

Annual Report 2009



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 patient care, patient outcomes, and the cost effectiveness of spine surgery.

Excellence in Spine

A satellite-style map of Latin America and the Caribbean, showing the continent in shades of green and brown against a deep blue ocean. The map is oriented vertically, with North America at the top and South America at the bottom.

Annual Report 2009

Looking back over the year of 2009, AOSLA has reached some inspiring results. All the driven efforts towards our main goal, which is excellence in spine, were achieved with a much desirable outcome in events held throughout Latin America. AOSLA was able to offer great learning opportunities to surgeons by providing the necessary assets to guide them on their daily challenges. To say the least, a remarkable journey that contributed to the rapid growth of our community.

Enjoy your reading!

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Estimados colegas,

Estamos llegando a fines del 2009 habiendo cumplimentando la mayor parte de los objetivos propuestos. Este reporte anual, que se entrega por (cuarta) vez consecutiva da cuenta de ello y esperamos sea de utilidad para resumir e ilustrar sobre todas las actividades que AOSla llevo a cabo.

Sin duda dentro de la cantidad y diversidad de las actividades académicas realizadas vale la pena destacar el Curso Virtual, que con la dirección de Néstor Fiore y German Ochoa se llevo a cabo durante todo el año y contó por momentos con más de (300) participantes. Esta modalidad que iniciamos hace ya 2 años muestra a nuestra región preparada para iniciar proyectos renovadores y siempre respaldada por miembros capaces de dar forma a propuestas originales.

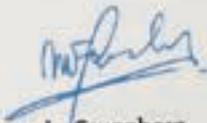
Ya definitivamente consolidados, se llevaron a cabo cursos académicos, de cirugía en animales, cadavéricos, seminarios en países donde aun no hay capítulos y los clásicos cursos de principios y avanzados.

Este año se incremento la cantidad de centros de referencia así como las opciones para fellows de corta y larga estadía. Finalmente en el área de investigación se están llevando adelante los proyectos iniciados el año pasado y se agrega a estos el protocolo para evaluación del tratamiento en Fracturas tipo A3 sin compromiso neurológico impulsado por los Dres Bazan y Betemps.

Aunque, afortunadamente, quizás pase inadvertido el mayor logro de este año y sin duda el de este periodo que me encuentre a mi como chairman es el de haberse completado la renovación democrática por votación electrónica de todos los capítulos. Este logro avizorado e impulsado originalmente por Luiz Vialle es producto del interés y el aporte de todos ustedes.

En nombre de todo el board AOSla, a quien tuve el honor de representar estos 3 años, y el mió propio les damos entonces las gracias. Para cuando estas líneas tengan difusión ya sabremos quien es el nuevo Chairman de nuestra región. Estoy convencido, aún sin saber quien ocupara esta posición, que nuestra región seguirá creciendo, consolidándose y que todos nuestros esfuerzos beneficiaran en definitiva nuestros pacientes.

Los Saludo y espero verlos pronto.



Marcelo Gruenberg
AOSPine Latin America Chairperson

Chairperson's word

Dear Colleagues,

We are reaching the end of 2009 having completed most of our initial objectives. This Annual Report, which has been written for the fourth consecutive time reflects that, and we hope it is of use to summarize and illustrate all activities held at AOSLA along this year.

Regarding the quantity and diversity of the given academic events, it is, without a doubt, worth mentioning the Virtual Course, which had Nestor Fiore and Germán Ochoa as the chairpersons. The course was held throughout the year and had modules with the participation of over 300 individuals. This event that we initiated 2 years ago shows how prepared our region is to initiate innovative projects and always receive support from capable members who shape the original proposals.

Of course, our already established activities have also successfully taken place: academic courses, surgery in animals and cadavers, seminars in countries without AOSpine country chapters, and the classic principles and advances courses.

This year, we assigned more Spine Centers with long and short-term fellows. In the research field, the initiated projects from last year are still underway, and in addition to them, the protocol for evaluating the treatment of A3 Fractures without neurological compromise by Pedro Bazán and Alejandro Betemps.

Although it may be unnoticeable, the greatest achievement of this year and without a doubt of this period that I have been Chairman, is the democratic election of new councils from the country chapters through the use of electronic votes. This idea, originally envisaged and fostered by Luiz Vialle, is the result of everyone's interest and contribution.

In the name of all AOSLA Board and myself, whom I had the honor to represent for 3 years, I would like to say thank you. When these lines have been spread, we will already know who will be the next Chairman of the region. I am convinced that even though I may not know who will take over the post of AOSLA Chairman, our region will keep on growing, consolidating and that all of our efforts will definitely benefit our patients.

I salute all and I hope to see you soon.

Marcelo Gruenberg
AOSpine Latin America Chairperson

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AOSLA's Structure



Regional Board

Board Member	Position	Country
Marcelo Gruenberg	Chairperson	Argentina
Néstor Fiore	Education (Ortho)	Argentina
Mario Taricco	Education (Neuro)	Brazil
Emiliano Vialle	Research	Brazil
Roberto Chapa	Scientific Marketing	Mexico
Pablo Vela	Reference Centers & Fellowship	Colombia

Country Councils

Position	Chairperson	Education (Ortho)	Education (Neuro)	Scientific Marketing	Research
Argentina	Alejandro Betemps	Pedro Luis Bazán	Juan Emmerich	Ruben Alejandro Ciancio	Oswaldo Romano
Brazil*	Geraldo Sá Carneiro	Robert Meves	Ricardo Ribeiro	Carlos Tucci	Alexandre Fogaça
Chile	Samuel Pantoja	Roberto Postigo	Patricio Yokota	Enzo Manelli	Milan Munjin
Colombia	Andrés Rodríguez	Ricardo Restrepo	Néstor Guzman	Nelson Morales	Leonardo Duplat
Costa Rica¹	Mario Solano Salas	Oscar Uribe	Javier Brenes	Hugo Dobles	Miguel Esquivel Miranda
Ecuador	Mario Patricio Zumarraga	Gladys Monserrat Pavón	Juan Francisco Lasso	Elio Ramírez	Fernando Davalos
Guatemala¹	Otto Alvarado Ortiz	Gabriel Murga	Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez	Juan Pablo De León Palacios	Luis Cruz Sánchez
Mexico	Jesús Bernal	Hernando Cuevas	Aurélio Ramirez	Gustavo Casas	Felix Sanchez
Panama¹	Raul Arjona	Carlos Martinez	Antonio Mock	Hector Crooks	Laurent Bruggerman
Peru	Marco Medina	Carlos Cárdenas	Michael Hinojosa	Benjamin Castillo de la Flor	Francisco Reyna
Venezuela	Edgar González	Luis Lara	Marlon Diaz	Jose Duran Dautant	James Cardona

* Member at large: Alexandre Sadao Iutaka

¹ Under election

Delegates

Argentina

Ernesto Bersusky, Andrés Cervio, Eduardo Galaretto and Marcelo Valacco.

Bolivia

Juan Marcelo Séa Aramayo and Jaime Linares.

Brazil

Helton Defino and Osmar Moraes.

Chile

Patricio Bustos, Omar Hernández, Rodolfo Lopez, Bartolomé Marré and Alejandro Urzúa.

Colombia

Ricardo Londoño, Carlos Alberto Mora Ojeda, Germán Ochoa, and Néstor Taboada.

Mexico

Federico Cisneros, Michael Dittmar, Catarino López, Juan Carlos Reina Gama and Martín Tejeda.

Peru

Daniel Cauti De la Cruz, Raul Macchiavello, Hernán José Valdivia Sosa and Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez.

Uruguay

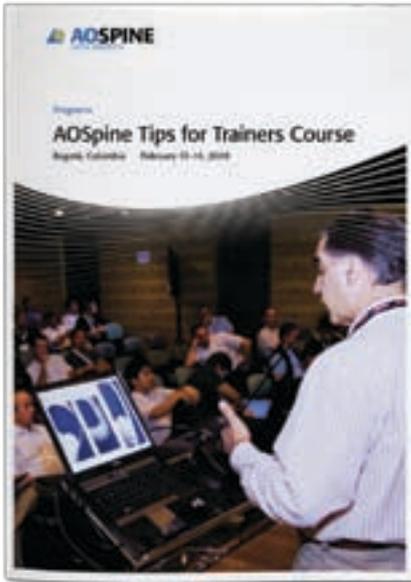
Oscar Carreras and Edgardo Spagnuolo.

Venezuela

Manuel Alvarado, Víctor Dávila, Jose Finocchio, Daniel Onay and Jose-Rafael Otero.

Courses





AOSpine Tips for Trainers Course

February 13–14, 2009
Radisson Royal Hotel – Bogotá, Colombia

Course Chairperson: Luiz Vialle (Brazil)
Educator: Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina)

Participants (Colombia): Miguel Alejandro Alfonso, Luis Arango, Fernando Helo Yamhure, Mario Herrera, Javier Matta, Carlos Alberto Mora Ojeda, Guido Pugliese, Ricardo Restrepo, Andrés Rodríguez, Jaime Segura, Néstor Taboada.

Participants (Venezuela): James Cardona, Ernesto Carvalho, Víctor Dávila, Marlon Díaz, Jose-Rafael Otero

Participants (Argentina): Juan Emmerich

Registration fee: No registration fee

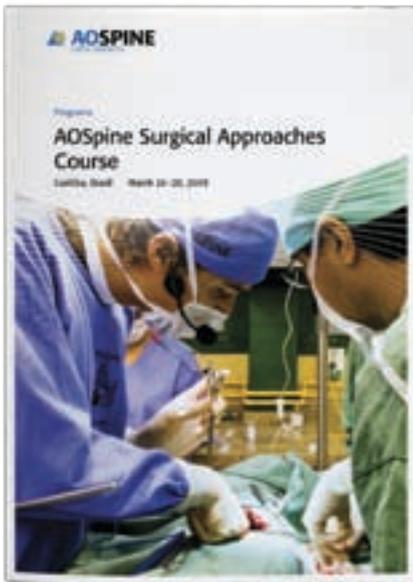
Number of participants: 17

The AOSpine Tips for Trainers Course is a didactic course for the faculty. Good information does not mean polished delivery, therefore, it is necessary for our faculty to develop and improve pedagogic and public speaking skills. This course was much appreciated by our faculty and participants as it provided them with an opportunity to further develop their teaching skills.

"It was gratifying to see the participation and interest of all the professionals present in the practical classes. It was one of the most productive events that I took part in."

Luiz Vialle
Course Chairperson





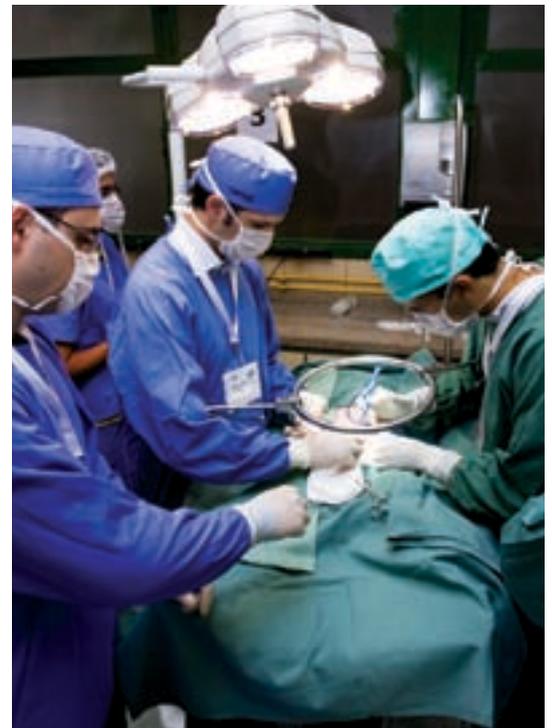
AOSpine Surgical Approaches Course

March 26–28, 2009
 Universidade Católica do Paraná – Curitiba, Brazil

Course Chairperson: Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)
Course Educational Director: Luiz Vialle (Brazil)
International Faculty: Robert Dunn (South Africa)
National Faculty (Brazil): Nelson Bergonse; Ubirajara Bley Filho; Francisco Ricardo Borges Ribeiro; Luis Eduardo Carelli; Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha; Carlos Del Valle; Carla Menini-Stahlschmidt; Fernando Meyer; Osmar Moraes; Gustavo Nogueira; Geraldo Sá Carneiro; Eduardo Von Uhlendorff; Luis Carlos Vonbahten.
ORP Staff: Graziela Cancian Gomes (Brazil)

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 1800 / Non-members: USD 2000
Number of participants: 48

In its second consecutive year, the event surpassed everyone’s expectations. The tremendous success of the course was due to its division between theory and practical sessions in pigs. The aim of the course was also achieved with a much favorable outcome since it allowed the participants to have a well-rounded knowledge on the anterior approaches to the spine including: its indications, technical aspects, complications, and management. The course received the participation of Latin American doctors and also offered discussion groups and practice on transoral issues.



“The participation of Latin American individuals and the fact that the number of vacancies surpassed the expected number, will guarantee the success of the course in 2010.”

Luiz Vialle
 Course Educational Director

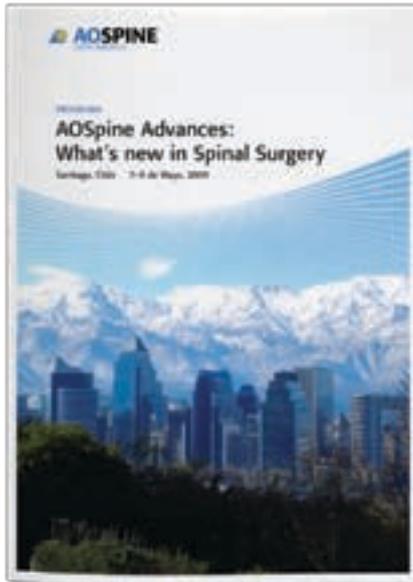


“The inclusion of practical activities complemented the training sessions in animals so that the technique could be applied to cadavers. Another important aspect was the presence of Robert Dunn, who brought experience on anterior approach on the treatment of pediatric infections and pediatric pathology of the spine.”

Emiliano Vialle
 Course Chairperson

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,37 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,44 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,67 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,79 out of 5
Course Organization	4,72 out of 5



AOSpine Advances: What's New in Spinal Surgery

May 7–9, 2009
Hotel Atton El Bosque – Santiago, Chile

Course Chairperson: Samuel Pantoja (Chile)

Course Educational Director: Pablo Vela (Colombia)

International Faculty: Michael Daubs (USA)

Regional Faculty: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina); Matías Petracchi (Argentina), Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

National Faculty (Chile): Gonzalo Arriagada Ocampo, Jorge Bachler, Lyonel Beaulieu, Patricio Bustos, Mauricio Campos, Andres Chahin, Marcela Chamorro, Ignacio Dockendorff, José Fleiderman, Marcelo Galvez, Marcos Ganga, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Marco Guerrero, Roberto Larrondo, Enzo Mantelli, Bartolomé Marré, Sebastian Mobarec, Marcelo Molina, Milan Munjin, Daniel Pina, Roberto Postigo, Carlos Regonesi, Aliro San Martin, Alvaro Silva, Francisco Soto, Julio Urrutia, Manuel Valencia, E. Wainstein, Dennis Witt, Patricio Yokota, Ratko Yurac.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 90 / Non Members: USD 120

Number of participants: 43

This course familiarized the participants with challenging spinal surgery cases, to help them achieve in-depth understanding and development of new analysis and diagnosis.

The presentation of real cases, based on evidence, allowed the faculty to illustrate real life situations that are faced by surgeons around Latin America, such as cervical degeneration, cervical tumors, fracture techniques, and deformities. The faculty members for this course were selected based on their educational and medical expertise levels. The discussions were supplemented with the best experiences on the topics.

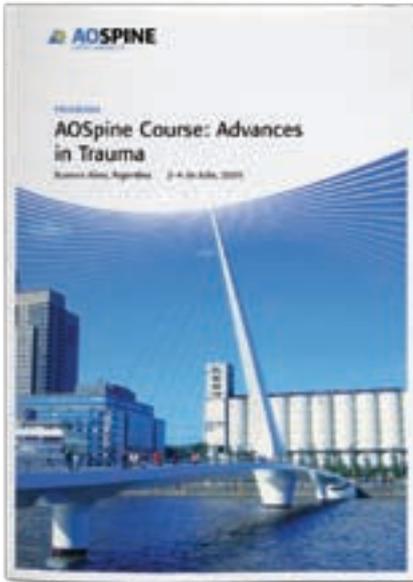
"The participation of everyone and the number of national faculty were above the expected number. This allowed a good level of discussion during the sessions. It was also possible to notice the great commitment of everyone involved."

Pablo Vela
Course Educational Director

Furthermore, the presence of the well-known international faculty Michael Daubs, regional faculty Roberto Chapa and Alejandro Betemps vastly contributed to the success of this event.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,17 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,31 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,52 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,55 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,50 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,52 out of 5



AOSpine Advances in Trauma

July 2–4, 2009
Four Seasons Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course Chairperson: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina)
Course Educational Director: Helton Defino (Brazil)
International Faculty: Carlo Bellabarba (USA); Michael Fehlings (Canada).
Regional Faculty: Bartolomé Marré (Chile); Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil); Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil).
National Faculty (Argentina): Pedro Luis Bazán; Andrés Cervio; Néstor Fiore; Marcelo Gruenberg; Jose Monayer; Matías Petracchi; Jose Ricardo Prina; Carlos Solá; Marcelo Valacco.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 500 / Non Members: USD 650
Number of participants: 81

In its second consecutive year, this AOSLA academic event in Argentina was attended by surgeons from all over Latin America. They were reunited to discuss spinal trauma issues such as: ideal time to operate, its management, reduction, and many other approaches to the spine.

The aim of the course was to develop interactive sessions to achieve the participation of everyone involved, creating a pleasant environment for learning and discussing. The course was also a success due to the active participation of 81 participants. The presence of international faculty Carlo Bellabarba (University of Washington, USA) and Michael Fehlings (University of Toronto, Canada) added to the informative discussions and lectures during the course. Discussions on spine trauma cases along with presentations on specific topics and other activities were also highpoints of the course. Segments such as “take home message” and the opinion of specialists were also appreciated by the participants.



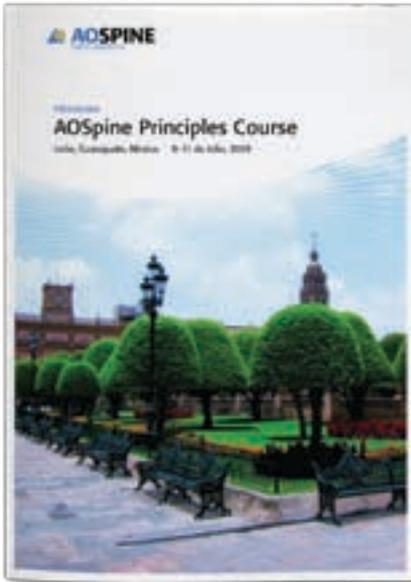
Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,20 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,20 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,57 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,91 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,62 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,53 out of 5



“The lectures given by our foreign guests deepened the topics discussed. There was a very satisfactory interaction between our faculty and the participants of the course.”

Helton Defino
Course Educational Director



AOSpine Principles Course

July 9–11, 2009

Radisson Poliforum Plaza Hotel Leon – Guanajuato, Mexico

Course Chairperson: Jesús Bernal (Mexico)

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela); Francisco Ricardo Borges Ribeiro (Brazil); Osvaldo Romano (Argentina).

National Faculty (Mexico): Gustavo Casas; Roberto Chapa; Federico Cisneros; Jesus Contreras Najera; Hernando Cuevas; Michael Dittmar; Aurelio Ramirez; Lino Ruperto Torres Vallecillo.

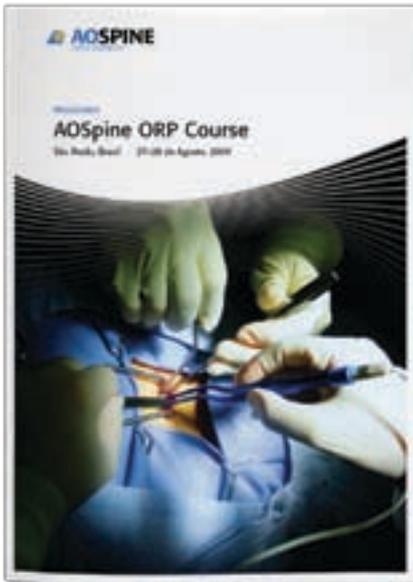
Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 541 / Non Members: USD 615

Number of participants: 50

Due to the fast pace environment that we live in, it is essential for spine surgeons to attend events that improve their capabilities of solving spinal problems. For that reason, AOSpine has created the Principles Course, which allows the exchange of ideas between experienced and less experienced surgeons. The topics of this event included degenerative pathology (cervical and lumbar), traumatic pathology (cervical and thoracolumbar) as well as primary bone tumors. The participation of national, international, and regional faculty made this event a melting pot of experiences.

“All AOSpine courses have been characterized by their high scientific level and organization inside the orthopedic world. The courses not only comply with that, but they also contain topics that are interesting to all spine care doctors.”

Jesús Bernal
Course Chairperson



AOSpine ORP Course

August 27–28, 2009
Mercure Grand Hotel Ibirapuera – São Paulo, Brazil

Course Chairperson: Sue Corbett (United Kingdom)

National Faculty (Brazil): Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha; Francisco Ricardo Borges Ribeiro; Fabiano Canto; Luis Eduardo Carelli; Alexandre Fogaça Cristante; Delio Martins Filho; Robert Meves; Geraldo Sá Carneiro; Carlos Tucci.

ORP Faculty: Graziela Cancian Gomes (Brazil)

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 22

The anxiously awaited ORP (Operating Room Personnel) course was held in, São Paulo, Brazil. The AOSpine team was thrilled to present this course as it highlighted the necessary aspects to carry out safe procedures before and during surgeries.

The course included discussion groups to plan the pre-operative, inter-operative, and post-operative stages to guide the participants towards a successful outcome of surgical procedures. More than that, the course provided tools to anticipate any potential complications during surgery to make the practice patterns safe.



“All individuals were highly motivated, keen to educate the ORP and gave their best. Also, the pre, intra, and postoperative case discussion groups went well, all engaged and participated. This was an excellent platform to seek out future faculty, and integration of the groups.”

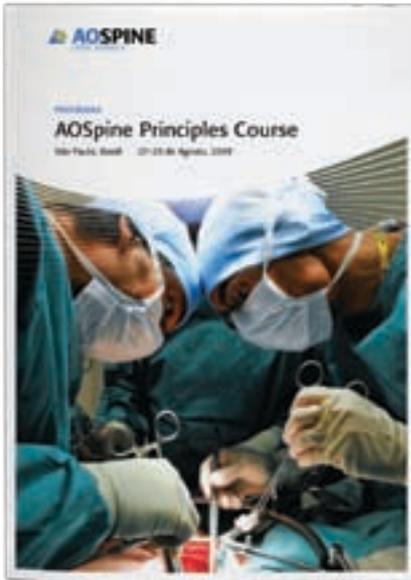
Sue Corbett
Course Chairperson

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance **4,50 out of 5**

Average Importance to Daily Practice ... **4,90 out of 5**





AOSpine Principles Course

August 27–29, 2009

Mercure Grand Hotel Ibirapuera – São Paulo, Brazil

Course Chairperson: Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Course Educational Director: Francisco Ricardo Borges Ribeiro (Brazil)

Regional Faculty: Samuel Pantoja (Chile); Roberto Postigo (Chile); Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia); Carlos Sola (Argentina).

National Faculty (Brazil): Luis Eduardo Carelli; Alexandre Fogaça Cristante; Robert Meves; Geraldo Sá Carneiro; Alexandre Sadao Iutaka; Carlos Tucci; Eduardo Von Uhlendorff.

Table Instructors (Brazil): Fabiano Canto; Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha; Delio Martins Filho; Jerônimo Milano; Rogério Resende; Luiz Claudio Rodrigues; Rafael Souza; Rodrigo Tisot; Marcus Ziegler.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 1179 / Non Members: USD 1284

Number of participants: 64

The course was an outstanding event which was made successful by the presence of our prominent faculty. The highpoint of the course were workshops and a relaxing caipirinha discussion. The main topics addressed in the course included the diagnosis and treatment of the degenerative spine and the various treatment options seen today, ranging from old to the latest methods.

For best medical learning, it is important to point out that practice plays a great role in acquiring knowledge, especially when it comes to spine care. Hence, the discussion of clinical cases in small groups granted the priceless opportunity to have a closer engagement with real life situations. It also allowed the participants to put in practice what they learned during the lectures.



“The Principles Course had the amazing participation of regional and national faculty, who discussed cases in an interactive manner with the participants. This was fundamental to the sedimentation of knowledge acquired during the lectures.”

Emiliano Vialle
Course Chairperson

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,40 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice...	4,60 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,56 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,89 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,47 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,42 out of 5



AOSpine Symposium: Discal Pathology

September 3, 2009
 Four Seasons Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course Chairperson: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)
International Faculty: Kenneth MC Cheung (Hong Kong); Frank Kandziora (Germany); Jeffrey Wang (USA); Luiz Vialle (Brazil).
National Faculty: Carlos Solá (Argentina); Matías Petracchi (Argentina).

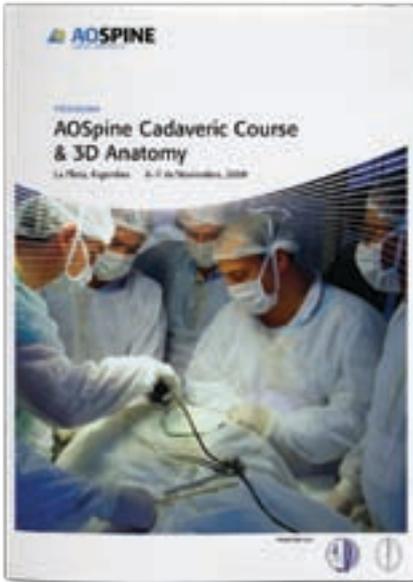
Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 186 / Non Members: USD 255
Number of participants: 130

This symposium opened the Curso Internacional de la Sociedad Argentina de Patología discal and was coordinated by Marcelo Gruenberg. A number of important topics were discussed in this symposium and among them were the diagnosis and treatment of the degenerative lumbar spine. The participants also had the chance to update themselves on the current alternatives developed to be applied in the field of spine care.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,39 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,00 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,40 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,00 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,70 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,50 out of 5



AOSpine Cadaveric Course & 3D Anatomy

November 6–7, 2009
La Plata, Argentina

Course Chairperson: Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina)

Educational Director: Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

National Faculty (Argentina): Alejandro Betemps; Jorge Cancinos; Juan Emmerich; Jorge Lambre; Alejandro Mengotti; Osvaldo Romano.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 1350 / Non Members: USD 1500

Number of participants: 12



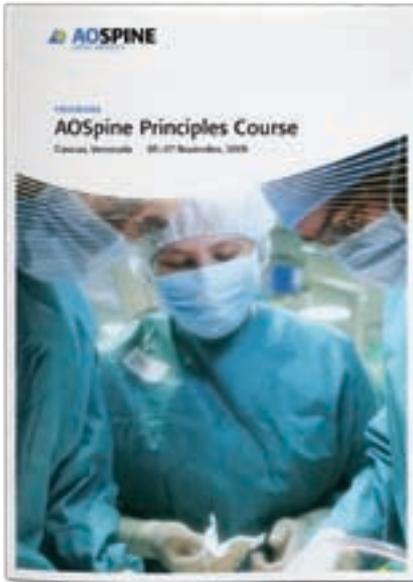
Practice is vital in the life of a surgeon. Hence, the Cadaveric Course & 3D Anatomy, held at the Universidad de La Plata, enabled that by creating practical sessions in cadavers where the participants learned the different techniques, complications, and the resolutions to instability, cervical myelopathy, and tumors.

During lectures, the national faculty familiarized the surgeons with the distinct evaluation and treatment techniques seen today, which allowed the participants to synchronize theory and practice.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,63 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,47 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,92 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,92 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,75 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,83 out of 5
Workshops.....	4,74 out of 5



AOSpine Principles Course

November 5–7, 2009
Caracas, Venezuela

Course Chairperson: Víctor Dávila (Venezuela)

Course Educational Director: Germán Ochoa (Colombia)

Regional Faculty: Michael Dittmar (Mexico), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Javier Matta (Colombia).

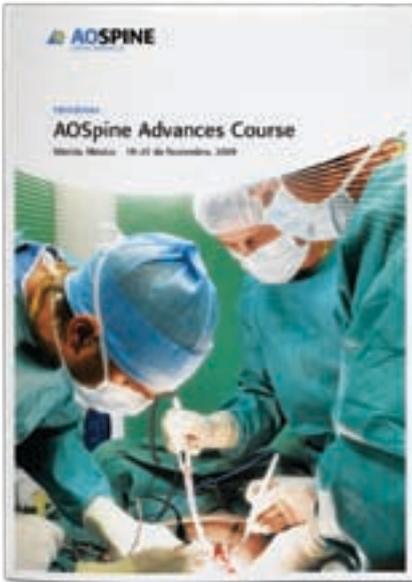
National Faculty (Venezuela): Manuel Alvarado, James Cardona, Cesar Covarrubia, Marlon Díaz, Jose Duran Dautant, Edgar González, Luis Lara, Jose Ramon Medina, Daniel Onay, Jose-Rafael Otero.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members USD 300 / Non Members USD 315

Number of participants: 40

This principles course counted with the participation of renowned national and international faculty. The discussion of the latest information from the spinal care field was one of the aspects that made this course a tremendous success in Venezuela. Among these aspects it is important to mention the treatment and diagnosis of various diseases such as deformities and tumors. The participation of many individuals allowed the faculty to have great discussions on the necessary tools to treat vertebral pathologies, which generated great interactivity between them and the participants. Overall, the course provided all the necessary tools to learn how to properly treat all kinds of vertebral pathologies.





AOSpine Advances Course

November 19–21, 2009
Hotel Fiesta Americana – Mérida, Mexico

Course Chairperson: Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Course Educational Director: Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

International Faculty: Zdenek Klezl (UK); Doug Orr (USA).

Regional Faculty: Alejandro Betemps (Argentina); Marco Medina (Peru); Emiliano Vialle (Brazil).

National Faculty (Mexico): Sergio Anaya; Ricardo Andaluz; Aurelio Ramírez; Felix Adolfo Sánchez Chavez; Martín Tejeda.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 300 / Non Members: USD 315

Number of participants: 45

AOSpine created this advances course to enrich our participants' knowledge on the diagnosis and treatment of the most frequent vertebral spine pathologies. The discussion of cases and the lectures were appropriate for the occasion, helping the participants to have a clearer view on issues such as lumbar pain, scoliosis, cervical, and thoracolumbar trauma. Moreover, the presence of our eminent international, regional, and national faculty made this course a tremendous success.

At the end of the course, the participants not only strengthened the relationship with their peers, but they also had the chance to acquire knowledge and benefit their patients.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,30 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice ...	4,39 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,58 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,00 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,54 out of 5

Seminars





AOSpine Residents Seminar

February 13–14, 2009
São Paulo, Brazil

Local Directors: Mario Taricco; Emiliano Vialle.

National Faculty (Brazil): Alexandre Sadao; Eduardo Von Uhlendorff; Mauro Volpi, Osmar Moraes.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 50 / Non Members: USD 100

Number of participants: 45

This seminar was designed to review and reinforce basic spinal surgery concepts. The participants had the chance to go over topics that are not constantly present in their daily practice routine, giving them the great opportunity to integrate themselves in the spine community. The event facilitated networking between the surgeons and exchange of valuable opinions on the various topics.

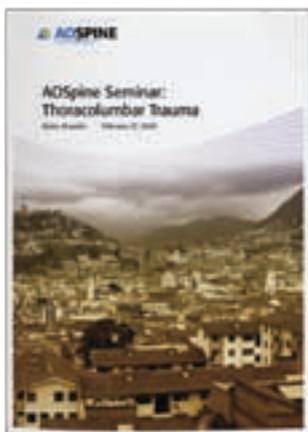
“Besides updating them on the most important topics regarding spine surgery, the seminar also served as a tool to prepare the individuals for the exams in the field of orthopedics and neurosurgery.”

Emiliano Vialle
Local Director



“AOSpine is an institution that gives research and learning opportunities on the illnesses of the vertebral spine. With that in mind, this seminar was offered to all residents in the field of neurosurgery and orthopedics, allowing surgeons to retain knowledge on the basic concepts related to the spine. Thanks to the achievement of our event goal, we are willing to offer the same seminar annually.”

Mario Taricco
Local Director



AOSpine Seminar: Thoracolumbar Trauma

February 27, 2009
Swissotel – Quito, Ecuador

Local Directors: Mario Patricio Zummárraga; Martha Hernández-Galves.

Regional Faculty: Victor Dávila (Venezuela).

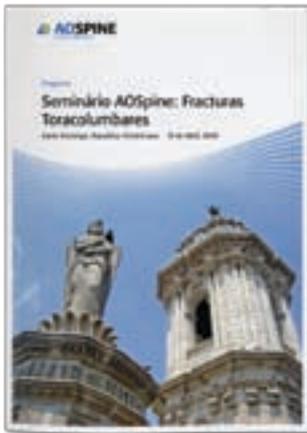
National Faculty (Ecuador): Jimmy Fernando Davalos; Alfredo Jordan Martillo.

Guest Lecturer: Jose Duran Dautant (Venezuela)

Registration fee: Free admission

Number of participants: 25

The aim of the seminar was to update the participants on the pathologies of the vertebral spine. The extensive participation of experienced doctors gave the participants an opportunity to learn more about spine care. The topics of discussion were varied ranging from ways to make the correct diagnosis to the alternative treatments. This discussion helped the participants to largely understand the scientific and academic ties between neurosurgeons and orthopedists dedicating their time and energy to such issues.



AOSpine Seminar: Thoracolumbar Fractures

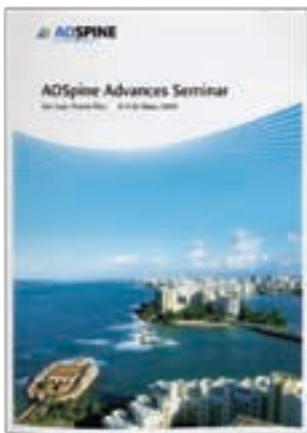
April 16, 2009
Hotel Intercontinental V Centenario – Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia)

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 25

In this seminar, the participants received an opportunity to learn about the treatment options available for thoracolumbar fractures. They were updated on the latest from the world of AOSpine. They were also informed about AOSpine, its commitment, structure, organization, and the various growth opportunities offered by it.



AOSpine Advances Seminar

May 8–9, 2009
Hotel Courtyard by Marriot Isla Verde Beach Resort – San Juan, Puerto Rico

Chairperson: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Germán Ochoa (Colombia); Luiz Vialle (Brazil).

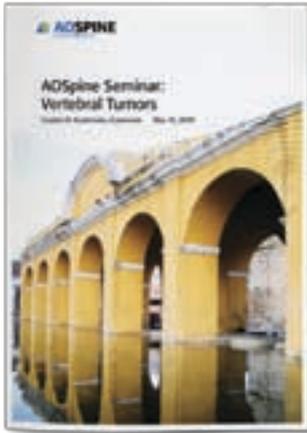
National Faculty (Puerto Rico): Yamil Rivera

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 149 / Non Members: USD 166

Number of participants: 20

This AOSpine Advances Seminar had some of our prominent faculty, like Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Germán Ochoa (Colombia), and Luiz Vialle (Brazil) who discussed important topics from the field of spine care with the participants. This seminar provided the participating surgeons an opportunity to meet and network with their counterparts from other parts of the region.

The themes included the diagnosis and treatment of the degenerative vertebral spine and the discussion of clinical cases. This promoted an interesting exchange of ideas and knowledge on the alternative treatment options of degenerative pathology and trauma.



AOSpine Seminar: Vertebral Tumors

May 16, 2009
Intercontinental Hotel – Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Local Directors: Luis Cruz Sánchez; Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez.

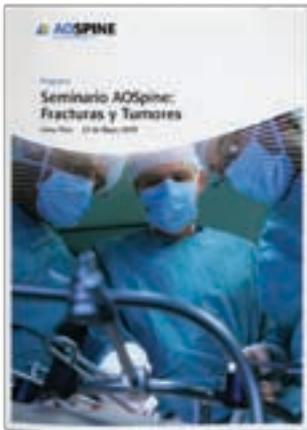
Regional Faculty: Néstor Fiore (Argentina – Virtual participation); Néstor Taboada (Colombia);

National Faculty (Guatemala): Otto Alvarado Ortiz; Rafael de la Riva Rohrmoser;
Juan Pablo de León Palacios.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members USD 30 / Non Members USD 40

Number of participants: 13

The challenges faced by spine surgeons are innumerable. Common among them are the vertebral tumors. This seminar was a success thanks to the help of our regional and national faculty. The informative discussions were fruitful for the participants and the faculty alike. The discussions were conducted on a variety of challenging topics such as primary bone tumor, metastasis, and also discussed were the diagnostic analysis of such approaches.



AOSpine Seminar: Fractures and Tumors

May 23, 2009
Miraflores Park Hotel – Lima, Peru

Local Director: Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez

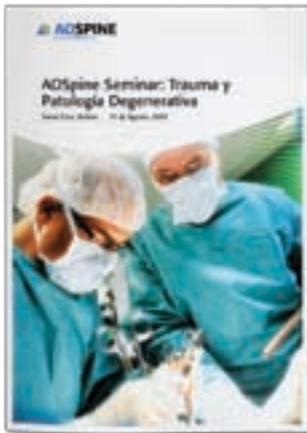
Regional Faculty: Néstor Fiore (Argentina – Virtual participation); Roberto Postigo (Chile).

National Faculty (Peru): Alfonso Basurco; Carlos Cárdenas; Benjamin Castillo de la Flor;
Daniel Cauti De la Cruz; Einer Concha; Jesus Fèlix; Michael Hinojosa; Raul Macchiavello;
Marco Medina; Gabriel Polo; Jesus Robles; Hernán José Valdivia Sosa; Francisco Zambrano Reyna.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 75

This seminar was organized with the aim of discussing the fracture and tumors in the spine. Our eminent faculty discussed many aspects of these spinal pathologies. Primary tumors and cervical trauma were some of the topics illustrated during this event. The seminar was prosperous thanks to the participants and faculty whose informative interaction and professionalism made this event a huge success.



AOSpine Seminar: Trauma and Degenerative Pathology

August 15, 2009
Camino Real Hotel – Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Local Director: Ramiro Villavicencio Aponte

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela); Néstor Fiore (Argentina – Virtual participation); Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina – Virtual participation); Roberto Postigo (Chile).

National Faculty (Bolivia): Jaime Linares; Erwin Roberto Quintanilla Meyer; Rodolfo Quiroga; Rene Torrejon.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 45 / Non Members: USD 60

Number of participants: 25

AOSpine is a well known organization in Latin America. This seminar, held for the first time in Bolivia, had the presence of two excellent speakers with a lot of experience in the vertebral pathology field, Dr Manuel Alvarado and Dr Roberto Postigo. Owing to technology, there were lectures and commentaries from Dr Marcelo Gruenberg and Dr Nestor Fiore, whose presence was fundamental for the completion of this seminar. Also, there was the significant participation of neurosurgeons and trauma specialists from La Paz, Cachabamba, Sucre, Tarija, and Oruro. Since degenerative pathology and trauma are themes much discussed within our community, AOSpine decided to introduce these issues and discuss thoroughly the diagnosis as well as the therapy.

"It is the combination of people who identify with the AOSpine philosophy that make any scientific venture possible. We are always working together so that our patient is the only one benefited."

Ramiro Villavicencio
Local Director



AOSpine Seminar: Surgery on the Preservation of Movement

August 22, 2009
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Local Directors: Juan Pablo De León Palacios; Gabriel Murga.

Regional Faculty: Néstor Fiore (Argentina – Virtual participation); Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina – Virtual participation); Pablo Vela (Colombia).

National Faculty (Guatemala): Otto Alvarado Ortiz; Luis Cruz Sánchez; Rafael de la Riva Rohmoser; Arturo Guerra; Luis Alfredo Hernandez Gonzalez; Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez; Oscar Anibal Pozuelos Villavicencio; Ramon Vivar.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: USD 12 / Non Members: USD 18

Number of participants: 25

To update the participating surgeons with the advances in spinal surgery, AOSpine invited prominent regional and national faculty to discuss new technologies in the preservation of movement. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss topics that involved the lower back and the cervical spine. With the technologies used today for communication, Marcelo Gruenberg and Néstor Fiore shared ideas and knowledge through internet.

"We counted with the participation of neurosurgeons and orthopedists, who allowed us to achieve the goals of the course. In Guatemala, the use of virtual communication enabled us to gather knowledge and experience from renowned professionals, who have facilitated the development of more suitable costs of spine surgery in our country."

Juan Pablo de León Palacios
Local Director

"It is very important to continue giving instruction courses such as the ones offered by AOSLA and AOSpine. We have a strong desire to continue to improve the knowledge so that our patients receive professional help. I am eager to participate and provide my best for the good of the spine surgeon community."

Gabriel Murga
Local Director



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Basic Science

August 28–29, 2009
Guadalajara, Mexico

Local Director: Jesus Bernal

National Faculty (Mexico): Roberto Chapa; Jesus Contreras Najera; Hernando Cuevas; Michael Dittmar; Gabriel Flores Pelcastre; L. Gutierrez Ramirez; Antonio de Jesus Huerta; J. Huerta Padilla; Jose Jimenez; Aurelio Ramirez; Martin Tejeda; Lino Ruperto Torres Vallecillo.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: Free / Non Members: USD 50

Number of participants: 25

The seminar had the presence and involvement of our national faculty, who discussed basic knowledge on vertebral physiology such as surgical anatomy, interpretation of cases and the different techniques in handling them. It also helped the participants to understand the AOSpine classification of fractures as well as to comprehend the surgical techniques on vertebral instrumentation.

"It is important to have courses that are followed by practical exercises and the discussion of clinical cases, which is the hallmark of the AOSpine courses. Above all, these are very significant to the doctors that are just starting their careers on vertebral pathology."

Jesus Bernal
Local Director



AOSpine Seminar: Vertebral Spine Deformities

September 3–4, 2009
Hotel Real Intercontinental – San Jose, Costa Rica

Local Director: Cecilia Bolaños

Regional Faculty: Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina)

National Faculty (Costa Rica): Patricio Alvarez Cosmelli; Adrian Caceres; Severita Carrillo; Jairo Gutierrez; Javier Gutierrez; José Pérez Berríos; Mario Solano Salas; Ronny Valverde; Alexander Valverde.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 23

In the last ten years, there has been an increase in the interest for spine surgery in the country chapter of Costa Rica. Therefore, AOSpine was pleased to reinforce this behavior and decided to offer a seminar to expose the different spinal approaches seen today. Some of the topics discussed in the seminar vary from scoliosis to kyphosis. The interaction between the participants permitted the exchange of experience and knowledge within them.



AOSpine Seminar: Medicine Based on Evidence

September 12, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Monterrey, México

Local Director: Martín Tejeda

International Faculty: Christoph Röder (Germany)

National Faculty (Mexico): Michael Dittmar; Gabriel Herrera; Jose Jimenez; Roberto Palapa García.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members Only

Number of participants: 50

The Mexican Spine Society (AMCICO) Congress was held at the Pacific beach of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 13–15 September 2008. With more than 300 participants, 40 faculty members, 20 of them international, the AMCICO congress was the main attraction from surgeons all over Mexico and Central America.

There was the participation of experts of the field like Christoph Röder (Senior Researcher Inselspital Bern, Swiss University Hospital), José María Jiménez Ávila (Orthopedist from the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social), Michael Dittmar (Expert Fusion Group Member of AOSpine and orthopedist in the Centro Médico Puerta de Hierro), Roberto Palapa García (Teaching chief of the Hospital de Traumatología de Magdalena de las Salinas, and last but not least Luis Gabriel Herrera Zarco (teaching chief of the Medicine University of Guanajuato).

AOSpine had a members-only lounge in an exclusive area. The lounge was well located right in front of the main conference room, where our members had the chance to relax in a special acclimatized space, use the available internet connection, have some refreshments, and get in touch with their colleagues.

"As we know, to carry out a seminar with the AOSpine name is a responsibility that must be accomplished with great effort. Thanks to the promotion of the seminar on the AOSpine website, the event had more participants than the expected number. The presence of Christopher Röden also contributed to the great outcome of the event. The assistants as well the lecturers were also much pleased with the results for the timing, the content and the presentations were great."

Martin Tejeda
Local Director





Seminario AOSpine: Vertebral Trauma

September 19, 2009
Hotel Libertador – Arequipa, Peru

Local Director: Hernán José Valdivia Sosa

Regional Faculty: Néstor Fiore (Argentina – Virtual participation); Ratko Yurac (Chile).

National Faculty (Peru): Carlos Cárdenas; Benjamin Castillo de la Flor; Javier Espinoza; Richard Hernandez; Michael Hinojosa; Marleny Llerena; Marco Medina; Jose Páliza; Jorge Pino; Francisco Salinas; Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez.

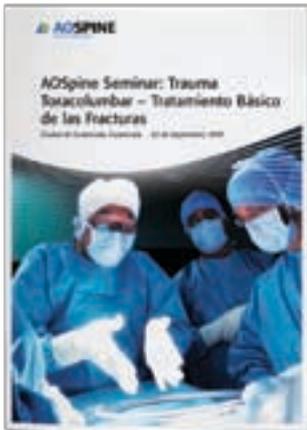
Registration fee: AOSpine Members: Free / Non Members: USD 30

Number of participants: 29

The objective of this seminar was to discuss the various aspects of vertebral trauma and AO classification approaches to the spine. The faculty members also analyzed and discussed the newest treatment alternatives to the spinal trauma pathology, evaluating the results and the advances in the field.

“The number of participants was greater than we expected and for the first time we managed to carry out a seminar with the participation of orthopedists and neurosurgeons. At last, the effort put into this seminar has motivated the desire to perform virtual meetings twice a month between the doctors of the south region. This will lead to a greater exchange of information.”

Hernán José Valdivia Sosa
Local Director



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Thoracolumbar Trauma – Basic Treatment of Fractures

September 22, 2009
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Local Director: Juan Pablo De León Palacios

National Faculty (Guatemala): Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez; Luis Cruz Sánchez; Arturo Guerra; Carlos Rayo.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 55

This seminar was organized for the residents and the topics addressed were thoracolumbar trauma and the basic treatment of vertebral fractures. The themes were well discussed and appreciated by all, which gave the opportunity to the future specialists to be more acquainted with vertebral spine trauma.

“This activity was developed with local faculty only, who received an enthusiastic response from the young doctors. We will continue to show them the AOSpine philosophy so that all patients with vertebral pathology issues benefit from this.”

Juan Pablo De León Palacios
Local Director



AOSpine Seminar: Traumatic and Degenerative Spine

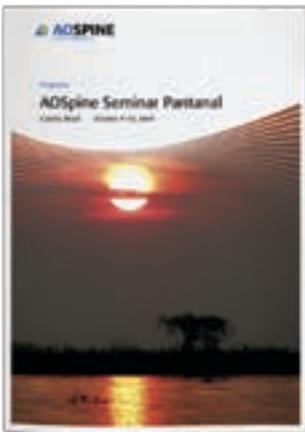
September 25, 2009
Hotel NH Cordillera – Mendoza, Argentina

Local Directors: Alejandro Betemps; Jose Ricardo Prina.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 31

This seminar was organized to point out various concepts of the traumatic and degenerative spine to the participants. The participating surgeons were familiarized with the complications and indications of cervical and lumbar arthroplasty as well as the AO classification principles concerning these issues. The participants were also given the opportunity to discuss cases and current issues from their daily practice.



AOSpine Seminar Pantanal

October 9–10, 2009
Hotel Deville – Cuiabá, Brazil

Local Directors : Alexandre Sadao Iutaka; Carlos Tucci.

National Faculty (Brazil): Rubens Aratani; Augustin Malzac; Raphael Martus Marcon.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members only

Number of participants: 15

This seminar organized in Cuiabá was held in October, 2009. The main objective of this seminar was to update the participants on important issues such as: trauma, scoliosis, cervical, and lumbar degeneration. Organized in this extraordinary and exotic place, the seminar allowed the social and academic interaction between the participating individuals.





AOSpine Residents Seminar: Trauma

October 16, 2009
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Local Director: Alejandro Betemps

National Faculty (Argentina): Pedro Luis Bazán; Juan Emmerich; Marcelo Gruenberg; Carlos Mounier; Osvaldo Romano; Marcelo Valacco; Jorge Vivé.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 17

Sponsored by the Sociedad Argentina de Patología de la Columna Cervical, prominent faculties with experience on trauma were invited for this AOSpine Residents Seminar. It resulted in the discussion of various surgical strategies, including the examination, diagnosis and treatment of traumatic cervical lesion, and raquimedular injury. The faculty also presented the AOSpine classification principles of thoracolumbar fractures.



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Traumatic Cervical Spine

October 22, 2009
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Local Directors: Juan Pablo De León Palacios; Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez.

National Faculty (Guatemala): Otto Alvarado Ortiz; Luis Cruz Sánchez; Rafael De la Riva Rohrmoser; Luis Alfredo Hernandez Gonzalez; Gabriel Murga; Oscar Anibal Pozuelos Villavicencio.

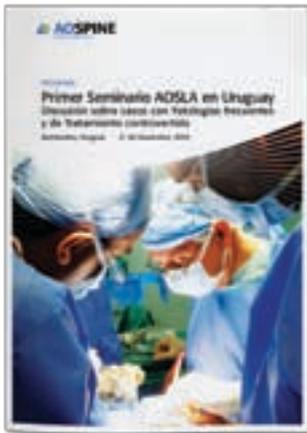
Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 45

AOSpine Latin America organized this seminar to update the participants on the traumatic cervical spine. The aim of this event was to put on the table basic principles of vertebral surgery according to the AO principles, which is based on basic science of anatomy, physiology and biomechanics. The themes discussed in this much organized seminar were: the treatment, complications and physiology of the cervical spine, and the integrated vision on the treatment of traumatic lesions.

"This seminar was a success thanks to the great assistance from residents, who showed big interest in the discussions. Something that also motivated them was the practical session on spine models, where we did demonstrations. We hope to have more seminars for residents throughout 2010 since the acceptance has been great. We are very pleased with the results."

Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez
Local Director



First AOSpine Seminar in Uruguay: Discussion of cases with frequent pathology and controverted treatment

November 21, 2009
Montevideo, Uruguay

Local Director: Oscar Carreras

Regional Faculty: Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina); Mario Taricco (Brazil).

National Faculty (Uruguay): Washington Bermudez; Gustavo Enrique Erlatz; Fernando García; Fernando Nin; Carlos Rocca Siri; Asdrúbal Silveri.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: Free / Non Members: USD 50

Number of participants: 17

AOSpine organized this seminar to update the participants with all aspects of the treatment and diagnosis of the degenerative spine and trauma. This opportunity permitted them to have a better impression of the controversial approaches to the degenerative and traumatic spine.



AOSpine Pre Congress CLANPED III Seminar: Vertebral Spine Deformities on Children

November 25, 2009
Recife, Brazil

Local Director: Ricardo Ribeiro

National Faculty: Elcio Landim; Geraldo Sá Carneiro; Alexandre Sadao Iutaka; Carlos Tucci.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 26

AOSpine Brazil has organized this pre congress seminar CLANPED III where topics related to the spinal deformities of children were discussed; important among them were trauma and neuromuscular deformities. This event was very significant to AOSpine Latin America because it was the first seminar held before a Latin American Congress on Pediatric Neurosurgery. The presence of our renowned national faculty contributed to the success of this event.





AOSpine Seminar: Traumatic and Degenerative Cervical Lesions

November 27, 2009
Quito, Ecuador

Local Director: Gladys Monserrat Pavón, Mario Zumárraga.

Regional Faculty: Germán Ochoa (Colombia); Néstor Fiore (Argentina).

National Faculty (Ecuador): Fernando Davalos; Juan Francisco Lasso; Elio Ramírez, Hernan Yopez.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 20

The faculty of this event exchanged ideas with the participants on cervical degenerative spine and cervical trauma, such as handling and treating them. The discussion of cases that involved car accident lesions or degenerative diseases of the elderly together with the informative lectures enriched this seminar, where the participants could acquire excellent knowledge on the various illnesses of the cervical spine.



AOSpine Seminar: Vertebral Aging

November 27–28, 2009
Toluca, Mexico

Local Director: Jesús Bernal

National Faculty (Mexico): Ricardo Andaluz; Jorge Cabrera; Gustavo Casas; Roberto Chapa; Ismael Cruz; Adrian García; Gustavo M. Gonzalez Mendieta; Aurelio Ramírez; Lino Ruperto Torres Vallecillo; Hugo Vilchis Sámano.

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: Free / Non Members: USD 60

Number of participants: 60

The aim of this seminar was to make the surgeon familiar with the natural history of discal illnesses; its complications and possible solutions to improve the patient's surgical results. Some of the themes discussed were discal illnesses, rheumatic vertebral arthritis, and techniques of fusion and non fusion.



AOSpine Seminar Amazon

December 4–5, 2009
Hotel Tropical Manaus – Manaus, Brazil

Local Directors: Ricardo Ribeiro; Robert Meves.

National Faculty (Brazil): Amarildo Brito; Bruno Couto; Sandra Fachinello; Franklin Nascimento; Eduardo Stewien.

Registration fee: No Registration Fee

Number of participants: 30

The participants and the faculty of this event were able to exchange knowledge on the treatment principles of trauma, degenerative and lumbar illnesses of the spine. This event was held for the first time in Manaus, located in the north of Brazil and had the participation of colleagues from Manaus and the AOSpine Brazilian Council. The program of the course was based on interactive cases and practical lectures, which contributed to the success of the event.



AOSpine Seminar: Fusion vs Non Fusion

December 5, 2009
Lima, Peru

Local Director: Marco Medina

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela); Emiliano Vialle (Brazil);

National Faculty (Peru): Alfonso Basurco; Carlos Cárdenas; Einer Concha; Michael Hinojosa; Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez.

Special Guests: Diego Escalante; Jaqueline Príncipe;

Registration fee: AOSpine Members: Free / Non Members: USD 30

Number of participants: 42

During this seminar, the concepts of fusion and non fusion were evaluated such as the controversies and alternative treatments. The participating individuals could analyze the best options for the spine care field through lecture and various clinical case discussions. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil) and Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela) greatly contributed to the execution of a unique event, allowing the participants to learn from some of the most renowned experts in the spine care field.

AOSLA Meetings



AOSpine Brazil

April 31st, 2009
Foz do Iguacu, Brazil

Scheduled on April 31, 2009, the AOSpine Brazil Country Council meeting decided to invest more on networking and research. To update the spine surgeons on the latest from the world of spine surgery, they decided to organize more seminars in the country. This will help in the propagation of AOSpine philosophy as well as provide the much needed expert spinal surgery support in the country. The cities selected were Campo Grande (Mideast), Recife (Northeast) and Manaus (North). Moreover, the country council is also much interested in driving efforts to the fields of marketing and education.



It was also determined that all local events will be accredited. A database will be created with the main spine services in Brazil and their respective chairpersons.

AOSpine Chile

May 9th, 2009
Santiago del Chile, Chile

AOSpine Chile Country Council meeting was organized in May, 2009. The council meeting was attended by two AOSLA Board members Roberto Chapa (Scientific Marketing) and Pablo Vela (Spine Centers and Fellowship Programs).

The issues discussed during the meeting included the inclusion of other professionals from specialties other than spine surgery in the advanced courses, for example radiologists and anesthesiologists. Also stressed was their special interest in education and research.

AOSpine Peru

May 30th, 2009
Lima, Peru

AOSpine Peru Country Council has a great interest in investing more in educational projects. This decision was the reflection of the motivating presence of 75 participants in the AOSpine Seminar: Trauma and Tumor. They also requested the implementation of the "Trial Membership", which consists of the free web access to the AOSpine website for three months.

The trial membership will help those members to get a feel of the AOSpine Community and the benefits offered will encourage them to join our community as regular members.

AOSpine Venezuela

May 28th, 2009
Margarita, Venezuela



Political unrest in the country disrupted the organization of seminars this year. The country council thus concentrated its efforts to organize the Principles Course in November. The course was a great success and had the presence of many participants from different regions of Venezuela.

The country council has decided to organize courses in November, to aid people involved to plan everything ahead of time. They are also looking forward to three important events in Venezuela in 2010: Seminar Maracaibo in February, Seminar in Puerto Ordaz in June and an Advanced Course in November.

Also discussed was the possibility of creating an online forum to make the communication within the country council easier.

AOSpine Latin America Education Committee Online Meeting

June 6, 2009

This online meeting, coordinated by Néstor Fiore, gathered all education councils from the Latin American chapters to present and discuss the AOSLA educational plan for 2010-2012.

During the online interaction, the participants discussed the creation of a more rational education plan, where all activities held throughout Latin America satisfies the needs of each country council and its participants.

The councils also discussed the events that will take place in 2010. An online forum was created to facilitate the communication between the councils.

AOSpine Mexico

July 11th, 2009
Guanajuato, Mexico

The AOSpine Mexico Country Council meeting was organized during the Principles Course held in Mexico on July 11, 2009. On their first meeting after the formation of the Mexican country chapter, the councils discussed various themes regarding education, among them courses and seminars.

They also touched on the theme of faculty selection and the possibility of getting involved in research projects.

AOSLA Education



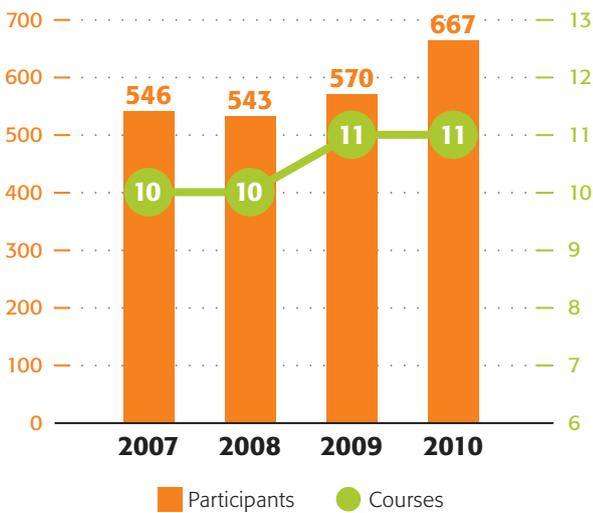
Courses and Seminars

Excellence is a word much praised in the AOSpine community when it comes to the management and execution of courses, seminars, and partnership events around the globe. Therefore, the year of 2009 was very productive when we put all of that into context. One-day seminars with few regional faculty and the use of technological tools allowing remote participations, has proven to be the best solution to deliver cost effective and high quality education to a greater number of individuals within the Latin America region. Seminars have also been portrayed as an important resource of training and identifying new faculty members.

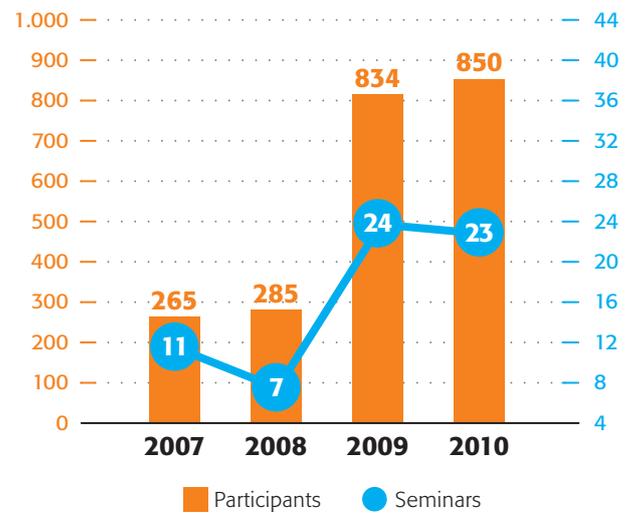
In order to put the AOSpine education field in prospect, find below an analysis that further illustrates and compares the progression of 2007, 2008, 2009 and the 2010 forecast.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Courses	10	10	11	11
Participants	546	543	570	667
Seminars	11	7	24	23
Participants	265	285	834	850
Educational Events	21	17	35	34
Participants	811	828	1404	1517
Educational Days X Participants	2001	1924	2676	3439

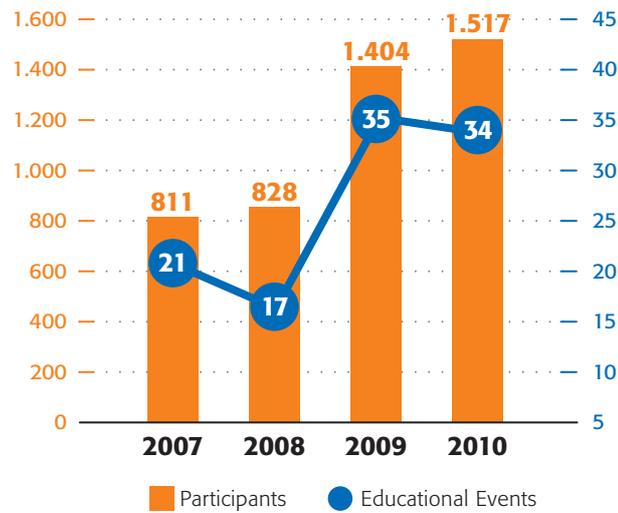
Courses Vs. Participants



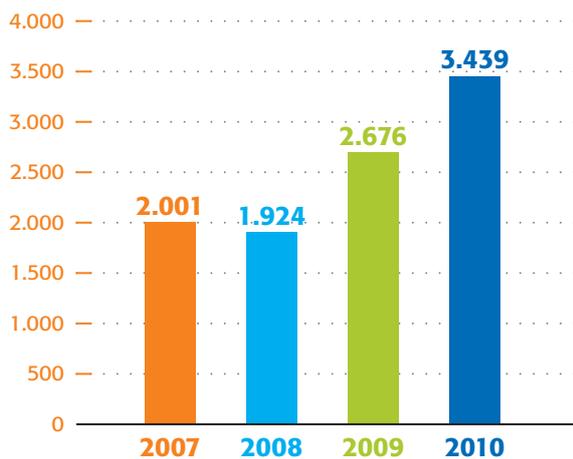
Seminars Vs. Participants



Educational Events Vs. Participants



Educational Days X Participants



It is notable the increase of numbers in official educational events run by AOSpine in Latin America if one compares the year of 2008 and 2009. That was only possible due to the engagement of the country councils and interaction between board, office, and councils who teamed up to put together programs, faculty selection, promotion, branding and logistics.

The numbers show a drastic upward curve. Between the years of 2008 and 2009 there was a 100% increase in the number of events, 70% in the number of participants, and 40% in the number between participants and education days offered.

Course Evaluation

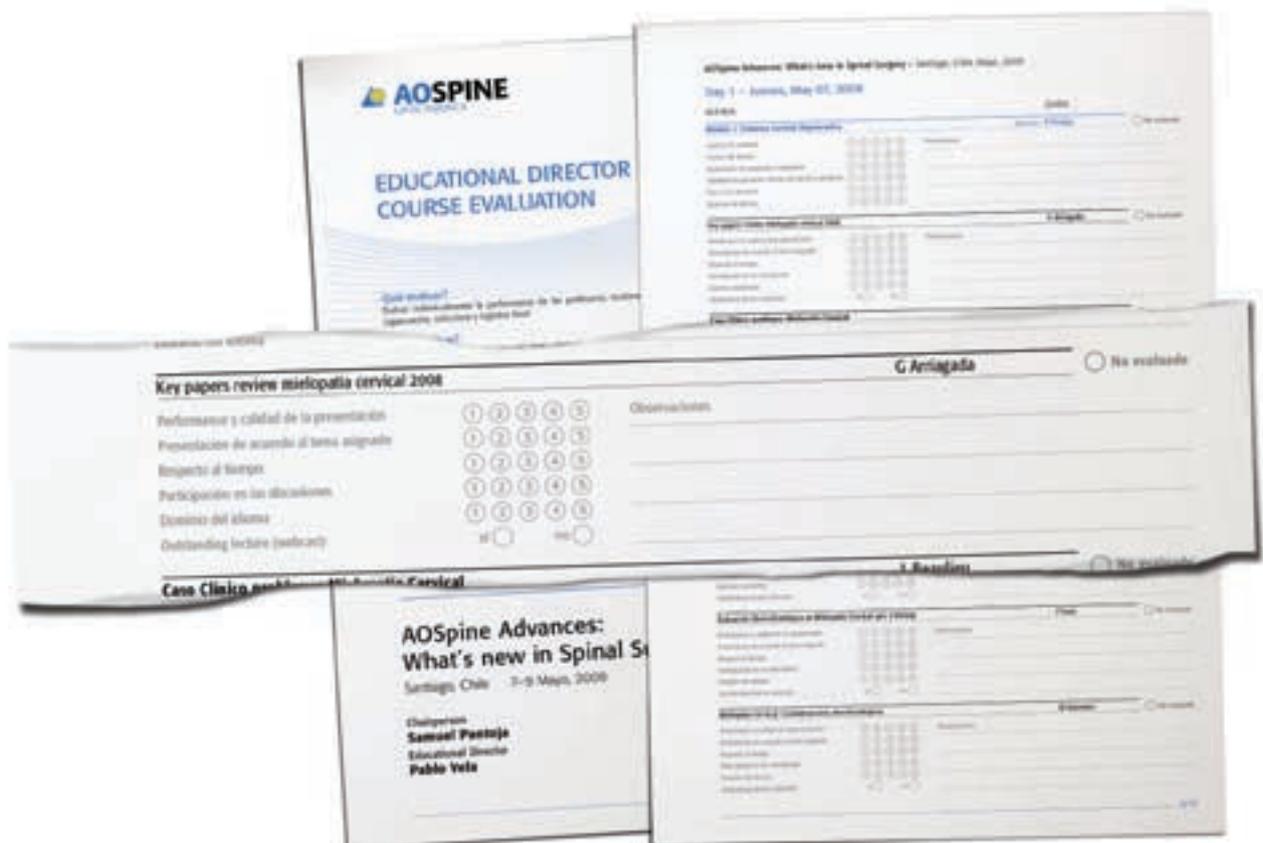
AOSLA managed to implement course evaluations to be filled out by participants in all educational events. In 2009, AOSLA implemented the Educational Director Evaluation in all courses. The format and process were developed by the AOSLA Education Board in cooperation with Ricardo Ribeiro (Educ Neuro, AOSBR), Carlos Tucci (Sci Mkt, AOSBR) and Osmar Moraes (AOSI).

It relies on peer evaluation of the faculty, moderators, and course chairmen in specific areas such as overall performance, focus on topic, and respect to timing. It aims to identify the AOSpine faculty's most common weaknesses and strengths. In the future, it shall permit the development of tailored programs for specific groups of individuals.

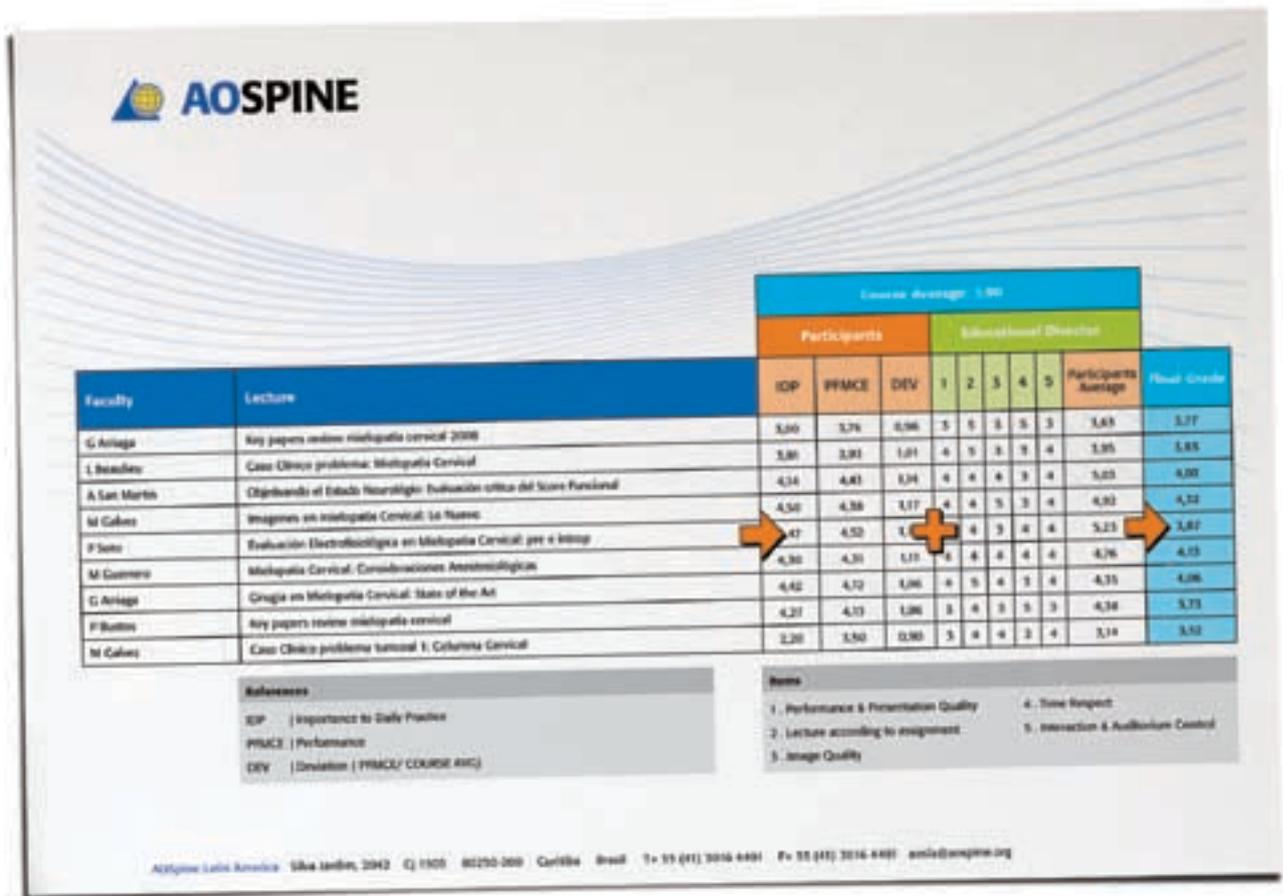
Evaluation by Participants



Evaluation by Educational Directors



Evaluation Analysis & Comparison (Model)



Virtual Courses – February through December

Commencing on February 14th, 2009, this free course had fourteen auditoriums connected with the latest technology, spread through 8 countries of Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru). It was consisted of eight modules, held throughout the year and the final module taking place in December 2009. The modules were composed of current topics such as tumors, trauma, cervical pathology, and general topics. It also had the outstanding participation of over 300 individuals.

The community was much pleased with the results of this course and thanked the faculty and coordinators involved in the various modules. A very special thanks should be given to the course chairpersons Germán Ochoa and Néstor Fiore, who developed and implemented this project.

It is AOSpine's plan to continue with the development and spread of this course in the coming year. Although some changes may occur, such as the remodeling of its format and duration, the course may proceed as it is today, full of essential knowledge for everyone involved in the spine care field.

Module I: Pathology Tumor

February 14, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Jesús Bernal (Mexico), Jaime Segura (Colombia), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Pablo Vela (Colombia)

Commission Member: Jeffrey Wang (USA)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Fernando Henderson (AOSLA)



Module II: Thoracolumbar Trauma

March 28, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Juan Pablo de León Palacios (Guatemala), Samuel Pantoja (Chile), Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rodrigo de Haro (AOSLA)

Module III: Scoliosis

May 9, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Eduardo Galaretto (Argentina), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Asdrúbal Silveri (Uruguay), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rodrigo de Haro (AOSLA)

Module IV: Lumbar Pain

June 20, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Hector Crooks (Panama), Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopes (Guatemala), Hernán Jose Valdivia Sosa (Peru), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rodrigo de Haro (AOSLA)

Module V: Cervical Pathology

August 1, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Raul Arjona (Panama), Alejandro Betemps (Argentina), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Antonio Mock (Panama), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rodrigo de Haro (AOSLA)

Module VI: Infections

September 12, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Jesus Bernal (Mexico), Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Jaime Segura (Colombia)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rodrigo de Haro (AOSLA)



Module VII: General Topics

October 24, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela), Otto Alvarado Ortiz (Guatemala), Javier Matta (Colombia), Luis Carlos Morales Sáenz (Colombia), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Luana Torres (AOSLA)

Module VIII: Osteoporosis

December 5, 2009

Chairperson: Germán Ochoa (Colombia) and Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty: Jesus Bernal (Mexico), Juan Pablo de León Palacios (Guatemala), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

Technical Support: Jorge Acosta (Comunicaciones Web Dinamicas S/A), Rogrigo de Haro (AOSLA)

Faculty Development

The table below illustrates all surgeons who have taken the AOSpine Faculty Training courses. These courses provide tools and allow the surgeon to develop necessary skills to become educators and excel on public speaking techniques during AOSpine events. Illustrated below is the cumulative table with all trainings offered along with the surgeons who have completed it.

Name	Country	T4ED	T4C	T4T	AOSLA FACULTY IMPROVEMENT
Alejandro Betemps	Argentina			✓	✓
Alejandro Urzúa	Chile				✓
Alexander Valverde	Costa Rica			✓	
Alexandre Sadao	Brazil			✓	
Alexandre Fogça	Brazil			✓	
Alfredo Vasquez	Peru			✓	✓
Amancio Ramalho	Brazil			✓	
Amauri Godinho	Brazil			✓	
Andrés Cervio	Argentina			✓	✓
Andrés Rodríguez	Colombia			✓	✓
Antonio Mock	Panamá			✓	
Antonio Braconi	Brazil			✓	
Armando Alpizar	Mexico			✓	
Augustin Malzac	Brazil			✓	
Aurelio Ramirez	Mexico			✓	
Bartolome Marré	Chile		✓	✓	
Carlos A. Engelhorn	Brazil			✓	
Carlos Legarreta	Argentina			✓	
Carlos A. Mora Ojeda	Colombia			✓	✓
Carlos Mounier	Argentina			✓	
Carlos Solá	Argentina			✓	
Catarino López	Mexico			✓	✓
César González	Mexico			✓	
Cristiano Menezes	Brazil			✓	
Daniel Cauti	Peru				✓
Daniel Onay	Venezuela				✓
Delio Martins	Brazil			✓	
Edgar Gonzalez	Venezuela				✓
Eduardo Galaretto	Argentina			✓	✓
Eduardo Von Uhlenhoff	Brazil			✓	
Emiliano Vialle	Brazil	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ernesto Bersuski	Argentina			✓	
Ernesto Carvalo	Venezuela			✓	
Ernesto Vargas	Ecuador				✓
Fabiano Canto	Brazil			✓	
Federico Cisneros	Mexico			✓	✓
Fernando Façanha Filho	Brazil			✓	
Fernando Helo Yamhure	Colombia			✓	
Geraldo Sá	Brazil			✓	✓
Germán Ochoa	Colombia			✓	
Guido Pugliese	Colombia			✓	
Helton Defino	Brazil			✓	✓
Hernán Valdivia	Peru				✓
Hernando Cuevas	Mexico			✓	
Jaime Raul Pavon	Ecuador				✓
Jaime Segura	Colombia			✓	
James Cardona	Venezuela			✓	
Javier Brenes	Costa Rica			✓	
Javier Martinez	Argentina			✓	
Javier Matta	Colombia			✓	
Jefferson Galvés	Brazil			✓	
Jesús Bernal	Mexico			✓	
Jorge Cancinos	Argentina			✓	
Jorge Lambre	Argentina			✓	
Jose Antonio Finocchio	Venezuela			✓	
Jose Rafael Otero	Venezuela			✓	✓
Juan Carlos Reina	Mexico			✓	✓
Juan Carlos Valle Landa	Mexico			✓	

*T4ED : Tips for Educational Directors

*T4C : Tips for Course Chairpersons

*T4T: Tips for Trainers Course

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

Name	Country	T4ED	T4C	T4T	AOSLA FACULTY IMPROVEMENT
Juan Emmerich	Argentina			✓	
Luis Arango	Colombia			✓	
Luis C Morales	Colombia			✓	✓
Luis Eduardo Rocha	Brazil			✓	
Luis Guijarro	Ecuador				✓
Luiz Gustavo Rocha	Brazil			✓	
Luis Miguel Rosales	Mexico			✓	
Luiz Felipe Carvalho	Brazil			✓	
Luiz Vialle	Brazil		✓	✓	✓
Manuel Alvarado	Venezuela		✓	✓	✓
Marcelo Gruenberg	Argentina		✓	✓	✓
Marcelo Valacco	Argentina			✓	✓
Marco Medina	Peru			✓	✓
Marcos Tebet	Brazil			✓	
Marcus A. Mello Santos	Brazil			✓	
Mario Herrera	Colombia			✓	
Mario Solano	Costa Rica			✓	
Mario Taricco	Brazil	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marlon Diaz	Venezuela			✓	
Martha Hernandez	Ecuador			✓	✓
Martin Tejada	Mexico			✓	✓
Matías Petracchi	Argentina			✓	
Maurício Calais	Brazil			✓	
Mauricio Gusmao	Brazil			✓	
Mauro Volpi	Brazil			✓	
Michael Dittmar	Mexico			✓	✓
Miguel Alejandro Alfonso	Colombia			✓	
Néstor Fiore	Argentina		✓	✓	✓
Néstor Taboada	Colombia			✓	✓
Osmar Moraes	Brazil		✓	✓	✓
Oscar Martinez	Mexico			✓	
Oswaldo Romano	Argentina			✓	
Otto Alvarado	Guatemala			✓	
Pablo Vela	Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Patricio Bustos	Chile			✓	
Patricio Zumarraga	Ecuador			✓	✓
Paulo Cavali	Brazil			✓	✓
Pedro Bazán	Argentina			✓	
Rafael Marcon	Brazil			✓	
Ramiro Gutierrez	Argentina			✓	
Raúl Arjona	Panamá			✓	✓
Raul Machiavello	Peru				✓
Ricardo Andaluz	Mexico			✓	
Ricardo Londoño	Colombia				✓
Ricardo Prina	Argentina			✓	
Ricardo Restrepo	Colombia			✓	
Ricardo Ribeiro	Brazil			✓	
Robert Meves	Brazil			✓	
Roberto Chapa	Mexico		✓	✓	✓
Rodolfo Lopez	Chile			✓	✓
Ruben Cardenas	Mexico			✓	
Samuel Pantoja	Chile				✓
Sergio Daher	Brazil			✓	
Tulio Rangel	Brazil			✓	
Ubirajara Bley	Brazil			✓	
Victor Davila	Venezuela			✓	✓
Victor Flores	Mexico			✓	
Wagner Pasqualini	Brazil			✓	
Total		3	10	105	44

Research



CSM (Cervical Spondilothic Mielopathy)



The primary purpose of this study is to compare anterior and posterior surgical approaches in the treatment of CSM in terms of surgical complications and neurological, functional, disease-specific, and quality of life outcome measures.

This study will also investigate the differences in patient presentation, treatment approaches and treatment outcomes among ethnic/racial groups, health care systems and different regions of the world.

There are several investigation centers in different regions and Latin America is represented by Hospital das Clínicas led by Helton Defino which ranks second place when it comes to the number of patients enrolled.

Syringomyelia

The aim of this international multi-centric project is to compare and determine the correlation between the image of the cine MRI in operated and not operated patients. The information obtained surgically in patients with idiopathic syringomyelia or associated with another malformation, will enable the prediction of parameters in the clinical evolution of patients.

The first investigators' meeting took place in Venezuela. Satish Rudrapa (India), and Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela) are responsible for the syringomyelia research. The final version of the protocol is being developed and shall be released by early 2010.



Basilar Invagination

This international project, entirely conceived and developed by ALOSLA Research, and coordinated by Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil), Atul Goel (India) and Mario Taricco (Brazil), has, as its number one objective, to be able to establish a correlation between dynamic and conventional RM images in patients with primary BI so as to define the surgical approach. Secondly, the incidence of the different nosologic entities associated with primary BI will hopefully be determined together with their geographic distribution.

Geraldo Sá Carneiro and Atul Goel worked in the study protocol and the first draft was ready in September. Later on, both investigators suggested some changes and the final version was ready in October. AOSpine Latin America is searching for centers that could participate in the project.

A3 Fracture

The Argentinean chapter of AOSpine started this project in 2009 and Pedro Bazán, the coordinator of this investigation, is working together with Alejandro Betemps. Since there is a very limited literature about this subject in Latin America, the main goal of this project is to compare the surgical and conservative treatment outcomes for A3 fracture and understand the criteria for the choice between the methods.



With the support of Leando Nuñez, the project was approved and the first protocol draft was presented by Pedro Bazán in September. The final protocol will be approved in December and the responsible investigators will select the research centers.

Spinal Tuberculosis

The main objective of the present study is to compare two available surgical treatments for spinal tuberculosis – anterior and posterior approach – in terms of surgical complications, neurological and functional development, disease outcomes and the patient's quality of life. The two main Investigators leading this project are Manuel Alvarado (Venezuela) and Shashank Kale (India).

AOSLA has chosen Centers from South America, Asia and Africa to participate in this study as the regions most commonly affected by this disease.

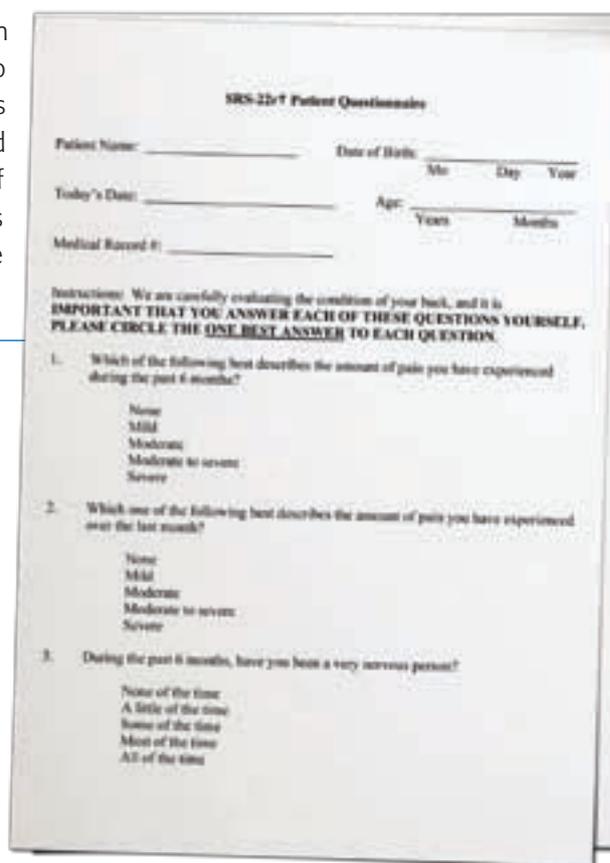
Code	Center Name	Documents Received	Submitted to IRB	IRB Approval	Contract Signed	Enrolling Patients
VEN 1	Hospital Vargas de Caracas	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Jan 2010
IND 1	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
ECU 1	Hospital Eugenio Espejo	June, 2009	July 2009	Aug 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Dec 2009
BRA 1	Hospital das Clínicas – Universidade de São Paulo	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
PER 1	Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
VEN 2	Hospital Miguel Perez Carreño	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
IND 2	AIMS Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
IND 3	Sundaram Medical Foundation	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Jan 2010
PER 2	Hospital Nacional "Carlos Alberto Segúin Escobedo"	June, 2009	July 2009	Expected Dec 2009		
SAF 1	Groote Schuur Hospital	June, 2009	July 2009	Oct 2009	Expected Dec 2009	Expected Jan 2010



AOSLA intends also to start a new study on this subject aiming to determine the effectiveness of the current medical treatments based mainly on duration and anti microbiological resistance.

SRS-22 Validation

Carlos Tucci presented this project, which consists on validating the SRS-22 form of Idiopathic Scoliosis to Portuguese. The process of validation consists of translations and retranslations from the original in English to the targeted language. The patients will then evaluate the readiness of the document. This is the first and only tool that evaluates the quality of life of scoliosis patients that will be available in Brazilian Portuguese.



The image shows a scan of the SRS-22 Patient Questionnaire form. At the top, it is titled "SRS-22 Patient Questionnaire". Below the title are fields for "Patient Name", "Date of Birth" (with sub-fields for "Mo", "Day", "Year"), "Today's Date", "Age" (with sub-fields for "Years", "Months"), and "Medical Record #".

Instructions: We are carefully evaluating the condition of your back, and it is **IMPORTANT THAT YOU ANSWER EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS YOURSELF. PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE BEST ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION.**

1. Which of the following best describes the amount of pain you have experienced during the past 6 months?

- None
- Mild
- Moderate
- Moderate to severe
- Severe

2. Which one of the following best describes the amount of pain you have experienced over the last month?

- None
- Mild
- Moderate
- Moderate to severe
- Severe

3. During the past 6 months, have you been a very nervous person?

- None of the time
- A little of the time
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- All of the time

Research projects for 2010

Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), AOSLA Research Officer, is interested in continuing with the ongoing research activities in AOSLA. Nonetheless, he is also proposing new studies for the coming year.

Generic Standard Disc Degeneration

In South American countries, especially in Brazil, there were reported 500 cases of this illness. The investigation may have the support of the Universidade Católica do Paraná (Brazil).

Multicenter Study in Scoliosis

A study that will be conducted by Ernesto Bersusky with the support of Emiliano Vialle.

Online Research

It will consist of an online survey on prophylactic use of antibiotics in Latin America. The interested doctors will be identified by our Research Officers and also through surveys distributed on AOSpine courses.

Fellow Research

The long-term fellows will have to present their scientific project at the end of their term. They will have three months to come up with a topic. There is the possibility to present the final project at an AOSpine Principles Course.

Spinal Cord Injury Network

This network will take care of clinical and scientific researches. It will also register investigation and rehabilitation centers. It will be in contact with the American Spinal Association and will have the support from health care institutions as well as the SRN.

Fellowships



Spine Centers

For a spine center to become affiliated to AOSpine certain guidelines have been formulated. The guidelines were launched in March 2009 and consists of an application form and a logbook for the fellows to register all information they learn on a daily basis. The documents containing all the information of the application process will be necessary for the approval of the Spine Center.



Hospital	City	Country	Program Director
Paediatric Hospital "Prof Dr Juan P. Garrahan"	Buenos Aires	Argentina	Ernesto Bersusky
Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto – USP	Ribeirão Preto	Brazil	Helton Defino
Hospital Universitario Cajuru – Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná	Curitiba	Brazil	Luiz Vialle
Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires	Argentina	Marcelo Gruenberg

In process

Hospital	City	Country	Program Director
Hospital de Ortopedia y Traumatología IMSS	Monterrey	Mexico	Roberto Chapa
Hospital Universidade de São Paulo	São Paulo	Brazil	Alexandre Sadao

Fellowships

A large number of surgeons have showed us their interest to further improve their skills and knowledge base on spinal surgery. Candidates from all over the region had sent in their application. During this year, we have received a lot of applications from candidates interested in further improving their skills and knowledge on spinal surgery. The fellows came from different regions of Latin America and throughout 2009 were given the opportunity to train at our Spine Centers, through long or short term fellowship programs.

Short-term Fellowship

Name	Country	From	To	Spine Center
Djalma Amorim	Brazil	February, 2009	March, 2009	Hospital das Clínicas, Brazil
Guillermo Kahl	Argentina	January, 2009	March, 2009	Harborview, USA
Joel Abramczuk	Brazil	September, 2009	December, 2009	Hospital Universitário Cajuru, Brazil

Long-term Fellowship

Name	Country	From	To	Spine Center
Aldimarina López	Panama	February, 2009	January, 2010	Hospital das Clínicas, Brazil
André Vidigal	Brazil	February, 2009	January, 2010	Hospital Universitário Cajuru, Brazil
Cristiano Simões	Brazil	July, 2009	August, 2010	Hospital Universitário Cajuru, Brazil
Gustavo Giraldo	Colombia	June, 2009	June, 2010	Hospital Universitário Cajuru, Brazil
Horácio Resano	Argentina	July, 2009	June, 2010	Hospital Italiano, Argentina
Juan Henao	Colombia	February, 2009	January, 2010	Hospital Universitário Cajuru, Brazil

Juan Esteban Suárez Henao, from Colombia, had a great experience being part of the Fellowship Program of AOSpine. On the next page he tells us his experience inside the Spine Center in Curitiba (Brazil).

During my training as an orthopedic surgeon in the *Hospital Universitário Cajuru of Universidade Católica do Paraná* in Curitiba (Brazil), I had the opportunity to get knowledge on the AOSpine Fellowship Program, as well as to congregate and share experiences with fellows such as Guillermo, Mauricio, Tulio, Rubén, Felipe, Pablo, and Rodolfo. Later on, I had the privilege to be part of this spine surgery program, conducted by Dr Luiz Roberto Vialle and Dr Emiliano Vialle.

The building of knowledge was enriched by the clinical meetings on Mondays, in which a specific topic was presented extensively, an article review, an evaluation of the surgical cases of the previous week, and a discussion of the surgical cases of the coming week. In addition, some seminars with Dr Luis Vialle, illustrious in their views, helped us comprehend more about the pathologies being studied.

I had the opportunity to participate in a number of percutaneous procedures and surgeries, including degenerative pathology, congenital deformities, trauma management, tumors, and revision surgeries remitted to our service. Moreover, I have participated in several AOSpine courses, such as the "Fellows and Resident's Course", "Basic course of Spine Surgery", "Surgical Approaches to the Spine", and "Advances in Trauma Course" in Buenos Aires. On my trip to Argentina, I visited the pediatric spinal pathology service, inside the Garrahan Hospital, under the assistance of Dr Bersusky.

During this period, I also participated in the creation of several articles regarding medullar lesion and stem cell.



When I look back, I realize that, as Dr Vialle says: "Knowledge, technology and surgical techniques can be learned, but the most important asset is to know how to apply them simultaneously in order to obtain the best possible result."

I believe I have created a solid background to continue my professional life in Colombia. I can assure all future fellows of this program that they will benefit as much as all of those that have already been part of it. This way a higher quality service is achieved to treat our patients with spine diseases.

Without a doubt, the Fellowship Program surpassed my expectations regarding all aspects.

Juan Esteban Suárez Henao

Joint Fellowship

A joint venture between the Argentinean Society of Spine Pathology and AOSpine Latin America is in its second consecutive year. The program consists of combining the resources in order to provide an Argentinean doctor (member of both institutions) with an International Fellowship Program at the Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, USA. Guillermo Kahl was the center's 3 month observership fellow of 2009. Jens Chapman, who is responsible for the program, will be receiving another fellow in 2010, Juan Pablo Guyot.

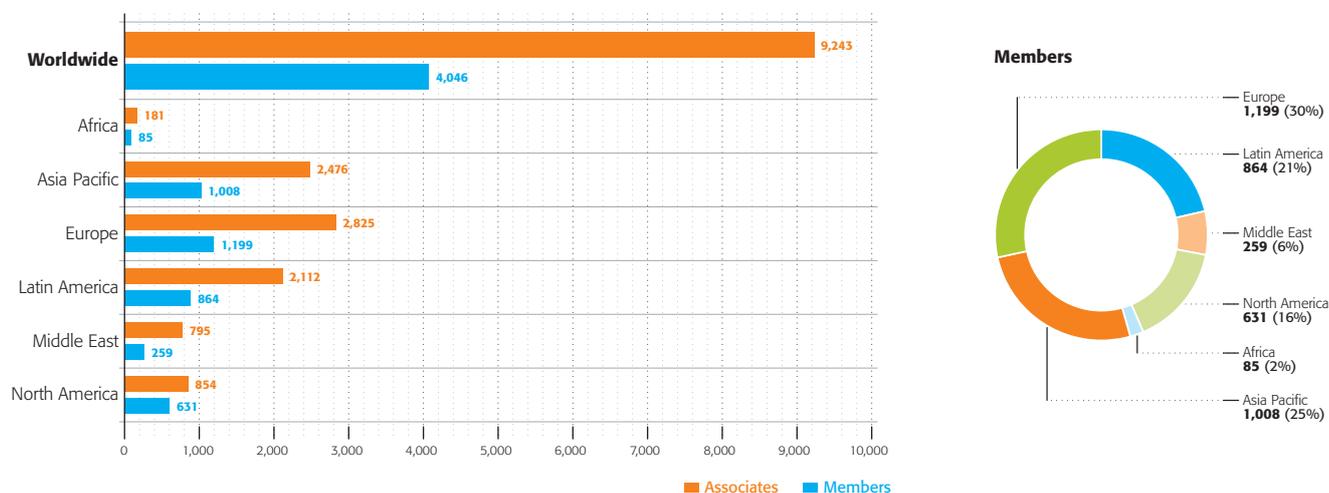


Marketing



Membership in the World to date November 30th, 2009

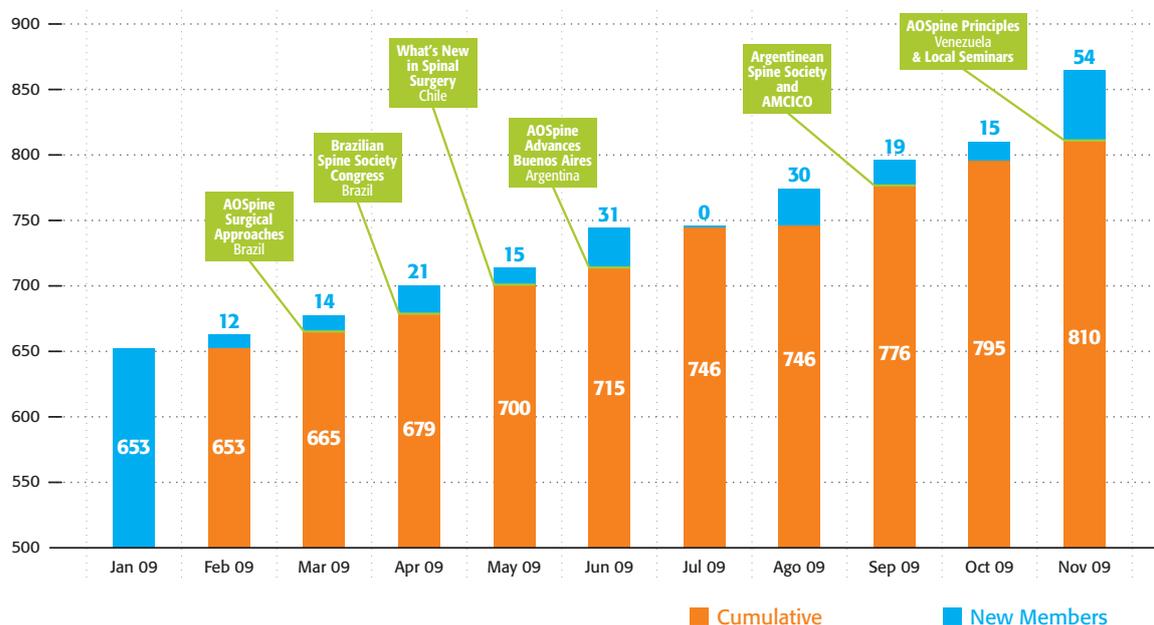
This year AOSpine has achieved great results when it comes to membership rates. In November, the institution surpassed the previously set goal of 4000 membership subscription. Below one may find graphs to further illustrate the numbers of each AOSpine region.



Membership evolution in Latin America

During 2009, AOSLA exceeded its previous set goal of 800 members and it shall finish the year with around 900 members out of the 2916 registered on our database. Due to the great number of members, Latin America has one of the best rates of member satisfaction inside AOSpine according to the online survey taken on October 2009.

When it comes to marketing activities, AOSLA has developed thoughtful strategies and also tried to maintain the retention of its members by implementing periodical email notifications and 2 month bonus membership extensions for renewals prior to the expiration date. As one can see, retention is one of the biggest challenges inside AOSpine, but with hard work and commitment there shall be a contribution to the development and growth of the community.



Video Project

AOSLA Marketing and Education departments have created educational programs to be video recorded and made available for Latin American members in their native language. The project consists of filming pre-selected lectures at course venues that suits the program developed by LASEC. The aim of the project is to generate a base of clinical case studies and lectures that would form complete educational material and shall be available in DVDs and web casts on the AOSpine website.



Trial Membership

With the aim to promote and integrate specific groups of individuals to the community, AOSpine has developed this project which primarily consists of the free access of the AOSpine website for a 3 month period. The opportunity is granted to individuals of a particular group such as nurses, fellows, and residents. A real example of this is seen on the ORP course held in São Paulo, Brazil in August, where the participating individuals were given the chance to explore this benefit and in return evaluate and post suggestions of improvement inside a forum especially created for them.



AOSpine Membership Survey

In October, 2009 AOSpine International launched an online membership survey to find out the opinions of members and associates, who shared their experiences and thoughts about our organization. The questions were based on a series of issues, such as membership packages and AOSpine publications. A total of 1191 members contributed to this marketing project and as results have shown that the Latin American participants are apparently very satisfied with AOSpine. Below are some interesting figures that are the reflection of our hard work and commitment towards the community of spine surgeons.

88% said they are **'very likely'** to recommend AOSpine

Vs. **72%** across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific

55% said they are **'very satisfied'** with AOSpine

Vs. **39%** across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific

92% said they **'will renew'** AOSpine membership

Vs. **87%** across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific

45% said that AOSpine CaseBase is **'very useful'**

Vs. **24%** across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific

AOSpine Calendar

AOSpine Latin America has launched a 2010 calendar to be distributed as a form of recognition to the surgeons that greatly contributed to the community. The calendar will promote the main events, benefits offered and projects and the main idea is to keep our members always up to date on their daily routine.



AOSpine Latin America Lounges and Booths

Brazilian Spine Congress

AOSpine was present at the Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira da Coluna (Brazilian Spine Society) with a lounge to receive its members from April 29 – May 2, 2009. The lounge offered internet access and also allowed our members to network with other spine surgeons.



The AOSpine Brazil Council was pleased to offer a Caipirinha Debate which counted with the renowned participation of Luiz Vialle (Brazil) and Mark Dekutoski (USA). They discussed themes regarding tumor, deformities, and degenerative diseases.



SINCOL

On its fourth consecutive year, the SINCOL (Simpósio Internacional da Coluna) took place in Rio de Janeiro at the Windsor Barra Hotel from July 30–August 1, 2009. AOSpine was present with a lounge to warmly receive its members. The presence of over 250 participants, granted us the chance to present all of AOSpine's publications and membership packages, which opened more doors to the spine world.

Curso Internacional de la Sociedad Argentina de la Patología de la Columna Vertebral

On September 3, 2009, AOSpine was present with a lounge at the Curso Internacional de la Sociedad Argentina de Patología de la Columna Vertebral in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

AOSpine took advantage of this prestigious event to organize a symposium on new alternative treatments and the diagnosis procedure of discal lumbar degenerative pathology. The symposium was chaired by Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina) with our international faculty Kenneth Cheung (Hong Kong), Frank Kandziora (Alemania), Jeffrey Wang (USA), and Luiz Vialle (Brazil), who presided over the various discussions on various topics.



AMCICO

A spine organization is usually created to reunite orthopedists and neurosurgeons from a specific region. This is precisely the story of the Asociación Mexicana de Cirujanos de Columna, which held an event in Monterrey, Mexico from September



12–15, 2009. The AOSpine Mexico Council took this opportunity to host a pre-congress seminar on the vertebral spine pathology. At the same event, a lounge was organized to aid the AOSpine members to network, understand the philosophy and experience the benefits of being part of the AOSpine community.



Global Forum on Trauma Care 2009

AOSpine and the AO Foundation were present at this event organized by the World Health Organization with a stand on October 28–30, 2009 at the Windsor Barra Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The topics of the course were related to trauma such as ways to position trauma care on higher grounds on the global health agenda, increase the global attention given to trauma, diffusion of the message related to trauma and develop an agenda for action. The respective organizations were represented at the event by Prof Pierre Hoffmeyer, AO Foundation; Prof Peter Trafton, AOTrauma; and executive delegates Consuelo Albuñós, AOLAT; Herwig Daemon, AO Foundation and Antonio Machado from AOSpine.

CLANPED III

AOSpine Brazil was present with a lounge at the CLANPED III (Latin American Congress of Pediatric Neurosurgery) from November 25–28, 2009. The members had a space where they could exchange ideas, access the internet and keep in contact with the AOSpine world. As a form of partnership and cooperation between the entities, AOSpine Brazil organized a pre-congress seminar, held on November 25, 2009, to further explore the spine care approaches on children deformities.



AOSpine
Latin America Office



AOSpine Membership Survey

The AOSLA office situated in Curitiba, Brazil, is fully equipped to greatfully serve the region's members. The facility is composed of a conference room, 5 working stations, and a storage room.

Antonio Machado is AOSLA's **Regional Director**.

He oversees the areas of Marketing, Education, Reference Center Programs, and Fellowships.



It is also his duty to manage the region's financial budget and give guidance to all country councils of AOSLA ensuring that they comply with AOSI/AOSLA guidelines and policies.



Luana Torres is our **Education Project Manager**. Her duties include supporting the participants with online registration,

managing courses and events, preparing course material and helping with file and website updates.



Rodrigo de Haro is the **Manager of Research and Reference Centers**.

His daily routine consists of managing all incoming research projects. He also manages and gives support to all Spine Centers.



Bruna Bartsch is the **Marketing Project Manager** of AOSLA. She is responsible for developing and implementing marketing strategies within LA, monitoring membership evolution and give support to all members. She also organizes the marketing events of the region, such as lounges and booths. Bruna is also in charge of the Fellowship Program.



Gallery





AOSpine Residents Seminar 13–14 February in São Paulo, Brazil

1. Participants at the AOSpine Residents Seminar on 13-14 February in São Paulo, Brazil. From left to right: Antonio Krieger, André Vidigal, Rodolfo Paez, Juan Henao, Wesley Secco, William Contreras.
2. Faculty at the event: Mario Taricco, Osmar Moraes, Emiliano Vialle, Alexandre Sadao, Alberto Capel and Rafael Souza.

XII Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira da Coluna on 29 April–2 May in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

3. Osmar Moraes contemplating the Caipirinha Debate
4. Luiz Vialle, Juan Henao, Rodolfo Paez, Delio Martins and Luis Gustavo Rocha during the congress.
5. Hotel staff preparing the Caipirinha.

6. Caipirinha discussion.

7. The AOSpine faculty at the event: Carlos Tucci, Alexandre Sadao, Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Ricardo Ribeiro, Robert Meves and Alexandre Fogaça.

Sociedad Argentina de Patología de la Columna Vertebral

8. The faculties of the event with their respective wives preparing to dine.

AOSpine Advances in Trauma Course on 2–4 July in Buenos Aires, Argentina

9. Dinner after the course: Antonio Machado, Helton Defino, Nestor Fiore and daughter Carolina Fiore, Mario Taricco and wife.
10. Dinner after the course: Marcelo Gruenberg, Carlo Bellabarba, Bartolomé Marré and Michael Fehlings.



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Country chapter meeting in Margarita, Venezuela

11. AOSpine Venezuela with Roberto Chapa, Mario Taricco, Manuel Alvarado, Geraldo Sá and Leandro Nuñez

AOSpine Principles Course on 27–29 August in São Paulo, Brazil

12. Celestino Pereira, Ricardo Ribeiro and a participant during the event.

AOSpine ORP Course on 27-28 August, 2009 in São Paulo, Brazil

13. ORP participants, Graziela Cancian and Sue Corbett
14. Sue Corbett, Luana Torres, Graziela Cancian and Ricardo Ribeiro

AOSpine Seminar on 9 – 10 October in Cuiabá, Brazil

15. Alexandre Sadao explaining issues of the spine to the participants of the event.

World Health Organization

16. Antonio Machado and Consuelo at the event

AOSpine Fellowship

17. Fellows from Hospital Cajuru in Brazil with Luiz Vialle and Emiliano Vialle

18. Fellows from Hospital Cajuru in Brazil with Emiliano Vialle

AOSpine Cadaveric & 3D Anatomy Course November 6–7, 2009

19. Lunch at cadaveric course

20. Participants and faculty of the course

AOSpine Principles Course in Venezuela 5–7, 2009

21. Lunch with participants

AOSpine Advances Course in Merida, Mexico November 19–21, 2009

22. Bus tour in Merida

The AOSpine community—
delivering the knowledge,
experience, and evidence to
improve patient care, patient
outcomes, and ensure cost
effective spine surgery.



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