

AOSpine Latin America Annual Report 2012



Governance

Fellowships &
Spine Centers

Research

Community
Development

Education

[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 2012

As this year draws to an end, we emphasize the wide range of educational activities developed in 2012, the highlight being the Interactive Courses in Buenos Aires with the participation of 230 surgeons from the most diverse countries in the region.

This year saw the continuation of our presence in Central America and the Caribbean through the work of the Task Force and courses being held again in Cuba and Jamaica, among others.

In 2012, new projects have been launched, such as the first cycle of our Continuing Education Program, the new Fellowship selection process and the implementation of a Curriculum as the basis for most of our educational activities.

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Chairperson's Word

Dear Friends,

We have reached the end of a new year where important accomplishments have been achieved and where new challenges are emerging.

In a year which saw elections taking place at both a regional and international level, we would like to distinguish Jeffrey Wang as the new elected successor to Luiz Vialle, who performed an outstanding job in his three years as International Chairperson. At the regional level, elections for the chapters were held, in which new Chairpersons and Officers were elected to take on the new working term and provide continuity to the great labor performed by their predecessors.

At an educational level, we would like to highlight the Interactive Courses that took place in the city of Buenos Aires, gathering over 230 participants from several countries in the region. In addition to the Interactive Courses, we continued to develop the educational events that already take place on a regular basis in different countries, including a live surgery course and cadaver courses, with significant local and regional participation. In 2012, the Virtual Courses were performed at Advanced Levels for the sixth consecutive year, as well as the introduction of the Principles Level course for the very first time. As always, these courses were conducted by our prominent and committed Faculty, and consistently ensured massive participation, both face to face and virtual.

In Central America and the Caribbean, we have continued our work in the characteristic AOSpine environment, holding several courses in Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. This work, begun a few years ago, ensures an increase in the number of followers of the academic activities developed in this part of the region.

Furthermore, as part of the educational area we would also like to highlight the implementation of the new Fellowship process, which allowed us to give all of our regional members the opportunity to participate, not only increasing our number of Spine Centers but also the number of fellows. Likewise, we would like to highlight the launch of the first cycle of the Continuing Education Program (Diploma Project) in August, as planned. This program is currently in progress with a significant number of surgeons participating.

On behalf of the Regional Board, I appreciate the hard work of everyone who helped in making 2012 a year of many accomplishments. We invite you to continue to be a part of this wonderful community, and for those who are not yet members we offer a warm welcome.

Kind regards,



Osmar Moraes

Chairperson AOSpine Latin America





Prezados amigos,

Estamos nos aproximando ao final de mais um ano, no qual importantes feitos foram alcançados e no qual novos desafios estão emergindo.

Em um ano no qual tivemos a realização de eleições tanto a nível regional como internacional, temos o prazer de destacar Jeffrey Wang como o novo sucessor eleito de Luiz Vialle, que desempenhou um trabalho extraordinário durante os três anos em que ocupou o cargo de Chairperson Internacional. Regionalmente, realizamos eleições para a composição dos capítulos locais, elegendo novos Chairpersons e Officers para iniciar seu mandato e continuar com o excelente trabalho desenvolvido pelos seus predecessores.

No que diz respeito aos projetos educacionais, gostaríamos de destacar os Cursos Interativos que aconteceram na cidade de Buenos Aires, atraindo mais de 230 participantes de diversos países da região. Adicionalmente, continuamos a desenvolver os eventos que ocorrem regularmente em diferentes países, incluindo um curso de cirurgia ao vivo e cursos cadavéricos, com significativa participação local e regional. Em 2012, os Cursos Virtuais foram apresentados em nível Avançado pelo sexto ano consecutivo, e o curso de Princípios foi realizado pela primeira vez. Como sempre, todas estas atividades foram conduzidas por nosso destacado grupo de Faculty, assegurando constante participação maciça tanto nas atividades virtuais como nas presenciais.

Na América Central e Caribe, continuamos com nosso trabalho de acordo ao já característico estilo AOSpine, realizando cursos na Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, México e República Dominicana. Estes esforços, iniciados há alguns anos, têm garantido um crescente número de participantes e seguidores das atividades acadêmicas desenvolvidas na região.

Além disso, como parte das atividades educacionais, gostaríamos de destacar a implementação de um novo processo de Fellowship, o que nos permitiu dar oportunidade de participação a todos os nossos membros regionais, aumentando tanto o número de Spine Centers como de fellows. Da mesma maneira, deve-se fazer menção ao lançamento do primeiro ciclo do Programa de Formação Continuada (projeto Diploma) em agosto do presente ano, de acordo ao planejado. O Programa já está em funcionamento com um significativo número de cirurgiões participando ativamente.

Em nome do Board Regional, agradeço o esforço contínuo daqueles que contribuíram para tornar 2012 um ano de muitas realizações. Nós lhe convidamos a continuar sendo parte desta fantástica comunidade, e, para aqueles que ainda não são membros, oferecemos nossas boas-vindas.

Cordialmente,

Osmar Moraes
AOSpine Latin America Chairperson

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Governance

Elections 2012



In 2012, elections took place at local, regional and international levels. The results of these elections are listed in the tables below:

International Board

AOSpine would like to welcome Jeffrey Wang as the new elected successor of Luiz Vialle as International Chairperson, and the new International Board members Daniel Riew and Carlos Tucci.

Board Member	Position	Country
Jeffrey Wang	Chairperson	USA
Luiz Vialle	Past Chairperson	Brazil
Germán Ochoa	Education	Colombia
Daniel Riew	Research	USA
Carlos Tucci	Community Development	Brazil
Alain Baumann	Executive Director	France

*Elected in 2012

Regional Board

AOSLA is very pleased to announce the new Latin America Research Officer, Asdrubal Falavigna, who started his new position on July 1st, 2012.

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

*Elected in 2012

Country Councils and Delegates

This year, Country Councils from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela welcomed new Officers:

Local Chapters

Country	Chairperson	Education (Ortho)	Education (Neuro)	Community Development	Research
Argentina	Pedro Luis Bazán	Matías Petracchi	José Prina	Ramiro Barrera	Juan Pablo Guyot
Bolivia	Jaime Linares	Marcelo Sea	René Torrejon	Gueider Salas	Ramiro Villavicencio
Brazil	Alexandre Sadao	William Teixeira	Jerônimo Milano	Alberto Gotfryd	Delio Martins
Chile	Aliro San Martín	Manuel Valencia	Enrique Concha	Ratko Yurac	Álvaro Silva
Colombia	Néstor Taboada	Jaime Segura	Miguel Berbeo	Constanza Bedoya	Mario Herrera
Costa Rica	Alexander Valverde	n/a	Edgard Jimenez	José Perez	n/a
Ecuador	Mario Zumarraga	Montserrat Pavón	Juan Francisco Lasso	Elio Ramirez	Fernando Davalos
Guatemala	Juan Pablo de León	Erick Rodas	Rafael De La Riva	Arturo Guerra	Erny Leal
Mexico	Martín Tejada	Oscar Martinez	José Estrada	Jorge Cabrera	José Jimenez
Panama	Antonio Mock	Geovany Osigian	José Neira	Aldimarina López	Ricardo Mosquera
Peru	Michael Hinojosa	Carlos Cardenas	Arturo Morales	Benjamin Castillo De La Flor	Francisco Zambrano
Venezuela	Rafael Otero	César Covarrubia	Marlon Díaz	Olga Morillo	Víctor Davila

*Elected in 2012

Delegates

Argentina

Alejandro Betemps, Ernesto Bersusky, Juan Emerich, Néstor Fiore, Osvaldo Romano, Rubén Morales.

Bolivia

Carlos Urioste.

Brazil

Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Mario Taricco, Emiliano Vialle, Ricardo Ribeiro, Alexandre Fogaça, Robert Meves, Albert Brasil.

Chile

Milan Munjin, Samuel Pantoja, Omar Hernández, Enzo Mantelli, Yokota Beuret.

Colombia

Pablo Vela, Ricardo Restrepo, Leonardo Duplat, Néstor Guzmán, Nelson Morales, Jaime Quintero.

Costa Rica

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

Cuba

Ernesto Fleitas, Enrique Dejongh.

Dominican Republic

Iohan Fernandez, Giovanni Ureña.

Ecuador

Ernesto Vargas, Jaime Pavón, Luis Guijarro, Martha Hernandez-Galvez.

El Salvador

Francisco Sansivirini.

Guatemala

Luis Cruz, Otto Alvarado, Gabriel Murga, Julio Pozuelos.

Jamaica

Ian Neil, Carl Bruce.

Mexico

Roberto Chapa, Jesús Bernal, Hernando Cuevas, Gustavo Casas, Felix Sanchez, Aurelio Ramirez.

Nicaragua

Juan Bosco González, Manuel Orozco.

Panama

Héctor Crooks, Carlos Martínez, Laurent Bruggeman, Raúl Arjona.

Paraguay

Reddy Simon, Juan Silva.

Peru

Daniel Cauti, Alfredo Vásquez, Raul Macchiavello, Hernán Valdivia.

Uruguay

Oscar Carreras, Edgardo Spagnuolo.

Venezuela

Luis Lara, James Cardona, José Duran, Edgar Gonzalez.

Meetings

AOSLA Board Meetings

Meeting I – Brazil February 02–04, 2012.

Venue Four Points by Sheraton – Curitiba, Brazil.

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

AOSpine Luciana Garcia, Luana Torres, Juan González, Carlos Montero.

Guest Luiz Vialle.

Industrial Partner Sarah Mueller.

Topics Discussed

- Curriculum implementation plan and Continuing Education Program.
- Budget discussion and Fellowship & Spine Centers guidelines.
- Development and execution of the strategic plan for Community Development.
- Educational plan for 2012 and 2013.



Meeting II – Cuba April 12–13, 2012.

Venue Parque Central Hotel – Havana, Cuba.

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

AOSpine Juan González.

Topics Discussed

- Update Faculty, Chair and EA Training Plan 2012–2013.
- Update educational events 2012.
- Implementation of the “Virtual Educational Advisors”.
- Check status of the visitors to the Spine Centers in the region and their respective reports.
- Follow-up on the actions taken by Community Development regarding the retention of members.
- Summarize all the activities of the Task Force in Central America & Caribbean.

Meeting III – Argentina July 23, 2012.

Venue Hilton Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Marcelo Valacco, Andrés Rodríguez, Marcelo Gruenberg, Marco Medina, Asdrubal Falavigna, Antonio Machado.

AOSpine Luana Torres, Juan González, Carlos Montero.

Topics Discussed

- Check status of the Continuing Education Program.
- Strategic actions to be implemented in the educational area.
- Check grants status for 2012–2013.
- Organizational chart of the latest elections of the chapters.
- Check the evolution of the fellowships scholarships from 2011 to 2013.
- Check the status of memberships and actions that should be taken to improve the retention indexes.

Meeting IV – Colombia November 01, 2012.

Venue Hilton Hotel – Bogotá, Colombia.

Board Members Osmar Moraes, Marcelo Valacco, Andrés Rodríguez, Roberto Postigo, Asdrubal Falavigna, Antonio Machado.

AOSpine Juan González.

Guests Germán Ochoa, Jaime Quinteros.

Industrial Partner Sarah Mueller.

Topics Discussed

- Projects and perspectives of the AO Foundation.
- Results for the Fellowships and Spine Centers.
- Project management plan Community Development 2013.
- Results and status of the Continuing Education Program.
- Research results 2012–2013.
- Elections and governance AOSLA.



Chapters Meetings

Argentina

Meeting I – July 27, 2012.

Venue Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Participants Juan Emmerich, Matias Petracchi, Ramiro Barrera, Ricardo Prina, Juan Pablo Guyot, Pedro Bazán.

Meeting II – September 04, 2012.

Venue Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Participants Matias Petracchi, Ramiro Barrera, Ricardo Prina, Juan Pablo Guyot, Pedro Bazán.

Brazil

Meeting I – March 16, 2012.

Venue São Paulo, Brazil.

Participants Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Robert Meves, Ricardo Ribeiro, Carlos Tucci, Alexandre Fogaça, Alexandre Sadao, William Teixeira, Jerônimo Milano, Alberto Gotfryd, Delio Martins.

Guest Osmar Moraes.

Meeting II – September 21, 2012.

Venue São Paulo, Brazil.

Participants Alexandre Sadao, William Teixeira, Jerônimo Milano, Alberto Gotfryd, Delio Martins.

Guest Osmar Moraes.

AOSpine Luana Torres.

Colombia

Meeting I – May 04, 2012.

Venue Bogotá, Colombia.

Participants Néstor Taboada, Rodolfo Paéz, Gustavo Giraldo, Julián España, William Contreras, Juan Esteban Suárez Henao, Fernando Alvarado.

Guests Jaime Segura and Nelson Morales.

Meeting II – August 24, 2012.

Venue Bogotá, Colombia.

Participants Néstor Taboada, Leonardo Duplat, Mario Herrera, Constanza Bedoya, Jaime Segura, Miguel Berbeo.

Chile

Meeting I – October 06, 2012.

Venue Santiago, Chile.

Participants Aliro San Martín, Manuel Valencia, Enrique Concha, Ratko Yurac, Álvaro Silva.

Mexico

Meeting I – January 28, 2012.

Venue Mexico City, Mexico.

Participants Martín Tejeda, Gustavo Casas, Hernando Cuevas, Aurelio Ramirez, Felix Sanchez.

Guest Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine Juan González.

Industrial partner Federico Obregon.

Meeting II – September 27, 2012.

Venue Mexico City, Mexico.

Participants Martín Tejeda, Gustavo Casas, Hernando Cuevas, Aurelio Ramirez, Felix Sanchez.

Guest Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine Antonio Machado.

Industrial partners Silverio Aja and Federico Obregon.

Panama

Meeting I – March 01, 2012.

Venue Panama City, Panama.

Participants Antonio Mock, Giovanni Osigian.

Guest Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine Juan González.

Industrial partner Maria Luisa Muñoz.

Venezuela

Meeting I – July 12, 2012.

Venue Caracas, Venezuela.

Participants Edgar González, Luis Lara, Marlon Diaz, José Durán, James Cardona, Rafael Otero, César Covarrubia, Marlon Diaz, Olga Morillo, Víctor Dávila.



Spine Centers & Fellowships

Spine Centers & Fellowships Officer's Word

Dear Friends,

We have reached the end of a new year of challenges, and I have the great satisfaction of being able to share the results of our work of the last years with you.

After almost a year of planning, the implementation of the "AOSLA Fellowship & Spine Centers 2012" project finally took place, gathering a significant number of participants. Its open and transparent processes gave all interested members the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of spinal surgery, allowing them to spread this knowledge in their cities and countries of origin.

Thanks to the support of a wide network of Spine Centers in the region, I am pleased to announce that our objective was reached, exceeding all of our expectations. It is imperative that we continue with our work of improving the training of spine surgeons, and help contribute to their growth in a professional manner. I would like to thank all the new Spine Centers and their respective staffs, who joined us this year to become part of this great project. I would especially like to thank the current training program directors who hosted us throughout this year for the presentations of this project plan, and always did so in a friendly atmosphere of professionalism and camaraderie. We could not have done this work without their support and we look forward to the continuing growth and cooperation.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these achievements and invite you to continue contributing to this great community with the goal of improving the professional development of our members and benefiting our patients.

Warmest regards,


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



Spine Centers

In 2012, Spine Centers have once again played a major role in the education and training of 12 fellows from different countries in the region. Additionally, this year saw the incorporation of three new centers to the network of Spine Centers in Latin America, all of which are already qualified to start receiving the first fellows.

With the additions of [Hospital Santa Casa de São Paulo](#), [Hospital da Restauração in Recife](#) and [Instituto de Ortopedia Infantil Roosevelt in Bogotá](#), AOSpine Latin America now has a total of eight Spine Centers in the region, available to members interested in spine surgery training.



Spine Center	City, Country	Program Director
1 Unidat Médica de Alta Especialidad	Monterrey, Mexico	Roberto Chapa
2 Hospital da Restauração	Recife, Brazil	Geraldo Sá Carneiro
3 Hospital Santa Casa	São Paulo, Brazil	Robert Meves
4 Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, Brazil	Alexandre Sadao
5 Hospital Universitário Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Emiliano Vialle
6 Hospital HIGA San Martín de La Plata	La Plata, Argentina	Pedro Bazán
7 Hospital Pediátrico Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Ernesto Bersusky
8 Instituto de Ortopedia Infantil Roosevelt	Bogotá, Colombia	Carlos Montero Silva

 New AOSpine Spine Centers, starting 2012.

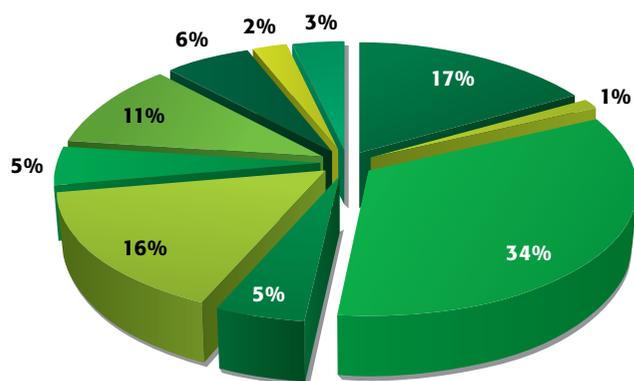
Spine Centers Application

- Brazil
- Chile

Fellowship & Observership

From 2006 to the present, a total of 83 fellows from various parts of the region have been trained in different programs by the leading specialists in the field of spine surgery, allowing them to share experiences and exchange knowledge with colleagues worldwide.

Participation of fellows according to country of origin

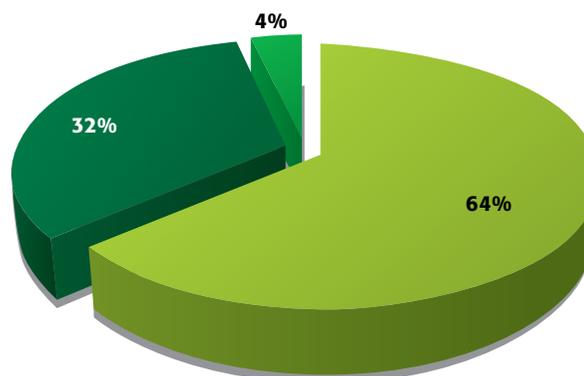


Country	Fellows	%
Argentina	14	17%
Bolivia	1	1%
Brazil	28	34%
Chile	4	5%
Colombia	13	16%
Ecuador	4	5%
Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica	9	11%
Peru	5	6%
International	2	2%
Venezuela	3	3%

Distribution of fellows according to programs

The number of applicants for the different fellowship programs has been increasing year after year, reaching a total of 38 applications for several programs in 2013, surpassing all of our expectations.

Type of program	Fellows	%
Short-term	53	64%
Long-term	27	32%
Observership	3	4%



Number of applications in the last four years

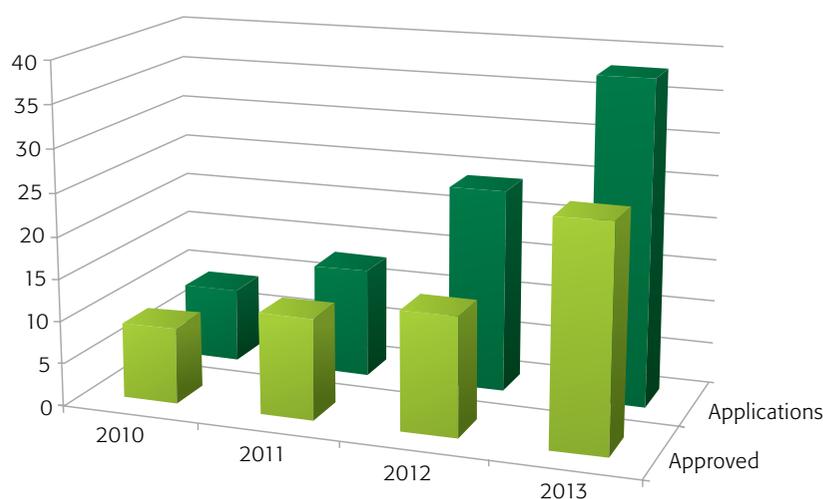
Year	Applications	Approved
2010	9	9
2011	13	12
2012	24	14
2013	38	25

Including the Observership Program launched in 2011.

*2011 - 3

*2012 - 2

*2013 - 4 (Ongoing)



Fellowship 2012

Once again, we are finishing a new cycle of training in which program directors, staff and fellows interacted with the goal of achieving the highest standards of excellence in knowledge.

Thirteen fellows participated in the different training programs during last year, as detailed below:

Name	Spine Center	City, Country	From	To
Alfredo Sicoli	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Jan-12	Mar-12
Tamara Gisela	Hospital HIGA La Plata	La Plata, Argentina	May-12	Jul-12
Abel Carneiro	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Jul-12	Jun-13
Luiz Muller	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Feb-12	Jan-13
Olger Alarcon	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Feb-12	Apr-12
Orlando Colina	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	Jul-12	Jun-13
Yaidelys Garcia	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	May-12	Jul-12
Antonio Carvajal	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Mar-12	Aug-12
Carlos Vargas	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Mar-12	Apr-12
Fabricio Aguilar	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Jul-12	Sep-12
Heber Torres	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Oct-12	Nov-12
Henry Solaque	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	May-12	Jun-12
Martin Medina	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Dec-12	Jun-13

Testimonial from an AOSpine fellow

My participation in the long-term Fellowship program at the Hospital Universitario Cajuru, under the coordination of Dr. Luiz Vialle and Dr. Emiliano Vialle, was an experience that exceeded my expectations, both on a professional and personal level. It featured great logistical coordination and support from AOSLA Office, in addition to the Spine Group.

The strength of the program lay in putting together a group with determination and experience, which taught me to work at a technical, academic and scientific level with professionalism and determination, week after week.

While carrying out the training, I received support from a wonderful group of people, without which it would not have been possible to achieve my objectives.

A special thanks to Dr. Luiz Vialle and Dr. Emiliano Vialle, who were generous with their teaching of theory and practice, helping me achieve the scientific rigor I aimed for, and to all the other staff of the Hospital Universitario Cajuru. Thank you very much!

Diego Loza Zapata

Fellow—Hospital Cajuru, June 2011–July 2012.



AOSpine Fellowship History

The following is a detailed presentation of the participation of the different fellows as listed by country of origin, Spine Center and training periods from 2006 to the present.

Fellows from Argentina

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Javier Ricardo 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
Alfredo Sicoli	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short-term	Jan-10	Mar-10
Maximiliano Mereles	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long-term	Jul-10	Jul-11
Nicolas Gonzales	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Jan-11	Dec-11
Nicolas Coombes	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Mar-11	May-11
Santiago Menendez	Sint Maartenskliniek	Nijmegen, NED	Short-term	Sep-11	Nov-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
Tamara Gisela	Hospital HIGA La Plata	La Plata, ARG	Short-term	May-12	Jul-12

Fellows from Bolivia

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Juan M. Sea Aramayo	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Sep-06	Nov-06

Fellows from Brazil

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Mauricio Santos Gusmão	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-06	Jan-07
Túlio de Moura Rangel	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-06	Jan-07
Luiz Gustavo Rocha	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, USA	Short-term	Mar-06	Jun-06
Luiz Felipe C. Carvalho	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-07	Feb-08
Carlos Fernando Herrero	Ribeirão Preto	Ribeirão Preto, BRA	Short-term	Feb-07	Apr-07
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, UK	Short-term	Jul-07	Aug-07
Luis Claudio 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 Romeo Boulosa	Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Milan, ITA	Short-term	Nov-07	Dec-07
Fernando Coutinho	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-08	Jan-09
Djalma Amorim	Ribeirão Preto	Ribeirão Preto, BRA	Short-term	Feb-09	Apr-09
Andre Vidigal	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-09	Jan-10

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
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
Alessandro 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 Institute	Bologna, ITA	Short-term	Sep-10	Feb-11
Allan Kato	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Feb-11	Jun-11
Ramon Ferreira	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term	Feb-11	Jan-12
Danilo Bernardi	Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Milan, ITA	Short-term	Oct-11	Nov-11
Alfredo Gotfryd	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Oct-11	Oct-11
Daniel Barros	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Apr-11	Apr-11
Abel Carneiro	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Jun-12	Jul-13
Luiz Muller	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Feb-12	Jan-13

Fellows from Chile

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

Fellows from Colombia

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Wilmer Godoy Carrero	Hospital Italiano	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Apr-06	May-06
Miguel Alejandro Sarmiento	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	May-06	Jul-06
Carlos B. Ramírez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Feb-07	Apr-07
William Contreras	Ribeirão Preto	Ribeirão Preto, 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
Julian España	Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad	Monterrey, MEX	Long-term	Aug-11	Feb-12
Saul Barrera	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Aug-11	Aug-11
Antonio Carvajal	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long-term	Mar-12	Aug-12
Henry Solaque	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	May-12	Jun-12
Heber Torres	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Oct-12	Nov-12

Fellows from Costa Rica

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Javier Gutiérrez Bonilha	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHI	Long-term	Apr-06	Mar-07
Alexander Valverde Retana	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	May-07	Jul-07
Esteban Araya	Hospital Garrahan	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, CHI	Short-term	Mar-06	May-06
Daniel Mosquera Mayorga	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Oct-06	Dec-06
Alfredo Jordán	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, CHI	Short-term	Mar-07	May-07
Fabricio Aguilar	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Jul-12	Sep-12

Fellows from the Dominican Republic

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Joel Acevedo	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term	Mar-11	May-11

Fellows from Mexico

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

Fellows from Nicaragua

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Sara Maria Alvarez Vargas	Los Angeles	Los Angeles, USA	Short-term	Mar-07	May-07

Fellows from Panama

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Aldimarina López	Ribeirão Preto	Ribeirão Preto, BRA	Long-term	Feb-09	Jan-10

Fellows from Peru

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Daniel Cauti 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 Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Observership	Jul-11	Jul-11
Olger Alarcon	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Feb-12	Apr-12
Carlos Vargas	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Long-term	Mar-12	Apr-12

Fellows from the United Kingdom

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Syed Ahmed	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Sep-07	Nov-07

Fellows from the United States of America

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

Fellows from Venezuela

Fellow	Spine Center	City, Country	Fellowship	From	To
Marlon González Rivas	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Aug-06	Oct-06
Orlando Colina	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	Jul-12	Jun-13
Yaidelys Garcia	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term	May-12	Jul-12

Fellowship 2013

AOSpine seeks to give each of the members in the region the opportunity to participate in a fellowship program. After an open and transparent selection process which ended recently with 38 applications, and following the final decision of the respective center directors, we announced the names of the candidates elected for the next AOSpine Fellows Program:

Country-Origin	Name	Spine Center	City, Country	Program
Argentina	Lazaro Lutzky	Clinic St. Anna	Switzerland, SWI	Short-term
Argentina	Dolores Posadas	Rizzoli Institute	Bologna, ITA	Short-term
Argentina	Diego Flores	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, UK	Long-term
Argentina	Ramiro Barrera	Hong Kong University	Hong Kong	Observership
Bolivia	Juan Sea	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term
Brazil	Samuel Conrad	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term
Brazil	Eduardo Mariúba	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term
Brazil	Luis Pereira	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term
Brazil	Juliano Chaves	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Short-term
Brazil	Vinicius Benites	Berufsgenossenschaftliche Unfallklinik	Frankfurt, GER	Short-term
Brazil	Manoel Filho	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, BRA	Observership
Colombia	Juan Castro	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, BRA	Long-term
Costa Rica	Luis Brenes	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term
El Salvador	Napoléon Avendaño	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term
Guatemala	Mario García	Spine Education and Research Institute	Denver, USA	Long-term
Guatemala	Jose Matheu	Hospital Roosevelt	Bogota, COL	Observership
Mexico	Héctor Soriano	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, BRA	Short-term
Mexico	Jorge de Haro	Hospital Roosevelt	Bogota, COL	Long-term
Mexico	Jose Estrada	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term
Mexico	Salvador Gutierrez	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, ARG	Short-term
Mexico	Edgar Cardena	Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad	Monterrey, MEX	Long-term
Panama	Gustavo Montoya	Hospital Higa	La Plata, ARG	Long-term
Paraguay	Hugo Kunzle	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, BRA	Short-term
Peru	Richard Hernandez	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, BRA	Short-term
Venezuela	Irani Paez	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, BRA	Short-term

Research



Research

Research Officer's Word

Dear Members,

It is a great pleasure to have been elected AOSpine Latin America Research Officer. I am honored to have the task of increasing the number of people involved in research, and gathering them together to work in an international research project that coincides with our outstanding international spirit.

This year we have planned new projects which will allow us to improve both the quality and quantity of Latin American research. As part of this project, we are beginning with the evaluation of the scientific production of Latin American spine surgeons. Getting to know the reasons that limit scientific publications will allow us to implement strategies to change this circumstance.

A Research Course will also be held next year in order to identify and stimulate possible research groups, promote an exchange of experiences among the researchers of the regional branches of AOSLA, offer tools to the research team for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work, and to enable and facilitate multi-center and inter-regional research projects. The research field is ready to include research fellowship grants so as to provide better information, allowing for an exchange of training and consequently improving professional qualification.

We believe that improved education in research is the main strategy to increase both the quantity and quality of scientific publications. The implementation of this course of action, along with the already existing AOSpine grants, permits the growth and further support of research centers.

It is of utmost importance for Latin American spine surgeons to show to the World Spine Community the excellence of their work, regardless of all the difficulties we face in our region.

Kind regards,

Asdrubal Falavigna
AOSpine Latin America – Research



Research Grants

2011 Awards

In 2011, AOSpine Latin America began receiving applications in the region. Eighteen research projects from South and Central America were initially received. After a selection process, two projects – one clinical study and one basic science project – were awarded a grant of up to USD 30.000,00.

The two awarded projects were developed in 2011 and the beginning of 2012 and are already generating the first results:



The clinical study, entitled *“Evaluation of the role of phosphocalcic metabolism in the risk of pseudoarthrosis in patients operated from degenerative lumbar scoliosis”*, is being coordinated by **Juan Pablo Guyot**. Juan Pablo works at the University Hospital Fundación Favalaro in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The study currently has six patients enrolled, all of whom are following all protocol procedures and have been reexamined over the duration of the study.



The awarded basic science project is coordinated by **Christiano Esteves Simões**, who is currently working for the Felício Rocho Hospital in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. This study, entitled *“Percutaneous therapy in rats submitted to medullar trauma”*, aims at evaluating the effect of applying mesenchymal stem cells from human adipose tissue in the cauda equina of rats submitted to medullar lesions.



It is expected that both studies will progress and finish the previously proposed stages over the next year. The awardees must regularly report their activities to AOSpine, generating periodical reports.

2012 Awards

This year, our call for applications was open from April until June, and counted six applications from different countries in the region:

Country	Research Proposal
Argentina	Spinal growth modulation in growing pigs through radiofrequency and the harmonic scalpel
Bolivia	Program on detection of scoliosis in children and adolescents in Latin America
Brazil	Analysis of the efficacy of hyperbaric therapy and physical activity on motility, histological, oxidative damage and infertility in a spinal trauma model
Chile	Prospective evaluation of post-op results of minimally invasive treatment on spinal metastasis
Mexico	The Ankle-Brachial Index as a predictor of a functional outcome after decompressive surgery for cervical spondylotic myelopathy
Venezuela	Sagittal balance evaluation in operated and unoperated asymptomatic patients and operated and unoperated symptomatic patients in Venezuela in 2013–2014

All projects were evaluated by our selection committee, following the standard procedures for research proposal evaluation. This year, the panel was comprised of the following Research Officers:

Research Officer	Country
Oswaldo Romano	Argentina
Alexandre Fogaça	Brazil
Leonardo Duplat	Colombia
Erny Leal Guerra	Guatemala
Ricardo Mosquera	Panama
Felix Sanchez Chavez	Mexico
James Cardona	Venezuela

The successful selection process received several applications from candidates from all over Latin America and within a varied range of topics. Both basic science and clinical study projects were received, and one project of each group was awarded with a grant for the period of two consecutive years. The final decision was ratified by our Past Research Officer, Emiliano Vialle, and Osmar Moraes, AOSpine Latin America Chairperson.

Universidade de Caxias do Sul in Brazil, was awarded the grant for the basic science project entitled *“Analysis of the efficacy of hyperbaric therapy and physical activity on motility, histological, oxidative damage and infertility in a spinal trauma model”*. The clinical study awarded is entitled *“Prospective evaluation of post-op results of minimally invasive treatment on spinal metastasis”*, and was presented by **Álvaro Silva**. Álvaro works at the Clínica Alemana de Santiago, Universidad del Desarrollo, in Santiago de Chile.

This year’s awardees are two doctors from Brazil and Chile respectively. **Asdrubal Falavigna**, a doctor of the

The two selected projects will be conducted from the second half of 2012 onwards, continuing into 2013 and, possibly, 2014. The selective process of the Grants Program represents a significant contribution to the development of clinical and basic science investigations in Latin America. It is a pleasure for the organization to invest in promising projects like these and to encourage our members to participate actively in scientific developments in the region.

Juan Pablo Guyot, a 2011 awardee, told us a bit about the importance of the research support given by AOSpine Latin America: *“Like many spine surgeons, I have a great interest in investigative projects. Given the large workload in the hospital and the few possibilities for grants, research work is sometimes inaccessible. Thanks to the AOSpine Grants, the possibility to develop clinical research protocols becomes a reality. I am very appreciative of the opportunity AOSpine gave me to further my growth as a professional”*.

Research Development Programs



Fueled by the idea of offering our members more significant support for research projects in Latin America, we have started two activities with the hope of providing a major contribution to research work in the region.

Identification of Spine-Related Publications in Latin America

This project aims at gathering information on spine-related publications carried out in Latin America. The study will be centered around the evaluation of the quantity and quality of publications, written by spine surgeons from every country, in the journals indexed in MEDLINE. The main

goal is to publish an article containing data on the scientific activity of spine surgeons in Latin America. All Research Officers and local Chapters have been invited to contribute with data from their respective countries.

Research Activities 2013

The second activity, which aims at promoting and developing medical investigations in the region, is a Research activity that will be held in 2013. The event will be carried out by researchers from different countries, with the objective of reporting on the status of the research activities in their respective countries. Some of the activities that will be reported on will be the ongoing investigations of the centers in each country, the type of research being conducted (laboratory, clinical, etc), general study areas (degeneration, trauma, tumor) and the functioning of the ethics committee in different countries, among others. In addition to this, the event will also provide information on the different tools used for initiating and conducting investigative projects.

Research Projects

SRS22

This ongoing project focuses on the validation of a Brazilian Portuguese version of the SRS22 questionnaire on Idiopathic Scoliosis. The data collected during the year of 2011 has been extensively analyzed in the last few months by the group in charge of the project (which has Carlos Tucci as the main investigator) and the first results will be published in the first quarter of 2013. After hitting the mark of 70 patients enrolled, the next step is an in-depth statistical analysis, which will result in an important publication for next year.

The study counts four centers in Brazil, as presented in the table below:

Research Center	Investigator
Pontifícia Universidade Católica – Campinas	Carlos Tucci (main investigator)
Hospital das Clínicas – Universidade de São Paulo	Alexandre Fogaça
Hospital das Clínicas – Universidade de Goiás	Murilo Daher
Hospital Pequeno Príncipe – Curitiba	Luís Eduardo Munhoz da Rocha

Community Development

Community Development



Community Development Officer's Word

Dear AOSpine Friends and Members,

It is with great satisfaction that I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to the development of our community, allowing us to remain the largest association of spine surgeons at both a regional and global level.

During 2012, new challenges have been presented to us. These challenges gave us the opportunity to improve our task of being a community that provides quality products and services to all our members in accordance to their professional and academic needs.

This year we also registered a significant number of new members due mainly to the excellent educational and organizational quality of each of the educational activities, as well as the effective marketing strategy conducted at local and regional levels.

We currently have approximately 1200 members in Latin America. This number is due to the great work performed by our office and the desire of each and every doctor for quality education, discussion, exchange of ideas and resolution of cases. Every year, the events undertaken by AOSpine have been gaining more prestige and acceptance from the doctors, and today stand as a symbol of educational quality in spinal pathologies. In addition, the joint work with the AOSLA Office in Curitiba, responsible for implementing a number of strategies, has allowed us to increase both the number of members and the retention index in comparison with the results obtained in 2011.

We would also like to highlight the launch of the first stage of a new Community Development project which has the objective of improving the retention index of our members through joint work with all AOSLA areas. This current project is based on a plan that combines processes and strategies in order to achieve the common objective of offering an excellent and differentiated service for each of our associates and members.

I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to be leading this great challenge in the region and hope to be able to continue our great work.

Sincerely,



Marcelo Valacco

AOSpine Latin America – Community Development



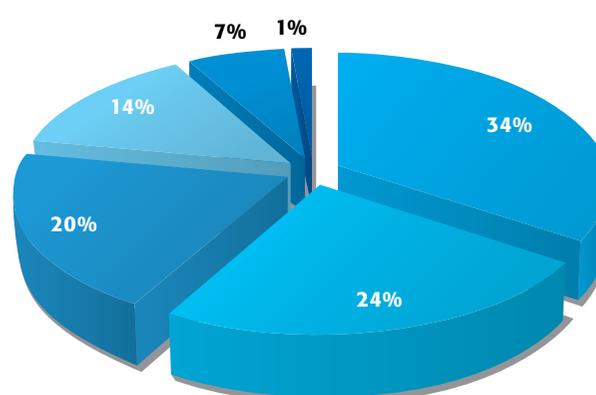
Members

This year saw a high number of new memberships. These were the results of the notable educational and organizational work, allowing us to register a very large number of participants in the local events. The effective promotional strategy performed prior to the courses also helped ensure an important number of new members.

While our membership retention numbers have significantly improved in comparison to 2011 and compared to other regions, we believe that they can still be further improved. AOSpine Latin America is therefore working on a new project in Community Development, which aims at increasing the retention numbers through a strategy to be implemented during 2013.

Region	Members	%
Asia Pacific	2078	34%
Europe	1440	24%
Latin America	1200	20%
North America	842	14%
Middle East	399	7%
Africa	88	1%

*Status as of November 19th, 2012.



Membership Evolution in Latin America

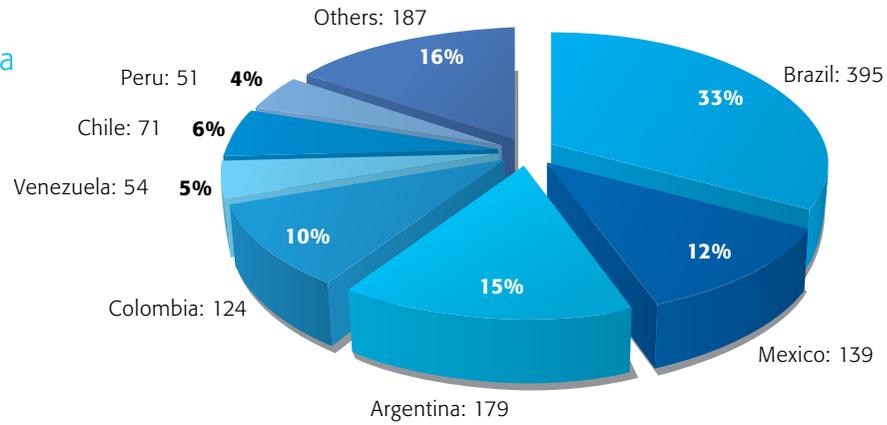
Members and associates per country

Country	Members	Associates	%
Brazil	395	1082	33%
Mexico	139	605	12%
Argentina	179	385	15%
Colombia	124	350	10%
Venezuela	54	256	5%
Chile	71	202	6%
Peru	51	154	4%
Costa Rica	21	112	2%
Guatemala	15	81	1%
Ecuador	29	66	2%
Bolivia	21	68	2%
Nicaragua	14	68	1%
Cuba	24	38	2%

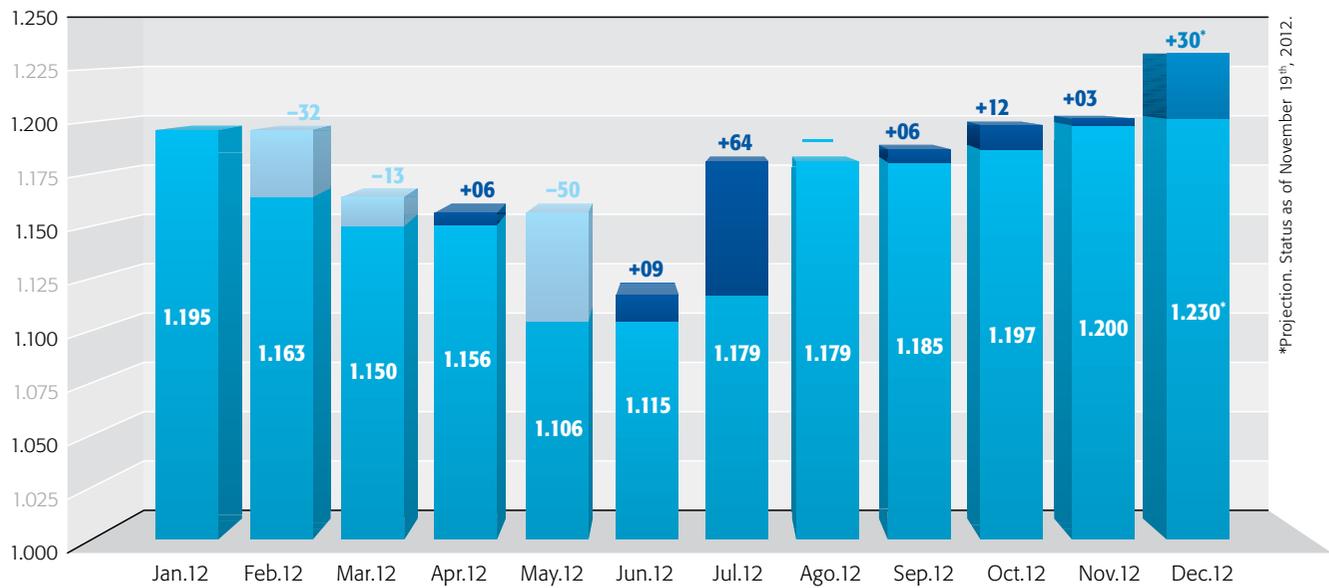
Country	Members	Associates	%
Panama	16	44	1%
Uruguay	19	33	2%
Paraguay	10	26	1%
Dominican Republic	10	25	1%
Jamaica	5	6	0%
Puerto Rico	0	11	0%
El Salvador	2	6	0%
Honduras	1	6	0%
Belize	0	3	0%
Trinidad and Tobago	0	2	0%
French Guiana	0	2	0%
Bermuda	0	1	0%
Barbados	0	1	0%
Total	1,200	3,633	100%

*Status as of November 19th, 2012.

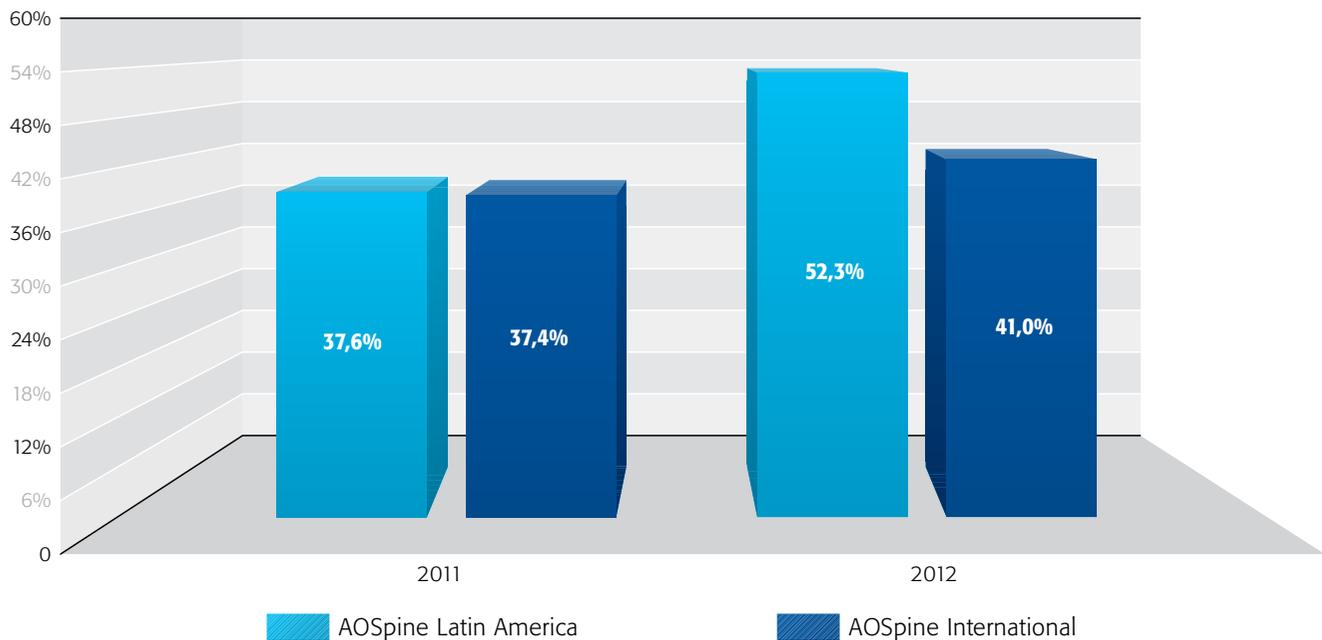
Participation in AOSpine Latin America members by country



Membership evolution in 2012



AOSpine Membership retention in 2011 and 2012



AOSpine Presence in Latin America

Aiming at further strengthening the bonds with other spine societies in Latin America, AOSLA has once again focused its efforts on increasing its participation within the different educational activities developed throughout the region. Such activities were enriched by the presence of our renowned Faculty, as well as through AOSpine lounges and stands at the most diverse congresses. These spaces enabled surgeons to gather in a relaxed environment and exchange ideas about their current academic and professional activities, allowing them to learn about the most up-to-date procedures on spine surgery from colleagues from different countries.

XII Congress of Spine Surgery

Date March 15–17, 2012.

Venue Maksoud Plaza – São Paulo, Brazil.



Transcongress AOSpine by the National Congress of Orthopedics–Specialties Day

Date April 27–May 01, 2012.

Venue World Trade Center – Mexico City, Mexico.



Pre-Congress Seminar AOSpine-AMCICO

Date June 21–23, 2012.

Venue Hilton Guadalajara Hotel – Guadalajara, Mexico.



Pre-Congress AOSpine: XXIX Brazilian Neurosurgery Congress

Date September 07–12, 2012.

Venue Riocentro – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Pre-Congress AOSpine: 21st Neurology-Neurosurgery Congress

Date September 13–16, 2012.

Venue Barceló Palace Deluxe Hotel – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.



Pre-Congress AOSpine National Congress of Orthopedics

Date October 04–06, 2012.

Venue Casa Santo Domingo – Antigua, Guatemala.



AOSLA Central America & Caribbean

This region is special and enigmatic as it is composed of a large number of countries with different health and educational systems, as well as cultural and language differences, making the events and projects (investigations, memberships, etc.) logistically different and challenging. Fortunately, all share the same mission and vision: to increase the level of knowledge and to define the best treatment options in spine surgery, all with the primary purpose of benefiting our patients.

Due to this reason, AOSpine Latin America has placed a special interest in this region in the last year and a half. AOSLA took the principles of management, treatment and especially education of spine pathology, to countries where they had never been present before, such as the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama and Jamaica. Courses, seminars and on occasion synergy with medical societies in both Orthopedics and Neurosurgery made these achievements possible, while also continuing to strengthening these principles in already established countries.

The experience in the region has been very satisfactory and promising. We have received a great response from medical societies and participants wishing to see a continuation of the promotion of these type of events. Next year will therefore include the continuation of this program, as well as meetings with the Chairmen & Delegates of the region to define appropriate strategies and actions. We will begin with the opening of Chapters and the nomination of Delegates in countries that meet the requirements, with the goal of a continuing dissemination of AOSpine's mission and vision, as well as the benefits provided by the different membership packages.


Roberto Chapa

Chairman–Task Force Central America & Caribbean



Delegates Meeting–AOSpine Central America & Caribbean

This meeting was held with the objective of reinforcing our bonds of friendship and fellowship, and featured the important presence of all the Task Force members for Central America & Caribbean. Getting to know the projects and results of the educational activities, membership projects and the relation with other societies were some of the points on the agenda, as well as discussing the difficulties faced in each country.

Date August 24, 2012.

Venue Guatemala, Guatemala City.

Participants Roberto Chapa, Osmar Moraes, Carlos Contreras, Juan Pablo de León Palacios, Enrique Dejongh, Iohan Fernandez, Ernesto Fleites, Freddy Flores Lebron, Juan Bosco González, Antonio Mock, Manuel Orozco, Giovanni Ureña, Alexander Valverde.

AOSpine Antonio Machado, Juan González.

Industrial Partner Guillermo Estrada.



Central America and Caribbean Events

AOSLA promoted several events in Central America and Caribbean during 2012. Details on these events can be found in the following Educational Activities section.

AOSpine Seminar: Degenerative Spine

Managua, Nicaragua – March 03, 2012

Advanced Symposium: Deformities and Trauma

Havana, Cuba – April 13–14, 2012

AOSpine Centroamerica & Caribe Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Spine

Guatemala City, Guatemala – August 25, 2012

Pre-Congress AOSpine: 21st Neurology-Neurosurgery Congress Spinal Degeneration and Infections

Bavaro, Dominican Republic – September 13–14, 2012

AOSpine Seminar: Spinal Degeneration

Panama City, Panama – September 14, 2012

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: News in Spine Surgery

Kingston, Jamaica – September 15, 2012

Pre-Congress AOSpine ACOT: Thoracolumbar Fractures

San José, Costa Rica – September 17, 2012

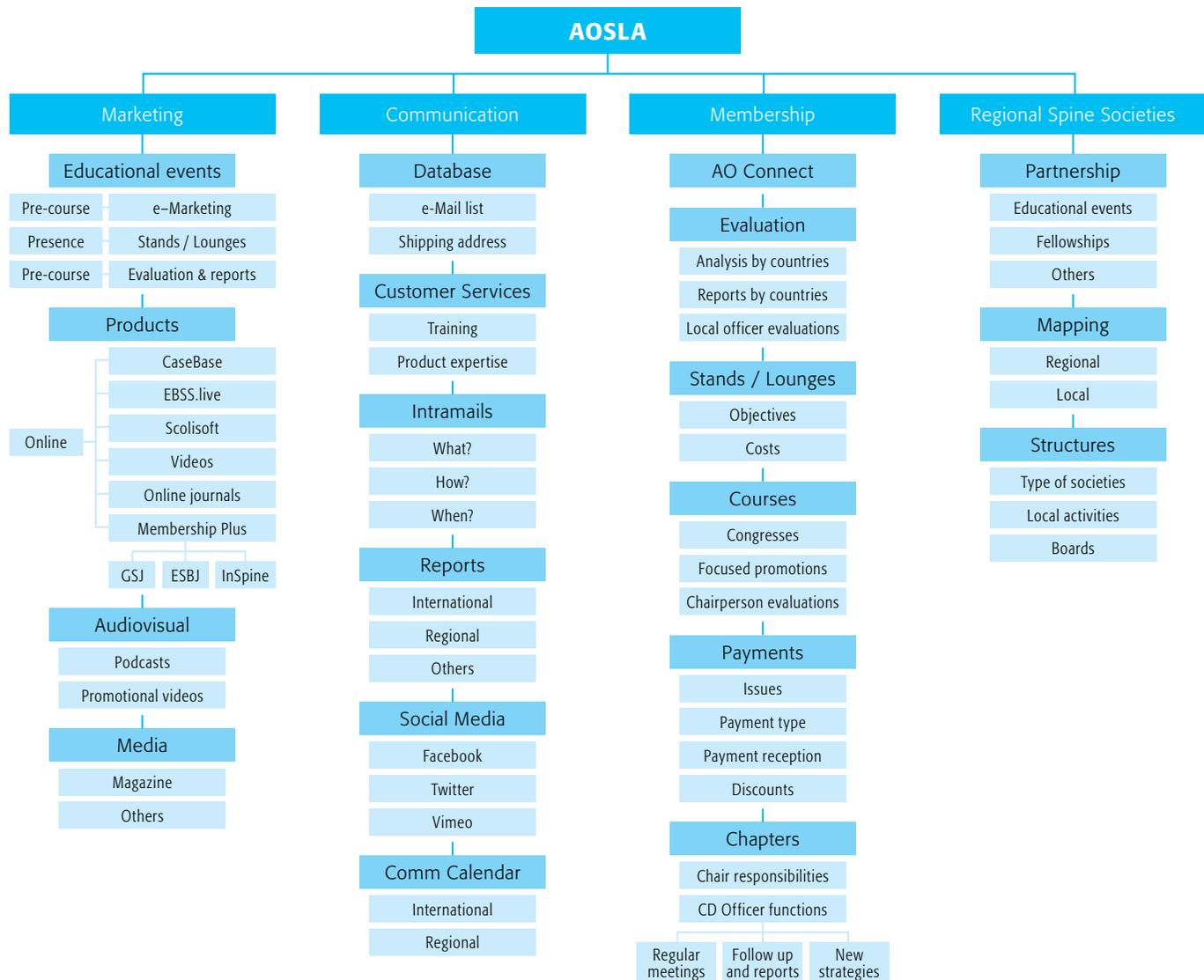
Pre-Congress AOSpine: National Congress of Orthopedics Spinal Trauma and Degeneration

Antigua, Guatemala – October 05, 2012

Community Development Projects for 2013

AOSLA has been working on the macro-structure of a project that will focus on increasing our current retention number through concrete, measurable and immediate actions, with the objective of increasingly improving the number of members and our retention numbers, so as to secure sustainable growth for the years to come.

This project will focus on four basic areas: Marketing, Communication, Membership and Partnerships with Latin American Spine Societies.



2013 Calendar

2013 is the 10th Anniversary of AOSpine, therefore this calendar has been prepared especially 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.



Education



Education

Education Officers' Word

Dear AOSpine Friends,

As another year draws to a close, we wish to send you our warmest regards. We thank all of you who are part of the AOSpine family, be it as a participant or as Faculty, for your support in our diverse educational agenda.

As is tradition at the end of every year, we take time to review the educational achievements of AOSpine Latin America. This year has been extremely successful and we have made significant strides in the development of education in the region and globally. We want to highlight several aspects, which are listed below.

1. Continuing Education Program (Diploma Project): two years ago, the idea for a continuous educational program of the spine was developed, featuring both virtual and face-to-face elements, and coordinated in an ordered, sequential and progressive way. Finally, this year, we started the program with an amazing number of 150 participants, exceeding all of our expectations. The quality of the first cycle of the program was such that several universities took a particular interest in it, going so far as planning the inclusion of the educational cycle in the Academic Curriculum for their scholarship in Orthopedics and Neurosurgery. I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Néstor Fiore, a relentless editor and the main engine behind the success of this project. To get to know more about this project, visit:

<https://aospine.aofoundation.org/Structure/education/aospine-curriculum/Pages/ContinuingEducationProgram.aspx>

2. The Latin America Interactive Courses were held in the city of Buenos Aires with great success. The number of regional and international Faculty on hand, in addition to the over 230 participants, brought a quality and brilliance to the course that we wish to maintain as a standard for AOSpine in Latin America.

3. The AOSpine Curriculum has been applied in every Principles Course this year, as well as in the Advanced Interactive Courses in Latin America. This highlights the presence and significance of the position of Educational Advisor, which was created to give support to the Chairpersons and to reassure the quality of the AOSpine events. The AOSpine Curriculum allowed us to perform online pre-course exams, online pre- and post-course knowledge tests, as well as online support and discussion forums for each course. With a special acknowledgment to all the participants who answered the questionnaires, we see that this job has allowed us to evaluate our educational approach and to improve the quality of our courses.

4. We continued with the successful implementation of the Advanced Virtual Courses, and added the Principles Courses tied to the Continuing Education Program. The large audience and significant participation during the course, both at an individual level and in the 13 auditoriums, have motivated us to continue with this educational formula.

5. We have designed strategies for Faculty Development, with the realization of three Faculty trainings and another for Chairpersons, inviting the new Faculty to participate. In a similar fashion, the Chairpersons course has been performed based on the selection of participants who will be assigned as Chairs for the next courses. The format of this course has been modified, and now has an online informative section, and a face-to-face, practical section. For the next year, several courses for Faculty, Chairs and Educational Advisors will be performed in accordance with the International Formation Program for Chairpersons and Educational Advisors.

As you can see, the educational activity has been both extensive and productive. Our commitment with AOSpine goes on with the certainty that even if the work is hard, the efforts have been rewarded through the growth of our community and the fortification of our members in their professional practice, crowning patient care with excellence.

We cannot forget to mention and thank the AOSLA Office in Curitiba for their constant, efficient and relentless support of our efforts.

Warmest regards,


Roberto Postigo
AOSpine Latin America –
Education (Ortho) Officer



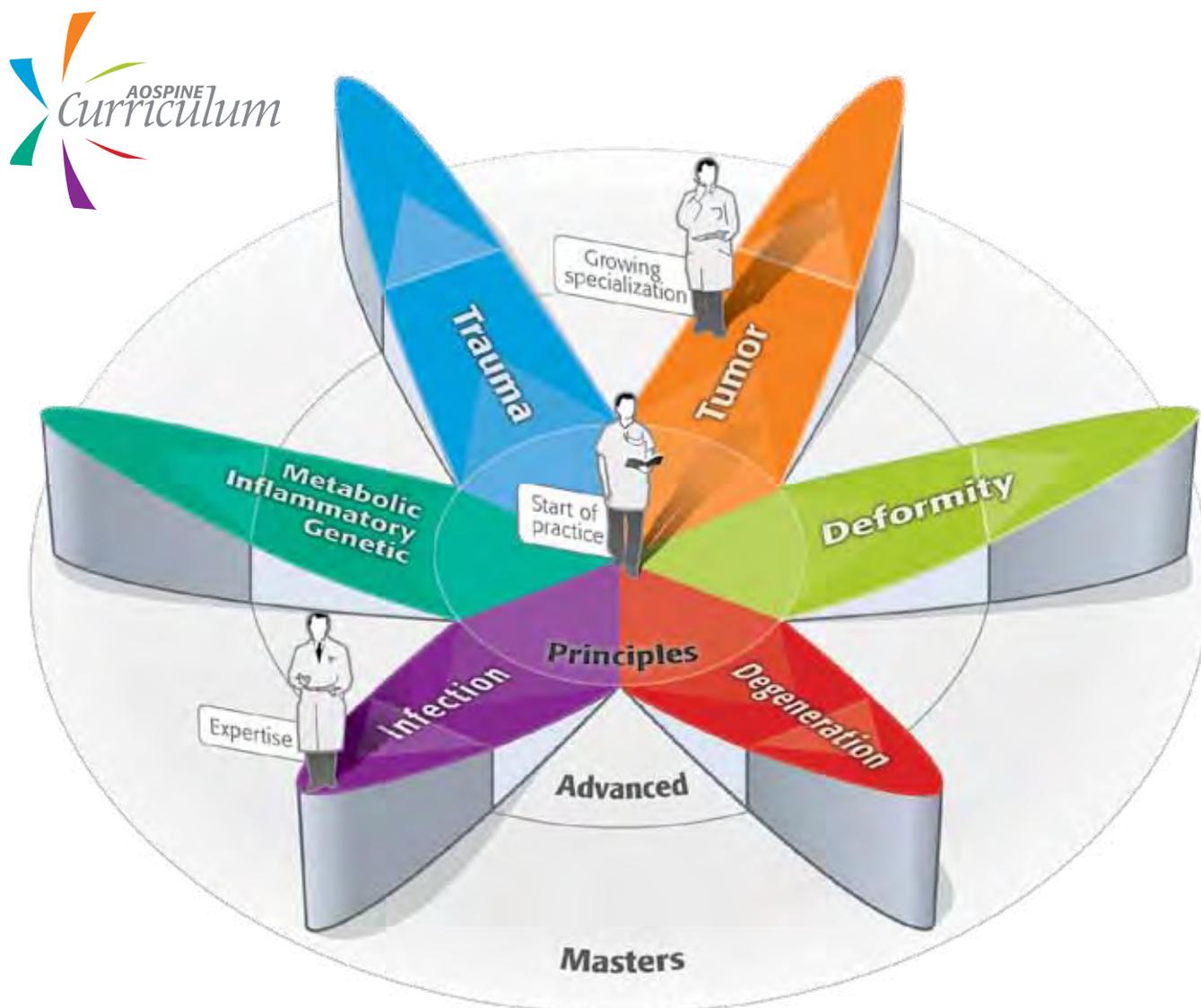

Marco Medina
AOSpine Latin America –
Education (Neuro) Officer



Educational Projects 2012

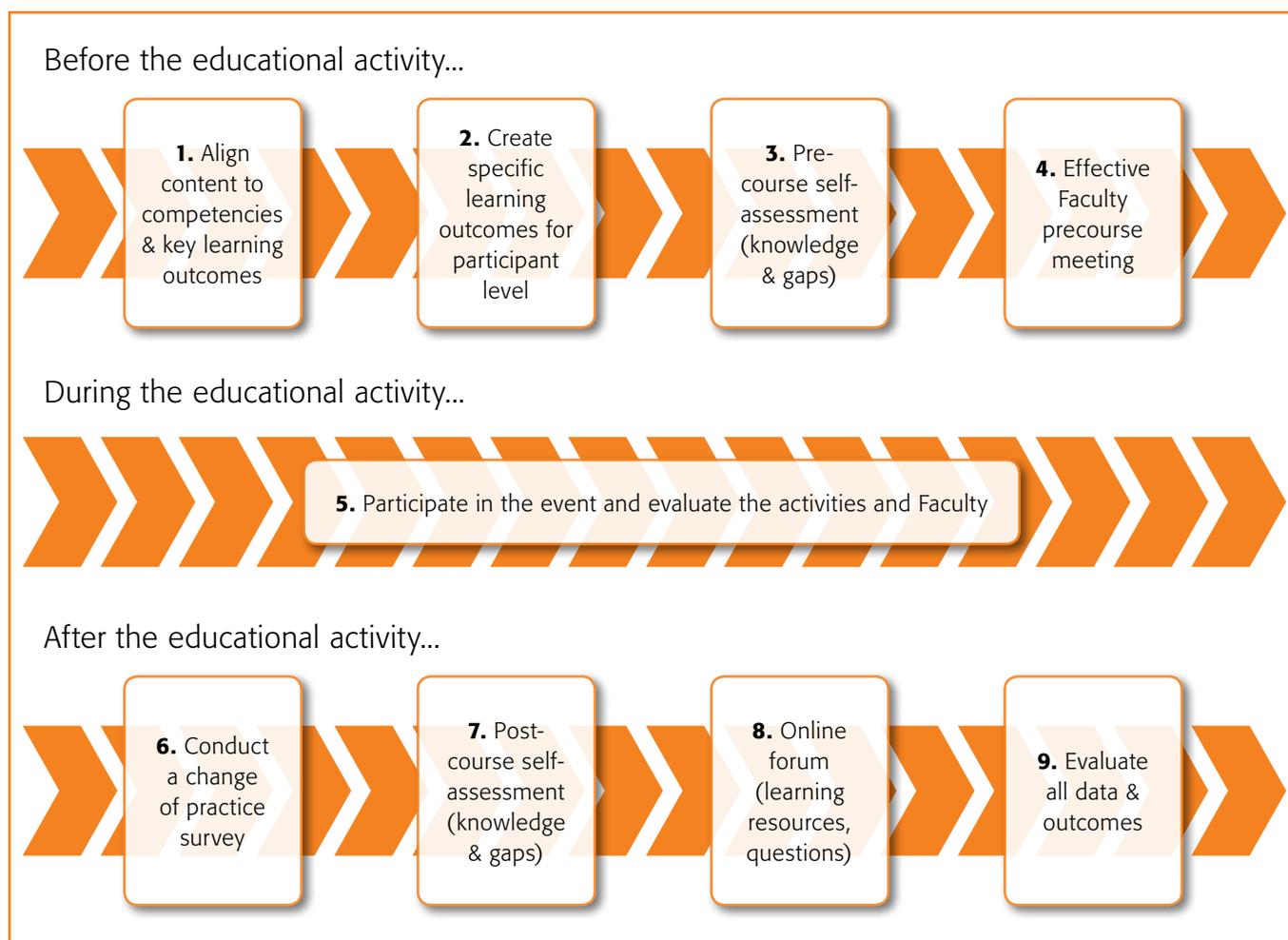
AOSpine Curriculum

The AOSpine Curriculum is a framework that offers a solid foundation for continuing education and development, organizing the contents into six different areas of spinal pathology. The knowledge is distributed into three progressive levels (Principles, Advanced and Masters) and is based on competencies and learning outcomes which enable surgeons to perform effectively across different areas.



This year, AOSpine Latin America has worked extensively on implementing the Curriculum in a number of events over a series of nine implementation steps, focusing on communicating educational content based on competencies, learning outcomes and participants' and Faculty's needs.

A successful Curriculum implementation comprises steps performed before, during and after the event. In addition to the alignment of the educational program with the Curriculum competencies and learning outcomes, some courses had a pre- and post-course online assessment for the participants that helped us evaluate their needs and provide the Faculty with relevant data about participants' knowledge and level.



Implementation Courses

During 2012, seven courses were chosen to receive a full Curriculum implementation, including program alignment and online participant self-assessment:

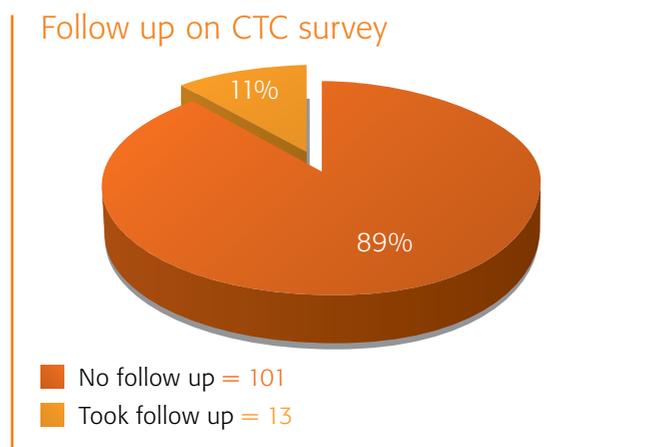
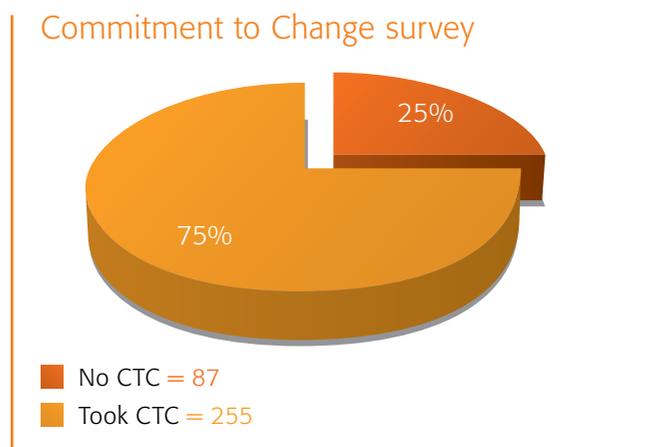
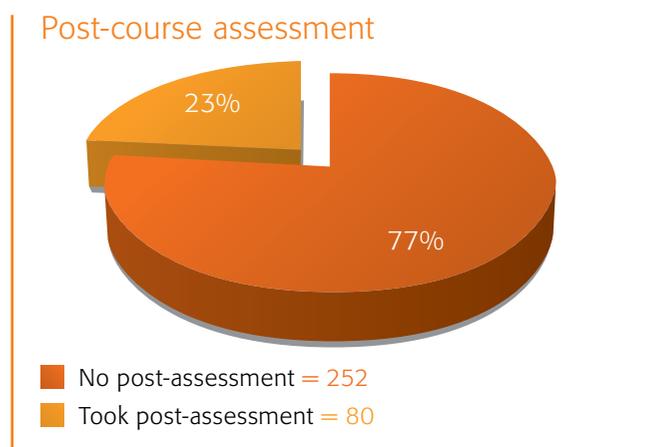
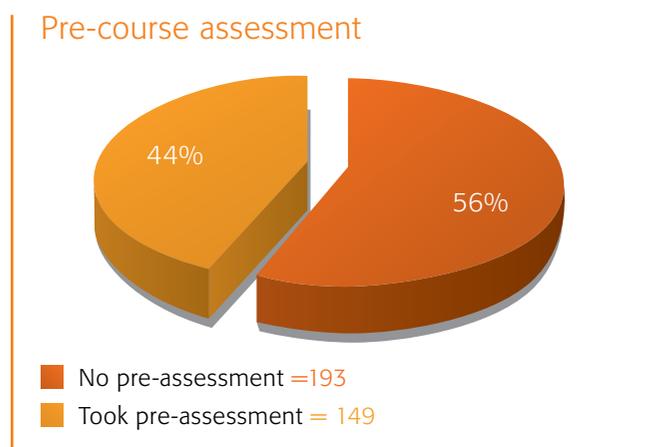
	AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Trauma Iquique, Chile – May 04–05, 2012	Chairperson Roberto Postigo Educational Advisor Mario Taricco
	Principles Course Guadalajara, Mexico – May 11–12, 2012	Chairperson Martín Tejeda Educational Advisor Roberto Chapa
	Principles Course Mexico City, Mexico – May 18–19, 2012	Chairperson Gustavo Casas Educational Advisor Roberto Postigo
	Principles Course Caracas, Venezuela – July 12–14, 2012 <i>*Implementation did not take place due to logistics and planning issues.</i>	Chairpersons Edgar González y Luis Lara Educational Advisor Pablo Vela
	AOSpine Interactive Courses Buenos Aires, Argentina – August, 26–28, 2012	
	• Cervical Spine	Chairperson Mario Taricco Educational Advisor Néstor Fiore
	• Lumbar Spine Spine	Chairperson Pablo Vela Educational Advisor Roberto Chapa
	• Deformity	Chairperson Ernesto Bersusky Educational Advisor Emiliano Vialle

In all of the six courses where the implementation process succeeded, the academic program was aligned with the Curriculum competencies and learning outcomes. In addition, the participants were evaluated by the pre-/post-course online assessment. The table shows the level of participation in each course, with the number of participants (in percentages) that engaged in every activity:

Activity	Venue	Total Participants	Pre-course assessment	Post-course assessment	Commitment to change (incl. Faculty)	3 month follow up
AOSpine Symposium: Trauma	Iquique	20	55%	15%	100%	25%
Principles Course	Guadalajara	42	26%	17%	83%	2%
Principles Course	Mexico City	52	33%	29%	54%	13%
Interactive Courses: Deformity*	Buenos Aires	76	54%	40%	68%	—*
Interactive Courses: Lumbar Spine*	Buenos Aires	91	46%	25%	81%	—*
Interactive Courses: Cervical Spine*	Buenos Aires	61	44%	18%	67%	—*
Total		342	149 (44%)	80 (23%)	255 (75%)	13 (11%)

*The Interactive Courses have not generated results for the three-month follow up yet.

The graphs below show the overall percentage of participants who took the assessments and surveys in all implementation courses, against the percentage of participants who did not. Data is provided in consideration of the total number of participants in all six courses (342 participants).



Total number of participants for CTC / Follow up data includes only Iquique and Mexico courses.

Overview of the Implementation Process

Although the Curriculum was successfully implemented in six educational activities, the implementation process suffered some significant setbacks in the course of 2012, leaving us with important challenges to be faced next year.

One of the major difficulties in implementing the assessments process is the low rate of online participation in completing the questionnaires. A first obstacle is to obtain a significant number of enrolled participants three weeks before the event, in order to apply the online assessment in time to provide Faculty with pre-course data. Secondly, it remains a challenge to engage participants to take part in the post-course activities.

Regarding the program alignment tasks, we expect to improve the formation given to our Faculty and Chairpersons, developing the necessary tools to perform a successful alignment with the Curriculum competencies and learning outcomes.

Despite the difficulties, the Curriculum implementations have also made a more structured program for the referred courses possible, providing us with tools to evaluate the educational needs of participants and meeting lifelong needs for continuing education. In the words of our Education Ortho Officer, **Roberto Postigo**:

Curriculum-based courses are a guide to the standardization of course contents throughout the world, thus assuring the delivery of AOSpine concepts.

This new course format generates a complete learning experience for the participants, as well as for the Faculty and educational team at AOSpine. This format enables us to contact and prepare the participants for the course, and the pre- and post-course evaluation helps objectively determine if the learning experience reached the desired outcomes. The incorporation of web-based technology, pre-course learning spaces, questionnaires, forums and lots more, permits a reliable and unique exchange of experiences before and after the course throughout the global spine community. The Faculty development program was also updated in order to assure that incoming courses will feature standardized Faculty quality as well as the courses contents.



I am sure that this great effort is going to assure our leadership in teaching about spine and will encourage more spine-care professionals to be part of this universal community of spine surgeons.

Action Points

In order to continue with this work and provide a more solid basis for the Curriculum implementation in our different activities, a few side projects are being developed to support the educational guidelines:

Chairpersons and Educational Advisors Trainings

A new training program for Chairpersons and Educational Advisors with a new content framework, focusing on the Curriculum implementation and content alignment. The new format includes not only the basic Curriculum concepts, but also practical exercises to instruct Chairs and EAs on how to align contents to competencies and learning outcomes, using the Curriculum as a tool to offer quality continuing education.

Program Alignment

Align all programs with the Curriculum competencies and learning outcomes starting in 2013, under the responsibility of the course Chair and EA in line with the Chair/EA training provided. A new form for the event has been created to assist Chairs with this task, in which they can send us the program alignment with all the logistical information for the event.

The image shows two versions of a form titled 'ANEXO 09. Formulario del Chairperson' from AOSPINE Latin America. The form is divided into several sections:

- Nombre del Evento, Local y Fecha:** Fields for event name, location, and date.
- Tipos del evento:** Checkboxes for 'Curso', 'Seminario', 'Taller', 'Webinar', 'Virtual', 'Congreso (Simposio, Plenary)', and 'Otro'.
- Nivel del evento:** Checkboxes for 'Pregrado', 'Posgrado', 'Maestría', and 'Doctorado'.
- Nombre del evento:** A text field for the event name.
- Fecha y sede del evento (Ciudad, País):** Fields for event date and location.
- Competencias abordadas en el evento:** A large section with multiple columns of checkboxes for various competencies, categorized by color (blue, orange, green, red).
- Utilización de la tecnología:** Checkboxes for 'Sí' and 'No'.
- Carta de Acreditación:** A large text area for accreditation details.
- Objetivos del evento:** A large text area for event objectives.

Program Templates

Implementation of program templates for courses and seminars, focusing on providing standardized quality education based on Curriculum framework and contents.

Virtual EA

Consolidation of the position of Virtual Educational Advisor, to support the seminar Chairs with general educational guidelines and Curriculum alignment. The Virtual EA will not necessarily be physically present at the events, advising via email and telephone.

Continuing Education Program

The program for Continuing Education is another Curriculum-based activity. It was launched in August, and delivers structured, long-term content in compliance with AOSpine educational guidelines and the AOSpine Curriculum.

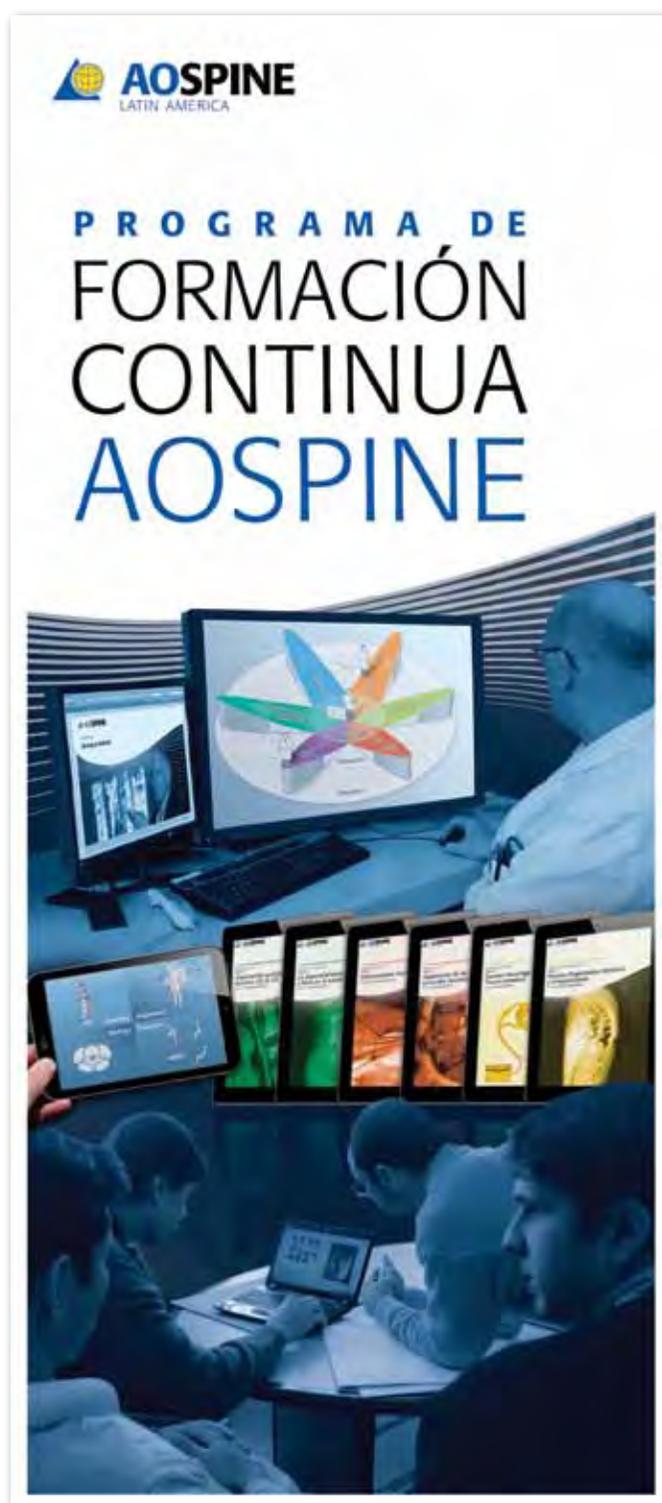
Continuing Education Program

In August 2012, AOSpine Latin America officially launched its newest educational offering, the Continuing Education Program (locally known as “Diploma Project”). This Program is a three-year educational plan, progressive and structured, focusing on the pathologies of the spine. It consists of online and face-to-face activities, all aligned with the AOSpine Curriculum. The online material has been developed by the most renowned AOSpine Faculty members of the region and it is composed of articles, interactive clinical cases and tests, all available on a specific e-learning platform provided by Desire2Learn.

During 2011 and 2012, the AOSLA Office and the project Task Force have worked emphatically on the elaboration of the online materials and set up of a program structure and learning trajectory compatible with the AOSpine educational guidelines. The core content of the project is in correspondence with the AOSpine Principles and Curriculum, covering the six areas of spinal pathology in three progressive levels, in addition to Anatomy and Physiology & Biomechanics modules.

The Task Force responsible for the development of the project is shown in the table below:

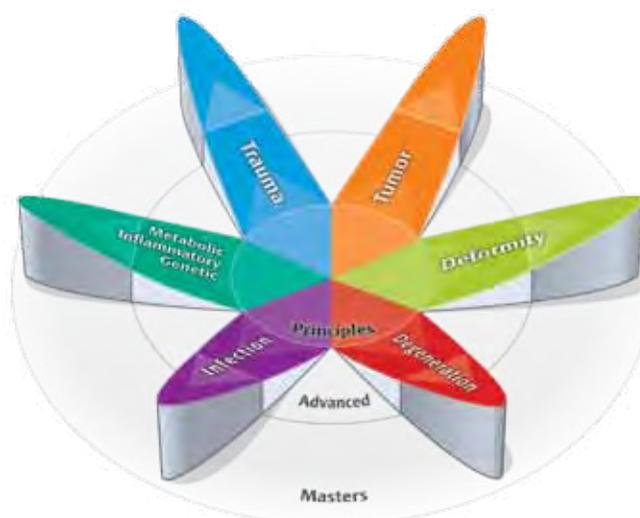
Members	Country
Néstor Fiore (Course Director)	Argentina
Germán Ochoa	Colombia
Juan Emmerich	Argentina
Mario Taricco	Brazil
Osmar Moraes	Brazil
Roberto Postigo	Chile
Ricardo Ribeiro	Brazil
William Teixeira	Brazil



Program Structure and Contents

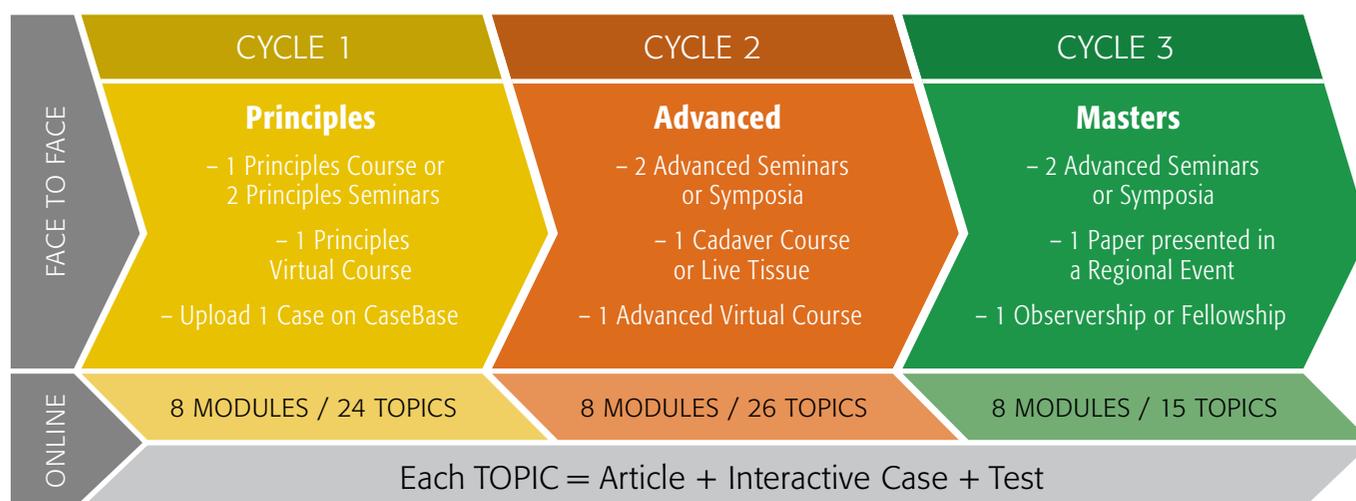
The activity consists of a three-year Curriculum-aligned educational Program in three cycles (Principles, Advanced and Masters), and is comprised of online and face-to-face activities. The contents of every cycle are divided into eight modules as follows:

1. Anatomy
2. Physiology and Biomechanics
3. Trauma
4. Tumor
5. Deformity
6. Degeneration
7. Infection
8. Inflammatory, metabolic and genetic



Every module is composed of two to six topics on a specific pathology, structured according to the contents and competencies of the AOSpine Curriculum. The same modules are developed further in every cycle, progressively increasing the level of complexity from Principles to Masters through Cycles 1, 2 and 3. Participants have one year to complete every cycle, and three years to complete all face-to-face activities.

In order to obtain the AOSpine Latin America Certification in Continuing Education, participants must complete both online and face-to-face activities. The online material consists of articles, interactive clinical cases and exams. In addition, to improve participants learning, on-site activities are also provided as a requirement for completion of the educational Program. Such activities include AOSpine Seminars and Symposia, Cadaver or Live Tissue Courses, the AOSLA Virtual Course and more.



The first cycle of the Program, started in August, has 24 topics covering the different spinal pathologies at a Principles level:

CYCLE 1		
Module	Topic	Authors
Module I Anatomy	1. Occipitocervical Anatomy	Juan Emmerich, Argentina
	2. Thoracic, lumbosacral and pelvic regions	Juan Emmerich, Argentina
Module II Physiology and Biomechanics	1. Functions of the spine and AOSpine principles	Luiz Vialle, Brazil Emiliano Vialle, Brazil Ramon Ferreira, Brazil
Module III Trauma	1. Management of multiple trauma patient	Milan Munjin, Chile
	2. Neurological examination in the spinal cord injury	Ricardo Botelho, Brazil
	3. Classification of traumatic spinal cord injuries	Alexandre Sadao, Brazil
	4. Treatment of fractures	Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Brazil
Module IV Tumor	1. Bone tumors	Roberto Postigo, Chile
	2. Intraspinial tumor	Mario Taricco, Brazil
Module V Deformity	1. General concepts of spinal deformities	Ernesto Bersusky, Argentina
	2. Principles of treatment	Samuel Pantoja, Chile
	3. Idiopathic scoliosis: orthopedic treatment	Ernesto Bersusky, Argentina
Module VI Degenerative	1. Spinal degenerative process and aging	Martín Tejeda, Mexico
	2. Cervical disc herniation	Aliro San Martín, Chile
	3. Thoracic disc herniation	Osmar Moraes, Brazil
	4. Lumbar disc herniation	Ricardo Ribeiro, Brazil
	5. Narrow spinal canal	Emiliano Vialle, Brazil
	6. Narrow lumbar canal	Marcelo Gruenberg, Argentina
Module VII Infection	1. Primary spinal infections	Roberto Chapa, Mexico
	2. Post-discectomy spinal infections	Oswaldo Romano, Argentina
Module VIII Inflammatory- Metabolic-Genetic	1. Inflammatory diseases	Alejandro Betemps, Argentina
	2. Osteoporosis	William Teixeira, Brazil
	3. Osteopathy: Paget's disease and osteopetrosis	Germán Ochoa, Colombia Jaime Segura, Colombia
	4. Genetic disorders: Marfan syndrome	Germán Ochoa, Colombia Jaime Segura, Colombia

Cycles 2 and 3 are expected to be launched in 2013 and 2014, with the following contents:

CYCLE 2		
Module	Topic	Authors
Module I Anatomy	1. Anterior approaches	José Araujo, Brazil Ricardo Ribeiro, Brazil
	2. Posterior approaches	Enzo Mantelli, Chile
Module II Physiology and Biomechanics	1. Alignment and stability	Roberto Chapa, Mexico
	2. Spinal instrumentation: principles	Eduardo von Uhlendorff, Brazil
Module III Trauma	1. Surgical treatment of injuries in the C0, C1 and C2	Alexandre Sadao, Brazil
	2. Surgical treatment of injuries in the lower cervical spine (C3-C7)	Pedro Bazan, Argentina
	3. Surgical treatment of thoracolumbar injuries	Milan Munjin, Chile
	4. Surgical treatment of sacropelvic injuries	Mario Herrera, Colombia
Module IV Tumor	1. Spinal metastasis surgery	Denis Witt, Chile
	2. Primary benign bone tumors surgery	Roberto Postigo, Chile
	3. Primary malignant bone tumors surgery	William Teixeira, Brazil
Module V Deformity	1. Kyphosis due to neurofibromatosis	Ignacio Dockendorf, Chile
	2. Low grade spondylolisthesis in children	Eduardo von Uhlendorff, Brazil
	3. Idiopathic scoliosis surgery	Ernesto Bersusky, Argentina
Module VI Degenerative	1. Recurrent lumbar disc herniation	Mario Taricco, Brazil
	2. Cervical myelopathy surgery: a guide to decide the surgical approach	Aliro San Martín, Chile
	3. Flatback syndrome	Marcelo Valacco, Argentina
	4. Degenerative and lytic spondylolisthesis in adults	Gonzalo Arriagada, Chile
	5. Adjacent segment disease	Oswaldo Romano, Argentina
	6. Axial pain due to degenerative disc	Samuel Pantoja, Chile
Module VII Infection	1. Infection after spinal instrumentation: clinical aspect and diagnosis	Michael Dittmar, Mexico
	2. Infection after spinal instrumentation: treatment	Germán Ochoa, Colombia
Module VIII Inflammatory-Metabolic-Genetic	1. Inflammatory arthritis in cervical spine	Alejandro Betemps, Argentina
	2. Osteoporosis: surgical treatment	Carlos Montero, Colombia
Module IX Anex	1. Dynamic fixations	Nestor Taboada, Colombia
	2. Cervical disc prosthesis (ProDisc-C)	Pablo Vela, Colombia

CYCLE 3

Module	Topic
Module I Anatomy	1. Complex approaches
Module II Physiology and Biomechanics	1. Biology and function
	2. Biological materials
Module III Trauma	1. Surgical treatment of inveterate injuries
Module IV Tumor	1. Intraspinial injuries: treatment
	2. Bone tumoral recurrent lesions
Module V Deformity	1. Congenital malformations
	2. Neuroparalytic deformities
Module VI Degenerative	1. Multioperated spine (cervical and lumbar)
	2. Adult spinal deformities
	3. High grade spondylolisthesis in adults
Module VIII Inflammatory-Metabolic-Genetic	1. Ankylosing spondylitis: osteotomies
	2. Down and osteogenesis
Module IX Anex	1. Lumbar disc prosthesis
	2. Complications of spinal surgery

*Cycle 3 authors are yet to be defined.

Participants Data

Within the first months of activity, the Program received a warm welcome from Latin American members. Over 300 people, among them residents and more experienced doctors, were interested in enrolling in the course. At the launching phase, the Program is limited to approximately 150 participants from 16 different countries:



Recent Activities

In September 2012, a meeting was held in La Plata, Argentina, at the National University of La Plata (UNLP), with members of the Task Force present in order to discuss a prospect agreement between the academic institution and AOSpine Latin America. The agreement will establish a range of activities to be developed between the University and AOSpine, with focus on the issuing of a joint certificate for the Continuing Education Program.

A formal agreement should be set in December 2012. The partnership with the UNLP will make the recognition of the Program as a University Qualification Course on Spine Pathologies official, certified by both AOSpine Latin America and the National University of La Plata.

This achievement is of great value for our community, as it highlights the academic importance of the project, extending our activities to the university level.

Diploma Project Task Force Meeting

July, 2012 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Date July 06-07, 2012

Venue Hilton Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Task Force members Néstor Fiore, Juan Emmerich, Germán Ochoa, Osmar Moraes, Roberto Postigo, Ricardo Ribeiro, William Teixeira.

AOSpine Antonio Machado, Luciana Garcia.

Topics discussed:

- Status of elaboration of materials for Cycles 1 and 2;
- Program launching details for August 2012;
- Revision of Program activities, such as interactive cases;
- Revision and completion of pending materials;
- Next steps for the Program.

AOSLA Faculty Development

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

AOSpine Latin America Faculty Training

The training courses for Faculty help them to develop and improve pedagogic and public speaking skills, improving both personal and professional skills through the interaction of participants with the educators, and helping strengthen the AOSpine network. This year AOSLA held three Faculty trainings: Chile, Mexico and Venezuela. Please find more details below:

Faculty Training–Chile

Date May 03, 2012.

Venue Terrado Suites Hotel, Iquique.

Educators Roberto Postigo (Chile), Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina), Mario Taricco (Brazil).

Participants Álvaro Silva, Andres Lisoni, Enrique Concha, Enzo Mantelli, Gonzalo Arriagada Ocampo, Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia), Lyonel Beaulieu, Manuel Valencia, Marcela Chamorro, Marcos Ganga, Martín Hidalgo, Mauricio Campos, Milan Munjin, Osvaldo Ojeda Serrano, Raúl Chimbo Jurado (Ecuador), Reddy Simon (Paraguay).

Faculty Training–Mexico

Date May 17, 2012.

Venue Sevilla Palace Hotel, Mexico.

Educators Roberto Postigo (Chile), Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina).

Participants Arturo Rodriguez Montalvo, Cristóbal Herrera Palacios, David Servin Carmona, Diana Guerrero Alvarez, Gustavo Caldera, Gustavo Casas, Hugo Vilchis Sámanol, Jorge Cabrera, Jose Ernesto Garcia, Jose Estrada Mastache, José Jimenez, Leonardo Pérez Hernandez, Mauricio Montalvo Galindo, Pedro Reyes.



Faculty Training–Venezuela

Date July 11, 2012.

Venue Caraca Palace Hotel, Caracas.

Educators Pablo Vela (Colombia),
Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina.)

Participants Albaro Barrera, Armando Piñeda-Fernandez,
Cesar Covarrubia, Edgar González, Juan Jose Valero
Quintero, Jose Elias Duran Dautant, Luis Lara,
Marlon Diaz, Nayib Marquez, Olga Morillo.

This year, 40 new AOSpine Faculty members were formed. By offering a friendly and collaborative environment to work in, we were able to strengthen the competencies of the Faculty, making their presentations more interactive and making them better moderators of the discussion groups. It also gave us a great opportunity to create new bonds among the participants from different countries and to focus on new, key aspects to assure the quality of the AOSpine academic activities.

Fabiana Reboiras
Educator

AOSpine Latin America Chairperson Training

With the commitment to provide excellence in spine education, Buenos Aires brought together Latin American Chairpersons in a new training program, in which participants were able to work based on the AOSpine Curriculum. The Chairperson training was based on problem identification/needs assessments, targeted learners, goals and learning outcomes, educational methods, evaluation and feedback, and understanding the role of the Educational Advisor for planning, preparing, and organizing educational activities.

Chairperson Training–Argentina

Date July 24-25, 2012.

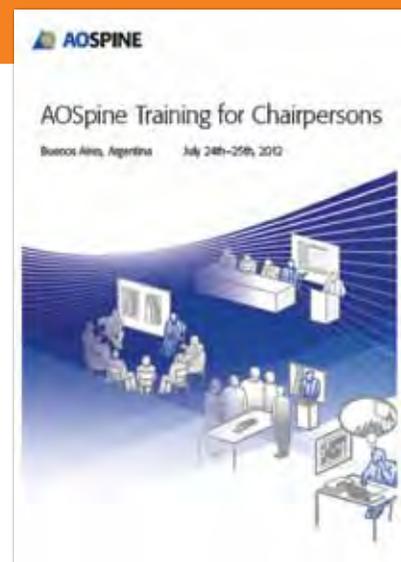
Venue Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires.

Chairpersons Germán Ochoa (Colombia), Pablo Vela (Colombia).

Educator Joseph Green (USA).

Virtual Educator Fabiana Reboiras (Argentina).

Participants Alejandro Betemps (Argentina), Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica), Aliro San Martín (Chile), Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia), Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Aurelio Ramirez (Mexico), Eduardo von Uhlendorff (Brazil), Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Marco Medina (Peru), Martín Tejada (Mexico), Néstor Guzmán (Colombia), Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil), Samuel Pantoja (Chile), William Teixeira (Brazil).



I had the privilege of serving as educator to the first AOSpine Latin America Training for Course Chairpersons(T4C) this past July, 2012. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of these Chairs to learn about the educational principles that support the highest quality of medical education. At the end of the course, each Chair had to describe the improvements that they planned on implementing in their course this coming year based on what they had learned over the three days. I was amazed at their level of understanding of the course content and the improvements they want to make. And, all of my talks were in English...! "Me dio mucho gusto conocerlos y hablar con todos ustedes!"

Joseph Green
Educator

A list of all the trained Faculty members in the region is presented in the following chart:

Name	Country	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Alejandro Betemps	Argentina	X	X		X
Alejandro Mengotti	Argentina	X			
Alvaro Borri	Argentina	X			
Andrés Cervio	Argentina	X			X
Carlos Mounier	Argentina	X			
Carlos Sola	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 Prina	Argentina	X			
Juan Emmerich	Argentina	X	X		X
Lucas Rueda	Argentina	X			
Marcelo Amaro	Argentina	X			
Marcelo Gruenberg	Argentina	X	X		X
Marcelo Valacco	Argentina	X	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 Luis Bazán	Argentina	X	X		X
Ramiro Barrera	Argentina	X			
Ramiro Gutierrez	Argentina	X			
Ruben A. Morales Ciancio	Argentina	X			X
Jaime Linares	Bolivia				X
Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo	Bolivia	X			X
Albert Brasil	Brazil	X			
Alberto Capel Cardoso	Brazil	X			
Alberto Gotfryd	Brazil	X			
Alexandre Fogaça Cristante	Brazil	X	X		
Alexandre Sadao Iutaka	Brazil	X	X		
André Hübner	Brazil	X			
Amancio Ramalho Junior	Brazil	X			
Amauri Godinho Jr.	Brazil	X			
Antonio Braconi	Brazil	X			
Asdrubal Falavigna	Brazil	X	X		
Augustin Malzac	Brazil	X			
Carlos Engelhorn	Brazil	X			
Carlos Tucci	Brazil	X	X		
Chârbel Jacob Junior	Brazil	X			
Cristiano Menezes	Brazil	X			
Delio Martins	Brazil	X			
Eduardo von Uhlendorff	Brazil	X	X		
Emiliano Vialle	Brazil	X	X	X	X
Fabiano Canto	Brazil	X			
Fernando Dantas	Brazil	X			
Fernando Facanha-Filho	Brazil	X			
Geraldo Sá Carneiro	Brazil	X	X		X

Name	Country	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Helton Defino	Brazil	X			X
Henrique Jorge	Brazil	X			
Jefferson Galves	Brazil	X			
Jerônimo Milano	Brazil	X			
Jose Augusto Araujo	Brazil	X			
Luis Eduardo Rocha	Brazil	X			
Luiz G. Dal Oglio da 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
Raphael Martus Marcon	Brazil	X			
Ricardo Botelho	Brazil	X			
Ricardo Ribeiro	Brazil	X	X		X
Robert Meves	Brazil	X	X		X
Ronald Farias	Brazil	X			
Sérgio Daher	Brazil	X			
Túlio Rangel	Brazil	X			
Ubirajara Bley Filho	Brazil	X			
Wagner Pasqualini	Brazil	X			
William Teixeira	Brazil	X	X		
Alejandro Urzúa	Chile	X			X
Bartolomé Marré	Chile	X	X	X	
Patricio Bustos	Chile	X			
Yokota Beuret	Chile				X
Roberto Postigo	Chile	X		X	X
Rodolfo Lopez Allendes	Chile	X			X
Samuel Pantoja	Chile	X	X		X
Gonzalo Arriagada Ocampo	Chile	X			
Lyonel Beaulieu	Chile	X			
Mauricio Campos	Chile	X			
Marcela Chamorro	Chile	X			
Enrique Concha Julio	Chile	X			
Marcos Ganga	Chile	X			
Martín Hidalgo	Chile	X			
Andres Lisoni	Chile	X			
Enzo Mantelli	Chile	X			
Milan Munjin	Chile	X			
Osvaldo Ojeda Serrano	Chile	X			
Álvaro Silva	Chile	X			
Manuel Valencia	Chile	X			
Aliro San Martín	Chile	X	X		
Andrés Rodríguez	Colombia	X	X		X
Carlos Alberto Mora Ojeda	Colombia				X
Fernando Helo Yamhure	Colombia	X			

Name	Country	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Germán Ochoa	Colombia	X		X	X
Guido Pugliese	Colombia	X			
Jaime Segura	Colombia	X			
Javier Matta	Colombia	X			
Luis Arango	Colombia	X			
Luis Carlos Morales Sáenz	Colombia	X			X
Mario Herrera	Colombia	X			
Miguel Alejandro Alfonso	Colombia	X			
Nestor Guzman	Colombia	X	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		X
Edgar Jiménez Masis	Costa Rica	X			
Eduardo Arturo Huertas Arias	Costa Rica	X			
Hector Torres	Costa Rica	X			
Hugo Dobles	Costa Rica				X
Javier Brenes	Costa Rica	X			
Javier Gutiérrez	Costa Rica	X			
Mario Solano Salas	Costa Rica	X			X
Elio Ramirez	Ecuador	X			
Ernesto Vargas Rivadeneira	Ecuador				X
Gladys Pavón	Ecuador		X		
Jaime Pavón	Ecuador				X
Juan Lasso	Ecuador				X
Luis Guijarro	Ecuador				X
Patricio Zumarraga Velasco	Ecuador	X	X		X
Martha Hernandez-Galvez	Ecuador	X			X
Raúl Chimbo Jurado	Ecuador	X			
Erick Rodas	Guatemala	X			X
Juan Pablo De León Palacios	Guatemala	X			X
Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez	Guatemala	X			
Otto Alvarado Ortiz	Guatemala	X			
Rafael De La Riva Rohrmoser	Guatemala	X			X
Armando Alpizar-Aguirre	Mexico	X			
Arturo Rodríguez Montalvo	Mexico	X			
Aurelio Ramirez	Mexico	X	X		
Catarino López	Mexico	X			X
Cesar Gonzalez	Mexico	X			
Cristóbal Herrera Palacios	Mexico	X			
David Servin Carmona	Mexico	X			
Diana Guerrero Alvarez	Mexico	X			
Federico Cisneros	Mexico	X			X
Felix Adolfo Sanchez Chavez	Mexico	X			
Gustavo Caldera	Mexico	X			
Gustavo Casas	Mexico	X			X
Hernando Cuevas	Mexico	X			X
Hugo Vilchis Sámano	Mexico	X			
Jesús Bernal-Marquez	Mexico	X			X
Jorge Cabrera	Mexico	X			
Jose Ernesto Garcia	Mexico	X			

Name	Country	AOSpine Faculty Training	AOSpine Chairperson Training	AOSpine Educational Director Training	AOSLA Faculty Improvement*
Jose Estrada Mastache	Mexico	X			
Jose Jimenez	Mexico	X			
Juan Reina Gama	Mexico	X			X
Juan Carlos Valle Landa	Mexico	X			
Leonardo Pérez Hernandez	Mexico	X			
Luis Rosales	Mexico	X			
Martín Tejada	Mexico	X	X		X
Mauricio Montalvo Galindo	Mexico	X			
Michael Dittmar	Mexico	X			X
Oscar Martinez	Mexico	X			
Pedro Reyes	Mexico	X			
Ricardo Andaluz	Mexico	X			
Roberto Chapa	Mexico	X	X	X	X
Ruben Cardenas	Mexico	X			
Victor Flores-Verdugo	Mexico	X			
Antonio Mock	Panama	X			X
Mitzadi Ordoñez	Panama	X			
Raul Arjona	Panama	X			X
Reddy Simón	Paraguay	X			X
Alejandro Diaz Calvo	Peru	X			
Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez	Peru	X			X
Arturo Morales	Peru	X	X		
Carlos Cárdenas	Peru	X	X		X
Daniel Cauti De La Cruz	Peru	X	X		X
Hernán José Valdivia Sosa	Peru	X	X		X
Marco Medina	Peru	X	X		X
Marleny Llerena	Peru	X	X		
Michael Hinojosa	Peru	X	X		X
Raul Macchiavello	Peru				X
Iohan Fernandez	Dominican Rep	X			
Edgardo Spagnuolo Dondero	Uruguay				X
Fernando Garcia	Uruguay	X			
Oscar Carreras Scotto	Uruguay	X			X
Armando Pineda-Fernandez	Venezuela	X			
Nayib Marquez	Venezuela	X			
Juan Jose Valero Quintero	Venezuela	X			
Jose Duran Dautant	Venezuela	X			
Cesar Covarrubia	Venezuela	X			
Albaro Barrera	Venezuela	X			
Olga Morillo	Venezuela	X			
Daniel Onay	Venezuela				X
Edgar Gonzalez	Venezuela	X			X
James Cardona	Venezuela	X			
Jose Finocchio	Venezuela	X			
Jose-Rafael Otero	Venezuela	X			X
Luis Lara Requena	Venezuela	X			X
Manuel Alvarado	Venezuela	X	X		X
Marlon Diaz	Venezuela	X			X
Victor Davila	Venezuela	X			X

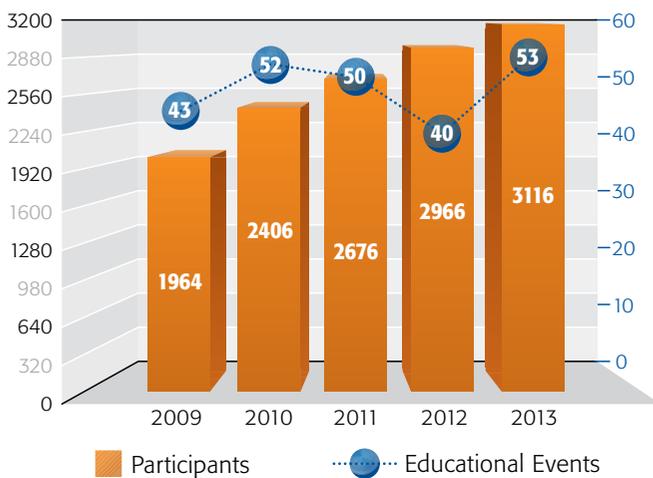
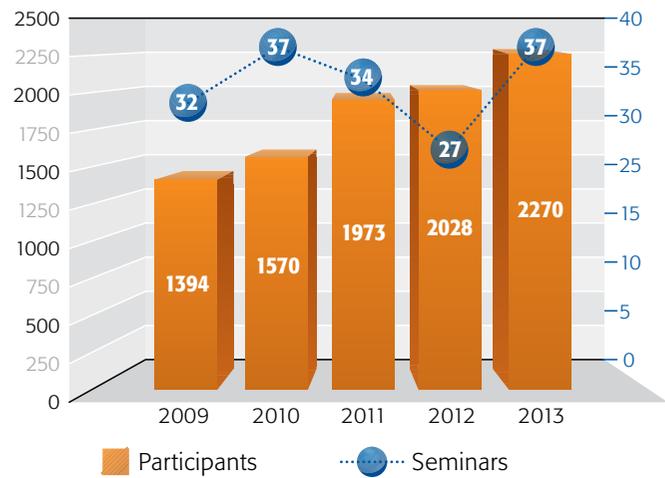
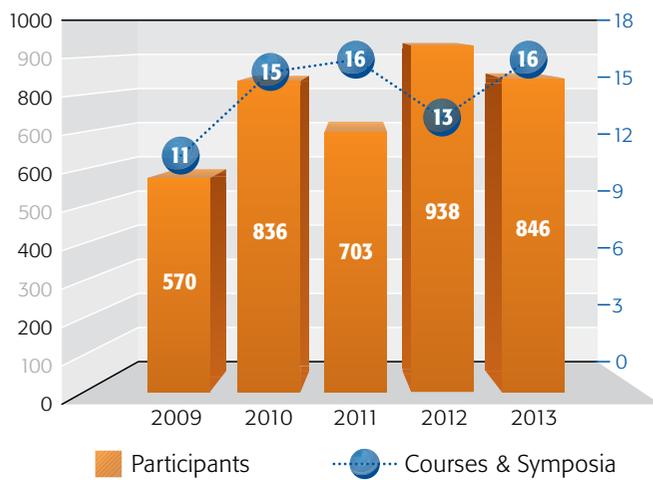
Educational Activities

Event	City, Country	Pg
01. AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Basic Knowledge About Spinal Pathologies	São Paulo, BRA	57
02. AOSpine Advanced Course: Live Surgery	Florencio Varela, ARG	58
03. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Spine	Managua, NIC	59
04. AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents of Orthopedics and Neurosurgery	Quito, ECU	59
05. AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Deformities and Trauma	Habana, CUB	60
06. AOSpine Advanced Transcongress of Orthopedics Symposium: Specialties Day	Mexico City, MEX	61
07. AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal Trauma	Iquique, CHI	61
08. AOSpine Principles Course	Guadalajara, MEX	62
09. AOSpine Principles Course	Mexico City, MEX	62
10. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Breakthroughs in the Management of the Traumatic Pathology	Cali, COL	63
11. AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar–AMCICO	Guadalajara, MEX	63
12. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Fusion Vs. Non-Fusion	Trujillo, PER	64
13. AOSpine Principles Course	Caracas, VEN	64
14. AOSpine Interactive Courses: Lumbar / Cervical / Degenerative	Buenos Aires, ARG	65
15. Central America & Caribbean AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Spine	Guatemala, GUA	68
16. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Disc Disease	Asunción, PAR	69
17. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Thoracolumbar Trauma & Cervical Degenerative Myelopathy	Buenos Aires, ARG	69
18. AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Symposium: XXIX Brazilian Neurosurgery Congress	Rio de Janeiro, BRA	70
19. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Spine	Monterrey, MEX	71
20. AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar: 21 st Neurology–Neurosurgery Congress	Punta Cana, DOM	71
21. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal Degeneration	Panama City, PAN	72
22. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: News in Spine Surgery	Kingston, JAM	72
23. AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar ACOT: Thoracolumbar Fractures	San Jose, CRC	73
24. AOSpine Master Symposium Ibero-Latin America: Surgical Planning	Mexico City, MEX	73
25. AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar: National Orthopedics Congress	Antigua, GUA	74
26. AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal Degeneration	Santiago, CHI	74
27. AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents	Melgar, COL	75
28. AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma	Mar del Plata, ARG	75
29. AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma	Mexico City, MEX	76
30. AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Thoracolumbar Trauma	Buenos Aires, ARG	76
31. AOSpine Advanced Cadaver Course: Oncologic Surgery (Primary tumors)	La Plata, ARG	77
32. AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Tumor pathology of the Spine	Bogota, COL	78
33. AOSpine Advanced Course: Cadaver and 3D Anatomy	João Pessoa, BRA	79
34. AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma	Pachuca–Hidalgo, MEX	79
35. AOSpine Virtual Courses	Latin America	80

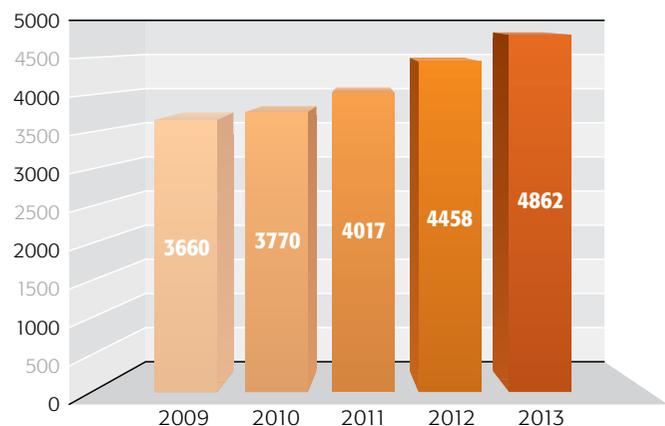
Educational Activities Statistics

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, creating important opportunities for progressive activities in the next year.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Courses & Symposia	11	15	16	13	16
Participants	570	836	703	938	846
Seminars	32	37	34	27	37
Participants	1394	1570	1973	2028	2270
Educational events	43	52	50	40	53
Participants	1964	2406	2676	2966	3116
Educational Days X Participants	3660	3770	4017	4458	4862



EDUCATIONAL DAYS X PARTICIPANTS



2012 Events

Index

All educational activities from 2012 are listed, illustrated and described in details in the following pages. The type of each event can be identified by different shades of blue on the color bars below their titles:

COURSES

SEMINARS

SYMPOSIA

In 2012 six events were chosen to begin the implementation of the AOSpine Curriculum program. They are identified with the project logo on the right side of their title bars:



AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Basic Knowledge About Spinal Pathologies February 10–11, 2012

SEMINAR

Continuing the AOSpine tradition of offering an annual seminar in São Paulo, this already classic event was held on the 10th and 11th of February at the Transamerica Prime Hotel, with the contribution of Chairpersons Mario Taricco and Carlos Tucci. Beginning with an informal meeting, we aimed at showing the fundamentals of the AOSpine Foundation in regards to spinal diseases and their treatments. The main goal was to provide residents of neurosurgery and orthopedics basic knowledge on the diseases that affect the spine, regardless of their sub-specialty.



Venue. Transamerica Prime Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil.

Chairpersons. Mario Taricco (Brazil), Carlos Tucci (Brazil).

National Faculty. Alberto Capel Cardoso, Alexandre Sadao, Eduardo von Uhlendorff, Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha, Osmar Moraes, Robert Meves, Roger Brock, William Teixeira.

Registration fee. Members: USD 55.00 | Non Members: USD 82.00

Number of participants. 52

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,46	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,65	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,36	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,42	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,09	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,20	out of 5





AOSpine Advanced Course: Live Surgery

February 24–25, 2012

COURSE

The course was held on February 24th–25th. Surgeries were performed during the course, as well as a discussion of possible surgical strategies for deciding and choosing the most suitable technique. Advanced surgical techniques for the treatment of various pathologies of the spine were taught in practical terms, so as to not only familiarize participants with cutting-edge surgical instruments, but also with the best techniques to use them.

The goal of this event was to make it possible for participants to come in contact with the actual *modus operandi* of spinal surgery. The practice of just selecting the correct type of surgery and pointing out the unique details that make the difference offered participants insights often not touched on in regular courses. In addition, several cases involving the most common pathologies were discussed, and analyzed in depth for all possible treatments.

I have attended multiple cadaver courses which were very good, but the experience in Florencio Varela of learning in live surgery was unique. Congratulations! I hope to attend many more of these. A special thank you to Dr. Néstor Fiore for his dedication and love of teaching.

Santiago González
Participant

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,57	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,47	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,00	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,00	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,30	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,87	out of 5

Venue. El Cruce Hospital – Florencio Varela, Argentina.

Chairpersons. Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Jorge Lambre (Argentina).

Ed Advisor. Néstor Fiore (Argentina).

National Faculty. Alejandro Biondini, Alejandro Mengotti, Juan Emmerich, Julio Basani, Maria Dolores Posadas, Mariano Pirozzo, Mario Espeche, Nicolás Bacaloni, Osvaldo Tropea, Pedro Luis Bazán, Ricardo Campodonico, Roxana Ferrera.

Registration fee. Members: USD 400.00 | Non Members: USD 450.00

Number of participants. 23



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Spine

March 03, 2012

SEMINAR



The seminar was based around degenerative spine, which is a problem that specialists are often confronted with in their daily practice, and which has a variety of conservative and surgical treatment options.

The format of this program was designed precisely so that presentations on specific topics and discussions of clinical cases facilitated interaction, discussion and the exchange of opinions among Faculty members and participants on the therapeutic options.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,74	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,67	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,77	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,23	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,41	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,56	out of 5

Venue. Barcelo Managua Hotel – Managua, Nicaragua.

Chairpersons. Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Juan Bosco González (Guatemala).

Regional Faculty. Néstor Taboada (Colombia), Michael Dittmar (Mexico), Antonio Mock (Panama).

National Faculty. Cecil Guillén.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 65



AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents of Orthopedics and Neurosurgery: Degenerative Lesions of the Spine

March 30, 2012

SEMINAR



Mario Patricio Zumarraga took great pleasure in hosting the first Seminar for Residents in Ecuador, helping prepare Ecuadorian residents to examine, diagnose and treat patients suffering from degenerative spine diseases.

The theme of degenerative lesions of the spine was democratically chosen via a survey among residents, in order to reflect the real needs of learning on current issues and more frequent pathologies.

The program was focused on the basic science of the lumbar degenerative process, and was complemented by workshops on the practical implementation of the most useful spinal fusion surgical techniques.



Venue. Sheraton Quito Hotel – Quito, Ecuador.

Chairperson. Mario Patricio Zumarraga (Ecuador).

National Faculty. Elio Ramírez, Hernan Yepez, Nelson Viteri, Paulo Zumarraga, Renato Estuardo Guerra Escobar.

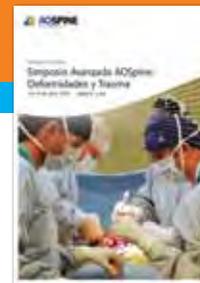
Registration fee. Members: USD 50.00 | Non Members: USD 50.00

Number of participants. 36

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Deformities and Trauma

April 13-14, 2012

SYMPOSIUM



This symposium was organized with the objective of creating an event constituted of continuous and constant interaction between the participants. Against this backdrop, they could discuss the different treatment options and complications in spine surgery, and the possible solutions, helping to enrich the daily practice of each of the participants.

Venue. Hotel Sevilla – Habana, Cuba.

Chairperson. Osmar Moraes (Brazil).

Ed Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Regional Faculty. Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Marco Medina (Peru), Samuel Pantoja (Chile).

National Faculty. Carlos Santos, Ernesto Fleites, René Rubinos.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 36

“The mission of AOSpine Latin America is to integrate all of the surgeon community of Latin America. To have visited Cuba, shared their experiences and knowledge and being able to express our own, was tremendously enriching. These new horizons will continue to grow.”

Andrés Rodríguez
Faculty Regional



Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,99 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,96 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,76 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,68 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,36 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,75 out of 5

AOSpine Advanced Transcongress Symposium of the National Orthopedics Congress: Specialties Day April 29, 2012

SYMPOSIUM

For the first time ever AOSpine Latin America was present at the XXXI National Orthopedics and Traumatology Congress. The topics of spinal trauma and degenerative spine were covered by the prominent Faculty members on hand.

Venue. World Trade Center – Mexico City, Mexico.

Chairperson. Gustavo Casas (Mexico).

International Faculty. John France (USA), Daniel Riew (USA).

Regional Faculty. Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty. Jesus Bernal Marquez, Hernando Cuevas, Delfino Flores, Amado Gonzalez, Víctor Paul Miramontes, Fernando Morales, Jesus Palacios, Alfonso Riojas Monteverde, Luis Rosales, Martín Tejeda, Manuel Villegas.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 187



AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal Trauma May 04–05, 2012



SYMPOSIUM

Iquique, a beautiful city located north of Santiago, hosted a symposium that saw an important number of participants helping to push the decentralization of education in Chile. The event brought significant academic activities to new regions in the country, allowing access to specialized doctors and delivering knowledge on spinal trauma and cervical, thoracolumbar and osteoporotic fractures.

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,33 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,34 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,20 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,20 out of 5
Course Facilities	3,27 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,87 out of 5

Venue. Terrado Suites Hotel – Iquique, Chile.

Chairperson. Roberto Postigo (Chile).

Ed Advisor. Mario Taricco (Brazil).

International Faculty. Richard Bransford (USA), Gomatam Vijay Kumar (India).

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina).

National Faculty. Gonzalo Arriagada Ocampo, Lyonel Beaulieu, Mauricio Campos, José Fleiderman, Marcos Ganga, Andres Lisoni, Enzo Mantelli, Aliro San Martín, Álvaro Silva, Manuel Valencia.

Registration fee. Members: USD 150.00 | Non Members: USD 250.00

Number of participants. 20



AOSpine Principles Course May 11–12, 2012



COURSE



This Principles Course took place in the city of Guadalajara and was aimed at residents of neurosurgery and orthopedics, as well as spine fellows. The presentations were held in a dynamic format where workshops complemented the discussions and clinical cases. The main focus of the course was to learn about the diagnosis and treatment of trauma and degenerative pathologies in the cervical and thoracolumbar regions.

Venue. Hilton Guadalajara Hotel – Guadalajara, Mexico.

Chairperson. Martín Tejeda (Mexico).

Ed Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Regional Faculty. Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia), Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica).

National Faculty. Aurelio Ramírez, Francisco Cruz, Hernando Cuevas, Hugo Vilchis Sámano, Jose Jimenez, Michael Dittmar.

Workshop Instructors. Gustavo Caldera, Guillermo Moreno Aréchiga, Fernando Ortega Perez.

Registration fee. Members: USD 80.00 | Non Members: USD 120.00

Number of participants. 44

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,48
_____ out of 5	
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,69
_____ out of 5	
Scientific Program Content	4,91
_____ out of 5	
Quality of Material Received	4,38
_____ out of 5	
Course Facilities	4,69
_____ out of 5	
Overall Course Evaluation	4,63
_____ out of 5	



AOSpine Principles Course May 18–19, 2012



COURSE

Taking place in Mexico City on May 18th–19th, this Principles Course was developed in accordance to the Basic Principles of the AOSpine Curriculum, focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of the main cervical and thoracolumbar trauma and degenerative pathologies.

Each of the classes was reinforced with workshops that were developed as part of the educational program.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,33
_____ out of 5	
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,41
_____ out of 5	
Scientific Program Content	4,92
_____ out of 5	
Quality of Material Received	4,29
_____ out of 5	
Course Facilities	4,53
_____ out of 5	
Overall Course Evaluation	4,49
_____ out of 5	

Venue. Sevilla Palace Hotel – Mexico City, Mexico.

Chairperson. Gustavo Casas (Mexico).

Ed Advisor. Roberto Postigo (Chile).

Regional Faculty. Michael Hinojosa (Peru), Alexandre Sadao (Brazil).

National Faculty. Adrian García, Ana Celia Garza Hernandez, Aurelio Ramírez, David Servin Carmona, Felix Adolfo Sanchez, Hernando Cuevas, Martín Tejeda, Roberto Chapa.

Table Instructors. Cristóbal Herrera Palacios, José Penagos.

Registration fee. Members: USD 80.00 | Non Members: USD 120.00

Number of participants. 58



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Breakthroughs in the Management of the Traumatic Pathology

May 25–26, 2012



SEMINAR

A Seminar on breakthroughs in the management of traumatic pathology was held in the city of Cali, Colombia, with the mission of establishing a Colombian study group on spinal trauma. Topics such as spinal cord injury and cervical subaxial were discussed by the Faculty members, orthopedic spinal surgeons, neurosurgeons, residents and traumatologists of the country.

Venue. Intercontinental de Cali Hotel – Cali, Colombia.

Chairperson. Jaime Segura (Colombia).

Regional Faculty. Matías Petracchi (Argentina).

National Faculty. Calos Llanos, Fidel Vásquez, Jhon Abello, Juan Uribe, Leonardo Duplat, Luis Arango, Mario Germán González, Mario Herrera, Nelson Morales, Néstor Taboada, Roberto Díaz.

Registration fee.

Members: USD 320.00 |
Non Members: USD 350.00

Number of participants. 50



The discussion and resolution of clinical cases in every module made the Advanced Seminar in trauma an interactive experience, with a high degree of integration between the audience and the Faculty. This format allowed us to share our practices and improve our knowledge based on the experience of our local and regional Faculty, emphasizing the application of the best practice principles in order to obtain better patient care.

Jaime Segura
Course Chairperson

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,36	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,43	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,61	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,13	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,82	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,27	out of 5

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar–AMCICO

June 20, 2012

SEMINAR

Prior to the XIII Mexican Association of Spinal Surgeons – AMCICO Congress, AOSpine held a seminar on new tendencies and concepts in the treatment of patients with rachimedular lesions. The management of the spinal lesion in emergency and surgical situations was also covered, as well as new techniques and concepts of the spinal lesion. The seminar ended with participants taking part in a tequila tasting, providing a relaxed environment for the interaction between Faculty members and participants.



Venue. Hilton Guadalajara Hotel, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Chairperson. Michael Dittmar (Mexico).

International Faculty. Carlos Bellabarba (USA).

National Faculty. Emilio Bitar, Federico Cisneros, Francisco Cruz, José Jimenez, Josué Solis, Pilar de la Peña, Rafael Castro Ramírez, Roberto Chapa, Ruben Cardenas, Sergio Anaya Vallejo.

Maestra Tequilera. Ana Maria Romero.

Registration fee. Free

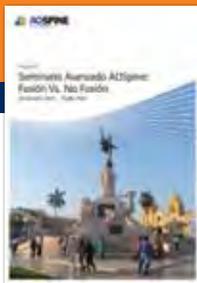
Number of participants. 87



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,46	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,56	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,27	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,70	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,03	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,00	out of 5





AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Fusion Vs. Non-Fusion

June 23, 2012

SEMINAR

This year, AOSLA hosted the Advanced Seminar Fusion vs. Non-Fusion in the city of Trujillo in Peru. Topics such as dynamic stabilization and lumbar and cervical arthroplasty were discussed using interactive case presentations. The main purpose was to provide evidence, clarify doubts, offer solutions and suggestions and share experiences on the introduction of innovative surgical techniques that avoid fusion, as an alternative to arthrodesis.



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,06	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,15	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	3,80	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,40	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,73	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,83	out of 5

Venue. Libertador Trujillo Hotel – Trujillo, Peru.

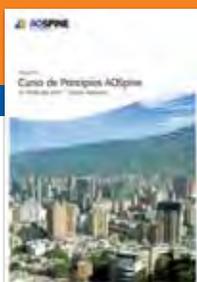
Chairperson. Arturo Morales (Peru).

Regional Faculty. Néstor Taboada (Colombia).

National Faculty. Alejandro Diaz Calvo, Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez, Marco Medina, Michael Hinojosa, Robert Rosado Inga.

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members: USD 50.00

Number of participants. 25



AOSpine Principles Course

July 12-14, 2012

COURSE

This course sought to support beginning vertebral pathology specialists by approaching everything related to the newest concepts in the diagnosis and treatment of spinal diseases. This event provided a practical approach, giving the participants an opportunity to use the most modern implants for spinal surgery and to learn about their indications. The Faculty focused on delivering all the tools necessary for appropriate and opportune treatment of vertebral pathologies.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,70	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,82	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,47	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,84	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,39	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,45	out of 5



Venue. Caracas Palace Hotel – Caracas, Venezuela.

Chairperson. Edgar González (Venezuela).

Co-Chairperson. Luis Lara (Venezuela).

Ed Advisor. Pablo Vela (Colombia).

Regional Faculty. Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia), Michael Dittmar (Mexico).

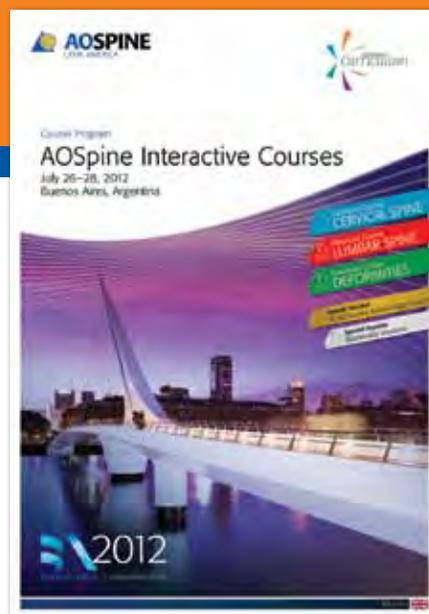
National Faculty. Albaro Barrera, Daniel Onay, James Cardona, Jose Duran Dautant, Manuel Alvarado, Marlon Díaz, Víctor Dávila.

Registration fee. Members: USD 1,020.00 | Non Members: USD 1,050.00

Number of participants. 38



AOSpine Interactive Courses Buenos Aires 2012 July 26–28, 2012



COURSES

The Interactive Courses Buenos Aires 2012 took place at the Hotel Hilton Buenos Aires on July 26–28. With 230 participants and the hosting of renowned and outstanding Faculty members, it exceeded all educational and organizational expectations.

The three courses offered in lumbar and cervical pathologies and deformities had the aim of educating, stimulating debate and advancing knowledge on the latest developments in spine care, and all boasted considerable turnouts. The courses progressed efficiently with high level presentations delivered to an enthusiastic and proactive audience.

Two days of intense academic activity ended with special sessions on Minimally-Invasive Surgery and a Spinal Cord Injury & Trauma Knowledge Forum.

Venue. Hilton Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Chairpersons. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osmar Moraes (Brazil).

Educational Advisor. Germán Ochoa (Colombia).

International Faculty. Randall Chesnut (USA), Roger Härtl (USA), Michael Fehlings (Canada), Frank Kandziora (Germany), Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran (India), Daniel Riew (USA), Christopher Shaffrey (USA), Alexander Vaccaro (USA).

Regional Faculty. Ricardo Ribeiro, Marco Medina, Samuel Pantoja, Luis Eduardo Rocha, Andrés Rodríguez, Asdrubal Falavigna.

National Faculty. Alejandro Betemps, Amilcar Beyot, Eduardo Galaretto, Rodrigo Remondino, Carlos Solá, Marcelo Valacco.

Registration fee. Members: USD 900.00 | Non Members USD 1,000.00

Number of participants. 230

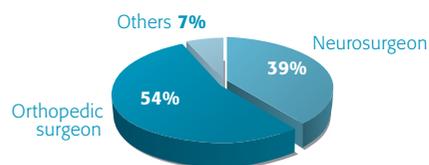


Advanced Courses and Special Sessions

Three advanced courses were offered in Buenos Aires: **Lumbar Spine, Cervical Spine** and **Deformities**. These were carried out over the first two days of the event. On the third day, opinion leaders participated in two simultaneous special sessions: **Spinal Cord Injury & Trauma Knowledge Forum** and **Minimally Invasive Surgery**.

CERVICAL SPINE Advanced Course

2 full days course **60** participants

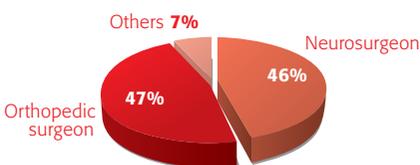


The course was based on the analysis of clinical cases, presentations on specific topics and interactive debates, and provided a current focus on most of the cervical spine pathology. Cervical Spine workshop activities were held during one-hour lunch sessions and as a part of the educational program.

Chairperson.
Mario Taricco (Brazil)
Educational Advisor.
Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

LUMBAR SPINE Advanced Course

2 full days course **90** participants

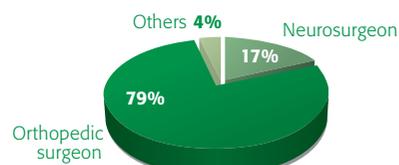


The design of the course allowed the participants to exchange knowledge regarding the most common, yet controversial, topics on degenerative pathologies and the lumbar spine metastasis. Lumbar Spine workshop activities were held during one-hour lunch sessions and as a part of the educational program.

Chairperson.
Pablo Vela (Colombia)
Educational Advisor.
Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

DEFORMITIES Advanced Course

2 full days course **80** participants



Updates and upgrading of new concepts in the understanding of spinal deformities were presented to all participants, with a special focus on complex and controversial topics.

Chairperson.
Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina)
Educational Advisor.
Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

KNOWLEDGE FORUM Special session

1/2 day session **150** participants

During the Spinal Cord Injury & Trauma Knowledge Forum session, the opinion leaders shared their knowledge with over 150 participants from the region, enabling them to understand how this may lead to the understanding and management of complex clinical cases according to their expertise.

The Interactive Courses in Buenos Aires placed Latin America on the map of the great AOSpine courses around the world. For three days, more than 250 surgeons interacted at the highest academic levels, sharing their questions and experiences in a friendly atmosphere.

Chairperson
Luiz Vialle (Brazil)



MINIMALLY INVASIVE Special session

1/2 day session **80** participants

Through the interaction with colleagues from all over the world, participants were able to enhance their knowledge and to learn about research advances in the field of minimally invasive surgery of the spine, while also acquiring the ability to recognize the best practices.



Chairperson
Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

Sponsors and Exhibitors

The event enjoyed the enthusiastic support of sponsors, who held workshops/lectures, inviting the participants to take part in discussions in a professional yet relaxed atmosphere. In addition, an exhibition area was set up, working as a central meeting and networking point, with a constant flow of avid visitors looking for the latest developments in terms of products.



The Event in Words

I was tremendously impressed with the quality of the presentations and the enthusiastic and knowledgeable participation of those attending the Interactive Courses. The organization of the courses and the venue were superb. It was one of most informative and enjoyable courses that I have had the pleasure of participating in.

Christopher Shaffrey



I enjoyed the event very much. I liked the opportunity to interact with the Faculty and participants. I would be pleased to participate in future events.

Michael Fehlings



Social Activities

The more than 250 members of the Faculty and participants shared their questions and experiences in a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere. In addition to the welcome event, the cocktail evening was a very spirited networking opportunity.



Central America & Caribbean AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Spine

August 25, 2012

SEMINAR



Taking advantage of the AOSpine Chairman and Delegates meeting of the Central America & Caribbean, taking place at the same time, this seminar was held with the focus on degenerative lumbar spine. A great group of Faculty members from several countries discussed the different treatment options for the most frequent pathologies, as well as their use and management.

The interaction of the participants with local and regional teachers was conducted through the discussion of clinical cases, the management thereof, and finding the most appropriate solution or strategy for solving them.

Venue. Barceló Hotel – Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Chairpersons. Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Juan Pablo de León Palacios (Guatemala).

Regional Faculty. Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica), Antonio Mock (Panama), Carlos Contreras (Honduras), Enrique Dejongh (Cuba), Ernesto Fleitas (Cuba), Freddy Flores (Dominican Republic), Iohan Fernandez Santiago (Dominican Republic), Juan Bosco (Nicaragua), Manuel Orozco (Nicaragua), Pedro Bazán (Argentina).

Registration fee. Members: USD 73.00 | Non Members: USD 73.00

Number of participants. 33

“The Degenerative Lumbar Spine Seminar that took place in Guatemala turned out to be a friendly meeting of surgeons from a geographic region that encompasses very different working conditions and concepts. Those conditions made the encounter an excellent source of integration, in a way that only AOSpine is able to perform.”

Ernesto Fleitas
Faculty Regional

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,47 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,49 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,56 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,89 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,07 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,30 out of 5



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Disc Disease

August 24–25, 2012



SEMINAR

This seminar took place in the city of Asunción, with prominent regional Faculty members present. Following this year's focus on the Continuing Education programs in spine pathologies, the topic of disc disease was chosen as the focal point, with its diverse angles, treatment options and different approaches, making it a topic which always leads to disputes. The course counted a significant number of participants. We hope we met all of their expectations, and managed to make significant improvements to their daily professional practice.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,49	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,50	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,14	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,57	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,76	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,09	out of 5

Venue. Crowne Plaza Asunción Hotel – Asunción, Paraguay.

Chairperson. Fabrizio Frutos (Paraguay).

Regional Faculty. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Michael Hinojosa (Peru).

National Faculty. Carlos Feltes, Elio Marin, Reddy Simón.

Registration fee. Members: USD 130.00 | Non Members: USD 160.00

Number of participants. 33

Our disc disease seminar in Asunción this year was accomplished with great success, and we are now even more convinced that the AO teaching system counts as one of the best teaching methods for young specialists! We expect to continue with other seminars, featuring specific topics and the great experience of the regional Faculty members in our country.

Fabrizio Frutos
Course Chairperson



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Thoracolumbar Trauma & Cervical Degenerative Myelopathy

August 31, 2012

SEMINAR

As part of the 30th anniversary of the Division of Neurosurgery at Hospital de Clínicas of Buenos Aires, an AOSpine Seminar took place: Thoracolumbar Trauma & Cervical Degenerative Myelopathy.

Venue. Jose de San Martin Clinical Hospital – Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Chairpersons. Juan Mezzadri (Argentina), Pedro Bazán (Argentina).

National Faculty. Aldo Viola, Andrés Ferrero, Carlos Catuogno, Juan Emmerich, Juan Rodríguez, Marcelo Melo, Pablo Jalón.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 27



It proved to be a very interactive and important event, in which we reviewed the AOSpine principles and discussed cases with the audience. The event featured both neurosurgeons and orthopedists from Argentina and neighboring countries. The most interesting aspect was that it was the first AOSpine activity for many of the participants and they were delighted with the mechanics of the case discussion, which were carried out by Dr. Pedro Bazán, AOSpine Chairperson of Argentina.

Juan Emmerich
National Faculty

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Symposium: XXIX Brazilian Neurosurgery Congress September 08, 2012

SYMPOSIUM

AOSpine was once again present for the Brazilian Neurosurgery Congress. During the six days of the congress, the world's greatest exponents of neurosurgery help strengthen the participants' knowledge, helping them to improve the quality of their daily practice. The AOSpine Pre-Congress took place within this wonderful educational context, and offered the many participants the characteristic friendly learning environment so often associated with AOSpine events.



Venue. Riocentro – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chairperson. Osmar Moraes (Brazil).

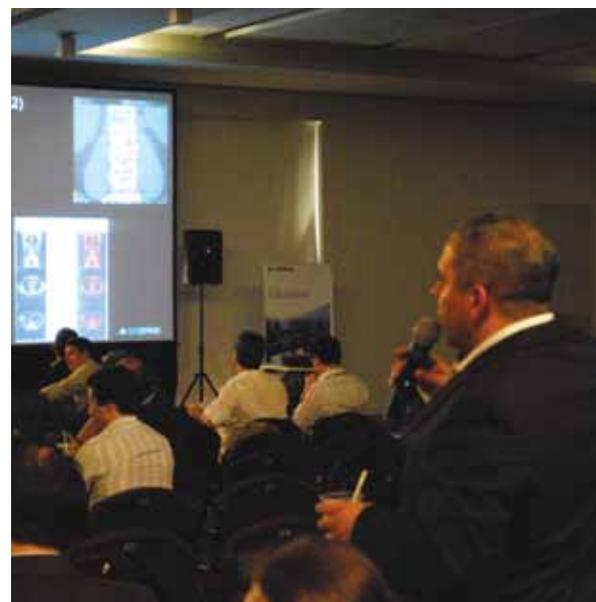
International Faculty. Jean Vital (France).

Faculty Regional. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina).

National Faculty. Aluízo Arantes, Ricardo Botelho, Albert Brasil, Fernando Dantas, Asdrubal Falavigna, Ronald Lucenas, Jerônimo Milano, Marcelo Mudo, Ricardo Ribeiro, Carlos Ribeiro, Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Ericson Sfreddo, Marcelo Simões, Mario Taricco, Luiz Vialle.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 129





AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative Lumbar Spine

September 08, 2012

SEMINAR

Degenerative spine was chosen as the main topic for this seminar. It was comprised of clinical case presentations, which facilitated the interaction, discussion and exchange of opinions on the therapeutic options. The topics were presented by Faculty members with vast experience in spinal surgery. Both orthopedists and neurosurgeons achieved the goal of delivering different views on this controversial topic.

Venue. Christus Muguerza Alta Especialidad Hospital – Monterrey, Mexico.

Chairperson. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Regional Faculty. Pablo Vela (Colombia).

National Faculty. Jorge Cabrera, Roberto Cantú, Oscar Martínez, Leonardo Pérez.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 27

“I found the seminar very satisfying, especially when it came to the lumbar black discs, as some of the comments presented made me reflect on the ideas I had about lumbar discographies in black discs. It was also a very pleasant feeling to know that other participants had had similar experiences to mine in relation to the topics presented.”

Oscar Martínez
Faculty Nacional

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,28	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,35	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,26	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,50	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,54	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,99	out of 5

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar: 21st Neurology – Neurosurgery Congress

September 13–14, 2012

SEMINAR

The Dominican Republic once again played host to AOSpine, providing a platform for expert spine surgeons to share their experiences. The friendly and interactive discussions on topics such as degeneration and spine infections, which featured contributions of Faculty members and participants alike, were of great importance for the professional growth of the attendees.



Venue. Barceló Palace Deluxe Hotel – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Chairperson. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Faculty Regional. Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil).

National Faculty. Adriano Valdez, Freddy Flores, Giovanni Ureña, Iohan Fernandez, Roberto Abreu.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 28

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,54	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,59	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,43	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	5,00	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,14	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,54	out of 5





AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal Degeneration September 14, 2012

SEMINAR

This seminar made it possible for participants to discuss the therapeutic modalities of the most common degenerative lumbar and cervical spine cases. The format of the courses was based on active interaction and discussion of the cases, with the main topics presented being degenerative lumbar, cervical and thoracic spine and spontaneous discitis.

Venue. Radisson Decapolis Hotel – Panama City, Panama.

Chairperson. Antonio Mock (Panama).

Regional Faculty. Michael Dittmar (Mexico), Néstor Taboada (Colombia).

National Faculty. Jorge Andrés Báez, José Neira, Mitzadi Ordoñez, Luis Pitty, Alina Pupo de Martinez, Nelson Sopalda.

Registration fee. Members: USD 50.00 | Non Members: USD 100.00

Number of participants. 8

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,28	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,35	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,26	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,50	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,54	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,99	out of 5

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: News in Spine Surgery September 15, 2012

SEMINAR



The name “News in Spine Surgery” came from the idea of not only providing an updated concept of how to deal with spinal injuries, but also from the wish to implement a new way of teaching in the organization, whose mission is to disseminate the necessary knowledge of understanding the diagnosis and treatment of problems related to the spine in a new and different way.

The seminar objective was to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the most commonly seen injuries of the spine. To accomplish this, the attendees were encouraged to actively participate, interacting with the lecturers in order to discuss the clinical cases. This discussion then allowed the best overall strategy and the most appropriate treatment to be decided on.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,27	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,13	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,56	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,67	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,04	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,13	out of 5

Besides the social interaction and the strengthening of friendly ties that are normal for an event like this, we are sure that, ultimately, the overall result was to the benefit of the patients.

Venue. Hilton Hotel – Kingston, Jamaica.

Chairperson. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Regional Faculty. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil).

National Faculty. Carl Bruce, Dwaine Cook, Mark Morgan, Ian Neil.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 29





AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar ACOT: Thoracolumbar Fractures September 17, 2012

SEMINAR

The AOSpine Pre-Congress took place through the cooperation of the Costa Rican Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology, AOSpine Latin America, with Ricardo Andaluz from Mexico present. Featuring the active participation of the attendees, the activity covered topics such as spinal lesion, classification and approach, thoracolumbar fractures, among others.

Venue. Marriot Hotel – San José, Costa Rica.

Chairperson. Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica).

Faculty Regional. Ricardo Andaluz (Mexico).

National Faculty. Andrés Angulo, Jairo Gutierrez, Max Mendez, Mario Solano Salas, Paula Valverde, Juan Zúñiga Vargas.

Registration fee. Members: USD 100.00 | Non Members: USD 100.00

Number of participants. 34

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,58	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,56	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	3,22	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,22	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,15	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,75	out of 5

AOSpine Master Symposium Ibero-Latin America: Surgical Planning September 28–29, 2012

SYMPOSIUM

This symposium was held with the presence of international Faculty from the Iberian region. Their vast experience and knowledge in the appropriate approach and treatment through spinal surgery helped participants to confront and plan the surgical cases presented. In addition to all the acquired knowledge that will benefit the patients in the near future, these kinds of events always facilitate the strengthening of friendly ties between all involved. Topics covered were stenosis, degenerative spondylolisthesis, traumatic thoracolumbar kyphosis, cervical disc herniation and degenerative lumbar spine.

Venue. JW Marriott Hotel – Mexico City, Mexico.

Chairperson. Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

Ed Advisor. Pablo Vela (Colombia).

International Faculty. José Consciência (Portugal), Máximo Alberto Diez (Spain).

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina).

National Faculty. Federico Cisneros, Jesus Bernal Marquez, Luis Rosales, Martín Tejeda, Sergio Anaya.

Registration fee. Members: USD 225.00 | Non Members: USD 250.00

Number of participants. 29



Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,13	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,33	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,73	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,22	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,70	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,42	out of 5





AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar: National Orthopedics Congress

October 05, 2012

SEMINAR

AOSpine organized this regional event within the context of the XXIX National Traumatology Congress of Guatemala. The Congress took place on October 5th, and brought together traumatologists from Guatemala and neighboring countries.

As a Faculty member of AOSpine, I find it important to be able to share my views with colleagues, and to offer a new vision (the AOSpine vision) to the colleagues interested in the topic, but who are not yet members. Just the fact of being able to share my expertise and my mistakes is good for my professional development. Learning from colleagues who've gone the same path before me confirms that, in the most cases, I'm on the right path. The activity on Ancient Guatemala was proof of that, and encourages me to continue learning and collaborating with AOSpine as a Faculty member whenever they need me.

Julio Pozuelos
Faculty Nacional

Venue. Casa Santo Domingo – Antigua, Guatemala.

Chairperson. Erick Rodas (Mexico).

Faculty Regional. Sergio Anaya (Mexico), Roberto Chapa (Mexico).

National Faculty. Otto Alvarado Ortiz, Juan De León Palacios, Juan Díaz, Arturo Guerra, José Hernandez, Rudolf Herrera, Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez, Jorge Felipe Ramirez, Carlos Rayo.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 32

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,21	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,21	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	3,91	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,55	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,18	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,81	out of 5



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal Degeneration

October 06, 2012

SEMINAR

AOSpine organized this seminar, in Chile, as an educational activity where several experts in spinal surgery could share their experiences, and lead open and participative discussions on the latest advances in topics related to the degeneration of the spine.

The presentation and discussion of clinical cases covered topics such as anterior decompression in the upper cervical spine and mini-invasive decompression techniques.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,39	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,52	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,00	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,25	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,50	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	3,93	out of 5

Venue. Atton Las Condes Hotel – Santiago, Chile.

Chairpersons. Milan Munjin (Chile), Manuel Valencia (Chile).

National Faculty. José Vicente Ballesteros Plaza, Enrique Concha Julio, José Fleiderman, Francisco Ilabaca, Samuel Pantoja, Miguel Plaza de los Reyes, Aliro San Martín, Carlos Thibaut, Alejandro Urzúa, Ratko Yurac, Juan Jose Zamorano.

Registration fee. Members: USD 100.00 | Non Members: USD 150.00

Number of participants. 14





AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents

October 12–13, 2012

SEMINAR

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,39	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,39	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,50	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,50	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,19	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,40	out of 5

Venue. Kualamaná Hotel and Convention Center – Melgar, Colombia.

Chairpersons. Fernando Alvarado (Colombia), Jaime Segura (Colombia).

National Faculty. Napoleon Avendaño, Carlos Carmona, Leonardo Duplat, Julián España, Gustavo Giraldo, Carlos Jaimes, Carlos Martínez, Carlos Montero, Nelson Morales, Luis Morales, Rodolfo Paez, Juan Suarez.

Registration fee. Members: USD 600.00 | Non Members: USD 600.00

Number of participants. 31

This seminar had recognized specialists present, and was characterized by a mix of younger doctors with more experienced doctors. As in previous seminars, a Faculty moderator led the discussion, overseeing a pleasant interaction with a high academic standard for the participants.

The exchange of concepts among new Faculty members, AOSpine fellows, and experienced Faculty as provided by the Seminar for Residents, supplied a suitable environment for interactive discussion and justification of concepts in traumatic thoracolumbar pathology, spinal disorders in growth and spinal conditions in aging. This type of event achieves multiple goals. It meets the objective of spreading knowledge about the treatment of spinal diseases among the orthopedics and neurosurgery residents, thereby helping to promote interest in spinal surgery for the generations to come, while simultaneously allowing us to form future Faculty members with the AOSpine education.

Jaime Segura
Course Chairperson



AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma

October 19, 2012

SEMINAR

The principles seminar held in Mar del Plata was based around the discussion of clinical cases. These cases approach themes such as the evaluation of rachimedular lesions, the use of the AO Classification for thoracolumbar fractures and treatment options. The course took place in a relaxed environment with important discussions that help to enrich the participants' professional experience.

Venue. Costa Galana Hotel – Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Chairperson. Pedro Bazán (Argentina).

National Faculty. Guido Colombo, Nicolás Duarte, Marcelo H. G. Grecco, Juan Pablo Guyot, Ricardo Lucero, Sergio Martin, Luis Patalano, Eduardo Sember, Pablo Sirna.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 31

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,43	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,48	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,11	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,67	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,04	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,14	out of 5



AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma

October 20, 2012

SEMINAR



This course was developed around an educational format where participants could establish the basic principles of classification, diagnosis and treatment of traumatic cervical and thoracolumbar spine lesions. The seminar also saw participants defining the foundation for the diagnosis and treatment of the most common cervical and lumbosacral spine degenerative pathology.

Venue. UMAE Hospital – Mexico City, Mexico.

Chairperson. Martín Tejeda (Mexico).

National Faculty. Gustavo Casas, Michael Dittmar, Edgar Marquez, Roberto Palapa García, Luis Rosales, Hugo Vilchis Sámano.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 76

“After 22 years, it was nice to return to the same Orthopedic and Trauma Hospital where we had first learned about spine surgery. This time it was to teach and to inspire young residents to follow you in what you love to do.”

Michael Dittmar
Faculty Nacional

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Thoracolumbar Trauma

October 23, 2012

SEMINAR



Based around concise presentations and the discussion of typical cases, the participants, mostly residents, had the opportunity to exchange opinions on the basic principles of spinal trauma. After this seminar, the participants should be able to master the principles of the AO Classification and be familiar with other classifications presently used, as well as current approaches in the treatment of spinal trauma.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,72	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,84	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	3,93	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,80	out of 5
Course Facilities	3,62	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,18	out of 5

Venue. Instituto de Rehabilitación Psicosfísica – Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Chairperson. Alejandro Betemps (Argentina).

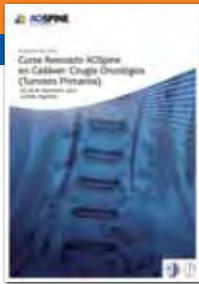
National Faculty. Pedro Bazán, Alvaro Borri, Marcelo Gruenberg, Carlos Mounier.

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 27

AOSpine Advanced Cadaver Course: Oncologic Surgery (Primary tumors)

November 02–03, 2012



COURSE

The course took place at the prestigious Universidad de La Plata, in the city of the same name. This Advanced Cadaver Course, with its focus on surgical oncology (primary tumors), was developed over two consecutive days of work. It was based around theoretical activities on stratification, the different surgical possibilities according to the location of the lesion and the respective therapeutic possibilities. The activities were performed and concluded with joint work in the laboratory, where the participants applied the selected techniques.

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,79
out of 5	
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,86
out of 5	
Scientific Program Content	4,67
out of 5	
Quality of Material Received	3,83
out of 5	
Course Facilities	4,03
out of 5	
Overall Course Evaluation	4,44
out of 5	

Venue. Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Universidad Nacional de La Plata – La Plata, Argentina.

Chairperson. Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina).

Ed Advisor. Néstor Fiore (Argentina).

National Faculty. Alejandro Mengotti, Alvaro Borri, Jorge Lambre, Juan Emmerich, Mario Fleita Pedrazzi, Martín Medina, Osvaldo Romano, Ricardo Campodonico.

Registration fee. Members: USD 1,130.00 | Non Members: USD 1,230.00

Number of participants. 12



AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Tumor Pathology of the Spine

November 02–03, 2012

SYMPOSIUM



This highly successful Advanced Symposium took place in the city of Bogotá, with the goal of gaining knowledge on the diagnosis and treatment of tumor pathologies. Participants were able to learn and interact on topics such as the generalities of bone tumors, complex cases by region, indications and contraindications for surgery, thoracic metastases with sympathetic spinal, as well as the complications that may occur in the management of this spinal pathology.

Venue. Hilton Hotel – Bogotá, Colombia.

Chairperson. Leonardo Duplat (Colombia).

Ed Advisor. Roberto Postigo (Chile).

International Faculty. Stefano Boriani (Italy), Laurence Rhines (USA).

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Samuel Pantoja (Chile), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Luiz Vialle (Brazil).

National Faculty. Luis Gomez Mier, Carlos Montero Silva, Alvaro Muñoz, Germán Ochoa, Julian Rivera, Andrés Rodríguez, Jaime Segura, Néstor Taboada, Pablo Vela.

Registration fee. Members: USD 150.00 | Non Members: USD 200.00

Number of participants. 106

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,48 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,42 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,57 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	4,32 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,36 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,38 out of 5





AOSpine Advanced Course: Cadaver and 3D Anatomy

November 09–10, 2012



COURSE

For the first time in Brazil, a cadaver course was developed expressly for participants with over five years of experience in spinal surgery. This course featured a workday of surgical techniques and instrumentation.

The format of the course started with short theoretical explanations of the different issues being addressed. This was followed by a workshop in the laboratory, where the selected techniques, such as occipitocervical fixation; thoracolumbar fixation; anterior cervical approach and instrumentation; and ALIF, were carried out.

As a result, participants were introduced to advanced surgical instrumentation, learning about the respective techniques. They were also able to evaluate and analyze the surgical treatment of the spine, establishing the association between the anatomical features and the techniques discussed.

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,50 out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,65 out of 5
Scientific Program Content	4,33 out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,80 out of 5
Course Facilities	4,09 out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,27 out of 5

Venue. Faculdade de Enfermagem e de Medicina Nova Esperança (FACENE) – João Pessoa, Brazil.

Chairperson. Geraldo Sá Carneiro (Brazil).

Ed Advisor. Néstor Fiore (Argentina).

National Faculty. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Emiliano Vialle, Osmar Moraes, Ronald Farias.

Faculty assistance. Saul Quinino, Marconi Meira, Juliano Chaves.

Registration fee. Members: USD 1,500.00 | Non Members: USD 1,650.00

Number of participants. 17



AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma

November 23–24, 2012

SEMINAR



This course was conducted in order to obtain significant knowledge on spinal trauma, so that the doctors could bring a timely and qualitative surgical treatment to patients with spinal cord conditions. As with all AOSpine formats, this seminar was constructed within an environment that favored the feedback between the Faculty and participants.

Venue. La Joya Hotel – Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico.

Chairperson. Jorge Cabrera (Mexico).

Regional Faculty. Ricardo Restrepo (Colombia).

National Faculty. Ricardo Andalúz, Gustavo Casas, Adrián García, José María Jiménez, Aurélio Ramírez, Oscar Martínez, Jaime Monter, Martín Tejeda.

Workshop Instructors. David Servin Carmona, Cristobal Herrera Palacios.

Faculty Assistants. Iliana Gómez Silva, Juan Diego Mora Tola.

Registration fee. Members: USD 126.00 | Non Members: USD 150.00

Number of participants. 25

Virtual Education

For the sixth consecutive year, AOSpine Latin America has provided a live and interactive learning opportunity for our members at Principles and Advanced levels.

The advanced course is composed of modules of 1,5 hours length each, with every module featuring a subject based on the discussion of cases by an expert panel. The same panel also answered questions from participants, with a specific presentation relating to each clinical case being presented by an experienced Faculty member, leading to useful discussions that benefited all the participants.

Advanced Courses

Module I: Trauma

Date April 14, 2012.

Course Moderators Alejandro Betemps (Argentina), Antonio Mock (Panama).

Regional Faculty Fernando García (Uruguay), Milan Munjin (Chile), Martín Tejada (Mexico).

Number of participants in auditoriums 140

Number of participants in individual connections 74

Module II: Tumors

Date June 09, 2012.

Course Moderators Robert Meves (Brazil), William Teixeira (Brazil).

Regional Faculty Roberto Postigo (Chile), Julio Pozuelos (Guatemala), Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia).

Number of participants in auditoriums 113

Number of participants in individual connections 83

Module III: Inflammatory and Infection

Date September 15, 2012.

Course Moderators Alexandre Sadao (Brazil), Julio Urrutia (Chile).

Regional Faculty Jose Duran Dautant (Venezuela), Nelson Morales (Guatemala).

Number of participants in auditoriums 103

Number of participants in individual connections 119

Module IV: Degenerative

Date December 01, 2012.

Course Moderators Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica), Aliro San Martín (Chile).

Regional Faculty Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Marco Medina (Peru), Emiliano Vialle (Brazil).

Number of participants in auditoriums 120

Number of participants in individual connections 80



Principles Courses

Module I: Trauma, Tumors and Deformity

Date August 11, 2012.

Course Moderators Néstor Fiore (Argentina), Germán Ochoa (Colombia).

Regional Faculty Eduardo von Uhlendorff (Brazil), Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Pedro Luis Bazán (Argentina), Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil), Roberto Postigo (Chile), Samuel Pantoja (Chile).

Number of participants in auditoriums 154

Number of participants in individual connections 108

Module II: Degenerative, Infection and IMG

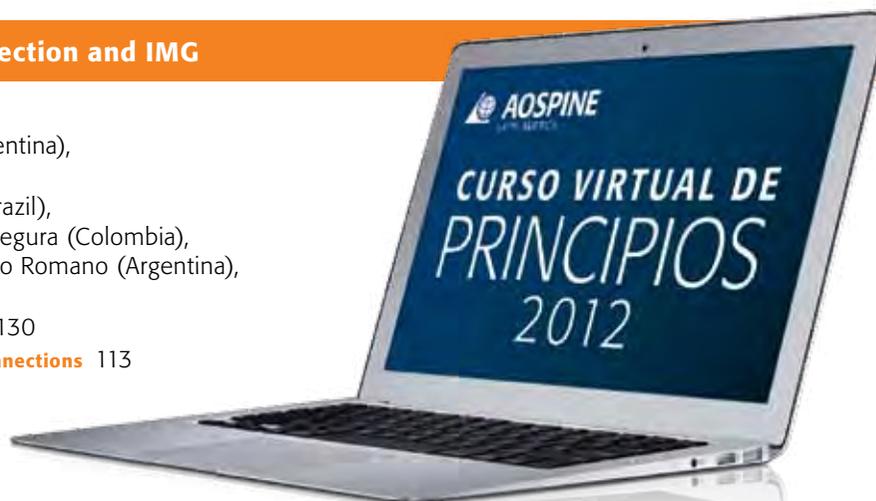
Date October 20, 2012.

Course Moderators Néstor Fiore (Argentina), Germán Ochoa (Colombia).

Regional Faculty Alexandre Sadao (Brazil), Fernando Garcia (Uruguay), Jaime Segura (Colombia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina), Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Robert Meves (Brazil).

Number of participants in auditoriums 130

Number of participants in individual connections 113



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

As 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.



Carlos Montero
Community Development Project Manager

Supports all regional Spine Centers, is responsible for the Fellowship Program process and organizes and develops the AOSpine Marketing strategy in the region, offering the necessary support for the members.



Juan González
Operations Project Manager

The Operations Project Manager is responsible for coordinating all operational activities related to AOSpine's presence at "non AOSpine events", and is also responsible for the administration and coordination of the internal operational activities of the Curitiba office.



Luciana Garcia
Education & Research Project Manager

Manages AOSpine research activities and is responsible for educational projects such as the Curriculum implementation and the Continuing Education Program (Diploma project).



Luana Torres
Education Project Manager

Her responsibilities are related to the planning of the administrative and organizational aspects of academic courses, including support development of the AOSpine Online Education System. She is also responsible for the development of educational projects such as Faculty development activities.

2012. The Year in Review



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AOSPine Interactive Courses – Buenos Aires, Argentina

- 01. Meet the Faculty cocktail (International and Regional Faculty)
- 02. Meet the Faculty cocktail (Regional Faculty)
- 03. Meet the Faculty cocktail (Regional Faculty)
- 04. Course participants
- 05. Knowledge Forum Panel
- 06. Registration

- 07. Mario Taricco lecturing
- 08. Randal Chesnut lecturing
- 09. Continuing Education Program information desk
- 10. Continuing Education Program information desk
- 11. Local participants
- 12. Participants from Chile and Ecuador



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AOSpine Interactive Courses – Buenos Aires, Argentina

- 01. Participants from Brazil
- 02. Welcome speech – Osmar Moraes
- 03. Participants at Meet the Faculty cocktail
- 04. Participants at Meet the Faculty cocktail
- 05. Participants from Colombia
- 06. Participants from Brazil
- 07. Participants from Bolivia
- 08. Christofer Shaffrey lecturing
- 09. Coffee break
- 10. Participants from Ecuador
- 11. Daniel Riew lecturing
- 12. Course participants



AOSpine Advanced Symposium – Bogotá, Colombia

- 01. Participants during the lunch break
- 02. Faculty Dinner
- 03. Course participants
- 04. Board Meeting

Central America & Caribbean meeting

- 05. Group discussion
- 06. Central America & Caribbean meeting
- 07. Central America & Caribbean meeting
- 08. Faculty Dinner

AOSpine Advanced Symposium – Havana, Cuba

- 09. Roberto Chapa, Rodrigo Alvarez (Director) and staff of Frank Pais Hospital
- 10. Faculty Dinner

AOSpine Principles Course – Guadalajara, Mexico

- 11. Workshop
- 12. Jose Jimenez lecturing



AOSpine Advanced Course: Live Surgery – Florencio Varela, Argentina

- 01. Operation room
- 02. Auditorium "Hospital el Cruce"
- 03. Auditorium "Hospital el Cruce"
- 04. Operation room

AOSpine Advanced Course: Cadaver and 3D Anatomy – João Pessoa, Brazil

- 05. Participants watching 3D videos
- 06. Emiliano Vialle using Arcadis Orbic 3D
- 07. Course participants

AOSpine Advanced Cadaver Course – La Plata, Argentina

- 08. Pedro Bazán
- 09. Course participants

AOSpine Principles Seminar – Melgar, Colombia

- 10. Workshop
- 11. Workshop



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AOSpine Seminar – Managua, Nicaragua

01. Faculty Dinner

AOSpine Seminar – Asunción, Paraguay

02. Course participants and Faculty

Training for Chairpersons Meeting – Buenos Aires, Argentina

03. Pablo Vela, Ricardo Ribeiro, Alejandro Betemps, Aliro San Martín,

Marco Medina and Juan Emmerich

04. Joseph Green lecturing

Unidad de Alta Especialidad – Monterrey, Mexico

05. Spine Center visit

AOSpine Advanced Seminar – Kingston, Jamaica

06. Emiliano Vialle

07. Roberto Chapa and participants

AOSpine—the expert community
dedicated to spine care.