

AOSpine Latin America Annual Report 2011



Governance

Education

Fellowships &
Spine Centers

Research

Community
Development

[AOSpine](#)—the leading global academic community for innovative education and research in spine care, inspiring lifelong learning and improving patients' lives.

AOSpine Latin America Annual Report 2011

Throughout the year of 2011, AOSLA has continued its successful educational programs and activities. The highlights included several Principles and Cadaver courses and the traditional Live Tissue course held every year in Curitiba, Brazil, as well as breaking ground in new territories AOSpine had never been before.

Relevant examples are the seminars held in the Dominican Republic and Cuba, results of the efforts of the Central American Task Force.

The launch of new projects in different areas, such as the Research Grants and the Observership program, were also remarkable achievements this year.

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Prezados amigos,

Ao final de mais um ano com significativo crescimento da nossa comunidade, podemos dizer que alcançamos com êxito a maioria dos nossos objetivos, bem como ampliamos nossas fronteiras.

Dentre esses resultados notáveis, podemos citar os 46 eventos educacionais realizados na região, e, especialmente, o bom trabalho realizado na América Central e no Caribe. Tais atividades fortaleceram os laços de amizade e camaradagem que nos levam a sólidas parcerias com várias sociedades envolvidas na patologia da coluna vertebral.

Pela primeira vez na história, um capítulo da especialidade foi organizado em Cuba e a AOSpine pôde estar inserida, fazendo parte da mudança e inclusão deste país no cenário mundial na área relacionada à coluna vertebral. Também foi realizado o primeiro evento da AOSpine na República Dominicana, fortalecendo ainda mais a participação da organização nesta região.

Além disso, encerramos os últimos dias do ano com a finalização da estruturação do ciclo base do Programa Diploma, o qual terá início no segundo trimestre de 2012 com os primeiros participantes interessados. Sem dúvidas, este projeto será de grande valia para cirurgiões de coluna, beneficiando nossos pacientes.

Na área de pesquisa, foi feita a seleção dos projetos participantes do programa de Grants 2011, os quais serão desenvolvidos nos próximos dois anos. Também avançamos com o incremento de novos centros de referência para atender nossos membros, já que os programas de Fellowships e Observerships possuem uma procura crescente.

Para o próximo ano, a perspectiva é bastante animadora, especialmente devido à organização do curso International Interactive, o qual representa a significativa participação da América Latina como sede de eventos anuais de ensino deste porte.

Além das atividades mencionadas, iniciamos um programa de intercâmbio com a Europa através de projetos de cooperação ibero-americana para 2012 e 2013. Esses programas fortalecem a relação de proximidade e de reciprocidade com o velho continente, de maneira similar ao que foi feito com a América do Norte e que será em breve realizado com o Leste Asiático.

Em nome do Conselho Regional, agradeço a todos aqueles que de uma maneira ou de outra contribuíram para atingir estas importantes conquistas e convido os demais a fazerem parte do incrível mundo da AOSpine.

Cordialmente,

Osmar Moraes
AOSpine Latin America Chairperson

Chairperson's word

Dear friends

At the end of another year with a remarkable growth of our community, we can say we have successfully achieved most of our goals, as well as expanded our borders.

Among the significant achievements, the 46 educational events conducted in the area are worth mentioning, as well as the great work developed in Central America and the Caribbean. These activities strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship, leading us to solid partnerships with various societies engaged in spine pathology.

For the first time a speciality chapter in Cuba was organized and AOSpine played a part in the development and inclusion of this country on the world stage, in the area of spine. In addition, the first AOSpine event was held in the Dominican Republic, further strengthening the participation of the societies in that region.

Furthermore, the structuring of the initial cycle of the Diploma Program, which starts in the second quarter of 2012, was accomplished in the last days of the year. The Program will undoubtedly be of great value for spine surgeons and will benefit our patients.

In the research field, a call for applications for the 2011 Grants Program has been performed, awarding projects to be developed in the next two years. Moreover, new reference centers have been improved to assist the members, who increasingly seek to take part in the Fellowship and Observership Programs.

The exciting prospect for next year of the set up of the International Interactive Courses corresponds with the participation of Latin America hosting these annual educational events.

In addition, we have started an exchange program with Europe for 2012 and 2013 through Ibero-American cooperation projects. The proximity and reciprocity with the European continent will be enhanced, as was the case with North America and which will soon follow with Asia Pacific.

On behalf of the Regional Board, I am grateful to all those who helped, in one way or another, make all these achievements possible and I would like to encourage and invite others to take part in the amazing world of AOSpine.

Kind regards,



Osmar Moraes
Chairperson AOSpine Latin America



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Governance



Elections 2011

The year 2011 featured changes at both a regional and local level. In January, Mario Taricco's term of office ended, giving Marco Medina the opportunity to assume the position as Regional Education Neuro Officer. Colombia, Argentina and Peru also went through changes in their local chapters, as listed in the table below.



The elections followed the requirements of the AOSpine Template of Governance.

Regional Board

Position	Name	Country	From	To
Education Neuro	Marco Medina	Peru	April 1, 2011	March 31, 2014

Local Chapters

Colombia

Position	Name	From	To
Education Ortho	Jaime Segura	February 1, 2011	January 31, 2014

Argentina

Position	Name	From	To
Chairperson	Michael Hinojosa	July 1, 2011	June 30, 2014

International Board

Board Member	Position	Country
Luiz Vialle	Chairperson	Brazil
Michael Janssen	Past Chairperson	USA
Germán Ochoa	Education	Colombia
Keita Ito	Research	Netherlands
Karsten Wiechert	Community Development	Germany
Alain Baumann	Executive Director	Switzerland

Regional Board

Board Member	Position	Country
Osmar Moraes	Chairperson	Brazil
Marcelo Gruenberg	Past Chairperson	Argentina
Roberto Postigo	Education (Ortho)	Chile
Marco Medina	Education (Neuro)	Peru
Emiliano Vialle	Research	Brazil
Marcelo Valacco	Community Development	Argentina
Andrés Rodríguez	Spine Centers & Fellowship	Colombia
Antonio Machado	Regional Director	Brazil

Country Councils and Delegates

Local chapters

Country	Chairperson	Education (Ortho)	Education (Neuro)	Community Development	Research
Argentina	Pedro Luis Bazán	Matías Petracchi	Juan Emmerich	Alejandro Morales	Oswaldo Romano
Bolivia	Jaime Linares	Marcelo Sea	René Torrejón	Gueider Salas	Ramiro Villavicencio
Brazil	Geraldo Sá Carneiro	Robert Meves	Ricardo Ribeiro	Carlos Tucci	Alexandre Fogaça
Chile	Samuel Pantoja	Manuel Valencia	Yokota Beuret	Enzo Mantelli	Milan Munjin
Colombia	Nestor Taboada	Jaime Segura	Néstor Guzman	Nelson Morales	Leonardo Duplat
Costa Rica	Alexander Valverde	NA	Edgar Jimenez	José Pérez	NA
Ecuador	Mario Zumarraga	Monserrat Pavón	Juan Francisco Lasso	Arturo Guerra	Fernando Davalos
Guatemala	Juan Pablo de León	Erick Rodas	Rafael de La Riva	Elio Ramirez	Erny Guerra
Mexico	Martín Tejeda	Hernando Cuevas	Aurelio Ramírez	Gustavo Casas	Felix Sanchez
Panama	Antonio Mock	Geovany Osigian	José Neira	Aldimarina López	Ricardo Mosquera
Peru	Michael Hinojosa	Carlos Cárdenas	On elections	Benjamin Castillo De La Flor	Francisco Zambrano
Venezuela	Edgar González	Luis Lara	Marlon Díaz	José Duran Dautant	James Cardona

Delegates

Argentina

Alejandro Betemps; Andrés Cervio; Eduardo Galaretto; Ernesto Bersusky; Néstor Fiore; Osvaldo Romano.

Bolivia

Carlos Urioste.

Brazil

Alexandre Sadao Iutaka; Helton Delfino; Mario Taricco.

Chile

Alejandro Urzúa; Bartolomé Marré; Omar Hernández; Patricio Bustos.

Colombia

Carlos Alberto Mora; Germán Ochoa; Pablo Vela; Ricardo Londoño; Ricardo Restrepo.

Costa Rica

Hugo Dobles; Javier Brenes; Mario Solano; Miguel Esquivel; Oscar Uribe.

Cuba

Ernesto Fleites.

Dominican Republic

Iohan Fernandez; Joel Acevedo.

Ecuador

Ernesto Vargas; Jaime Pavón; Luis Guijarro; Martha Hernandez.

El Salvador

Francisco Sansivirini.

Guatemala

Gabriel Murga; Luis Cruz; Otto Alvarado; Rafael de La Riva.

Mexico

Catarino Lopez; Federico Cisneros; Jesús Bernal; Juan Carlos Reina; Michael Dittmar; Roberto Chapa.

Nicaragua

Juan Bosco González.

Panama

Carlos Martinez; Hector Crooks; Laurent Bruggeman.

Paraguay

Juan Silva; Reddy Simon.

Peru

Alfredo Vásquez; Daniel Cauti; Hernan Valdivia; Raul Macchiavello.

Uruguay

Edgardo Spagnuolo; Oscar Carreras.

Venezuela

Daniel Onay; Jose Finocchio; Jose Otero; Manuel Alvarado; Víctor Davila.

Meetings

AOSLA Board Meetings

Meeting I – Chile February 26–27, 2011

Venue Marriot Hotel – Santiago, Chile.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Marcelo Gruenberg, Roberto Postigo, Mario Taricco, Marcelo Valacco, Emiliano Vialle, Andrés Rodríguez, Antonio Machado.

Guests Germán Ochoa, Néstor Fiore.

Industrial partner Sarah Mueller.

Topics Discussed

- AOSpine presence in academic events;
- AO Connect Presentation;
- Observership Project;
- AOLAT-Retreat Participants;
- Requirements for candidates to apply for positions within the organization;
- Diploma Project;
- General education topics.

Meeting II – Costa Rica May 4, 2011

Venue Marriot Hotel – Punta Arenas, Costa Rica.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Roberto Postigo, Marco Medina, Marcelo Valacco, Andrés Rodríguez, Antonio Machado.

Guests Germán Ochoa, Roberto Chapa.

Industrial partner Sarah Mueller.

Topics Discussed

- 2012 Business Plan;
- Current membership program status;
- Spine Centers applicants;
- Work-Project Task Force on Central America and Caribbean;
- AOSpine Curriculum Implementation.



Meeting III – Ecuador August 12–14, 2011

Venue Sheraton Hotel Ecuador – Quito, Ecuador.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Roberto Postigo, Emiliano Vialle, Marco Medina, Marcelo Valacco, Andrés Rodríguez, Antonio Machado.

Guests Patricio Zumarraga, Glayis Pavón, Elio Ramirez, Germán Ochoa.

Industrial partner Sarah Mueller.

Topics Discussed

- Implementation of uniform process for elections;
- New policies for collaboration with spine societies;
- Diploma project update;
- AOSLA Grants Project Status;
- Fellowship Program 2011 and 2012;
- Current status of memberships.

Meeting IV – Switzerland December 12, 2011

Venue Belvedere Hotel – Davos, Switzerland.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Roberto Postigo, Emiliano Vialle, Marco Medina, Andrés Rodríguez, Antonio Machado.

Industrial partner Sarah Mueller, Alfredo Granai.

Excused Marcelo Valacco.

Topics Discussed

- Educational Events 2012;
- Strategy Plan for Faculty Development;
- Curriculum Implementation.

AOSLA Community Development Workshop



For the first time, the Latin American Community Development Officers met to discuss a variety of subjects including their role definition, area of work, the importance of creating alliances with other local spine societies, ways to publicize new projects such as the AOSpine Diploma, Young Surgeons and promoting membership benefits.

The involvement of local officers was an important step in initiating the implementation of the strategic and operational plan for Community Development International.

The meeting was divided into two parts: the first one consisted of presentations from the AOSLA Boards on Research, Education, Regional and International Community Development projects, the regional action plans for 2011, and the services and support offered by the Curitiba office.

Further highlights of the first part of the meeting included the presentation of new projects such as the AOSpine Diploma and Young Surgeons, as well as presentations made by the Community Development Officers on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in their own country.

The second part consisted of workshops, in which the participants discussed various issues in smaller groups, suggesting how to move forward and setting up an action plan. The main topics discussed were: ways to better promote the membership benefits, how to engage young surgeons with AOSpine, launching of the Diploma project, competitor analysis and active search of alliances with other spine societies and associations.

This meeting constituted the first, initial step in informing regional officers, collecting their feedback and intensifying the close ties in working towards our common goal, which is to advance AOSpine's mission.



Date February 25–26, 2011

Venue Hotel Marriot – Santiago, Chile

Participants

AOSLA Board Osmar Moraes, Marcelo Gruenberg, Roberto Postigo, Andrés Rodríguez, Mario Taricco, Marcelo Valacco, Emiliano Vialle, Marco Medina, Antonio Machado.

Committee member Aldimarina López, Benjamín Castillo, Carlos Tucci, Enzo Mantelli, Erny Leal, Gueider Salas, Gustavo Casas, José Duran, José Pérez, Nelson Morales, Oscar Carreras, Reddy Simon, Alejandro Morales.

Guests Germán Ochoa, Néstor Fiore.

Industrial partner Sarah Mueller.

A meeting of the Latin American Community Development Officers was held for the very first time. This meeting took place in the city of Santiago de Chile and raised a real awareness about the functions of the area among the participants. The meeting offered the possibility to analyze the reality of each country regarding their difficulties, membership growth and the possibilities of establishing bonds with academic institutions. By the end of the meeting, the participants affirmed they had gained a better knowledge on which function to perform within the organization, having the feeling of “ambassadors” of Community Development in their countries.

Marcelo Valacco



IV AOLAT Faculty Retreat

The IV AOLAT Faculty Retreat was performed with the aim of integrating all specialties of AO Latin America to debate about educational issues of common interest. This meeting certainly served to create a strong platform for future educational strategy in the region.

Date May 3–7, 2011

Venue Punta Arenas, Costa Rica

AOSLA Central American and Caribbean Task Force



Beginning the activities in his new position as Central America Task Force Chairperson, Roberto Chapa chaired this important meeting, continuing the work previously initiated by Germán Ochoa. Guatemala, Panamá, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador all participated in it, reinforcing their commitment to support the organization in the development of AOSpine activities, as well as in the cooperation projects with local academic organizations.

Date May 26, 2011

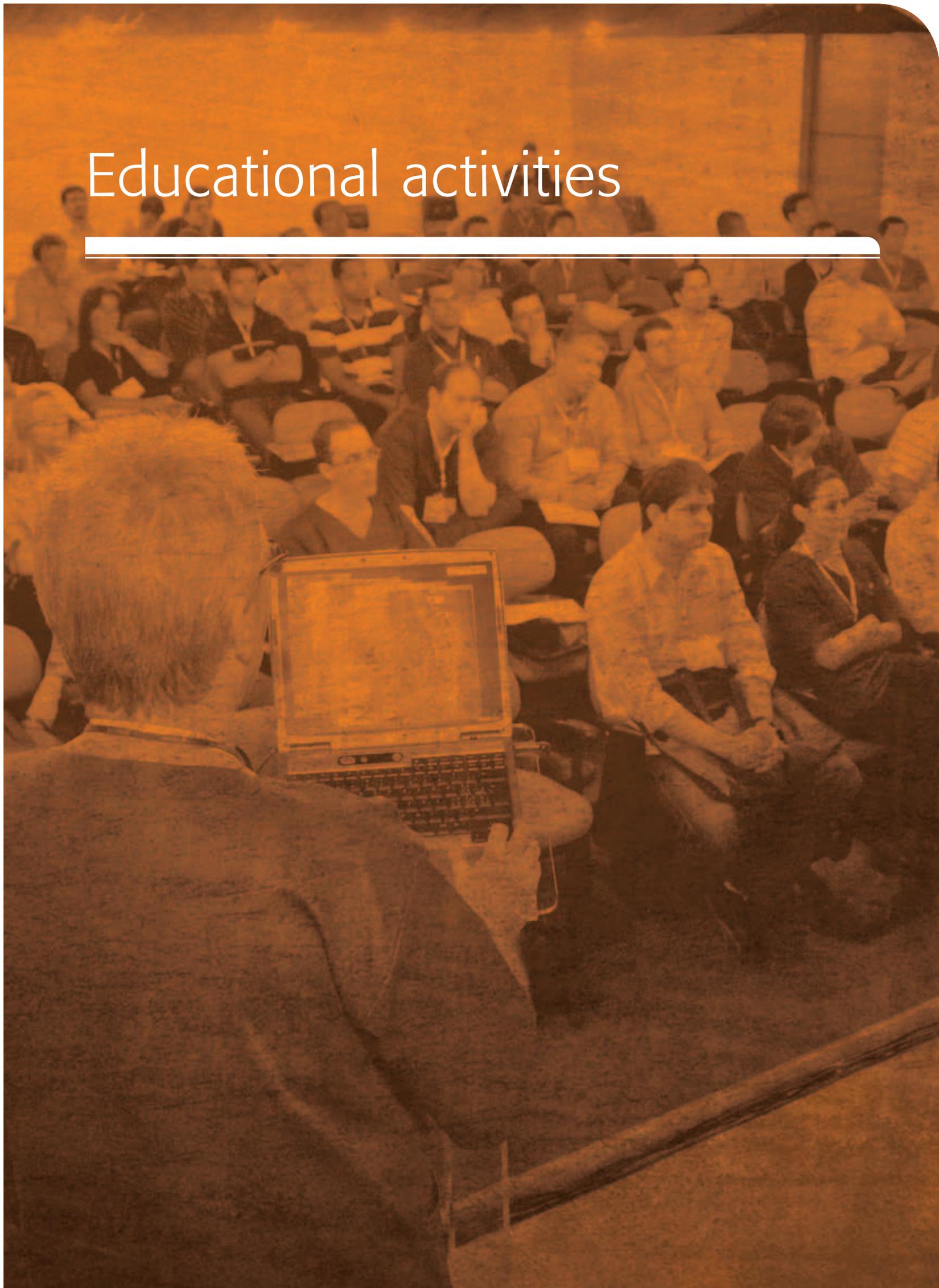
Venue Panama, Panama

Participants Roberto Chapa, Germán Ochoa, Antonio Machado, Luana Torres, Juan Pablo de León Palacios, Antonio Mock, Alexander Valverde, Joel Acevedo, Iohan Fernandez, Ernesto Fleitas, Juan Bosco González, Francisco Sansivirini.

The meeting proved to be very fruitful with

positive results, such as two academic events being held in countries which had never before hosted an AOSpine event, namely Cuba and Dominican Republic. As for the plans for the coming years, the Task Force has been working on integrating the afore mentioned countries in to the calendar of annual activities, as well as incorporating El Salvador and Nicaragua in to the group. The creation of a CA & Caribbean chapter is also under analysis, aiming to increase the area's representation in the community and boosting the development of the region as a whole.

Educational activities



Education—Neuro officer's word

Dear friends and colleagues,

The year 2011 has been a year full of expectations and challenges. We have developed a very ambitious courses program in our region, addressing all the variants including cadaver courses and seminars which cover the most diverse aspects related to spine surgery, always in an attempt to meet the growing need for Education in all our member countries.

We have especially invested in the seminars, which involve short, one-day activities. Besides allowing us to optimize our resources, the seminars are in high demand in the region due to their versatility. It is important to note the growth we have had with the virtual courses (online), created by Germán Ochoa and Néstor Fiore four years ago. Due to their characteristics, these courses have allowed us to get closer to our members with our educational programs, being recognized as a very valuable tool by the participants. The Virtual Course strengthens the continued interactivity which we believe is a fundamental part of the educational strategy that should be developed.

We can clearly see the results of how these activities have contributed to developing many of the local chapters, such as Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, among others.

A special note must also be made of the 4 Flags Course, held in the city of Foz do Iguazu, which successfully implemented the possibilities of joint work among the countries of the area.

Furthermore, an Education Task Force tirelessly continues the work related to the Diploma project, the educational program certified by AOSpine dedicated to the spine, constituted of three cycles of progressive specialization.

Our commitment with AOSpine goes on with the certainty that though the work is hard, the efforts are rewarded through the realization of how much our community has grown and how our members are fortified in their professional practice, crowning patient care with excellence.

The recognition of the work of the AOSLA Curitiba Office is also fundamental for our achievements.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the possibility and trust given to me in holding the position of Education Neuro Officer in the Latin American Board since April 2010. It is my commitment to contribute to the growth of AOSpine.

Warm regards,



Marco Medina

AOSpine Latin America – Education (Neuro)



Education—Ortho officer's word

Dear friends,

As Education Ortho Officer, it is my wish to send you my warm and kind regards at the end of 2011. I thank all of you who are part of the AOSpine family for your support, be it as a Participant or as Faculty in our diverse educational agenda.

This year we, once more, achieved the execution of several courses, symposia and seminars at basic, advanced and masters levels. We also successfully concluded the advanced level Virtual Course, with a very high rate of participation at around 150 students in each course. Furthermore, we carried out very successful and high quality cadaver courses in La Plata, Monterrey and Santiago de Chile. For the first time, we have reached Cuba with a basic level course. The permanent interest of the spine community, from both orthopedic and neurosurgery fields, gives us the necessary energy to continue on this path and drives us to continue to improve and renew.

It is precisely because of this need to improve, that we initiated new educational projects this year with appropriate levels, similar to the ISO certification of the companies. In the next items I will briefly detail the actions undertaken in this direction:

- Implementation of the AOSpine Curriculum. This refers to a list of educational competencies and objectives based on the four AO principles, which are divided into six pathology groups: Trauma, Deformity, Tumor, Degenerative, Infection and Metabolic-Inflammatory-Genetic. The main objective is to assure the delivery of these competencies at the different levels of specialization – basic, advanced and masters.
- We very successfully began the implementation of AOSpine Curriculum in basic courses in Recife and La Paz. Together with the implementation, a self-assessment questionnaire is taken online, before and after the course, as a manner of evaluating the impact of the educational event on the students. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge everyone to complete the assessments in the requested time.
- We are finishing the first cycle of the Diploma Program, which consists of an online and face-to-face course which certifies those participants who complete it with an AOSpine Diploma and are approved in the final test. This program, which is unique in the world, will be launched in the first quarter of 2012. In accordance with the AOSpine structure, it is composed of three levels of complexity: principles, advanced and masters. It is also based in the four AOSpine principles and it is divided in the same six pathologies as AOSpine Curriculum, with the addition of Anatomy and Biomechanics. The educational program will be available for whoever wants to be enrolled, with the sole requirement of being an AOSpine member.
- For 2012, a large numbers of courses and seminars are expected, including a Davos Course outside Davos, to be held for the first time in Latin America, in Buenos Aires. This event will expect to feature the most important specialists in the world.

Finally, we are not expecting any changes in regard to the selling of Synthes to Johnson & Johnson, and this will remain so for the next few years. Our work resides in our quality in education and our position as the number 1 in this, making AOSpine a desirable and important organization for any company. This is the way chosen by the Board to assure the future of the organization.

With warm regards,



Roberto Postigo
AOSpine Latin America – Education (Ortho)



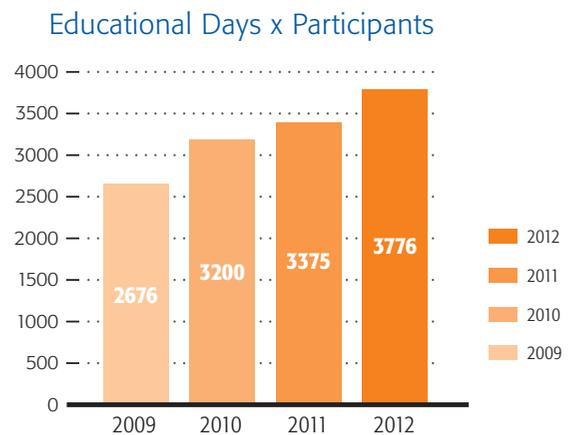
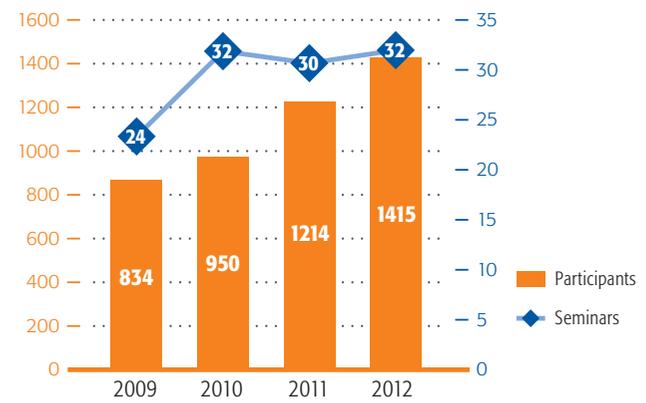
Courses and Seminars

Once more, AOSpine produced an academic evolution in Latin America as detailed in the charts below. Important academic, cadaver and live surgery courses were performed in different countries of the region and created important opportunities for progressive activities in the next year.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Courses	11	15	16	14
Participants	570	836	745**	573**
Seminars	24	32	30	32
Participants	834	950	1214*	1415*
Educational events	35	47	46	46
Participants	1404	1786	1959	1988
Educational Days X Participants	2676	3200	3379	3776

*2011-AOSLA Virtual Course: 5 modules X 2 hours considered as 1 seminar and 2 educational days. Total: 188 participants
 **2011-Faculty Training: 35. Chairperson Training: 15.

*2012-AOSLA Virtual Course: 6 modules X 2 hours considered as 1 seminar and 2 educational days. Total: 200 participants.
 **2012-Faculty Training: 28.



AOSpine Seminar: Residents & Fellows

The main goal this seminar was to spread knowledge, experience and medical evidence, establishing important values in the handling of patients with spine and spinal cord diseases. The event was held in São Paulo, Brazil, on February 4th-5th, in the hotel Transamérica Prime.

A Faculty group, coordinated by Mario Taricco as Chairperson, showed the neurosurgery and orthopedics residents the importance of this knowledge in medical practice.



Date February 04–05, 2011
Venue Flat Transamérica Prime Hotel – Campinas, Brazil
Chairperson Mario Taricco.
National Faculty Alberto Capel, Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Carlos Tucci, Eduardo Von Uhlendorff, Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha, Mauro Volpi, Osmar Moraes, Robert Meves, Roger Brock, William Teixeira.
Registration fee AOSpine Members and Non Members: USD 59 | Residents and Fellows: USD 29.50
Number of participants 85



Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,44 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,30 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,68 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,35 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,39 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,48 out of 5

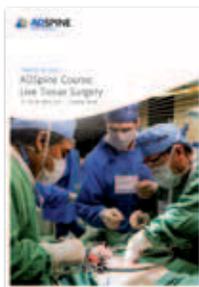
AOSpine Course: Live Tissue Surgery



Now in its fourth edition, this course was held in order to offer as much opportunity as possible to practice spine surgery on animal specimen. The organizers of this successful course developed a module for posterior approaches giving the participants the opportunity to practice complex osteotomies and vertebral resection procedures.

The anterior approach to the thoracic and lumbar spine was also practiced. This last method is no longer an exception in complex spine pathologies and is now used in the daily routine of the surgeon.

The Faculty group and participants discussed the risks of these procedures, possible complications, as well as immediate to late post-surgical management.



Date April 15–16, 2011
Venue Universidade Católica do Paraná-PUC PR – Curitiba, Brazil
Chairperson Emiliano Vialle.
Ed Director Luiz Roberto Vialle.
Regional Faculty Andrés Rodríguez-Múnera (Colombia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina).
National Faculty José Augusto Araújo, Nelson Bergonse, Ricardo Ribeiro, Carlos Del Valle, Carla Menini-Stahlschmidt, William Teixeira, Eduardo Von Uhlendorff, Christiano Simões.
Faculty Assistant Camila Deneka, Ramon Ferreira, Nicolás E. González Masanés, Chárbel Jacob Júnior, Allan Kato, Diego Loza Zapata, Francisco José Zaniolo, Luiz Avila, Lucas de Almeida Vieira.
Registration fee AOSpine Members: USD 1,185 | AOSpine Non Members USD 1,488
Number of participants 41

“This year, besides working with anterior approaches, we have chosen to make a module about complex procedures in posterior approaches. We also successfully included osteotomies practical activities and block resection of vertebral body, showing some of the tricks and details of these procedures.”

Emiliano Vialle

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,64 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,54 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,80 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,72 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,88 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,96 out of 5



AOSpine Seminar: Infections and Tumors

The main objective of this seminar was to approach issues such as spinal tumor pathology, spinal and neurological clinical generalities and their treatments. This was achieved through didactic clinical case discussions as well as giving an overview of spinal infections, prophylaxis and surgical and medical treatment recommendations.

The Faculty group offered specific solutions and suggestions and clarified questions about tumors and infectious diseases at the spinal level.



Date April 16, 2011
Venue Novotel Hotel – Lima, Peru
Chairperson Marco Medina.
Regional Faculty Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osmar Moraes (Brazil).
National Faculty Alejandro Diaz Calvo, Arturo Morales, Carlos Cárdenas, Fernando Gomez Matos, Jesús Robles Reclade, Marleny Llerena.
Registration fee Members AOSpine: USD 20 | Non members AOSpine: USD 100
Number of participants 26

Course Evaluation

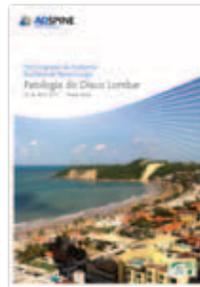
Average Faculty Performance	3,94 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,09 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,40 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,60 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,30 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,10 out of 5

Pre-Congress of the Brazilian Academy of Neurosurgery



Confirming AOSpine’s recognition in Brazil as an academic spine institution, the Brazilian Academy of Neurosurgery gave the opportunity to host this event within the program of its annual congress.

The AOSpine Brazilian Chapter organized this seminar with the aims of debunking myths about the discogenic disease, reaching a consensus on how to identify the source of pain, when it is necessary to operate and when it is necessary to add anterior support, as well as other topics.



Date April 20, 2011
Venue Natal Convention Center – Natal Brazil
Chairpersons Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil).
National Faculty Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Carlos Tucci, Jeronimo Milano, Julio Lustosa, Mario Taricco, Ronald Farias.
Registration fee USD 50
Number of participants 93

Course Evaluation

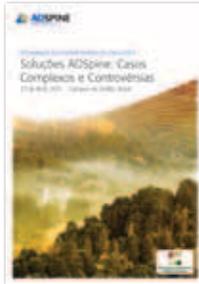
Average Faculty Performance	4,19 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,28 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,77 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,15 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,36 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,48 out of 5

AOSpine Symposium: Complex Cases and Controversies

Thanks to the good relationship maintained with the Brazilian Spine Society, this Pre-Congress was held as the opening to its XIII Congress.

The event featured the participation of renowned national and international Faculty. The Faculty discussed pressing issues, including topics such as occipitocervical instability, cervical kyphosis, sagittal imbalance, transactional syndromes and revision surgeries, among others.

It was the perfect occasion to share the vision of AOSpine with 126 spine surgeons and to explain more about the organization and the benefits of the membership program.



Date April 27, 2011
Venue Campos do Jordão Convention Center – Campos do Jordão, Brazil
Chairpersons Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Geraldo Sá (Brazil), Luiz Vialle (Brazil).
International Faculty Max Aebi (Switzerland), Carlo Bellabarba (USA), Michael Mayer (Germany), Daniel Riew (USA).
National Faculty Ricardo Ribeiro, Alexandre Fogaça, Robert Meves, Alexandre Sadao, Carlos Tucci.
Registration fee USD 200
Number of participants 126

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,50 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,56 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,92 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,73 out of 5



AOSpine Seminar: Trauma, Cervical Myelopathy and Frequent Deformities

This very successful seminar aimed at giving local members more opportunity to participate by holding the event outside of the larger cities. The Chairperson developed a seminar program that approached the most frequent problems of spinal pathology in the region. The event was characterized by concise presentations that reinforced the AOSpine philosophy and discussions of typical cases which served as an exchange of views on the basic principles of spinal trauma, cervical myelopathy and some common deformities.



Date April 29–30, 2011
Venue Herradura Hotel – Neuquén, Argentina
Chairperson Pedro Luis Bazán.
Director Local Alejandro Passarelli.
National Faculty Cristian Illanes, Lucas Rueda, Osvaldo Romano.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 50

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,62 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,63 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,80 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,13 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,60 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,60 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Minimally Invasive Surgery

The AOSpine Guatemala Chapter shared their experiences using different minimally invasive techniques to solve degenerative spine problems with the participants of this seminar. Today, minimally invasive surgery is considered the surgery of the future and, as specialists in the management of spine problems, spine surgeons must know these procedures for the patients benefit.



This time technical aspects of the thoracolumbar trauma management were also discussed, as it remains an important pathology in the daily routine of the spine specialists. Also important were the discussions on learning about degenerative cervical spine, artificial disk usage, its results and advantages.

Date May 06, 2011
Venue Barceló Hotel – Guatemala, Guatemala
Chairperson Julio Pozuelos Lopez.
Regional Faculty Pablo Vela (Colombia).
National Faculty Alvaro Collia Züger, Erick Rodas, Luis Cruz Sánchez, Oscar Aníbal Pozuelos Villavicencio, Rafael De la Riva Rohrmoser.
Registration fee Members: USD 50 | Non Members: USD 60
Number of participants 32

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,70 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,65 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,71 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,25 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,75 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,75 out of 5

AOSpine Master Symposium: Aging Spine

The objective of the Chairperson and Faculty group that organized this seminar was to instigate and promote an ongoing scientific interest with the orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons in this country. The event also aimed at stimulating a continuous and growing strengthening of diagnosis and treatment alternatives of different spine diseases in the elderly, especially those resulting from degenerative processes. Likewise, it aimed at developing closer scientific and academic ties through an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie.



This symposium was also focused on attaining and spreading knowledge in the field of spine aging pathology and the pathology of the vertebral column in the elderly, through the discussions of clinical cases and the review of progress in orthopedic and surgical treatment.

Date May 13–14, 2011
Venue NH Guadalajara Collection Hotel – Guadalajara, México
Chairperson Hernando Cuevas Ochoa
International Faculty John France (USA).
Regional Faculty Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez (Perú), Aliro San Martín (Chile).
National Faculty Martín Tejeda, Roberto Chapa, Gustavo Casas, Jesús Bernal, Aurelio Ramírez, Leonardo X Gutierrez.
Registration fee USD 300
Number of participants 55

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	3,96 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,30 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,80 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,70 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,50 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,60 out of 5



AOSpine Seminar: Update in the Therapeutic Management of Deformities

The third seminar held in Uruguay provided an opportunity to share and openly discuss the expertise of both the Faculty and the participants in the treatment of deformities.

The objective was the presentation of complex, but real, cases in order to collect a range of opinions and provide alternatives in the debate, which were then reflected in the results. Idiopathic scoliosis, congenital scoliosis, Scheuermann's kyphosis and scoliosis adults were the main topics discussed during this seminar.



Date May 21, 2011
Venue Sheraton Hotel – Montevideo, Uruguay
Chairperson Oscar Carreras.
Regional Faculty Eduardo Galaretto (Argentina).
National Faculty Alejandro Cuneo, Asdrúbal Silveri, Carlos Rocca Siri, Fernando Garcia, Fernando Nin, Jorge Santo, Washington Bermudez.
Registration fee Members: USD 50 | Non Members: USD 100
Number of participants 23

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,27 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,29 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,33 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,00 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,67 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,67 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Lumbar | Trauma | Degenerative | Tumoral | Deformity

This seminar was dedicated to the pathologies of the lumbar region and its main objectives were: to update the latest tendencies in the management of degenerative pathology of the lumbar region; to expand knowledge in the current management of the lumbar pathology through minimally invasive surgery; to present, analyze and discuss complex pathology cases such as tumors, osteoporosis and lumbar deformities; to discuss clinical cases and to attend presentations on controversial subjects and complex issues in the management of spine trauma.



Date May 27–28, 2011
Venue Intercontinental Hotel – Medellín, Colombia
Chairperson Ricardo Restrepo.
Regional Faculty Roberto Postigo (Chile).
National Faculty Carlos Yepes, Jaime Segura, Javier Matta, Luis Arango, Miguel Berbeo, Nelson Morales, Nestor Guzman, Nestor Taboada, Nicolas Prada, Roberto Diaz.
Registration fee Members: USD 380 | Non members USD 542
Number of participants 45



Central America AOSpine Symposium: Controversies in Spine Surgery, What does the evidence say?

A new chapter in the history of AOSpine was written with the consolidation of practical and scientific knowledge in Central America. This was underlined with a symposium that allowed the AOSpine philosophy to be spread in Central America, and to share the experience in the diagnosis and treatment of spinal pathology more often faced in the daily practice.

This new activity was an important opportunity to discuss how different issues are resolved, as well as to apply evidence-based medicine to accentuate, improve and propose a more uniform view of this topic among spine surgeons of the region.

This symposium offered the first steps towards the integration of Central America, through the participation of the first three Chapters of the isthmus.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,77 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,94 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,92 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,62 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,83 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,84 out of 5

Date May 27–28, 2011

Venue Riu Plaza Hotel – Panama City, Panama

Chairpersons Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica), Juan Pablo De León Palacios (Guatemala), Raúl Arjona (Panama).

Educational Director Roberto Chapa (México).

Regional Faculty Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osmar Moraes (Brazil).

Local Faculty Antonio Mock (Panama), Carlos Briceño Sarasqueta (Panama), Mario Solano Salas (Costa Rica), Rafael De la Riva Rohrmoser (Guatemala).

Registration fee Members: USD 350 | Non Members: USD 400

Number of participants 28

AOSpine Symposium: From Biomechanics to Therapeutics – Trauma and Degenerative

Biomechanics is the basis of the logical reasoning in dealing with diagnostics and surgical topics. The discussion of the topic is the driving force behind the creation of this symposium.

The objective was to identify the strengths of the anterior thoracolumbar trauma approach and when this approach would be best recommended. The cauda equina syndrome was analyzed in detail - although an uncommon disease, it is always an emergency.

The Chairperson of the symposium illustrated a more scientific and less colloquial analysis, concerning the recurrent topic of lumbar instability.



Date June 03–04, 2011

Venue Cumbres Patagónicas Hotel – Puerto Varas, Chile

Chairperson Milan Munjin.

Educational Director Mario Taricco (Brazil).

International Faculty Michael Grevitt (United Kingdom).

Regional Faculty Matías Petracchi (Argentina).

National Faculty Aliro San Martin, Álvaro Silva, Carlos Thibaut, Enzo Mantelli, José Fleiderman, José Vicente Ballesteros Plaza, Juan Jose Zamorano, Manuel Valencia, Omar Hernández, Patricio Bustos, Roberto Postigo, Samuel Pantoja.

Registration fee Members USD 80 | Non members USD 150

Number of participants 21

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,38 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,41 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,72 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,06 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,78 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,72 out of 5



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Thoracolumbar Fractures

The objectives of this seminar were to raise awareness of the thoracolumbar fracture classification; to standardize the criteria for medical and surgical treatment of thoracolumbar fractures; to share knowledge on treatment algorithms; as well as to present the current management of spinal cord injuries and the improvement of rehabilitation therapy for patients with this pathology.



The trauma of the spine is a major challenge faced by spine surgeons in the region on a daily basis due to the increase in car accidents, accidents at work or at home. The increasing numbers coming to health services mean a large responsibility in identifying, diagnosing, referring or resolving cases. The continued education is supported and encouraged through the implementation of specialized seminars based on a methodology that facilitates constructive discussion and the standardization of criteria to provide a better learning environment and also to extend patient care for recovery from their injury and to minimize sequelae.

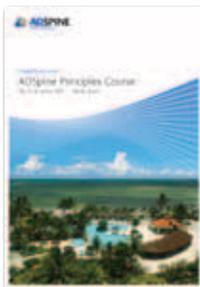
Date June 03, 2011
Venue Real Intercontinental Hotel – San Jose, Costa Rica
Chairperson Javier Gutierrez.
Regional Faculty Bartolomé Marré (Chile).
National Faculty Alexander Valverde, Edgar Jiménez Masis, Javier Brenes, Mario Solano, Paula Valverde.
Registration fee USD 125
Number of participants 29

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,26 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,42 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,80 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,67 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,90 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,60 out of 5

AOSpine Principles Course

This course aimed to address the principles, concepts, classifications and treatments of various diseases of the spine which are important tools for learning about spinal surgery and will impact on doctors' daily practice.



These points were demonstrated through presentations, interactive case discussions with expert Faculty. Implant techniques were shown through workshops on plastic bones.

At the end of the course, participants were acquainted with the AOSpine principles for treatment of traumatic and degenerative diseases of the spine as well as knowing the best evidence for conservative and surgical treatment of common pathologies of the spine.

Date June 09–11, 2011
Venue Vila Galé Eco Resort – Recife, Brazil
Chairperson Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil).
Educational Director Roberto Postigo (Chile).
Co-Chairperson Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil).
Regional Faculty Juan Pablo de León Palacios (Guatemala).
National Faculty Ricardo Botelho, Henry Dan Kiyomoto, Alexandre Fogaça, Robert Meves, Jerônimo Milano, Carlos Tucci, Emiliano Vialle, Mauro Volpi.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,19 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,28 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,77 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,15 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,36 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,48 out of 5

Instrutores de Mesa Juliano Chaves, Jacks Alan de Souza, Cláudio Falcão, Rodrigo Medeiros, Saul Quinino, Túlio Rangel.

Faculty Internacional Ivo Schauwecker (Suíça). **Evento** Investigação Clínica: Da Idéia à Publicação

Registration fee Members: USD 1,600 | Non Members: USD 1,750

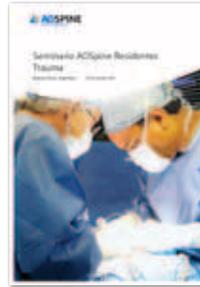
Number of participants 51



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Thoracolumbar Trauma

Based on concise presentations and discussions of typical cases, the participants of the seminar had the opportunity to exchange their views on the basic principles of spinal trauma. Participants and Faculty were able to share experiences in a relaxed atmosphere, what provided an enriching opportunity for all.

The Argentinean Society of Spine Pathology supported this seminar, the main objective of which, was to teach how to diagnose, examine and classify the raquimedular injured patients; to master the principles of AOSpine classification; to review other classifications used today and to learn current approaches to the treatment.



Date June 14, 2011
Venue Instituto de Rehabilitación Psicofísica – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Chairperson Alejandro Betemps.
National Faculty Alvaro Borri, Carlos Mounier, Marcelo Gruenberg, Pedro Luis Bazán.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 35

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,67 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,61 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,67 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,52 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,24 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,55 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Pre-Congress AMCICO – Redaction of Medical Writing

The seminar was held as part of the activities for the XII National Congress AMCICO. The subject of this training-workshop was to understand the redaction of medical writing, with the purpose of providing the basic tools needed to develop the writing about the experiences and concerns within the field. The aim was to shape the knowledge and output being shared with the rest of the community in an orderly and systematic way, meeting the requirements of the international journals.



Date June 22, 2011
Venue Hilton Cancun Golf & Spa Resort – Cancún, México
Chairperson Martín Tejeda.
National Faculty José Jiménez, Ana Contreras.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 26

This training workshop was guided by Ana Maria Contrera, PhD in Public Health Sciences at the University of Guadalajara and author of the Handbook of Science Writing, who brought extensive experience in these types of workshops.

Hopefully, these kinds of workshops will help to increase the number of publications within the region.



AOSpine Seminar: Pre-Congress International Congress of Orthopedics and Traumatology

Through the hard work of the Central American Task Force and its Chairperson Robert Chapa, the seminar was held as part of the 12th International Congress of the Dominican Republic Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology.

The seminar focused on the topics of degenerative diseases and trauma and featured the outstanding participation of 106 surgeons, who shared their experiences with both the regional and national Faculty groups.



Date June 23, 2011
Venue Be Live Marien Hotel – Puerto Plata, República Dominicana
Chairperson Roberto Chapa.
Regional Faculty Matias Petracchi (Argentina), Pablo Vela (Colombia).
National Faculty Adriano Valdez Russo, Iohan Fernández, Joel Acevedo, Piero Perrone, Richard Lopez.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 106

This seminar, conducted as part of the Dominican Republic Congress of Orthopedics, reminded me of the beginning of the spine era in AO. As a group and individually, we recognized a great interest on the part of the participants on the issues being presented, as well as in the discussions of clinical cases that is, in manner and style, characteristic of AOSpine. The success that we obtained would definitely not have been possible without the help and support of the local Faculty and the Orthopedics Society, with whom we were able to establish a great, friendly relationship that will permit us to continue developing similar events in the near future.

Roberto chapa

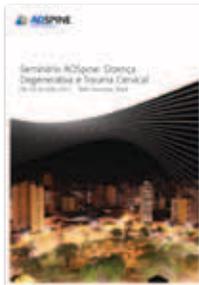


Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,78 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,52 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,93 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,29 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,86 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,85 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Cervical Degenerative Disease and Trauma

The Chairperson of this seminar sought to structure this event in a way to allow greater interaction between the Faculty and participants. This intent was achieved through the discussion of more clinical cases and fewer lectures, focusing on how to evaluate patients and exams in more complicated procedures through the help of expert surgeons' advice.

The main objective here was to consolidate principles and surgical techniques based on the highest quality evidence in the literature. The main subjects discussed were craniocervical transition surgery and how to evaluate the course of the vertebral artery craniocervical, among others.



Date July 08–09, 2011
Venue Royal Golden Hotel – Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Chairperson Alexandre Sadao Iutaka.
Co-Chairperson Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil).
National Faculty Cristiano Menezes, Fabiano Canto, Fernando Dantas, Jefferson Soares Leal, Jerônimo Milano, Rogério Resede.
Registration fee Members: Free | Non Members: USD 100
Number of participants 23



Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,78 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,76 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,91 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,40 out of 5
Course Facilities	5,00 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,91 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Cervical and Thoracolumbar Trauma

This seminar was held in order to exchange ideas in an interactive manner. The aim was to approach the various problems faced by the surgeons when trying to work for the benefit of the patients. It attempted to clarify the controversies about the diagnosis and medical-surgical treatment of the cervical and thoracolumbar pathology.

The Chairperson used the active contribution of the participants and Faculty in the discussion as the key to engaging the subject, which led to the great success of this important event. The main topic of discussion was the management of clinical cases and their strategies for solving them.



Date July 09, 2011
Venue Caribay Hotel – Merida, Venezuela
Chairperson Edgar González.
National Faculty Albaro Barrera, James Cardona, José Chacón, José Duran Dautant, Luis Lara, Marlon Díaz, Pablo Vasconez.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 45

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,04 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,23 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,73 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,95 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	3,73 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,29 out of 5

AOSpine Principles Course

This type of course is an excellent opportunity for those who are getting started in the spine world. The modular format of this course allowed the participant to have a step-by-step learning experience about the treatment of spinal pathology through presentations on specific topics, workshops and clinical case discussions that improved the skills of those who were present.

The main objective was to obtain basic knowledge on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases that most commonly affect the spine, specific surgical techniques, recommendations and counter-recommendations for surgery as well as knowledge on the complications that may arise in the management of spinal pathologies.



Date July 14–16, 2011
Venue Mexico City Marriott Reforma Hotel – Mexico City, Mexico
Chairperson Aurelio Ramírez.
Educational Director Pablo Vela (Colombia).
Regional Faculty Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Marco Medina (Peru), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Carlos Tucci (Brazil).
National Faculty Alejandro Reyes-Sanchez, Gustavo Casas, Hernando Cuevas, Hugo Vilchis Sámano, Ismael Cruz, Jesús Bernal, Jorge Cabrera, Martín Tejeda, Oscar Martínez, Roberto Chapa.
Registration fee USD 500
Number of participants 58

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,51 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,87 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,92 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,32 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,53 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,71 out of 5

AOSpine Principles Course

The main mission of this course was to involve the participants in the interesting issue of the most common spine pathologies, such as degeneration and traumatic conditions.

Workshops on practical skills accompanied the course, with highly experienced surgeons helping the participants by revealing the little secrets that make the difference during surgery.

The regional and national Faculty that accompanied this course were crucial to achieving its objective by sharing their knowledge with the participants and helping to clarify their doubts.



Date July 29–30, 2011
Venue Crown Plaza Hotel – Torreón, Mexico
Chairperson Michael Dittmar.
Educational Director Roberto Chapa (México).
Regional Faculty Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Ricardo Restrepo (Colombia).
National Faculty Alejandro Gallegos Balderas, Jose Antonio Candelas Rangel, Martín Tejada.
Registration fee USD 300
Number of participants 40



Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,61 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,50 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	5,00 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,84 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,84 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,83 out of 5

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Deformities

This seminar was conducted with the intention of sharing and discussing this pathology of the spine in order to approach the most current concepts about the topic, thus being able to offer them to the patients.

On this occasion the Faculty discussed issues related to spinal deformity, with the objective of covering those pathologies that occur most often from childhood to adulthood.

Interactive discussion between the public and the faculty were used as the platform for this event. The organizers held a seminar based on clinical case discussion and presentations related to it, in order to discuss the subject and give some final messages to participants.



Date August 12, 2011
Venue Real Intercontinental Hotel – San Jose, Costa Rica
Chairperson Alexander Valverde.
Regional Faculty Roberto Chapa (México).
National Faculty Cecilia Bolaños Loría, Edgar Jiménez Masís, Javier Gutiérrez Bonilla, Juan Carlos Fernández Sánchez, Mario Solano Salas, Max Méndez Salazar, Patricio Álvarez Cosmelli.
Registration fee USD 125
Number of participants 28

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,51 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,49 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,95 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,64 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,91 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,90 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Disease

It was with great satisfaction that Monserrath Pavón, Chairperson of this seminar, organized this event. She was able to take advantage of the presence of the regional Board, who were in their third annual meeting and were able to share their knowledge with the group of participants. The program was based around the most common problems of the spine. Interaction between participants and the Faculty group provided updated conclusions and a foundation for clinical cases based on the discussed evidences.



Another objective was to identify methods, diagnostics and treatment options for the most common diseases of the spine and a unified criteria for the management of the problems faced in daily practice, besides other subjects related to degenerative deformity.



Date August 13, 2011
Venue Sheraton Quito Hotel – Quito, Ecuador
Chairperson Monserrath Pavón.
Regional Faculty Andrés Rodríguez-Munera (Colombia), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Marco Medina (Peru), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Roberto Postigo (Chile).
National Faculty Elio Ramirez, Mario Patricio Zumarraga Velasco.
Registration fee Members: Free / Non Members: USD 100
Number of participants 10

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,76 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,70 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,83 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,17 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,67 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,84 out of 5

AOSpine Cadaver Course

This course was held in order to generate new perspectives in the practical and theoretical development of some important techniques in the surgical management of advanced diseases of the spine. The event was hosted in a friendly atmosphere of mutual cooperation, with the characteristic AOSpine academic activities, to help contribute in developing the best medical practice and access to quality health care for all patients.



The learning experience was focused on a practical level, demonstrating advanced surgical techniques in the management of various spine pathologies which allowed participants to become familiar with the advanced surgical instrumentation and learn the proper techniques to use them.

Date August 18–19, 2011
Venue Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Chile – Santiago, Chile
Chairperson Roberto Postigo (Brazil).
National Faculty Andrés Chahin, Aliro San Martín, Dennis Witt, Manuel Valencia, Marcos Ganga, Miguel Plaza de los Reyes, Roberto Larrondo, Samuel Pantoja, Lyonel Beaulieu.
Registration fee Members: 1,500 / Non Members: USD 1,600
Number of participants 24

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,26 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,29 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,39 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,06 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	3,83 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,05 out of 5



Advanced Symposium 4 Flags AOSpine: Usual problems, Fresh Approach



Date August 25–27, 2011
Venue Mabú Thermas & Resort – Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil
Chairpersons Alejandro Betemps (Argentina), Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil), Oscar Carreras (Uruguay), Reddy Simon (Paraguay).
Educational Director Néstor Fiore (Argentina).

AOSLA bundled the educational resources of the four southern countries of the region – Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay – to create a great event that featured a renowned group of international and regional Faculty, who organized this fantastic event and shared their vast experience with an audience comprised of participants from these four countries.



Very rarely is there a meeting held in a beautiful location with distinguished international Faculty hosted by a multi-national organization dedicated to advance concepts in spinal care. AOSpine Latin America has delivered a premier academic course hosted by motivated and talented surgeons from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Such an academic venue should be repeated in the future due to its great success. I had a wonderful and educational experience.

Alexander Vaccaro

Topics that require constant updating were discussed by all in order to share different ideas and incorporate new concepts for the treatment of patients.

On the second day, four groups were formed and assigned to separate rooms, each one of them addressing a different pathology.

Each room discussed the cases presented by the participants with the help of an international Faculty, being the first course in the region to perform this format of activity.

Internacional Faculty Alexander Vaccaro (USA), Carlos Villas (España), Kenneth Cheung (Hong Kong), Michel Onimus (Francia).
Local Faculty Alexandre Sadao (Brazil), Carlos Tucci (Brazil), Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Robert Meves (Brazil).
National Faculty Elio Ramirez, Mario Patricio Zumarraga Velasco.
Registration fee Members: USD 500 | Non Members: USD 600
Number of participants 126

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,51 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,49 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,50 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,24 out of 5

At the end of this three-day symposium, the 126 participants were inspired to continue learning and researching on the exciting field of spinal pathology.



The 4 Flags Symposium meant a valuable experience in terms of learning and maturity for me, learning through other professionals' experiences to better direct my treatment of difficult patients. Likewise, the extensive qualification of the international Faculty meant we were able to understand their ideas and learn how we can solve complicated cases, thus making the treatment of such cases easier in our clinical and surgical practice.

Antonio Carvajal
Participant

AOSpine Seminar: Cervical Trauma

The Chairperson took the large increase in the number of traffic accidents in his country into account when choosing the topics to be discussed. "Traumatic injuries of the cervical spine are an increasingly frequent cause for consultation in our assistance centers", says Dr. Mantelli.

This was the motivation behind this training seminar, as well as to update the knowledge of participants and Faculty through discussing clinical cases presented in an engaging manner.

Among the main objectives was to spread the AOSpine classification of traumatic cervical spine injuries and to update and spread the cervical C1-C2 rotational.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,50 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,63 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,61 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,39 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,70 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,57 out of 5

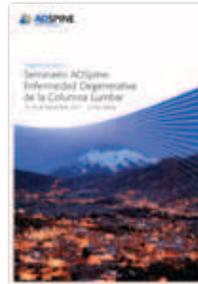
Date September 10, 2011
Venue Atton Las Condes Hotel – Santiago, Chile
Chairperson Enzo Mantelli.
Regional Faculty Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil).
National Faculty Aliro San Martín, Alvaro Silva, Bartolomé Marre, Fernando Duran, Dennis Witt, Ignacio Dockendorff, José Antonio Espinoza, José Fleiderman, Juan Pablo Otto, Karen Weissman, Manuel Valencia, Marcelo Molina, Marcelo Perez, Marcos Ganga, Milan Munjin, Osvaldo Koller, Rodolfo Labarca.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 39

AOSpine Seminar: Degenerative Disease of the Spine

From the world's highest capital, the Chairperson worked to lead this seminar about degenerative disease of the spine. Although an old problem, it is undoubtedly still a current subject.

Currently several treatment strategies are proposed for the different types of pathologies; the concepts and approaches have changed, but there is still much controversy in the different treatments. The purpose of this seminar was to address the issue in an orderly manner that allowed an exchange of knowledge between the participants and regional Faculty. This event was one of the pilots of the AOSpine Curriculum implementation, which will allow the measuring of the learning needs of the participants and the contents of the event.

The main subjects discussed were: how to define the approach in the management of cervical myelopathy; the surgical management of cervical osteoarthritis; what is the ideal time to operate a lumbar degenerative scoliosis; and recommendations for the surgical treatment of degenerative spondylolisthesis.



Date September 15–16, 2011
Venue Camino Real Hotel – La Paz, Bolivia
Chairperson Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo.
Education Director Pablo Vela (Colombia).
Regional Faculty Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Javier Matta (Colombia)
National Faculty Jaime Linares, Marco Paredes, Martin Aliaga, Miguel Duchén, Rene Torrejon.
Registration fee Members: USD 140 | Non Members: USD 185
Number of participants 37

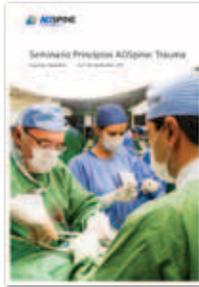
Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	3,52 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	3,73 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,25 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,50 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,25 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,50 out of 5



AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma

The Argentinean AOSpine chapter intends to hold two seminars a year outside of the city of Buenos Aires, in order to promote diversity of AOSpine members' participation in the country. This is the reason why this event was held in the city of Tucuman, Argentina. The Chairperson and the local director worked to execute a program that featured the most interesting and up-to-date traumatic spinal pathologies. It was also characterized by the concise presentations which stressed the AOSpine philosophy and the discussion of typical cases that served as a forum to exchange ideas about diagnosis and the treatment of spinal trauma.



Date September 16–17, 2011
Venue Swiss Metropol Hotel – Tucumán, Argentina
Chairperson Pedro Luis Bazán.
Local Director José Monayer.
National Faculty Alvaro Borri, Diego Carrizo, Eduardo Pacios, Gustavo Martín, Pablo Agu, Ramiro Barrera.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 19

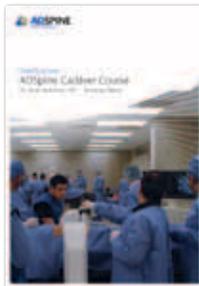
The main objective was to introduce the AOSpine philosophy to the surgeons who are at the beginning their careers, as well as to introduce the study methodology and treatment of traumatic spinal pathology.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,40 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	3,36 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,89 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,44 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,22 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,88 out of 5

AOSpine Cadaver Course

"It's a great honor to offer a cadaver course in our country for the second time, where we will be able to directly demonstrate the surgical approach, the instruments and their practical application through cadaver workshops on the most common diseases that require some type of instrumentation in the spine, on what is the closest thing to a real patient". These were the words of Martín Tejada, Chairperson, and Roberto Chapa, Educational Director of this remarkable course.



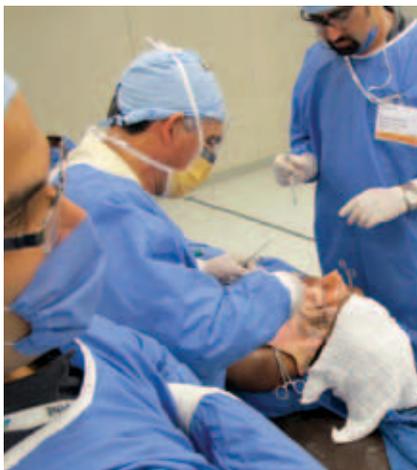
Date September 22–23, 2011
Venue Safi Valle Hotel – Monterrey, Mexico
Chairperson Martín Tejada.
Education Director Roberto Chapa (México).
Regional Faculty Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Néstor Fiore (Argentina).
National Faculty Alfonso Núñez, Arturo Morales Benítez, Aurélio Ramírez, Jose Estrada Mastache, Leonardo Pérez Hernandez, Oscar Martínez.
Registration fee USD 2,000
Number of participants 20

The course was a large undertaking, gathering together the extensive experience of the participating Faculty and offering a high quality program which fulfilled the expectations of the audience. The course helped to improve the clinical practice of each of the participants, who discussed different topics related to spine surgery.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,65 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,70 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,86 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,31 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,83 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,75 out of 5



For the second time a cadaver course was held in the city of Monterrey, in the magnificent facilities of the Tecnológico de Monterrey, which, coordinated by the Educational Director, hosted the experience of regional and national Faculty. As usual with such courses, there is never enough time to fully complete the practice on the cadaver, but the comments about the discussions and the techniques presented were very favorable to AOSpine Latin America continuing this kind of course.

Martín Tejada



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Trauma and Degenerative

This seminar, aimed at spine surgeons and residents in neurosurgery and orthopedics, had as its main subjects: the physiopathology of pain in degenerative pathology; the classifications and SCORE of spinal trauma; and surgical techniques and approaches.

During this activity, the participants were able to share concerns and review basic issues about the principles, surgical techniques and conservative treatment of trauma and degenerative disease. The event also benefited from the contributions and concerns of the participants, which enriched the discussions and helped to meet reach their academic expectations. All these activities certainly provided a solid foundation for successful patient care in the future.



Date September 23–24, 2011
Venue Estelar Altamira Hotel – Ibagué, Colombia
Chairperson Nelson Morales.
National Faculty Carlos Alberto Carmona Lourdy, Carlos Mora Ojeda, Constanza Bedoya, Fernando Alvarado Gomez, Francisco Guzmán, Miguel Alejandro Alfonso, Néstor Taboada, Roberto Lobo.
Registration fee Members USD 477 | Non members USD 674
Number of participants 26

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,02 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,53 out of 5

AOSpine Residents Seminar: Current Management of Degenerative Diseases of the Spine

The Venezuelan AOSpine Chapter put great effort into the elaboration of this seminar, presenting an excellent opportunity to contribute to the study of spinal pathology as well as putting into practice and spreading the AOSpine principles and philosophy.

It stimulated in depth discussion and participation on the diagnosis and treatment of degenerative disease. The cordial atmosphere provided the opportunity for scientific and academics bonds to be tied between the orthopedists and neurosurgeons.

With the backdrop provided by this beautiful city, the Chairperson was also able to promote active participation that fulfilled the audience’s expectations. The main objective was to spread the most current concepts that are didactic and useful in the diagnosis and management of degenerative disease, as well as to promote intellectual exchange, encouraging the creation of new concepts and development of tools and techniques to enable the best outcomes for patients.



Date September 24, 2011
Venue Cumanagoto Hotel – Cumaná, Venezuela
Chairperson Jose Duran Dautant.
National Faculty Diover González, Edgar González, Frederick Montano, James Cardona, Jorge Mantilla, Luis Arana, Luis Lara, Marlon Díaz, Migdalia Salcedo, Nayib Márquez, Victor Dávila.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 35

Course Evaluation

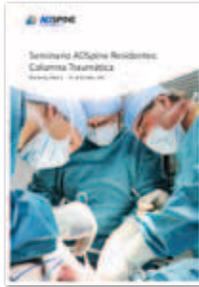
Average Faculty Performance	4,09 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,33 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,81 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,01 out of 5
Course Facilities	3,75 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,20 out of 5



AOSpine Residents Seminar: Traumatic Spine

This seminar aimed to discuss the basic anatomy, bio-mechanics and classifications with the excellent national and regional Faculty helping to achieve the goals of this event through the sharing of their experience.

The main objectives of this meeting were to learn the USS instrument handling for surgical treatment of thoracolumbar fractures and establish criteria for conservative and surgical management of spine fractures.



Date October 01, 2011
Venue Presidente Intercontinental Hotel – Monterrey, México
Chairperson Félix A. Sánchez.
National Faculty Arturo Rodríguez Montalvo, Enrique Méndez Pérez, Martín Tejeda, Oscar Herrera, Oscar Martínez, Pedro Reyes, Roberto Chapa, Sergio Anaya Vallejo.
Registration fee Free
Number of participants 56

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Primary and Metastatic Vertebral

This advanced seminar was created in order to advance the diagnosis, classification and treatment of spinal tumor pathologies aiming at saving the lives of patients and guarantee a good life quality, as the management of tumoral lesions of the spine is essential in today's practice as a spine surgeon.

"At the end of this seminar, the primary pathology, and spinal metastases will have one more enemy: the spine surgeon", were the words of the Chairperson.



Date October 28, 2011
Venue Marriott La Rivera de Belén Hotel – San Jose, Costa Rica
Chairperson Alexander Valverde.
Regional Faculty Néstor Fiore (Argentina).
National Faculty Alfredo Blanco, Edgar Jiménez Masis, Esteban Zamora Estrada, Hector Torres, Javier Brenes, José Pérez-Berrios, Luis Aued Flores, Max Mendez.
Registration fee USD 125
Number of participants 11

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,66 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,78 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,88 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,63 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,76 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,82 out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Deformity, Tumors, Infection

The success of the first seminar in 2010 led to the organization of this event, which encompassed topics on idiopathic scoliosis, as well as the treatment of patients with de novo scoliosis, a disease becoming more common due to the increased life expectancy in the population.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,53 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,74 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,71 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,00 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,57 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,71 out of 5

The management of spinal tumors was also discussed, focusing on metastasis requiring more aggressive surgical techniques, on which the surgeons must be kept updated and be technically and scientifically prepared.



Date November 04–05, 2011

Venue Gran Hotel Paraguay – Asunción, Paraguay

Chairperson Reddy Simon.

Regional Faculty Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Oscar Carreras (Uruguay).

National Faculty Eduardo Yoshizaki, Elio Marin Sanabria, Juan Silva.

Registration fee Members: USD 70 | Non Members: USD 80

Number of participants 23

Master AOSpine Symposium: Degenerative Spine

The symposium format was designed based on feedback given from previous events and surveys in this country. It facilitated the interaction and exchange with the experience of the national, regional and international Faculty, in order to conduct the event in a dynamic way.

In the beautiful environment provided by Mexico City,

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,20 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,55 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,60 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,98 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,05 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,85 out of 5

both participants and Faculty, acquired updated information on the discussed topics as well as strengthening the ties of friendship amongst the AOSpine members.



Date November 11–12, 2011

Venue Marriott Reforma Hotel – Mexico City, Mexico

Chairperson Alexander Valverde; Roberto Chapa.

International Faculty Giuseppe Barbagallo (Italia), Michael Mayer (Alemania).

Regional Faculty Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina).

National Faculty Jesús Bernal, Jose Estrada Mastache, Martín Tejeda, Michael Dittmar, Ricardo Andaluz.

Registration fee USD 300

Number of participants 51

AOSpine Seminar: Craniospinal and Cervicothoracic Junction

This seminar was organized, despite the ravages of nature and the political climate of anxiety, to rethink the logistic arsenal of diagnostic and therapeutic in this country as a commitment to each of the patients.

In the interest of all, it sought to develop the pathology of the craniocervical junction and the cervicothoracic, a

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,21 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,57 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,56 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,06 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,39 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,41 out of 5

region of particular interest which represents an area that requires the combination of both scientific expertise and surgical skill to obtain excellent results.



Date November 18, 2011

Venue Barceló Hotel – Guatemala City, Guatemala

Chairperson Erick Rodas.

Regional Faculty Aurelio Ramirez (Mexico).

National Faculty Ader Lopez, Alexis Oliva, Carlos Rayo, Erny Leal Guerra, Esdras Borrayo, Juan Díaz, Juan Pablo De León, Luis F. Cruz Sánchez, Marco Quinoñez, Otto Alvarado, Pedro Broll, Rafael De la Riva.

Registration fee USD 50

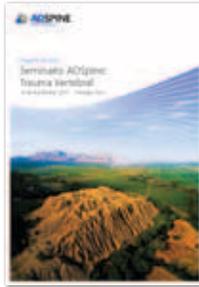
Number of participants 28

AOSpine Seminar: Vertebral Trauma

Due to the economic and industrial development of the country, spine surgeons are facing higher incidences of industrial accidents, car crashes and falls from heights in their professional practice and less direct assaults and sports accidents.

Considering this, the seminar aimed at updating these surgeons in the field of spinal-cord injury, which not only represents a problem for the patients and their relatives, but also constitutes an economic problem for the health systems due to the high cost of treatment and subsequent rehabilitation.

Upon completion of this event, participants were better prepared to help all those affected by this pathology in the best possible way?

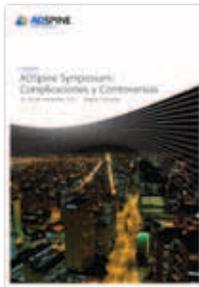


Date November 19, 2011
Venue Gran Hotel – Chiclayo, Peru
Chairperson Carlos Cárdenas.
Regional Faculty Osvaldo Romano (Argentina).
National Faculty Alejandro Díaz Calvo, Alfonso Basurco, Alfredo Vásquez, Arturo Morales, Fernando Gómez Matos, Hernán Valdivia, Michael Hinojosa.
Registration fee Members: Free | Non Members: USD 50
Number of participants 14

AOSpine Symposium: Complications and Controversies

The cosmopolitan atmosphere of Bogota, with its rich cultural and gastronomic history, made it the perfect city for the Faculty and participants to share their experiences on the subject of controversies and complications in spinal surgery in an open and participatory event.

In order to achieve this, AOSpine Latin America convened a group of internationally and regionally renowned Faculty that led the discussion on the latest advances in the treatment of complications.



Date November 19–20, 2011
Venue AR Convention Center – Bogotá, Colombia
Chairperson Néstor Taboada.
Educational Director Osmar Moraes (Brazil).
International Faculty Carlo Bellabarba (USA), Klaus Schnake (Germany), Daniel Riew (USA).
Regional Faculty Carlos Sola (Argentina), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil).
National Faculty Andrés Rodríguez, Carlos Llanos, Carlos Montero Silva, Constanza Bedoya, David Meneses, Enrique Osorio, Fernando Helo Yamhure, Germán Ochoa, Jaime Segura, Leonardo Duplat, Luis Arango, Mario Germán Gonzalez, Mario Herrera, Miguel Berbeo, Nelson Morales, Nestor Guzmán, Pablo Vela, Ricardo Restrepo, Roberto Díaz.
Registration fee USD 500
Number of participants 77



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,31 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice.....	4,28 out of 5
Scientific Program Content.....	4,69 out of 5
Quality of Material Received.....	4,33 out of 5
Course Facilities.....	4,46 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,79 out of 5



AOSpine Seminar in Spine Surgery: A New Vision

Cuba opened its doors to AOSpine for its very first seminar held in the country, thanks to the efforts of several people with the desire to promote and share knowledge acquired during the courses over the years and the support of the Cuban Society of Neurology and Neurosurgery with the Cira Garcia Central Clinic. The name of the seminar, "New Vision", underlined the idea of introducing the organization into this new territory, spreading its roots. The main topics debated were degenerative and traumatic spinal deformity in adults and complications in spine surgery.



Date November 25–26, 2011

Venue Habana Libre Hotel – Habana, Cuba

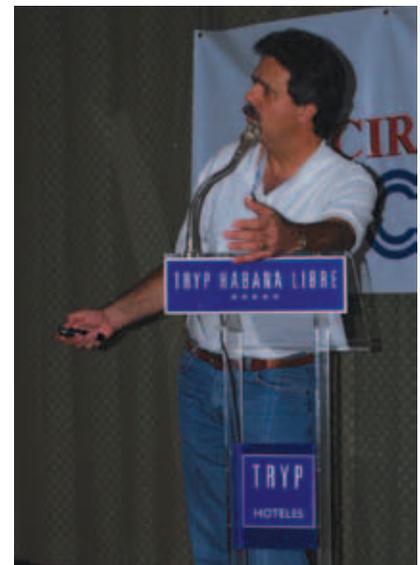
Chairpersons Ernesto Fleites (Cuba), Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Regional Faculty Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Luiz Vialle (Brazil), Pablo Vela (Colombia).

National Faculty Carlos Santos, Enrique Dejongh, René Rubinos.

Registration fee Free

Number of participants 89



AOSpine Seminar: Trauma

This advanced seminar on spinal trauma featured the exchange of experiences on complex cases of trauma within a relaxed atmosphere and with experienced Faculty. In addition, the event attempted to adapt the scientific evidence to the regional characteristics of the Brazilian health system.

The main objectives of the seminar were to engage with academic content through case discussions, encouraging the audience's participation and updating the latest concepts in the treatment of fractures of the lumbar spine.



Date December 2–3, 2011

Venue Novotel Hotel – Porto Alegre, Brazil

Chairperson Alexandre Sadao Iutaka.

National Faculty André Hübner, Daniel Barros, Delio Martins, Erasmo Zardo, Luís Henrique Silva, Marcus Ziegler, Rodrigo Tisot.

Registration fee Members: R\$ 50,00 | Non Members: R\$ 70,00

Number of participants 40

This year four educational activities were cancelled due to local logistical problems beyond the control of the organization:

AOSpine Symposium: Degenerative Disease
July 8–9, 2011 | Lima, Peru

AOSpine Symposium:
November 3–5, 2011 | Caracas, Venezuela

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Invertebral disc and tumors
November 18, 2011 | Panama City, Panama

AOSpine Seminar: Idiopathic Scoliosis Degenerative
November 26, 2011 | Quito, Ecuador

Virtual education

The first module of this established online course was held in March, for the fourth consecutive year, with a total of approximately 188 participants in 2011.

The course was composed of five modules of two hours length each. With each one featuring a subject based on the discussion of three cases by an expert panel. The same panel also answered questions from participants and a specific presentation relating to each clinical case was held by an experienced Faculty, which lead to useful discussions for all the participants.



Module I: Trauma

Date March 19, 2011

Course Moderator Germán Ochoa (Colombia).

Regional Faculty Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil), Antonio Mock (Panama), Enzo Mantelli (Chile), Jaime Segura (Colombia), José Duran Dautant (Venezuela), Juan Pablo De León Palacios (Guatemala), Matías Petracchi (Argentina), Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Robert Meves (Brazil).

Number of participants in auditoriums 107

Number of participants in individual connections 58

Module II: Scoliosis in Adulthood

Date May 21, 2011

Course Moderator Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina).

Regional Faculty Alejandro Betemps (Argentina), Augustin Malzac (Brazil), Fabiano Canto (Brazil), Ignacio Dockendorff (Chile), Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Mario Herrera (Colombia), Reddy Simon (Paraguay), Roberto Chapa (México), Roberto Postigo (Chile), Samuel Pantoja (Chile).

Number of participants in auditoriums 143

Number of participants in individual connections 98

Module III: Tumors

Date July 30, 2011

Course Moderator Mario Taricco (Brazil).

Regional Faculty Alfredo Vasquez Rodríguez (Peru), Antonio Mock (Panama), Aurelio Ramirez (México), Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil), Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Jaime Linares (Bolivia), Jaime Segura (Colombia), Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Oscar Martinez (México), Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Pablo Vela (Colombia).

Number of participants in auditoriums 175

Number of participants in individual connections 88

Module IV: Deformities

Date September 3, 2011

Course Moderator Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina).

Regional Faculty Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica), Asdrúbal Silveri (Uruguay), Ignacio Dockendorff (Chile), Juan Silva (Paraguay), Matías Petracchi (Argentina), Oscar Carreras Scotto (Uruguay), Robert Meves (Brazil), Roberto Chapa (México), Roberto Postigo (Chile), Samuel Pantoja (Chile).

Number of participants in auditoriums 76

Number of participants in individual connections 45

Module V: Degenerative

Date November 26, 2011

Course Moderator Aliro San Martin (Chile).

Regional Faculty Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Jaime Linares (Bolivia), José Duran Dautant (Venezuela), Jose Ricardo Prina (Argentina), Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Juan Pablo De León Palacios (Guatemala), Marcelo Molina (Chile), Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia), Mario Taricco (Brazil), Nestor Taboada (Colombia), Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil).

Number of participants in auditoriums 92

Number of participants in individual connections 65

AOSLA Faculty Development

AOSpine perceives education to be the platform to transmit and exchange knowledge on spine-related issues. In order to develop an effective education model, both content and methodology must be taken

into account. This is the purpose of the AOSLA Faculty training: to improve both personal and professional skills through the interaction between the participants and educators, strengthening the AOSpine network.

"This journey allowed the Faculty to improve their teaching skills, by giving and receiving feedback on practical teaching situations."

Fabiana Reboiras

The objective of the Chairperson training was to provide excellence in spine education, as the Educational Director and Chairperson of each educational event play a key role in this achievement. Important issues such as the role and responsibilities of this position, how to identify the key aspects in the design of courses, development of programs, criteria for selection of Faculty and the differences between Chairperson and Educational Director were all discussed.



AOSpine Latin America Faculty Training – Brazil

Date February 12, 2011

Venue Four Points by Sheraton Curitiba

Educators Luiz Vialle, Emiliano Vialle, Fabiana Reboiras.

Participants Albert Brazil, Alberto Capel Cardoso, Alberto Gotfryd, André Hübner, Asdrúbal Falavigna, Carlos Tucci, Chárbel Jacob Júnior, Fernando Dantas, Henrique Jorge, Jerônimo Milano, José Augusto Araújo, Márcio Vinhal, Ricardo Botelho, Ronald Farias, William Teixeira.



AOSpine Latin America Chairperson Training – Brazil

Date February 13, 2011

Venue Four Points by Sheraton Curitiba

Educators Luiz Vialle, Emiliano Vialle, Fabiana Reboiras.

Participants Alexandre Fogaça Cristante, Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Carlos Tucci, Eduardo Von Uhlendorff, Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Ricardo Ribeiro, Robert Meves.



AOSpine Latin America Faculty Training – Peru

Date September 9, 2011

Venue Novotel Hotel, Lima

Educators Néstor Fiore, Fabiana Reboiras.

Participants Carlos Cárdenas, Daniel Cauti De la Cruz, Michael Hinojosa, Marleny Llerena, Arturo Morales, Glays Pavon, Hernán José Valdivia, Mario Patricio Zumarraga.



AOSpine Latin America Chairperson Training – Peru

Date September 10, 2011

Venue Novotel Hotel, Lima

Educators Néstor Fiore, Fabiana Reboiras.

Participants Carlos Cárdenas, Daniel Cauti, Michael Hinojosa, Marleny Llerena, Arturo Morales, Gladys Pavon, Hernán José Valdivia, Mario Patricio Zumarraga.



AOSpine Latin America Faculty Training – Argentina

Date October 31, 2011

Venue Pestana Hotel, Buenos Aires

Educators Néstor Fiore, Fabiana Reboiras.

Participants Marcelo Amaro, Ramiro Barrera, Oscar Carreras, Mario Fleita, Fernando Garcia, Enrique Gutierrez, Cristian Llanes, Martín Medina, Alejandro Mengotti, Lucas Rueda.



In the following chart,
a list of all the trained
Faculties in the region:

Name	Country	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Alejandro Betemps	Argentina			X	X
Alejandro Mengotti	Argentina			X	
Alejandro Morales	Argentina			X	X
Alvaro Borri	Argentina			X	
Andrés Cervio	Argentina			X	X
Carlos Legarreta	Argentina			X	
Carlos Mounier	Argentina			X	
Carlos Solá	Argentina			X	
Cristian Illanes	Argentina			X	
Eduardo Galaretto	Argentina			X	X
Enrique Gutiérrez	Argentina			X	
Ernesto Bersusky	Argentina			X	
Javier Martinez	Argentina			X	
Jorge Cancinos	Argentina			X	
Jorge Lambre	Argentina			X	
Jose Ricardo Prina	Argentina			X	
Juan Emmerich	Argentina			X	X
Lucas Rueda	Argentina			X	
Marcelo Amaro	Argentina			X	
Marcelo Gruenberg	Argentina		X	X	X
Marcelo Valacco	Argentina			X	X
Mario Fleita Pedrazzi	Argentina			X	
Martín Medina	Argentina			X	
Matías Petracchi	Argentina			X	
Néstor Fiore	Argentina	X	X	X	X
Osvaldo Romano	Argentina			X	
Pedro Bazán	Argentina			X	X
Ramiro Barrera	Argentina			X	
Ramiro Gutierrez	Argentina			X	
Jaime Linares	Bolivia				X
Juan Marcelo Sea	Bolivia				X
Albert Brazil	Brazil			X	
Alberto Capel	Brazil			X	
Alberto Gotfryd	Brazil			X	
Alexandre Fogoça	Brazil		X	X	
Alexandre Sadao	Brazil		X	X	
André Hübner	Brazil			X	
Amancio Ramalho	Brazil			X	
Amauri Godinho	Brazil			X	
Antonio Braconi	Brazil			X	
Asdrubal Falavigna	Brazil			X	
Augustin Malzac	Brazil			X	
Carlos A. Engelhorn	Brazil			X	
Carlos Tucci	Brazil		X	X	
Chárbel Jacob Junior	Brazil			X	
Cristiano Menezes	Brazil			X	
Delio Martins	Brazil			X	

Name	Country	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Eduardo Von Uhlendorff	Brazil		X	X	
Emiliano Vialle	Brazil	X	X	X	X
Fabiano Canto	Brazil			X	
Fernando Dantas	Brazil			X	
Fernando Façanha Filho	Brazil			X	
Geraldo Sá Carneiro	Brazil		X	X	X
Helton Defino	Brazil			X	X
Henrique Jorge	Brazil			X	
Jefferson Galvés	Brazil			X	
Jerônimo Milano	Brazil			X	
Jose Augusto Araújo	Brazil			X	
Luis Eduardo Rocha	Brazil			X	
Luiz G Dal Oglio Rocha	Brazil			X	
Luiz Felipe Carvalho	Brazil			X	
Luiz Vialle	Brazil		X	X	X
Marcio Vinhal	Brazil			X	
Marcos Tebet	Brazil			X	
Marcus A. Mello Santos	Brazil			X	
Mario Taricco	Brazil	X	X	X	X
Mauricio Calais	Brazil			X	
Mauricio Gusmão	Brazil			X	
Mauro Volpi	Brazil			X	
Osmar Moraes	Brazil		X	X	X
Paulo Cavali	Brazil			X	X
Rafael Marcon	Brazil			X	
Ricardo Botelho	Brazil			X	
Ricardo Ribeiro	Brazil		X	X	X
Robert Meves	Brazil		X	X	X
Ronald Farias	Brazil			X	
Sergio Daher	Brazil			X	
Tulio Rangel	Brazil			X	
Ubirajara Bley	Brazil			X	
Wagner Pasqualini	Brazil			X	
Willian Teixeira	Brazil			X	
Alejandro Urzúa	Chile			X	X
Bartolome Marré	Chile	X	X	X	
Patricio Bustos	Chile			X	
Patricio Yokota Beuret	Chile				X
Roberto Postigo	Chile	X		X	X
Rodolfo Lopez	Chile			X	X
Samuel Pantoja	Chile			X	X
Andrés Rodríguez	Colombia		X	X	X
Carlos A Mora Ojeda	Colombia				X
Fernando Helo Yamhure	Colombia			X	
Germán Ochoa	Colombia	X		X	X
Guido Pugliese	Colombia			X	
Jaime Segura	Colombia			X	

Name	Country	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Javier Matta	Colombia			X	
Luis Arango	Colombia			X	
Luis C Morales	Colombia			X	X
Mario Herrera	Colombia			X	
Miguel Alejandro Alfoso	Colombia			X	
Nestor Guzman	Colombia			X	X
Néstor Taboada	Colombia			X	X
Pablo Vela	Colombia	X	X	X	X
Ricardo Londoño	Colombia				X
Ricardo Restrepo	Colombia			X	X
Alexander Valverde	Costa Rica			X	X
Edgar Jiménez Masis	Costa Rica			X	
Eduardo Huertas	Costa Rica			X	
Hector Torres	Costa Rica			X	
Hugo Dobles	Costa Rica				X
Javier Brenes	Costa Rica			X	
Javier Gutierrez	Costa Rica			X	
Mario Solano	Costa Rica			X	X
Elío Ramirez	Ecuador			X	
Ernesto Vargas	Ecuador				X
Glays Pavon	Ecuador		X		
Jaime Raul Pavon	Ecuador				X
Juan Francisco Lasso	Ecuador				X
Luis Guijarro	Ecuador				X
Mario Velasco	Ecuador		X	X	X
Martha Hernandez	Ecuador			X	X
Monserrath Pavón	Ecuador		X	X	X
Erick Rodas	Guatemala			X	X
Juan P De León Palacios	Guatemala			X	X
Julio L Pozuelos Lopez	Guatemala			X	
Otto Alvarado	Guatemala			X	
Rafael De la Riva	Guatemala			X	X
Armando Alpizar	Mexico			X	
Aurélio Ramirez	Mexico			X	
Catarino López	Mexico			X	X
César González	Mexico			X	
Federico Cisneros	Mexico			X	X
Felix A Sanchez Chavez	Mexico			X	
Gustavo Casas	Mexico				X
Hernando Cuevas	Mexico			X	X
Jesús Bernal	Mexico			X	X
Juan Carlos Reina	Mexico			X	X
Juan Carlos Valle Landa	Mexico			X	
Luis Miguel Rosales	Mexico			X	
Martín Tejeda	Mexico			X	X
Michael Dittmar	Mexico			X	X
Oscar Martinez	Mexico			X	

Name	Country	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Ricardo Andaluz	Mexico			X	
Roberto Chapa	Mexico	X	X	X	X
Ruben Cardenas	Mexico			X	
Victor Flores	Mexico			X	
Antonio Mock	Panama			X	X
Mitzadí Ordoñez	Panama			X	
Raúl Arjona	Panama			X	X
Reddy Simón	Paraguay				X
Alejandro Díaz Calvo	Peru			X	
Alfredo Vásquez	Peru			X	X
Arturo Morales	Peru		X	X	
Carlos Cárdenas	Peru		X	X	X
Daniel Cauti	Peru		X	X	X
Hernán Valdivia	Peru		X	X	X
Marco Medina	Peru			X	X
Marleny Llerena	Peru		X	X	
Michael Hinojosa	Peru		X	X	X
Raúl Machiavello	Peru				X
Iohan Fernandez	Dominican Rep			X	
Edgardo Spagnuolo	Uruguay				X
Fernando García	Uruguay			X	
Oscar Carreras	Uruguay			X	X
Daniel Onay	Venezuela				X
Edgar González	Venezuela				X
Ernesto Carvallo	Venezuela			X	
James Cardona	Venezuela			X	
Jose Antonio Finocchio	Venezuela			X	
Jose Rafael Otero	Venezuela			X	X
Luis Lara	Venezuela			X	X
Manuel Alvarado	Venezuela		X	X	X
Marlon Diaz	Venezuela			X	X
Victor Davila	Venezuela			X	X
TOTAL		8	27	115	75

*AOSpine Latin America Education Meeting (2010) – Panama
Faculty Improvement (2006): Facing the Public Workshop – Developing Presentation Skills

Educational Projects 2011

Diploma Program

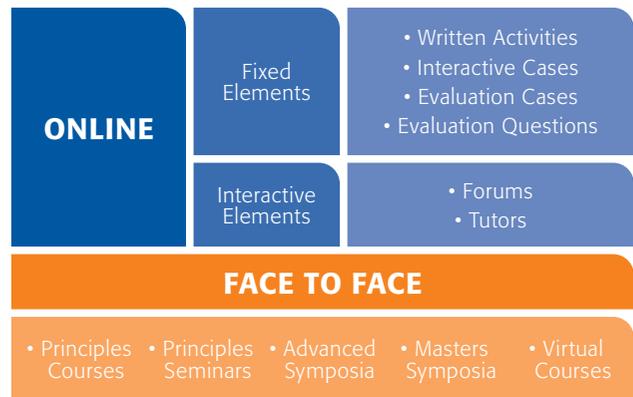
Purpose

This year AOSpine Latin America has been emphatically working on a new educational project, entitled Diploma Program – Continued Education in Spine Surgery. The main goal of this project is to implement a long-term educational program which will provide a Diploma to those who complete its activities and are approved in a final test.

Program framework

The Diploma Program, to be launched in the second trimester of 2012, will be a complete, progressive and ground-breaking educational plan focusing on spine pathologies. The program will consist of both online and face-to-face activities in order to provide the participants with a thorough approach in the field of spine surgery and pathologies.

The material is produced by renowned Faculty from the Latin American with the support of the AOSLA office. The program will be composed by three cycles, each one of them compounded by eight modules, in accordance with the AOSpine Principles and Curriculum. Every cycle will have correspondent face-to-face and online activities, the latter being available at our platform. At the end of the three cycles, participants will be awarded with an AOSpine Diploma after being approved in a test.



The activities for Cycle 1 will be online in the second trimester of 2012. Cycles 2 and 3 will be released in 2012-2013. The new educational program will be available for all AOSLA members interested in participating. The table below presents the Faculty responsible for each module in the first Cycle:

Module I	ANATOMY	Juan Emmerich
Module II	PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOMECHANICS	Luiz Vialle
Module III	TRAUMA	Milan Munjin, Ricardo Botelho, Alexandre Sadao, Geraldo Sá Carneiro
Module IV	TUMOR	Roberto Postigo, Mario Taricco
Module V	DEFORMITY	Ernesto Bersusky, Samuel Pantoja
Module VI	DEGENERATIVE	Martin Tejeda, Aliro San Martin, Osmar Moraes, Ricardo Ribeiro, Emiliano Vialle, Marcelo Gruenberg
Module VII	INFECTION	Roberto Chapa, Osvaldo Romano
Module VIII	METABOLIC–INFLAMMATORY–GENETIC	Alejandro Betemps, Juan Pablo de León Palacios, Germán Ochoa, Jaime Segura

The Task-Force responsible for coordinating the project is composed of Néstor Fiore, who will be course Director, Germán Ochoa, Mario Taricco, Osmar Moraes, Ricardo Ribeiro and Roberto Postigo.

Recent activities

In 2011, the AOSLA team and Faculty used extensive didactic and graphic text processing to develop the material to be released online (i.e., written topics, interactive and evaluation cases and evaluation questions). The AOSLA office was also responsible for adjusting the material to an online, interactive format, as well as uploading it to our web platform.

In November, concomitantly to the AOSpine Symposium: Complications and Controversies held in Bogota, Colombia, in November 19th-20th, the project Task-Force had the opportunity to arrange a meeting to discuss the development of the educational plan up to that time. This very productive meeting allowed the team to define the next project steps for Cycles 2 and 3 and to prepare the program launching in 2012.

AOSLA Curriculum Pilots Implementation

Purpose

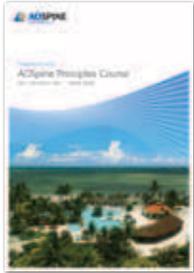
This year several pilot events of the AOSpine Curriculum implementation were held worldwide with the purpose of integrating the curriculum—as well as the AOSpine Principles—into our educational activities. The data gathered and the achieved learning outcomes were analyzed by the Curriculum advisory group in order to guide the future steps of the project and develop key resources.

Characteristics

For this stage Educational Directors (EDs), Chairperson, Faculty, Participants and Project Managers were engaged to perform key roles in the implementation using the following Curriculum components:

AOSpine Curriculum Components	
1	The Curriculum document to guide Faculty
2	An online participant self-assessment before the course
3	A pre-course data report for Faculty on the needs of the participants
4	A practice change survey on the last day of the course, with a 3-month follow-up
5	An online participant self-assessment after the course
6	An online forum with cases, questions, and resources before and after the course

AOSLA Pilots Events



AOSpine Principles Course

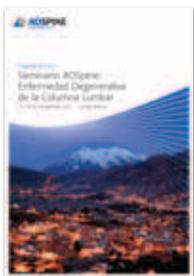
Venue Recife, Brazil

Date June 09–11, 2011

Led by the chairs Alexandre Sadao and Geraldo Sá Carneiro and supported by the Educational Director Roberto Postigo, this course was attended by 50 participants.

This pilot was focused on spinal trauma

and its content was aligned with the competencies and key learning outcomes of this pathology. Participants completed a pre-course self-assessment questionnaire, the data of which was used by the faculty at the pre-course meeting to identify the audience needs, in order to adjust the lectures/discussions to meet these demands. They also concluded the three month follow-up questions on their intended practice change, and the collected responses showed a lot of engagement and commitment to implement the content acquired into their daily practice.



AOSpine Seminar: Degenerative–Disease of the Spine

Venue La Paz, Bolivia

Venue September 15–16, 2011

This Seminar, focusing on the degenerative pathology of the spine, was the second pilot implementation of the Curriculum in Latin America. The Chairperson Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo together with the Educational Director Pablo Vela and Regional Faculty Germán Ochoa, worked to motivate the 38 participants to complete the pre- and post-

assessment. This data was highlighted by the high level of the discussion held in the Faculty lunch meeting regarding the assessment and its results.

Both participants and Faculty demonstrated openness and involvement with the program, engaging in high-level debates and offering very promising responses in the commitment to change evaluation.



Spine Centers & Fellowships

Aliança
SAÚDE

HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITARIO
CAJURU

SUS



Sistema
Unico
de Saude

RECEPÇÃO CENTRAL



Spine Centers & Fellowships officer's word

Dear friends,

With the beginning of a new year and looking back at another past, we have the opportunity to ponder not only on what we have accomplished but also on the planning and execution of new projects which will allow us to grow and improve every day.

This is the vision that we want to communicate as AOSpine with each and every one of our projects, and this is the challenge that I will face as the Fellowship & Spine Center Officer.

This year we have developed a new project which seeks to monitor the level of education delivered by our Fellowship programs and continuing the objective of delivering high quality training programs. In order to implement this project, a series of new documents have been created to improve the application, control and certification procedures, to support every step of these processes.

As part of this structural project, we have also improved the Fellowship rotation through an Observership program, and we expect to improve the number of AOSpine centers in the area in 2012, especially on the Pacific Coast. An overview of this entire project was presented to the directors of our Reference Centers in Argentina and we plan on developing similar activities in other centers in the region in 2012.

Considering these achievements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the fellows who participated in our training programs, the directors and the medical bodies of our reference centers for the quality they delivered through the knowledge and techniques imparted to our outstanding future professionals during 2011.

I invite you to continue to be a part of our activities and to become more familiar with our Fellowship & Spine Center programs for 2012.

Kind regards,



Andrés Rodríguez-Munera
AOSpine Latin America – Spine Centers & Fellowships



Spine Centers

Our Reference Centers and their respective directors have played an important role during the execution of our Fellowship & Spine Centers project, staying up to date with every activity and procedure proposed for 2012.

In 2011 a new spine center was incorporated into AOSpine: the "HIGA" La Plata Hospital, in Argentina, with Pedro Bazán in charge as program director. We have also received an important number of new applications from several centers in the region and we expect the finalization of their approval process during 2012.

Currently we have six centers distributed in the region (in white) and seven centers currently in the application process (in green):



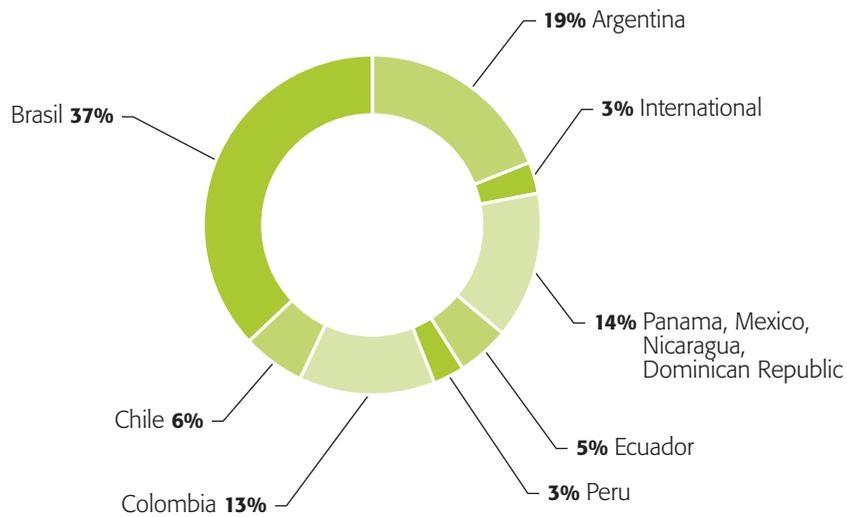
Fellowship & Observership

We have concluded this year with a total of eleven new fellows, which totals 78 fellows since 2006. Based on the restructuring of the application procedures, the Fellowship & Spine Centers project has been developed with the purpose of selecting the most adequate applicants for the program through a score system. The project also aims at measuring the competences of the fellows through a pre-/post-fellowship test.

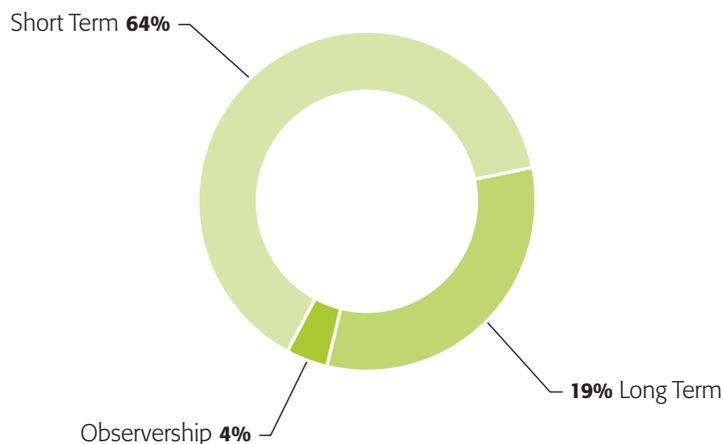
Furthermore, this year we initiated the Observership program, for which we have already received the first three participants. Based on the number of applications received, our expectation is to reach the number of five observers this year. For 2012, we hope to continue to offer this training with a larger number of centers involved in the region.

The tables below show some statistical data about the Fellowship program:

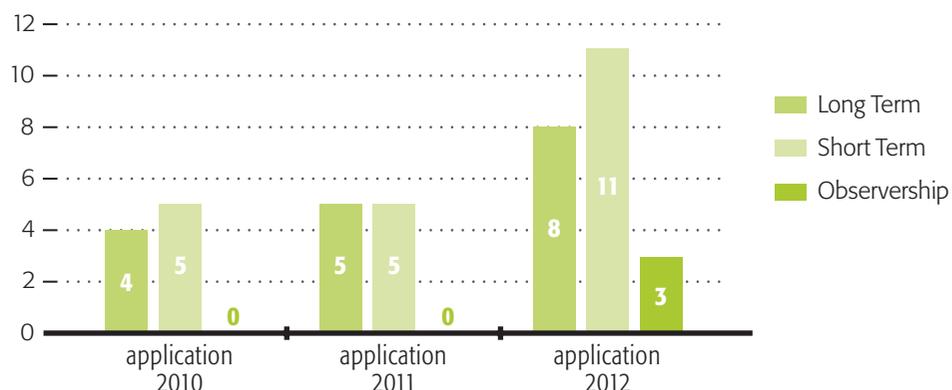
Participation of Fellows according to country of origin



Distribution of Fellows according to programs



Number of applications in the last three years



As in previous years, the fellowship program has continued to be of great interest to our members aspiring to acquire new tools and knowledge in spine surgery. This is particularly evident in the increasing number of applications processes received in 2011.

Due to this, our Fellowship & Spine Centers project has implemented a new application process, which has structured new steps for the candidates. The new process offers all the applicants from different countries the same opportunities in entering an AOSpine training program in any center of the region or the world.

In order to maintain this success, we continue to offer the short and long-term programs, shown in the table below together with our current fellows:

Qty	Origin	Name	Spine Center	Country	Program
1	Argentina	Nicolás Gonzáles	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	LongTerm
2	Brazil	Allan Kato	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Short term
3	Brazil	Ramon Ferreira	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	LongTerm
4	Argentina	Diego Loza	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	LongTerm
5	Dominican Rep	Joel Acevedo	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Short term
6	Argentina	Nicolás Coombes	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Short term
7	Costa Rica	Esteban Araya	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Short term
8	Brazil	Alfredo Gotfryd	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Observership
9	Peru	Javier Espinoza	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Observership
10	Colombia	Saúl Barrera	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Observership
11	Argentina	Pablo Díaz	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, Argentina	LongTerm
12	Colombia	Julian España	Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad	Monterrey, Mexico	Short term
13	Brazil	Danilo Bernardi	Instituto Galeazzi	Milan, Italy	Short term
14	Argentina	Santiago Menendez	Hospital SintMaartenskliniek	Nijmegen, Netherlands	LongTerm

Report from an AOSPINE FELLOW

“My name is Allan Masashi Guimarães Kato, I went to Med School at the Federal University of Amazonas, Orthopedics and Traumatology at University Hospital Getúlio Vargas, also in Amazonas. In 2010, I completed my first year in spine surgery specialization at Pequeno Príncipe Hospital in Curitiba, and in 2011, I participated in AOSpine’s fellowship program at the University Hospital Cajuru, which was coordinated by Dr. Luiz Vialle and Dr. Emiliano Vialle.



My expectations regarding the program, which were already quite high, were surpassed. In my opinion, the excellence of the program lies within the practice of the weekly meeting, which I will try to describe briefly. The meeting is divided into three main parts: the first one is a scientific revision for updating the medical literature, which the staff elevates to a surprisingly high technical level. Besides the spine surgery group, the neurosurgery group also participates. The second part is dedicated to the discussion of the patients’ cases who were operated during the previous week, from which we can draw valuable conclusions – I consider this the integral part of the meeting. Finally, the third part is composed of a presentation of the surgical cases scheduled for the following week.

The surgical activities that I have experienced comprise, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the foundation of spine surgery, trauma, degenerative, deformity and tumor. The technical quality of the staff, the respect for the patients and the attention dedicated to teaching the fellows are renowned and have already been mentioned by other fellows who have participated in the program.

I come from a geographically isolated area in Brazil, located in the heart of the Amazon Forest – the city of Manaus in the state of Amazonas, which has a population of around two million people. I will be returning there soon and will have the opportunity to put all the concepts I was taught into practice. For all of this, I will be forever thankful to masters Dr. Luiz R. Vialle and Dr. Emiliano Vialle for the opportunity they gave me during my participation in the AOSpine training in Curitiba, Brazil.

Allan Masashi Guimarães Kato

AOSpine Fellowship history

Here we present a report with all our fellows from 2006 to date, indicating their origin, spine centers and periods in which they carried out their training:

fellows from Argentina

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Javier Méndez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Mar 06	May 06
Marcelo Valacco	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short Term	Feb 07	Apr 07
Leonardo Quiroz	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Jul 07	Aug 07
Guillermo Kahl	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short Term	Jan 09	Mar 09
Horacio Resano	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long Term	Jul 09	Jun 10
Juan Guyot	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short Term	Jan 10	Mar 10
Felix Imposti	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short Term	Jan 10	Mar 10
Maximiliano Mereles	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long Term	Jul 10	Jul 11
Nicolás González	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jan 11	Dec 11
Nicolás Coombes	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Mar 11	May 11
Pablo Diaz	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long Term	Jun 11	May 12
Diego Loza	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jul 11	Jun 12
Santiago Menendez	Sint Maartenskliniek	Nijmegen, NED	Short Term	Sep 11	Nov 11

fellow from Bolivia

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Juan Marcelo Sea	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Sep 06	Nov 06

fellows from Brazil

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Mauricio Gusmão	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 06	Jan 07
Túlio Rangel	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 06	Jan 07
Luiz Rocha	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short Term	Mar 06	Jun 06
Carlos Herrero	Hospital Ribeirão Preto	São Paulo, BRA	Short Term	Feb 07	Apr 07
Luiz Carvalho	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 07	Feb 08
Rodrigo Medeiros	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	May 07	Jul 07
Pablo Godinho	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jun 07	May 08
Mauricio Gusmão	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, GBR	Short Term	Jul 07	Aug 07
Luis Rodrigues	Helsinki	Helsinki, FIN	Short Term	Aug 07	Sep 07
Túlio Rangel	Helsinki	Helsinki, FIN	Short Term	Aug 07	Sep 07
Marcos Ziegler	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Oct 07	Nov 07
Jose Luiz Boulosa	Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Nov 07	Dec 07
Fernando Coutinho	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 08	Jan 09
Djalma Amorim	Hospital Ribeirão Preto	São Paulo, BRA	Short Term	Feb 09	Apr 09
Andre Vidigal	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 09	Jan 10
Christiano Simões	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jul 09	Aug 10
Joel Abramczuk	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Sep 09	Dec 09
Antonio Krieger	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 10	Feb 11
Alesandro Cardoso	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Jul 10	Oct 10
Charbel Jacob	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jul 10	Feb 11
Alexandre Borba	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Sep 10	Dec 10
Christiano Simões	Rizzoli Institue	Bologna, ITA	Short Term	Sep 10	Feb 11
Allan Kato	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Feb 11	Jun 11
Ramón Ferreira	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 11	Jan 12
Alfredo Gotfryd	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Oct 11	Oct 11
Danilo Bernardi	Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Milan, ITA	Short Term	Oct 11	Nov 11

fellows from Chile

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Manuel Carrasco	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, GBR	Short Term	Jun 06	Jul 06
José Fleiderman	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Aug 06	Oct 06
Paola San Martin	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Mar 07	May 07
Francisco Ilabaca	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHL	Long Term	April 07	Mar 08

fellows from Colombia

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Godoy Carrero	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Apr 06	May 06
Miguel Sarmiento	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	May 06	Jul 06
Carlos Ramírez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Feb 07	Apr 07
William Contreras	Hospital Ribeirão Preto	São Paulo, BRA	Short Term	Feb 07	Apr 07
Rodolfo Paez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jul 08	Jun 09
Juan Suarez Henao	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Feb 09	Jan 10
Gustavo Giraldo	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jun 09	Jun 10
Fernando Alvarado	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Oct 10	Dec 10
Saúl Barrera	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Aug 11	Aug 11
Julian España	Unidad Médica de Especialidad	Monterrey, MEX	Long Term	Aug 11	Feb 12

fellows from Costa Rica

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Javier Gutiérrez	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHL	Long Term	Apr 06	Mar 07
Alexander Valverde	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	May 07	Jul 07
Esteban Araya	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Oct 11	Nov 11

fellows from Ecuador

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Alfredo Jordán	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHL	Short Term	Mar 06	May 06
Daniel Mosquera	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Oct 06	Dec 06
Alfredo Jordán	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHL	Short Term	Mar 07	May 07

fellows from Mexico

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Rafael Vazquez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Jul 06	Aug 06
Rubén Cárdenas	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long Term	Jul 06	Jun 07
Leonardo Perez	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, GBR	Short Term	Feb 07	Mar 07

fellow from Nicaragua

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Sara Alvarez	Los Angeles	Los Angeles, USA	Short Term	Mar 07	May 07

fellow from Panama

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Aldimarina López	Hospital Ribeirão Preto	São Paulo, BRA	Long Term	Feb 09	Jan 10

fellows from Peru

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Daniel Cauty de la Cruz	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Sep 06	Oct 06
Marco Medina	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Aug 07	Oct 07
Javier Espinoza	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Jul 11	Jul 11

fellow from Republica Dominicana

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Joel Acevedo	Hospital Garraham	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short Term	Mar 11	May 11

fellow from United Kingdom

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Syeed Ahmed	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Sep 07	Nov 07

fellow from United States of America

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Pablo Pazmino	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Feb 06	Mar 06

fellow from Venezuela

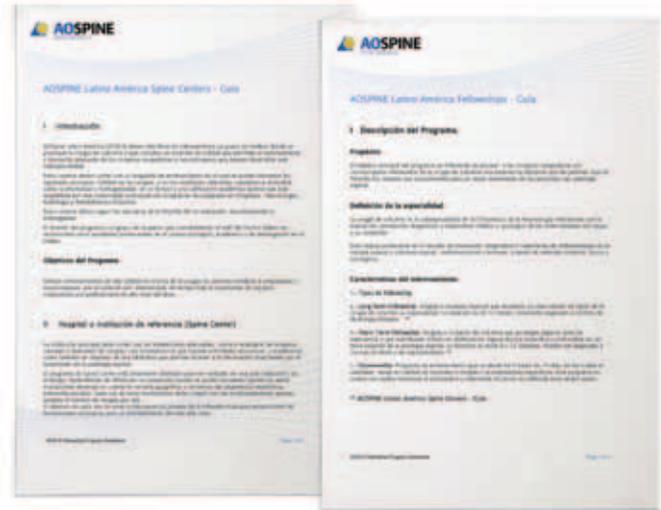
Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Marlon González	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short Term	Aug 06	Oct 06

Fellowship & Spine Center Project Management 2012

Description and objectives

During 2011 we have been working on the creation of a new project, which intends to continue the improvements achieved in our current training projects through the increase of the number of fellows, the enlargement of the Spine Centers network in Latin America and, especially, the implementation of new procedures for the application and evaluation processes. These new procedures will be supported by documents and guidelines in Spanish and Portuguese, allowing for easy access and comprehension by the applicants.

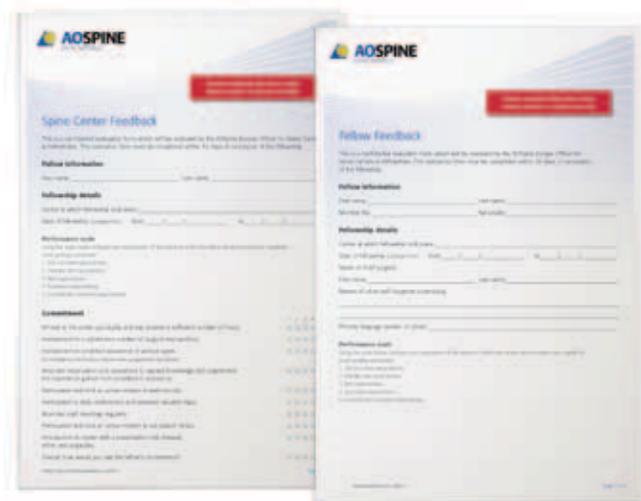
These documents will be available online for completion and will be sent directly to the AOSLA office. The fellows will be submitted to a pre- and post-fellowship competences evaluation test, which will be supported by the educational principles of the AOSpine Curriculum. This will allow us to obtain accurate information about the educational quality of the training programs in the different centers of the region, with the purpose of detecting opportunities for improvement.



Spine Centers/Fellowship Guidelines

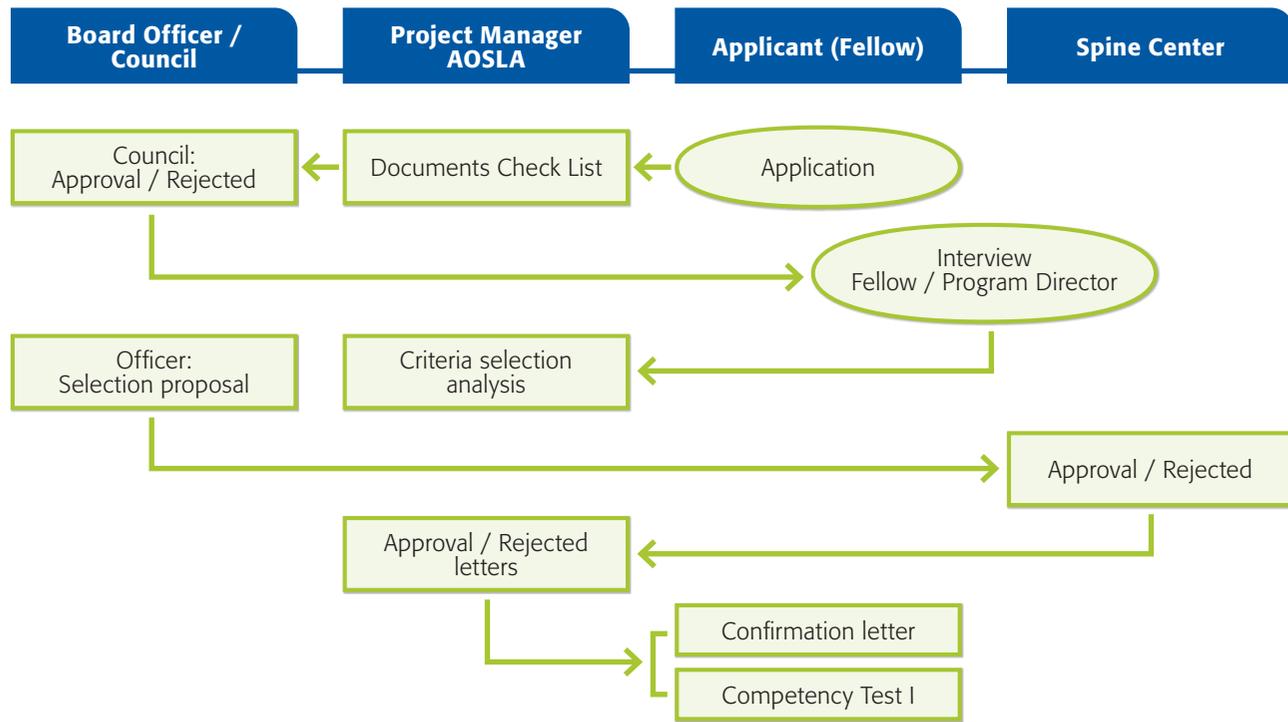


Spine Centers/Fellowship Application Forms

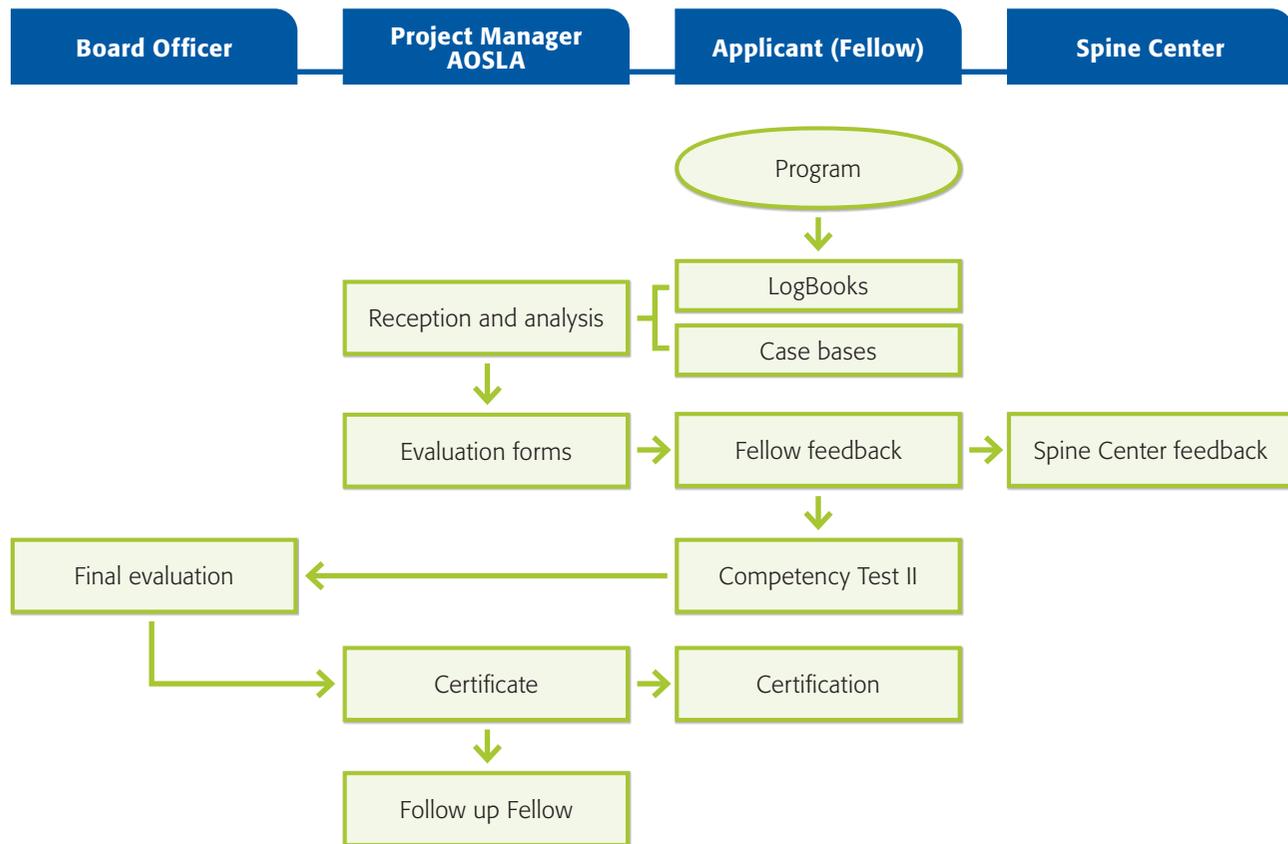


Spine Centers/Fellowship Evaluation Forms

Application Flow Process



Control and Evaluation Flow Process



Research



Research officer's word

Dear AOSpine colleagues,

In 2011, maintaining a trend initiated in previous years, we dedicated our time and efforts to invest in education for research and financing smaller projects, in an attempt to incentivize the growth and strengthening of local investigations.

We were glad to present a Good Clinical Practice training in Recife, during the AOSpine Principles Course, which attracted a significant number of young surgeons interested in improving their knowledge about clinical research. We also had a very satisfactory experience with the opening of our first call for research grants, which awarded USD 30.000,00 to very promising basic science and clinical studies projects, supporting and promoting the investigators at a local level.

Furthermore, larger research projects such as the SRS22 continued to enroll patients and collect new data, generating important and valuable information which will soon be published and contribute to the implementation of the SRS22 questionnaire in Portuguese.

The mission of the AOSLA Research body, during the last three years in which I had the honor of being the regional Officer, has been to promote education for research, to support both inexperienced as well as senior investigators in the best possible ways, and to promote the growth of a medical research culture and knowledge throughout the continent.

I am very pleased to have reached the end of my mandate with such relevant achievements for the area – research trainings, clinical studies, grants – and with the certainty that the work jointly developed in these years will be carried on by future AOSLA Research Officers. As of March of 2012, I will leave my position with the hope that our work contributed to our members getting involved with Latin American medical research, be it through education or through the performing of investigations.

Kindest regards,



Emiliano Vialle
AOSpine Latin America – Research



Research Projects 2011

Good Clinical Practice training in Recife

The training entitled **“Clinical Research: From Idea to Publication”** took place on June 10th 2011 during the AOSpine Principles Course in Recife, Brazil. Ivo Schauwecker, Senior Project Manager Study Planning at the AOCID department of the AOFoundation, coordinated the training and held a three hour long lecture about the basis of clinical research. The activity was part of an eight hours training about clinical investigation, which has already been held in places such as Singapore, Germany, Austria and Hong Kong.



The training focused on the basis of clinical research and aimed at deepening the knowledge of the participants on clinical research, as a way of increasing awareness about the processes involved in conducting an ethical and legitimate investigation.

The lecture approached subjects such as the guidelines for Good Clinical Practice, the Declaration of Helsinki, the ISO 14155 standard and local regulations. Furthermore, topics such as planning a clinical investigation study, the scientific background of research, study conduct and publication were also discussed. Ivo Schauwecker attracted more than 25 people to this optional training, providing a large amount of valuable information for the audience, with a very detailed presentation. The participants received a specific certificate from AOSpine for this activity.

By bringing this training to Brazil, AOSpine Latin America expects to support the development of areas such as research and technology, in order to provide to our community with specific programs that might contribute to the high quality academic formation of our professionals.



Research Grants 2011-2012

The call for applications for our research grants program was open from July to October and received 18 applications from a wide range of Latin American countries (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Peru), containing very diverse backgrounds and research topics.

Two projects were chosen to be awarded with the USD 30,000.00 grant, which will be paid over the course of the next two years in accordance with the investigators' research chronogram. During the next two years, the awardees will report to AOSpine Latin America periodically, providing the investigations findings and progress on a regular basis. By the end of the contract period, a publication will be released with the final results of the studies.

The investigation projects sent to AOSpine were analyzed and evaluated by a highly qualified selection committee, composed of different research officers in the area, as shown below:

Faculty	Country	Faculty	Country	Faculty	Country
James Cardona	Venezuela	Erny Leal Guerra	Guatemala	Osvaldo Romano	Argentina
Fernando Davalos	Ecuador	Ricardo Mosquera	Panama	Ramiro Villavicencio	Bolivia
Alexandre Fogaça	Brazil	Milan Munjin	Chile	Leonardo Duplat	Colombia

This initiative represents an effort to support our members in getting involved with clinical and scientific investigations, providing both administrative and financial aid to develop spine-related studies in our area.

SRS22



The SRS22 project, coordinated by Carlos Tucci, consists of the validation of the SRS22 questionnaire of Idiopathic Scoliosis to a Brazilian Portuguese version. The process is made through a series of translations of the inquiry into Portuguese and its application on patients with scoliosis in order to evaluate the legibility degree of the document.

This year, the project had an extraordinary development, hitting the mark of 70 patients enrolled, which represents a quantitative leap in the data collection and analysis. The next steps are the in-depth statistical analysis of the data and the subsequent publication of the results in a scientific study. The final analyses should be expected for the first quarter of 2012 and will be followed by a scientific publication.

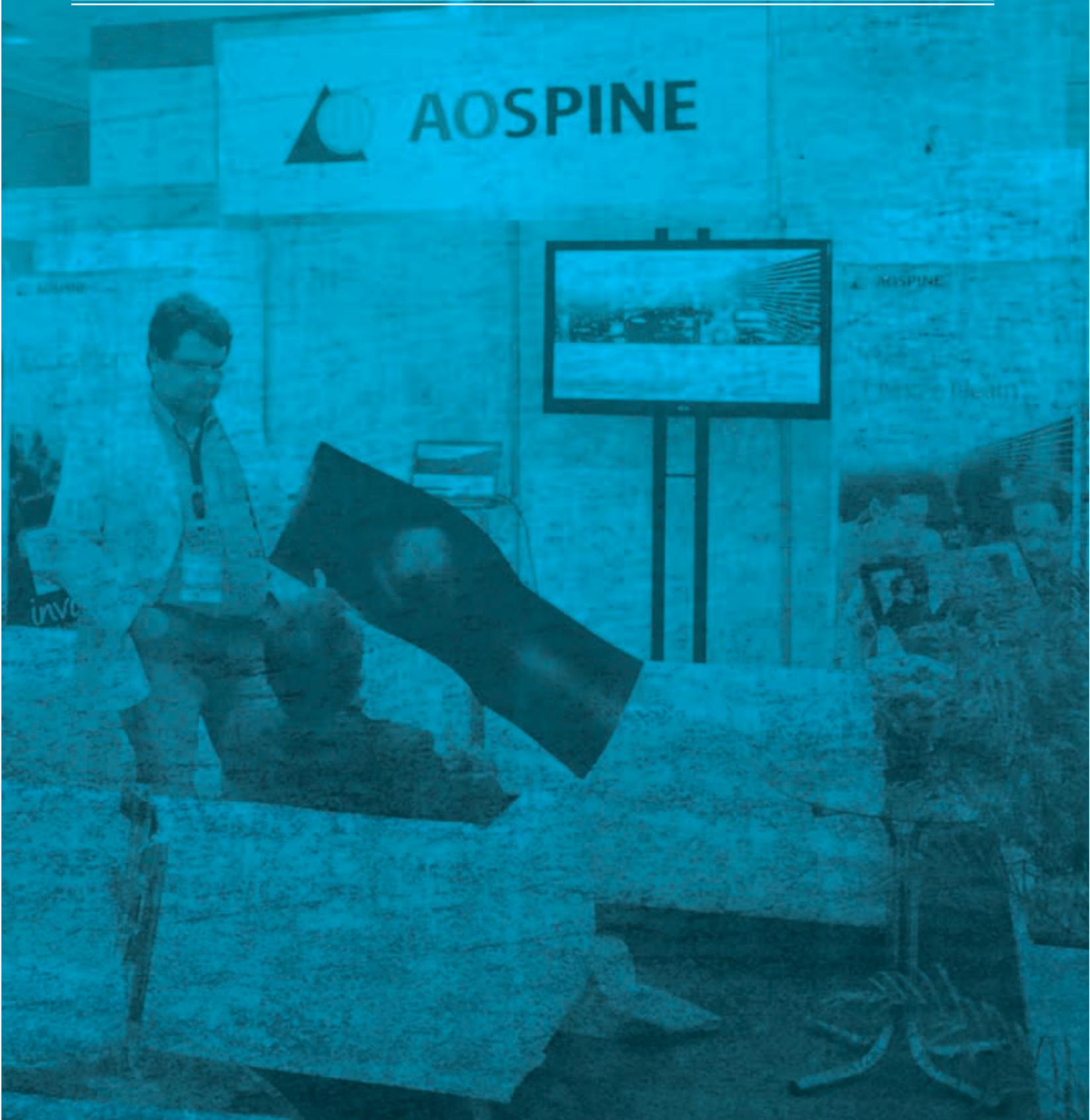
The study is of great significance, as the translated questionnaire will be the first and only tool in Brazilian Portuguese to evaluate the life quality of patients with scoliosis. The centers involved in the study can be seen in the following table:

Center	Investigator
PUC – Campinas	Carlos Tucci (main investigator)
Hospital das Clínicas – USP	Alexandre Fogaça
Hospital das Clínicas – Universidade de Goiás	Murilo Daher
Hospital Pequeno Príncipe – Curitiba	Luis Eduardo Munhoz da Rocha

Community Development



AOSPINE



Community Development officer's word

Dear friends and members of AOSLA:

I have the great satisfaction of once again addressing you as the Community Development Officer on the AOSLA Board.

Since the year 2010 and throughout 2011, there have been many efforts to retain our membership numbers and also see their growth. The result of these efforts is the large growth of AOSpine in Latin America, both in memberships as well as in the number of courses with high academic level.

We currently number around 1200 members in Latin America. This number is due to the enormous work performed by our office and is compounded by the unceasing wish of each and every one of those doctors for education, exchange of ideas, discussion and resolution of cases. Every year, the events undertaken by AOSpine have been gaining more prestige and acceptance by the doctors, and are today a symbol of quality education in spine pathologies.

What have we achieved in our Community Development position? Certainly the task of supporting those doctors who need to enroll or renew their membership is not easy. Overall it is a slow process, but one that continuously shows progress. The new membership packages AOSpine Membership and AOSpine Membership Plus are very comfortable and convenient, giving the members access to several benefits.

In 2011 we have witnessed the launching of a new campaign, "Get Involved", with the new concept of not only being an audience in AOSpine's success, but also active participants. This is the reason why we invite you to actively participate, as in the Case Base, which presents cases to be solved. Teaching the participants with the results, as well as the forums, a tool through which the members and the Community Development Officers and AOSLA Board can exchange ideas.

The face-to-face meeting in Santiago de Chile in the beginning of the year was a milestone that generated very positive results. For the majority of the participants, it created a "before and after" effect in their job positions. Finally, the practice of conference calls, which require a large effort from the team due to the different time zones of all the countries, has contributed enormously to knowing where we are at and what can be changed for a new approach, in accordance to the demands of each country. I must also underline the need to continue the efforts to maintain our bonds with local academic institutions, as demonstrated with the meeting between AOSpine and SAPCV, to permit grants at the Harborview Hospital in Seattle, USA.

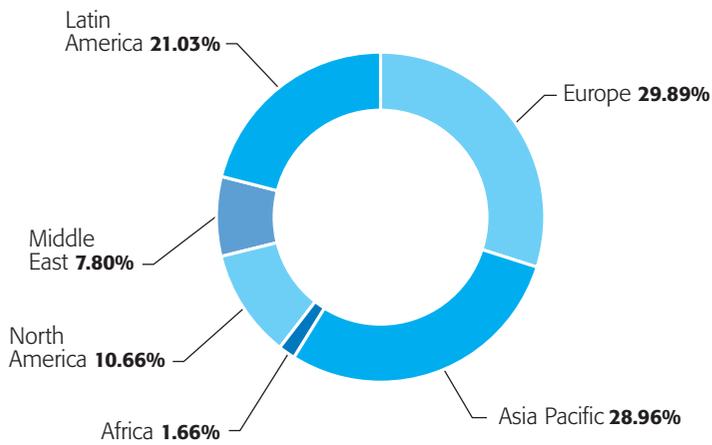
I would also like to thank all of you who are part of this great association which unites spine surgeons all over the world and leave you with my kindest regards.



Marcelo Alejandro Valacco
AOSpine Latin America – Community Development



Members

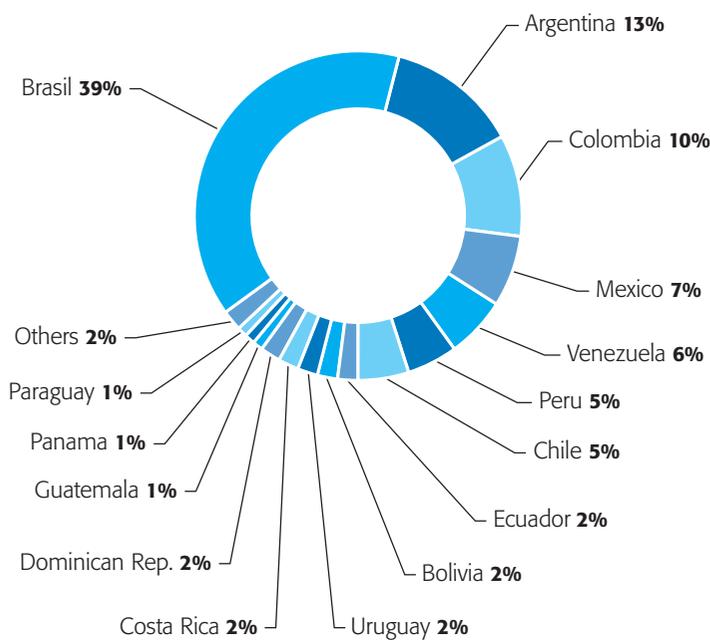


In 2011 we maintained our position as the third largest region in term of membership numbers . Next one may find graphs to further illustrate the numbers of each AOSpine region.

The highlight of this year was the significant increase in the number of new members who joined the community. However, an issue has been detected in our retention rates.

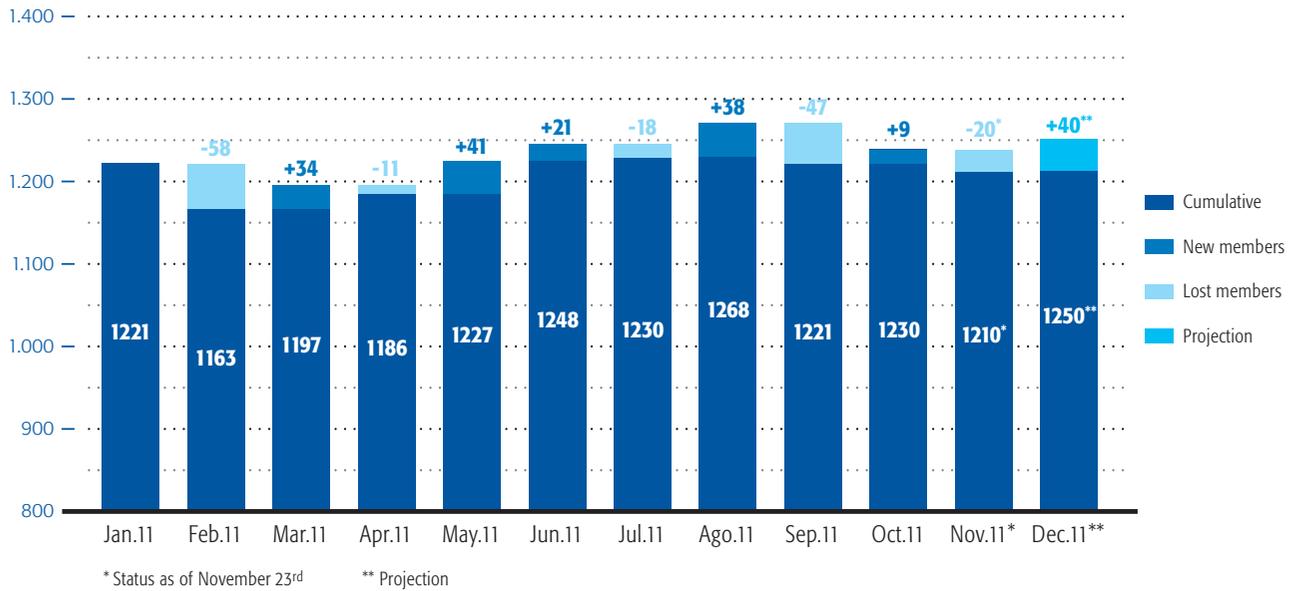
As a manner to tackle this matter, a few actions have been implemented, such as direct phone calls, automatic notifications sending and the development of an information system which generates full updated reports on memberships statistics.

Membership Evolution in Latin America



Country	Members	Associates	%
Brazil	478	894	39%
Argentina	158	349	13%
Colombia	146	257	10%
Mexico	124	381	7%
Venezuela	73	197	6%
Chile	67	194	5%
Peru	59	126	5%
Costa Rica	27	103	2%
Uruguay	27	25	2%
Bolivia	26	57	2%
Ecuador	25	46	2%
Dominican Rep	20	9	2%
Paraguay	18	17	1%
Guatemala	16	69	1%
Panama	16	42	1%
Nicaragua	5	12	0%
Jamaica	3	3	0%
El Salvador	2	5	0%
Puerto Rico	1	10	0%
Cuba	1	9	0%
Otros	1	14	0%
Total	1.293	2.819	100%

Status as of November 23rd



AOSpine Presence in Latin America

Among the remarkable achievements AOSLA attained during this year, it is important to point out the opening up of new territories in the region, extending its roots and making its vision known through the mutual collaboration with academic societies related to the spine in the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Furthermore, the traditional presence at the different column congresses in the region must also be highlighted.

During such activities, the AOSpine Latin America lounges and booths always serve as a meeting point for surgeons, allowing them to network with their colleagues.



XI Congress of Spine Surgery
 March 31–
 April 2, 2011
 São Paulo, Brazil



XIV Congress of the Brazilian Academy of Neurosurgery

April 19–23, 2011
Natal, Brazil



XIII Congress of the Brazilian Spine Society

April 28–30, 2011
Campos do Jordão, Brazil



XII Congress of the Orthopedics and Traumatology Society

June 23–26, 2011
Puerto Plata, República
Dominicana



XII Annual Congress AMCICO 2011

June 22–25, 2011
Cancun, Mexico



VI SINCOL (International Spine Symposium)

August 4–6, 2011
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Community Development Projects for 2011

Material in Local Language

Always looking to better benefits for its members, AOSpine Latin America has developed three projects during this year relating to making material of great interest available in the two local languages, Spanish and Portuguese:



CaseBase

A group was created within this valuable tool where active members can post cases and comments in Spanish and/or Portuguese. The Community Development Officers of each country of the region committed to sharing their cases to get the project started and encourage more members to participate.

Videos & lectures

Continuing this project initiated in 2009, this year had a series of lectures recorded thanks to the availability of the Faculty of the region. Some of these videos are available on AOSpine website, others are being edited and will be made available on the webpage soon.

Articles discussion

This project involves the careful selection of relevant articles published in scientific journals related to study of the spine. A professional in the area analyzes these articles and writes a summary in Spanish and/or Portuguese, which is then published in a discussion forum created specifically for this purpose. All AOSpine members can access the forum and submit their comments.

Community Development Conference Calls

Every quarter, the Community Development Officers of the region convened with the Regional Officer over a conference call to discuss issues related to the growth of the organization, ways to improve the benefits to our members and the different ways they can get involved with AOSpine.

2012 Calendar

The calendar is prepared each year to be distributed among the surgeons who dedicated their time and effort to the organization, keeping them up-to-date with events throughout the year.



Get involved campaign

Community Development International launched this year the campaign "Get Involved" which is based on the belief that members of AOSpine's community are the ultimate drivers of AOSpine's success.



This campaign reflects a transition from expansion of our community to a stage focused on harnessing the community to advance AOSpine's mission. The 'Get Involved' campaign serves as a backdrop for our current efforts such as the Evidence-Based Spine-Care Journal, the Global Spine Journal, CaseBase, and



for new and innovative opportunities for the community to get engaged with us over the next coming years.

AOSpine Latin America office



The administrative AOSLA office possesses the necessary personnel and equipment to support the different needs of the organization and its members.

This office is strategically located in the city of Curitiba, Brazil.



Antonio Machado AOSLA Regional Director

His main duty is to manage the region's financial budget and give guidance to all Country Councils of the region, ensuring their compliance with AOSI/AOSLA guidelines and policies. He also oversees Education, Research, Fellowships & Spine Centers and Community Development areas.



Luana Torres Education Project Manager

The responsibilities of this department are related to handling the administrative and organizational aspects of academic courses and to support the development of AOSpine Online Education systems.



Sônia Budziak Education Business Assistant

Responsible for the educational flyers and programs, giving support on the preparation and logistics of courses and seminars.



Carlos Montero Spine Centers & Fellowship Project Manager

Gives support to all Spine Centers and helps the fellows with the necessary paperwork to complete the application procedures and follow up to this program.



Luciana Garcia Research Project Manager

Manages AOSpine research activities, providing assistance to the involved personnel and institutions. She is also in charge of the implementation project for the Diploma Program.



Juan González Community Development Project Manager

Organizes and develops AOSpine Marketing events in the region, such as lounges, members' evolution and renewal strategies, web page innovations and general support for the members.

2011 in review



Community Development Meeting – Santiago, Chile

- 1/2 Participants Dinner at Enoteca Camino Real
- 3 The Regional Board took advantage of this meet to hold the first meeting of the year
- 4 Luana Torres presenting the Faculty Guidelines to participants
- 5 Mario Taricco receiving a token of appreciation for the outstanding contribution towards achieving the mission of the organization
- 6 Luis Gustavo Rocha former fellow performing for first time as Faculty at the Residents and Fellows Seminar – São Paulo, Brazil

7 The Brazilian Chapter first meet in 2011 in Curitiba, Brazil

Faculty Training – Curitiba, Brazil

8/9 Albert Brasil and William Teixeira learning how to transmit their knowledge

Live Tissue Surgery Course – Curitiba, Brazil

- 10 Table Instructors and Staff preparing the room for the practice
- 11 Participants practicing posterior approaches in live animals
- 12 Emiliano Vialle giving instructions to participants
- 13 Practice room overview



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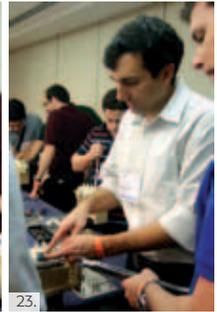
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Symposium: Complex Cases and Controversies

- 14 Max Aebi lecturing
- 15 Daniel Riew, Carlo Bellabarba, Luiz Vialle, Alexandre Sadao and Geraldo Sa
- 16 An outstanding presence of 126 participants

- 17 Faculties dining at the Update in the Therapeutic Management of deformities seminar – Montevideo, Uruguay

Central American Symposium – Panama, Panama

- 18 Participants group
- 19 Roberto Chapa sharing his knowledge
- 20 The regional board dinnering and meeting with the Central American Task Force in Panama, Panama

Principles Course – São Paulo, Brazil

- 21 Alexandre Sadao explaining the AOSpine Principles to participants
- 22 Participants practicing in artificial bones
- 23 Carlos Tucci showing how to perform a specific procedure

Pre-Congress Seminar in Dominican Republic

- 24 Participants enjoying the Rum discussion time with Matias Petracchi
- 25 Pablo Vela lecturing

Lounge in AMCICO – Cancun, Mexico

- 26 Martín Tejada, Roberto Postigo and Roberto Chapa enjoying a glass of wine
- 27 Until the last moment, participants of the congress visited the AOSpine lounge to know more about the organization



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Cervical and Degenerative Disease and Trauma Seminar – Belo Horizonte, Brazil

- 28 Faculties at the Pre-Course meeting
- 29 Alexandre Sadao presenting the coming AOSpine courses
- 30 Faculties expressing their opinion during the Caipirinha Discussion
- 31 Geraldo Sa presenting AOSpine to participants

32/33 Faculty dinner at Principles Course, Mexico, Mexico

34/35/36 Ricardo Ribeiro, president of SINCOL offered a tribute to Luiz Vialle and his wife for his contribution with the event

37 Faculty dinner at Lumbar Degenerative Disease – Quito, Ecuador

38/39 Emiliano Vialle meets with his fellows every Monday morning to discuss the agenda of the week



Symposium 4 Banderas

- 40 Alexandre Sadao and Osmar Moraes presenting a case making a very smooth atmosphere
- 41 Participants networking at the coffee break
- 42 Preparing the traditional Caipirinha discussion
- 43 Osmar Moraes toasting to the success of this event
- 44/45 Hotel staff preparing dinner
- 46 Faculties and participants enjoying dinner in open field
- 47 Carlos Villa visiting Iguacu falls

48/49 Roberto Chapa took Marcelo Gruenberg, Michael Mayer and Giuseppe Barbagallo to visit the National Museum of Anthropology after the Advanced Symposium in Mexico

50/51 Sometimes it is no easy to get to the event venue, Roberto Chapa and Pablo Vela having trouble getting to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic

52 Participants at AOSpine Faculty Training in Argentina

Symposium Complications and Controversies – Bogotá, Colombia

- 53 Participants having lunch
- 54/55 Discussion groups



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Seminar: A New Vision – Havana, Cuba

- 56 Ernesto Fleites receiving an AOSpine watch as a token of appreciation
- 57 Faculty Dinner
- 58 Faculties having a ride in a traditional car
- 59 Roberto Chapa and Pablo Vela enjoying a tobacco in La Bodeguita del Medio
- 60 Roberto Chapa, Pablo Vela and Antonio Machado

- 61 Osmar Moraes having an exhilarating opportunity to soar through the rain forest high above the forest floor of Costa Rica

Décimas para AOSpine

“
*Alineación, biología, fusión
 y estabilidad.*
Ciencia, modestia, amistad.
Nueva visión, nuevo día.
*El buen chiste, la alegría que va
 marcando el compás.*
*La opinión sin antifaz, la discusión
 que entretiene.*
*AOSpine señores—tiene todo eso...
 y ¡mucho más!*
Tratar el dolor de espalda;
No dar espalda al dolor;
Mirar al raquis mejor
O igual que a una minifalda?
De esta manera se salda
La duda con la conciencia.
Se enriquece la existencia
Y en fugaz rumbo de estrella

Dejamos con nuestra huella
Algún “nivel de evidencia”
¿Qué aprendí?
Aprendí la diferencia
De artrodesis y “desastrosis”
Y que la espondilo artrosis
Lleva un poco de paciencia.
Aprendí que la insistencia
Busca la mejor opción
Que a veces sin la fusión
Puede encontrarse otra vía
Y aprendí – que yo sabía –
Muy poco de esta cuestión.”

by **Nestor Pulido**
 November 26th
 Havana, Cuba



AOSpine—the expert community
dedicated to spine care