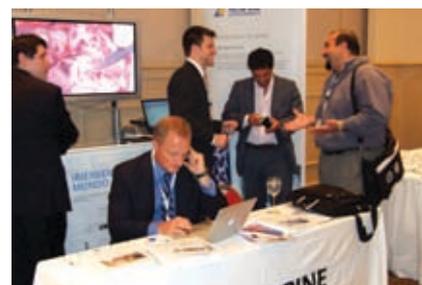


Mexican Association of Spine Surgeons Congress (AMCICO)

This event was organized in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico 13–15 September. It witnessed participation by doctors from all over Central and South America. Our lounge was visited by members and non members interested in our membership packages and courses. A nice atmosphere was build with the members' only case discussion led by Michael Dittmar and Luiz Vialle, organized inside our lounge. It was a practical way to show our benefits to surgeons who are not members. "This is the second time we produced this informal approach during congresses at our lounges, in a way this shows AOSpine is open to all, by sharing not only expertise but its global network" added Luiz Vialle, Past Chairman AOSpine Latin America and international faculty at the AMCICO congress.

XV Congress of the Argentinean Spine Pathology Society

XV Congress of the Argentinean Spine Pathology Society was held 23–27 September in Cordoba. More than 300 surgeons attended this event that had some AOSpine members among the faculties, Jens Chapman attended this meeting as a special guest from AOSLA and helped to promote AOSpine and our community. It was also a great opportunity for AOSLA office to interact with the Argentinean Community of spine surgeons.



Latin American Neurosurgery Congress – CLAN Colombia

With over twelve hundred participants, enormous is the right word to define this Congress. Our booth was just across the spine conference room, this nice location combined with Osmar Moraes, Pablo Vela and Manuel Alvarado networking with local surgeons, helped to us to increase awareness about AOSpine and its membership among surgeons from all over Latin America. CLAN took place in Bogotá, Colombia from 27–30 October 2008.



Red Dot

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. It is said that among difficulties that come out the best ideas, taking that as a reference we can explain how a simple solution, to identify our members among a group of persons, can become an interesting idea.

During the AOSpine Latin America in Chile, there was a benefit that was offered only to the AOSpine members. The members were offered discount on the purchase of wines at the venue vineyard. The course participants however were not all our members. To overcome this difficulty, Fernando Henderson came up with a simple yet effective solution.



They stuck "red dots" on the badges of our members, so that they could be identified for the discount.

This simple idea caught the attention of everyone in the course, and participants without the red dot wondered why. They also wanted to be part of that group with the red dot and they became members.

This reaction did not go unnoticed from AOSpine Marketing Commission, post this event it became a regular practice in AOSpine courses and congresses. The Red Dot became the AOSpine stamp to be placed in all member badges and is used all over the world.

Congratulations Fernando, for this brilliant initiative!

AOSpine Interactive CD

Sometimes it is not an easy task to present AOSpine to surgeons who never heard of us and do not know the benefits of becoming a subscribed member. To match up with these difficulties, AOSpine Latin America developed an Interactive CD to be handed out in Congresses and AOSpine Courses.

This CD is meant to be easy to navigate and self explainable. The CD provides information on:

- Conference
- Case studies
- AOSpine Membership packages plus benefits
- AOSpine web page presentation
- AOSpine in my country.
- If connected to the internet, CD leads to the webpage on membership application session



This tool not only helps to present AOSpine but it functions as a teaser for all the knowledge and benefits that we offer.

AOSpine Latin America Task Force for Central America and Caribbean Islands

The project has started in 2003 and the first chapter was launched in 2006 in Costa Rica by Luiz Vialle, AOSLA Chairperson at that time and German Ochoa, Task Force Chairperson. In 2007 with Panama and Guatemala Chapters, an Advances Course in Costa Rica and two locals seminars coordinated by Germán Ochoa in El Salvador and Nicaragua the project was consolidated.



*Visit to San Salvador
Military Hospital*

Moving on, in 2008, with the following activities:

- AOSpine Principals Course in Panama, chaired by Roberto Chapa.
- AOSpine Virtual Seminar with auditoriums in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, and remote attendance from all over Latin America.
- AOSpine Guatemala Seminar with dry bone workshops.
- AOSpine Seminar and cooperation with the Scotiabank Foundation for Children with Scoliosis in Jamaica.

For 2009, these are the planned activities:

- AOSpine Virtual Course, 8 modules, 2,5 hour each, every 6 weeks starting on February 14th, 2009.

The event main goals:

- To maintain a permanent contact with surgeons and motivating national chapters.
- To support the less AOSpine developed countries.
- To promote AOSpine membership within participants.

Topics covered:

- Trauma, Deformities, Tumors, Infections, Degenerative, Pain and Rehabilitation, Low Back and Radicular Pain and Miscellaneous cases.

Confirmed Auditoriums:

- Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panamá, El Salvador, Colombia and Paraguay.

- Possible chapter launching:

Jamaica
Puerto Rico

- Seminars:

Bahamas
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Jamaica
Puerto Rico
Nicaragua



*AOSpine Seminar
in Jamaica*

AOSpine Latin America Office

AOSLA office in Curitiba is a well equipped office with appropriate spacing and a conference room, having all the required technical equipment to better serve our members. Our staff of four is highly qualified to maintain quality and the standards required to be a part of AOSpine.

We have room to accommodate chapter meetings, commercial partnership meetings amongst other things.



Antonio Machado, AOSLA's Regional Director is responsible to oversee the execution of educational, research, marketing, and reference center programs and policies. To develop, manage, and control AOSLA(S) budgets and financial performance. To ensure compliance with AOSI / AOSLA guidelines and by laws. To give the proper support for Country Councils in AOSLA and monitor their performance. Is responsible managing legal and fiscal aspects, for the finances and books of the Region's Legal Entity.

Fernando G. Henderson, AOSLA Education Project Manager is responsible for the Education department in Latin America. He manages AOSpine Educational events in the region, such as courses, seminars and faculty training events. Also he handles all administrative and organizational aspects of Academic courses, supports the development of AOSpine Online Education systems, participate in International projects as well as implementing controls to establish budget tracking. Fernando works closely to the Education Officers developing, approving and establishing educational guidelines, strategy plans and special projects in our region.



Rodrigo de Haro, AOSLA's Research and Reference Center Project Manager. His responsibility is to manage AOSpine Research Projects, Reference Centers and Fellowship programs. Also he takes care of all managerial aspects of Fellowship Routines, supports the development of fellows and their reference centers in the region.

Alejandro Winocur, AOSLA's Marketing Project Manager. His duties consists of organizing and developing AOSpine Marketing events in the region such as lounges, members evolution and renewal strategies, web page innovation and support for members. He supports and develop together with the Marketing officer, the AOSLA Marketing projects.



Gallery



Puerto Vallarta – Mexico, sep 2008: AOSpine Lounge at AMCICO Congress

1. An opportunity to network
2. MyAOSpine – a popular magazine

Santa Cruz – Chile, may 2008: AOSpine Latin American Course: to Fuse or not to Fuse

3. Bartolomé and Jeff creating the wine: Chateau de Fusion
4. Andrés Rodríguez and his wife joined the singing karaoke party
5. Course Faculty and friends inspired by the vineyards
6. Mexico present! Jesús Bernal and his daughter on a typical Mexican costume at the regional dinner
7. Marcelo and Flavia enjoy the beautiful vineyard landscape
8. Martha Hernandez, an official AOSpine singer
9. AOSpine duets: German and Bartolomé
10. Victor and Manuel on a typical Venezuelan costume

Buenos Aires – Argentina, jul 2008: AOSpine – Complications and Controversies Course

11. John Webb - always interested in sharing knowledge
12. AOSpine Fifth Anniversary: The Cake
13. A toast to celebrate: Faculty & AOSpine birthday dinner
14. Farewell picture: group of faculty at the end of the course
15. Happy birthday AOSpine - Max Aebi and John Webb celebrating our community birthday



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Curitiba – Brazil, mar 2008: AOSpine Surgical Approaches Course

- 16. The ORP Team all set
- 17. Team picture – participants and faculty all together
- 18. Emiliano and "The" Fellows

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil, oct 2008: AOSpine Principles Course

- 19. Behind the scenes: Ricardo Ribeiro prepares the practical

Recife – Brazil, sep 2008: Hospital da Restauração

- 20. Geraldo Sá and his friend Johan

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil, aug 2008: AOSpine Lounge at SINCOL Symposium

- 21. New AOSpine Member discovers the website benefits

Rio de Janeiro – Brazil, fev 2008: AOSpine Tips for Course Chairpersons

- 22. Joyful dinner after a hard day of work

Monterey – Mexico, nov 2008: AOSpine Advances Course Deformities

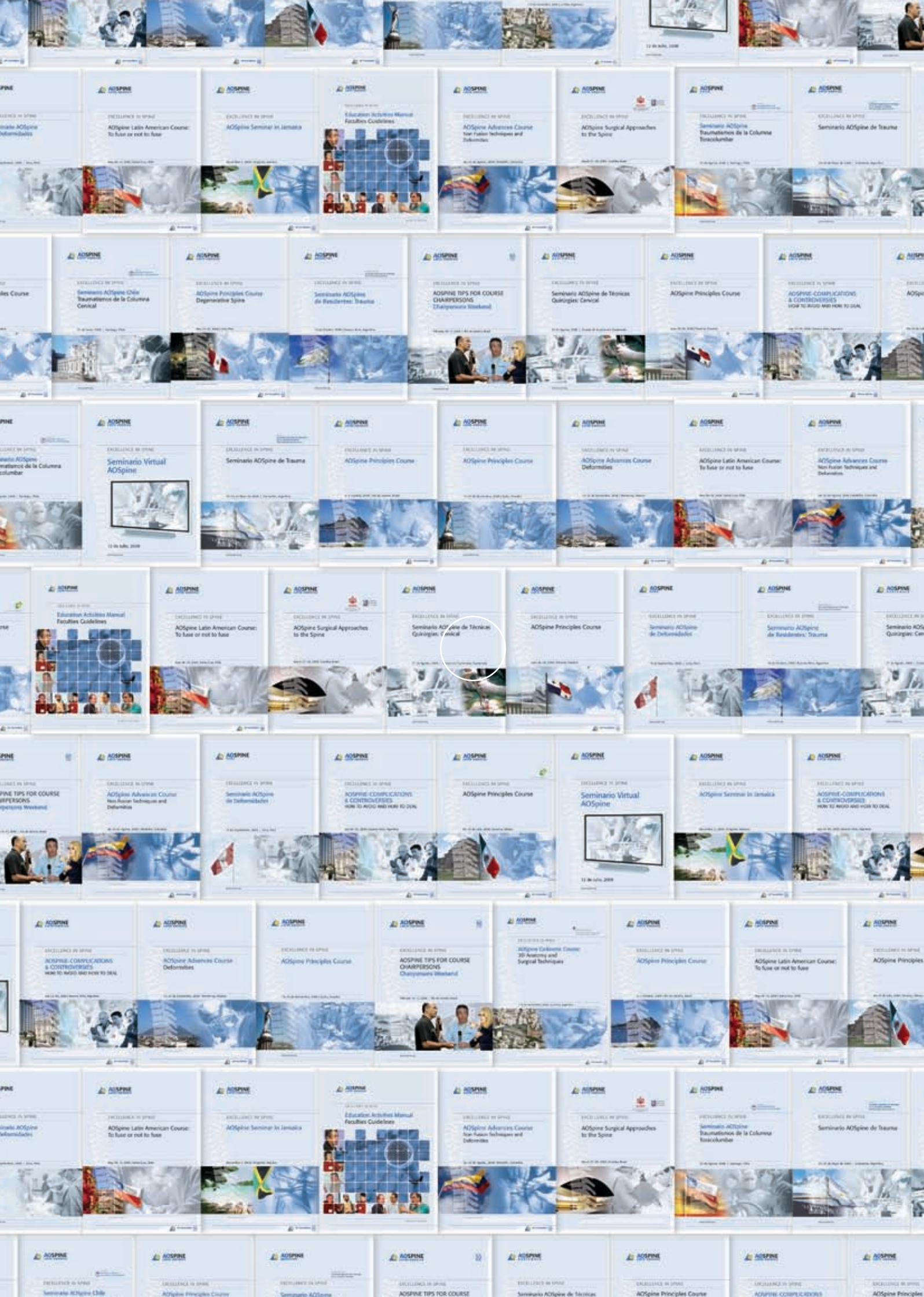
- 23. An Argentinean Mariachi: Ernesto Bersuski himself

Veracruz – Mexico, apr 2008: AOSpine Principles Course

- 24. Welcome to Mexico: Roberto Chapa hosts Carlo Bellabarba

Cordoba – Argentina, sep 2008: AOSpine Lounge at the Argentinean Spine Society Congress

- 25. Marcelo Gruenberg (host), Marcelo Valacco and Jens Chapman while visiting our lounge



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Seminario AOSpine Informáticas

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AOSpine Seminar In Jamaica

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