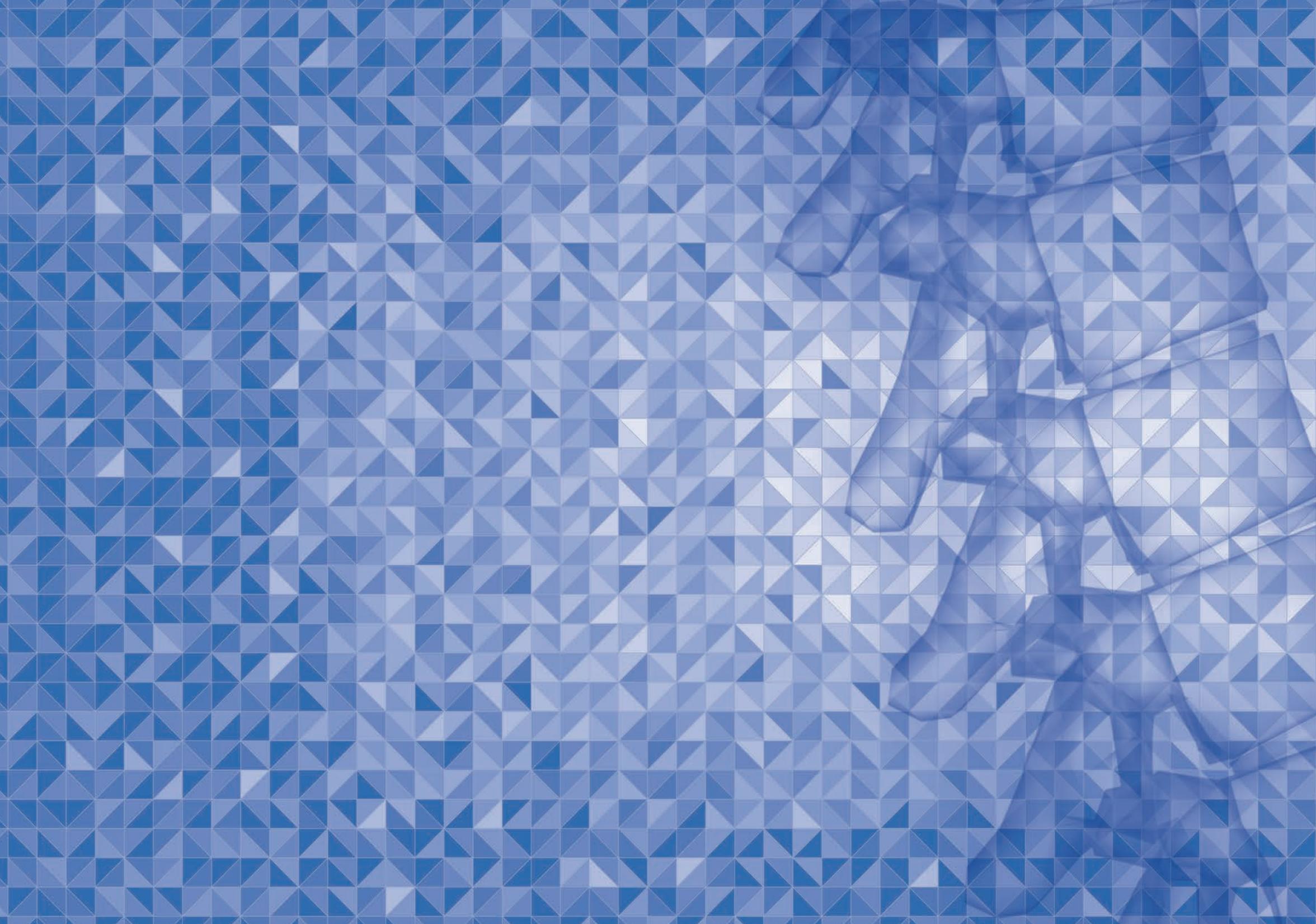


AOSpine Latin America Annual Report 2014



As a leading organization in education, we have to be scientifically cutting-edge, through Faculty education and the application of evidence-based medicine. This is what makes us different!



This report is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Germán Ochoa, whose tragic passing has nevertheless left us with an example of incomparable motivation and commitment to carry on with the standards of educational excellence in spine surgery, both in our region and around the world.

We are thankful for all the opportunities we had to share our lives with such a great man and teacher.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children and family and we hope that they may find some peace and comfort in this difficult time.

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

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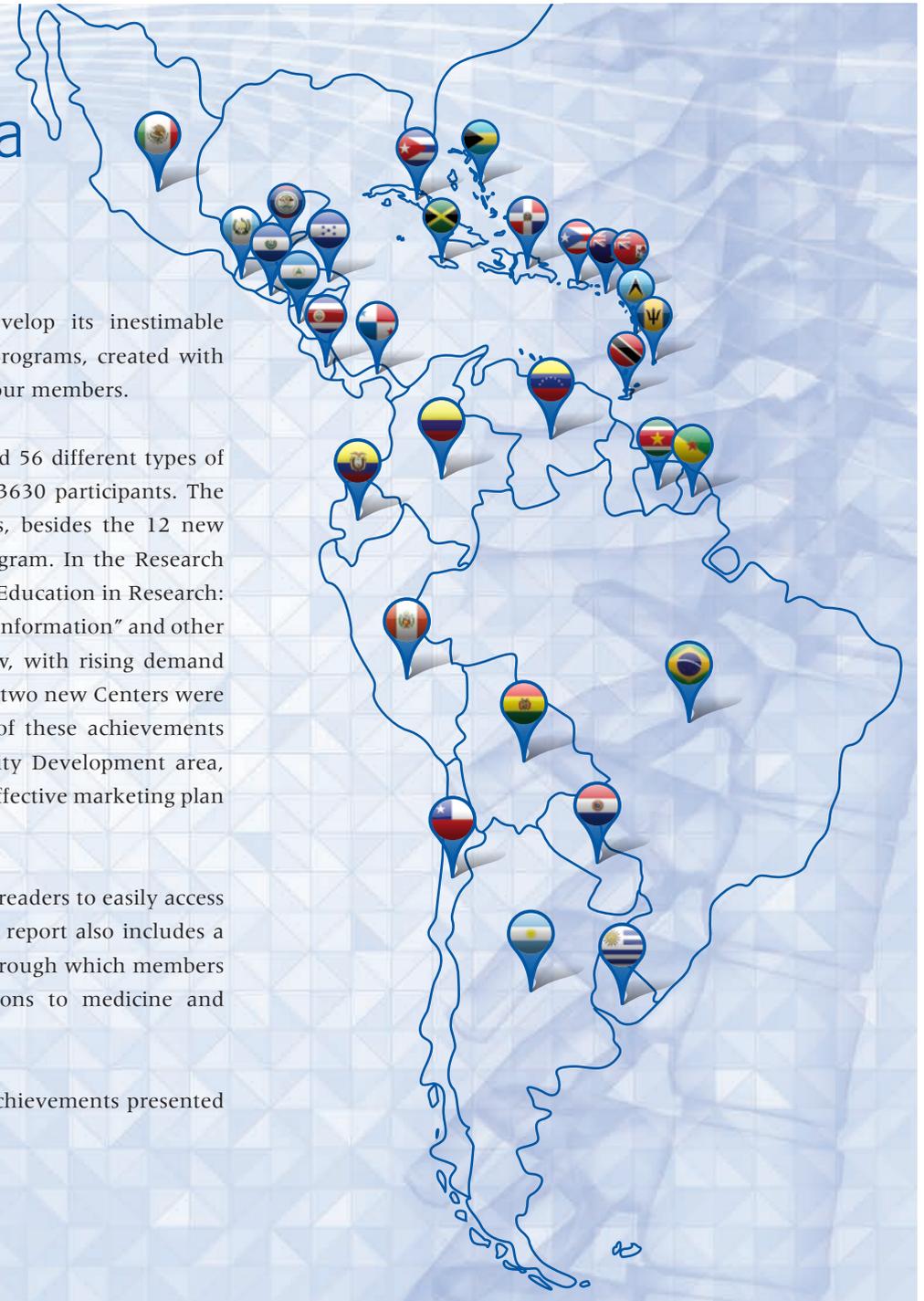
AOSpine Latin America Annual Report 2014

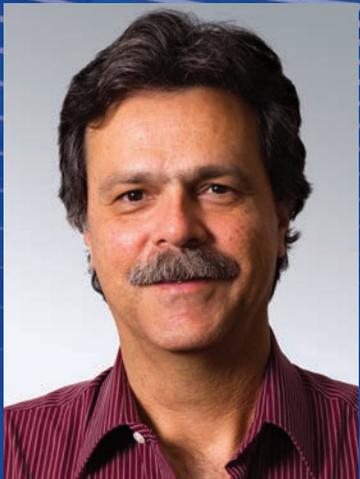
In 2014, AOSpine Latin America continued to develop its inestimable educational work through different academic activities and programs, created with the intention of contributing to the professional education of our members.

In the educational area, the organization has developed 56 different types of academic activities in several countries, with approximately 3630 participants. The Faculty Training Program certified 10 new Faculty members, besides the 12 new Chairpersons qualified through the Chairperson Training Program. In the Research area, various new projects were developed, such as the book "Education in Research: From the idea to the publication", the online course "Access to Information" and other projects. The Fellowship Program has also continued to grow, with rising demand calling for an increase in the number of centers in the region – two new Centers were incorporated and the educational offers were enlarged. All of these achievements would not be possible without the support of the Community Development area, which reached a growth in membership numbers through an effective marketing plan focusing on communication and retention rates.

The 2014 Annual Report offers a new format, allowing readers to easily access the information and data of each of the presented areas. The report also includes a special edition entitled "Germán Ochoa – A man, a legacy", through which members can appreciate his journey and his outstanding contributions to medicine and education in Latin America and around the world.

We heartily invite you to enjoy this year's work and achievements presented in the pages of our Annual Report.





Chairperson's word

Dear friends,

We are fast approaching the end of 2014 and before we highlight the remarkable activities developed by AOSLA this year, I would like to take the time to express, on behalf of our entire community, the heartfelt sadness due to the passing of Germán Ochoa, our companion and friend of so many years. He was passionately devoted to the development and dissemination of educational principles in spine surgery, even taking this mission to an international level on multiple occasions. Our deepest sympathies, recognition and thankfulness go out to him and his family.

This year was characterized by a great number of structural changes in the region, which required a large and concerted effort from the members of the National Chapters throughout the region, as well as from the administrative personnel in the AOSLA Office. The main objective of these changes was to continue providing a high level of quality in the different areas of our organization.

In the educational area, we managed to develop and maintain a large number of events in different formats, based on the AOSpine Curriculum, which saw the participation of over 3500 peers. Our plan for next year is to increase the quality of the educational offers, strengthen the bonds and the joint activities with the different academic societies in Latin America and develop regional courses in specific areas, with the aim of continuing to provide excellence in spine care education.

Regarding the Research activities, we are proud to be hosting the most important AOSpine event in the region for the first time: the Global Spine Congress, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, next May. Over 700 research abstracts from all around the world were sent in for review, 178 from Latin America alone. These record numbers illustrate the hard work and dedication of the organizing commission and its members, work which also included side activities such as the release of the book entitled "From the idea to the publication", an online research course and research studies to be published soon.

In Community Development, the great work developed with the support of our members was exemplified by a 15% growth in membership retention rates in comparison to 2013, leading to a 55% retention rate this year. Furthermore, the organization continued to innovate through the implementation of digital media, developing complementary tools to support and promote different educational offers.

With the knowledge from all these accomplishments, we look forward to the future and the possibilities it brings. One overall objective of particular interest for this term is to continue developing closer contact with the National Chapters through the use of virtual or on-site meetings with different Delegates and Chapters from the region. Our main goal is to be open to dialogue, thereby enriching our activities in the different countries, as well as being available to deal with difficulties presented locally and offering tailored solutions for local issues.

Despite the wish to say more, I will leave this space for the other Officers to express their visions and perspectives about the work developed in their commissions in 2014.

As the end of the year always offers time for reflection, I hope we can find peace and joy with our families and loved ones, and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2015.

Sincerely,



Roberto Chapa
Chairperson AOSpine Latin America

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Germán Ochoa—A Life, a legacy

AOSpine Latin America Office

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Governance

Elections 2014

This year several elections took place at an international level, including those for AOSEC's Chairperson and the new positions of "Office-elect". The AOSpine International and AOSME Chairperson-elect, along with the Commissions' Chairpersons-elect for the areas of Community Development and Research, began their term from July 2014 to June 2015, and will take over effectively in July 2015.

- **AOSI Chairperson.** Daniel Riew, USA
- **AOSI Community Development.** Klaus Schnake, Germany
- **AOSI Education.** Michael Grevitt, UK
- **AOSI Research.** S. Rajasekaran, India
- **AOSME Chairperson.** Abdulaziz Al-Mutair, Kuwait

International Board

Position	Name
Chairperson	Jeffrey Wang, USA
Past Chairperson	Luiz Vialle, Brazil
Education	Michael Grevitt, UK
Community Development	Carlos Tucci, Brazil
Research / Chair Elect	Daniel Riew, USA
AOSAP Chairperson	Paul Thng, Singapore
AOSEU Chairperson	Claudio Lamartina, Italy
AOSLA Chairperson	Roberto Chapa, Mexico
AOSNA Chairperson	Michael Fehlings, Canada
EMEA Chairperson	Abdulrazzaq Alobaid, Kuwait
Executive Director	Alain Baumann, France

*Elected in 2014

Regional Board

AOSpine Latin America greatly appreciates the efforts and dedication of Marco Medina, from Lima, Peru, as Education Neuro Officer from May 2011 to April 2014. Medina is replaced by Juan Emmerich, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, whom we warmly welcome and wish a successful term for the next three years.

Position	Name
Chairperson	Roberto Chapa, Mexico
Past Chairperson	Osmar Moraes, Brazil
Education-Neuro	Juan Emmerich, Argentina
Education-Ortho	Robert Meves, Brazil
Community Development	Samuel Pantoja, Chile
Research	Asdrubal Falavigna, Brazil
Spine Centers & Fellowships	Ratko Yurac, Chile
Regional Director	Antonio Machado, Brazil

*Elected in 2014



*From left to right, standing:
Juan Emmerich, Osmar Moraes,
and Ratko Yurac.
Sitting: Robert Meves,
Samuel Pantoja, Roberto Chapa
and Asdrubal Falavigna.*

Country Councils and Delegates

In 2014, Country Councils from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru welcomed new Officers.

Local chapters

Country	Chairperson	Education (Ortho)	Education (Neuro)	Community Development	Research
ARGENTINA	Marcelo Valacco	Cristian Illanes	José Prina	Ramiro Barrera	Juan Guyot
BOLIVIA	Juan Marcelo Sea	Marco Paredes	Luis Duchén	Eddy Dorado	Fernando Aliaga
BRAZIL	Alexandre Sadao	William Teixeira	Jerônimo Milano	Alberto Gotfryd	Délio Martins
CHILE	Aliro San Martín	Mauricio Campos	Julio Concha	Claudio Dintrans	Álvaro Silva
COLOMBIA	Jaime Segura	Luis Arango	Miguel Berbeo	Constanza Bedoya	Mario Herrera
COSTA RICA	Alexander Valverde	Mario Solano	Edgard Jimenez	Jose Pérez-Berríos	Luis Brenes
CUBA	Ernesto Fleites	Raul Candebat	Néstor Pulido	Enrique De Jongh	Carlos Santos
ECUADOR	Martha Hernández	Marcelo Ochoa	José Vasconez	Jack Ordoñez	Carlos Arias
GUATEMALA	Julio Pozuelos	Gabriel Murga	Pedro Brol	N/A	N/A
MEXICO	Gustavo Casas	Oscar Martínez	José Estrada	Jorge Cabrera	José Jiménez
PANAMA	Raul Arjona	Dionisia Marín	Ricardo Bermudez	Mitzadi Ordoñez	N/A
PERU	Alfonso Basurco	Rene Chirinos	Arturo Morales	Pedro Soto	To be elected
VENEZUELA	José Rafael Otero	Cesar Covarrubia	Marlon Díaz	Olga Morillo	Victor Davila

*Elected in 2014

Delegates

ARGENTINA

Ernesto Bersusky, Marcelo Gruenberg, Matías Petracchi, Néstor Fiore, Osvaldo Romano, Pedro Bazán

BOLIVIA

Gueider Salas, Jaime Linares, Ramiro Villavicencio, Rene Torrejon

BRAZIL

Albert Brasil, Alexandre Fogaça, Emiliano Vialle, Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Ricardo Ribeiro

CHILE

Enzo Mantelli, Manuel Valencia, Milan Munjin, Roberto Postigo, Yokota Beuret

COLOMBIA

Andrés Rodríguez, Jaime Quintero, Leonardo Duplat, Nelson Morales, Néstor Taboada, Néstor Guzmán, Pablo Vela

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Giovanni Ureña, Iohan Fernandez

ECUADOR

Elio Ramirez, Fernando Dávalos, Gladys Pavón, Juan Lasso, Mario Zumarraga

GUATEMALA

Arturo Guerra, Erick Rodas, Erny Leal, Juan Pablo de León Palacios

MEXICO

Aurelio Ramirez, Felix Sanchez, Herman Michael Dittmar, Hernando Cuevas, Martín Tejeda

PANAMA

Aldimarina López, Antonio Mock, José Neira, Ricardo Mosquera

PARAGUAY

Juan Silva, Reddy Simón

PERU

Benjamin Castillo, Carlos Cárdenas, Francisco Zambrano, Marco Medina, Michael Hinojosa

URUGUAY

Oscar Carreras, Pablo Pereda

VENEZUELA

Edgar González, James Cardona, José Duran, Luis Lara, Manuel Alvarado

Meetings

AOSLA Board meetings

Meeting I. BRAZIL

February 14–15, 2014

Venue

Pestana Hotel – Curitiba, Brazil

Board Members

Antonio Machado, Asdrubal Falavigna, Osmar Moraes, Ratko Yurac, Robert Meves, Roberto Chapa, Samuel Pantoja.

AOSpine

Carlos Montero, Fernanda Dias, Juan González, Simone Alvarenga, Sônia Scussel.

Guest

Alain Baumann, Juan Emmerich, Luiz Vialle.

Industrial partner

Sarah Mueller.

Topics discussed

- Global Spine Congress 2015: organization and structure;
- Update on AOSLA, AOSI and AOFoundation governance models;
- DPS partnership with AO;
- Review: Educational Plan & Faculty Development;
- Accreditation of the Continuing Education Program;
- AOSLA support for new researchers;
- Implementation of the Global Communication guidelines;
- Community Development in numbers;
- Analysis: Fellowship activities.
- Proposal: Spine Centers Directors Meeting.

Meeting II. ARGENTINA

July 26–27, 2014

Venue

Sheraton Hotel – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Board Members

Antonio Machado, Asdrubal Falavigna, Juan Emmerich, Osmar Moraes, Ratko Yurac, Robert Meves, Roberto Chapa, Samuel Pantoja.

AOSpine

Carlos Montero, Paula Vila, Sônia Scussel.

Guest

Néstor Fiore.

Topics discussed

- Global Spine Congress 2015: organization and structure;
- Latest updates on AOSpine International projects and agenda;
- Update on the current projects in Research, Education, Community Development and Fellowships & Spine Centers;
- Update on AO projects: AOAlliance and AONeuro;
- Update on the Continuing Education Program;
- Review: educational activities 2014-2015;
- Proposal: Educational Plan 2016;
- Review: elections and AOSLA structure.

Meeting III. CHILE

October 09–11, 2014

Venue

Viña Santa Rita – Santiago, Chile

Board Members

Antonio Machado, Asdrubal Falavigna, Juan Emmerich, Osmar Moraes, Ratko Yurac, Robert Meves, Roberto Chapa.

Guest

Gustavo Cristancho.

Topics discussed

- Latest updates on AO initiatives;
- Update on the current projects and planning;
- Update on DPS merger and organizational structure;
- Proposal: AOLAT Retreat 2015;
- Review: Educational Plan 2015;
- Proposal: creation of a survey to evaluate the profile of AOSLA event participants;
- Global Spine Congress 2015: status and main action points;
- Faculty Development Plan 2015;
- Brainstorm: What should be changed, started and continued?

Chapter meetings

ARGENTINA

Meeting I. July 26, 2014
Buenos Aires

Participants

Cristian Illanes, Ernesto Bersusky, José Prina, Juan Guyot, Marcelo Gruenberg, Marcelo Valacco, Ramiro Barrera, Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado.

Meeting II. November 10, 2014
Buenos Aires

Participants

Cristian Illanes, José Prina, Juan Guyot, Marcelo Valacco, Ramiro Barrera.

BRAZIL

Meeting I. February 22, 2014
São Paulo

Participants

Alexandre Sadao, Alberto Gotfryd, Délio Martins, Jerônimo Milano, William Teixeira.

Meeting II. May 24, 2014
São Paulo

Participants

Alexandre Sadao, Alberto Gotfryd, Jerônimo Milano, William Teixeira.

COLOMBIA

Meeting I. February 11, 2014
Bogotá

Participants

Constanza Bedoya, Jaime Segura, Luis Arango, Mario Herrera, Miguel Berbeo, Néstor Taboada.

Meeting II. May 3, 2014
Cartagena

Participants

Constanza Bedoya, Jaime Segura, Luis Arango, Mario Herrera, Miguel Berbeo, Néstor Taboada.

Industrial partner

Andrea Ariza, Leonardo Cerón.

Meeting III. October 27, 2014
Bogotá

Participants

Jaime Segura, Luis Arango, Miguel Berbeo.

Meeting IV. November 6, 2014
Bogotá

Participants

Constanza Bedoya, Jaime Segura, Luis Arango, Mario Herrera, Miguel Berbeo, Roberto Chapa.

Industrial partner

Andrea Ariza.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado.

CHILE

Meeting I. October 8, 2014
Santiago

Participants

Aliro San Martín, Álvaro Silva, Claudio Dintrans, Enrique Concha, Mauricio Campos, Manuel Valencia, Ratko Yurac, Roberto Chapa, Roberto Postigo.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado.

ECUADOR

Meeting I. August 21, 2014
Quito

Participants

José Vasconez, Marcelo Ochoa, Martha Hernández, Robert Meves, Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado.

GUATEMALA

Meeting I. May 27, 2014
Guatemala

Participants

Julio Pozuelos, Gabriel Murga, Pedro Brol.

Meeting I. September 27, 2014
Guatemala

Participants

Julio Pozuelos, Gabriel Murga, Pedro Brol.

MEXICO

Meeting I. January 18, 2014
Ciudad de México

Participants

Asdrubal Falavigna, Gustavo Casas, Jorge Cabrera, José Estrada, José Jiménez, Martín Tejeda, Oscar Martínez, Roberto Chapa.

Industrial partner

Silverio Aja.

Meeting II. September 13, 2014
Tuxtla Gutierrez

Participants

Gustavo Casas, Jorge Cabrera, Oscar Martínez.

Industrial partner

Silverio Aja.

PERU

Meeting I. August 22, 2014
Lima

Participants

Alfonso Basurco, Arturo Morales, Pedro Soto, Rene Chirinos, Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado.

AOSpine Centers Directors Meeting

Taking advantage of the presence of most of the Spine Center Directors during an Advanced Course last May in Cartagena, Colombia, AOSLA was able to hold a productive meeting. The session aimed at revising the current Spine Center processes, getting to know the requirements of every center and their respective countries. As a result, the meeting's participants agreed on updating and validating all procedures, handing in performance reports to the Centers' Directors and promoting more communication and interaction among different centers.

AOSpine Centers Directors Meeting

May 04, 2014

Venue

Hotel Las Américas – Cartagena, Colombia

Participants

Carlos Montero Silva, Emiliano Vialle, Ernesto Bersusky, Javier Matta, Marco Salazar, Pedro Bazán, Ratko Yurac, Robert Meves, Roberto Chapa.

AOSpine

Antonio Machado, Carlos Montero.

Topics discussed

- Presentation of all Spine Centers;
- Review: Fellowship Program application and selection process;
- Review: Fellowship Program guidelines;
- Spine Center certification;
- Fellowship Program history and statistics;
- Analysis: What should be improved, started and continued?
- Proposal: accreditation of the Fellowship Program and creation of updated procedure (process & documentation).



Spine Centers & Fellowships

Spine Centers & Fellowships Officer's word



Dear friends,

We are almost at the end of 2014 and it is a pleasure to be able to say that we have concluded a full cycle of activities in the Spine Centers & Fellowships area. Our main objective – one which we have achieved yet again this year – has always been to deliver a variety of high quality educational offers to our members through our visiting programs.

Regarding the Fellowship Program, we consider the high number of applications received for the 2015 programs to be of great importance. Around 50% of the applicants were approved to take part in trainings in one of the different centers in Latin America, or elsewhere, in accordance with their professional interests.

In addition, four new centers in Brazil and Mexico formally applied to become Spine Centers this year. In the next months, we will be visiting these centers to analyze their inclusion in the network of AOSpine Centers in the region.

Among the different Spine Centers & Fellowships activities developed in 2014, we would like to highlight the Latin American Spine Centers Directors meeting, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia, in May. The meeting took advantage of the fact that the AOSpine Masters Symposium was being held in Cartagena, and that many Center Directors were present as Faculty, making it easier for the Directors to come together. Each phase of the Fellowship Program and Spine Centers process was

assessed, including application, controlling and certification, leading up to important decisions: updates of the activities for fellows' assessment; creation of evaluation reports for Center Directors; and the strengthening of the bonds between Centers through rotational programs for fellows. The new decisions and strategies have all been supported by the development of guidelines, forms and reports.

I am very thankful to every one of my colleagues at the Latin America Board for the support given during this term, as well as to the Centers Directors, who have shown enormous willingness and drive to contribute to the increase in quality of the Spine Centers & Fellowships programs.

Lastly, I would also like to thank the support offered by the AOSLA Office, which takes on an essential part of the work needed for developing our programs successfully.

We look forward to continuing our work together, moving towards a very fruitful 2015.

Best regards,

Ratko Yurak
AOSpine Latin America Spine Centers
& Fellowships Officer

Spine Centers Latin America

Throughout the years, the large network of AOSLA Centers has provided a wide range of educational offers, with the aim of meeting the professional demands of members from the region and around the world.

In 2014, AOSLA incorporated two new Centers: Hospital Militar Central (HOMIC) in Bogotá, Colombia, under the direction of Javier Matta, and the Hospital del Trabajador de Santiago (HTS) in Santiago, Chile, directed by José Fleiderman. With the incorporation of the new Centers, the organization reached a total of

ten reference centers in Latin America, which have successfully been welcoming fellows interested in improving their medical skills in spine surgery.

We are thankful for the commitment of the program directors and their surgical staff whose work has contributed to the international recognition of our Fellowship Program. Year after year, the Program continues to attract professionals from different regions, in search of professional growth in the field of spine pathologies.

Spine Center	City, Country	Program Director
1 HOSPITAL HIGA SAN MARTÍN	La Plata, Argentina	Pedro Bazán
2 HOSPITAL GARRAHAN	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Ernesto Bersusky
3 HOSPITAL UNIVERSITÁRIO CAJURU	Curitiba, Brazil	Emiliano Vialle
4 HOSPITAL DAS CLÍNICAS	São Paulo, Brazil	Alexandre Fogaça
5 HOSPITAL SANTA CASA	São Paulo, Brazil	Robert Meves
6 HOSPITAL DA RESTAURAÇÃO	Recife, Brazil	Geraldo Sá Carneiro
7 HOSPITAL DEL TRABAJADOR	Santiago, Chile	José Fleiderman
8 INSTITUTO ROOSEVELT	Bogotá, Colombia	Carlos Montero Silva
9 HOSPITAL MILITAR	Bogotá, Colombia	Javier Matta
10 UNIDAD MÉDICA DE ALTA ESPECIALIDAD	Monterrey, Mexico	Marco Salazar

*New

Spine Center application

Four new Centers from Brazil (two centers), Mexico and Venezuela are in the final application phase to become new Spine Centers AOSLA.

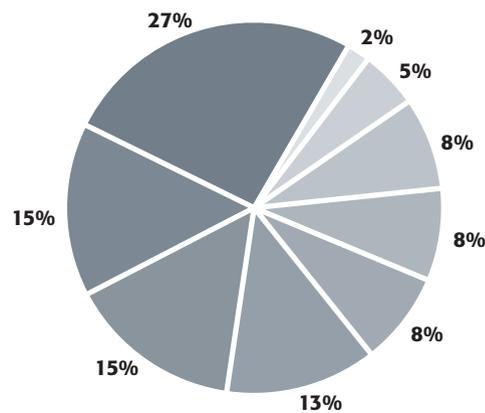
Spine Centers Latin America



Fellowship & Observership Programs

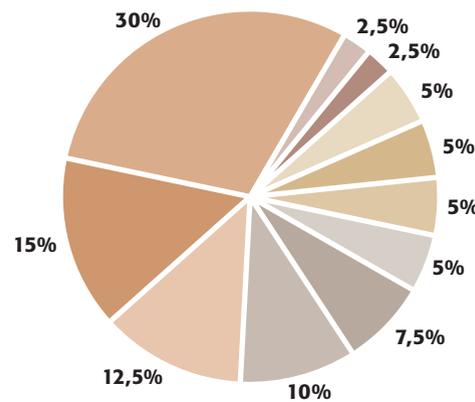
The network of reference centers previously mentioned offers a wide range of specialization activities in the different spine pathologies. This allows members from different countries in the region to apply and participate in several types of programs, based around their personal interests.

Distribution of applications according to Spine Center
(2015 program)



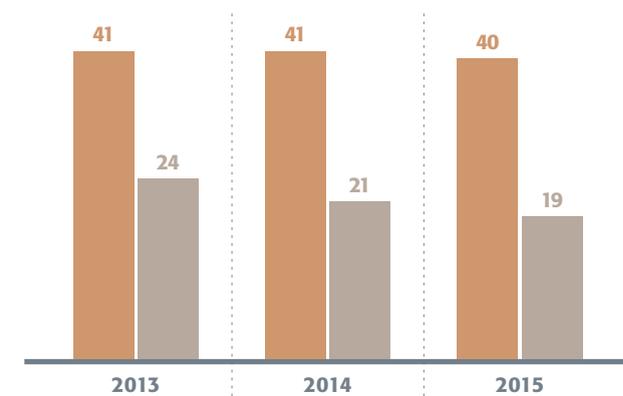
Spine Center	Fellows	%
Hospital Cajuru	11	27%
International	6	15%
Unidad de Alta Especialidad	6	15%
Hospital del Trabajador	5	13%
Hospital Garrahan	3	8%
Hospital Militar	3	8%
Hospital da Restauração	3	8%
HIGA La Plata	2	5%
Hospital Santa Casa	1	2%
Hospital das Clínicas	–	0%
Instituto Roosevelt	–	0%

Distribution of applications according to country of origin
(2015 program)



Country	Fellows	%
Mexico	12	30%
Brazil	6	15%
Argentina	5	12,5%
Peru	4	10%
Venezuela	3	7,5%
Colombia	2	5%
Chile	2	5%
Ecuador	2	5%
Bolivia	2	5%
Cuba	1	2,5%
Guatemala	1	2,5%

Number of applications 2013/2015



Year	Applications	Approved
2013	41	24
2014	41	21
2015	40	19

*Includes Observership Program
*2015 ongoing

Fellowship Program 2014

The Fellowship Program 2014 admitted a total of eleven orthopedic doctors and ten neurosurgeons. Their participation and the activities are detailed next.

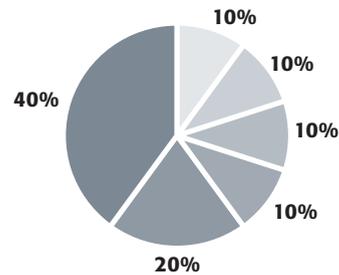
Name	Spine Center	City, Country	From	To	Program
Samuel Conrad	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	February-13	January-15	Long-term
Wellington Ueda	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	February-14	December-15	Long-term
Ernesto Fleites	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	February-14	February-14	Observership
Alejandro Fuente	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	March-14	May-14	Short-term
Germán Olmedo	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	June-14	August-14	Short-term
Diego Gomez	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	August-14	July-15	Long-term
David Schleifer	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	August-14	December-14	Long-term
Oswaldo Ojeda	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	November-14	November-14	Observership
Jean Castelo	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, Brazil	February-14	April-14	Short-term
Luis Lamus	Hospital das Clínicas	São Paulo, Brazil	April-14	June-14	Short-term
Armando Rojas	Hospital da Restauração	Recife, Brazil	April-14	June-14	Short-term
José Corredor	Hospital Santa Casa	São Paulo, Brazil	February-14	July-14	Long-term
Ignacio Garfinkel	Hospital Santa Casa	São Paulo, Brazil	November-14	December-14	Observership
Sergio Terraza	Hospital HIGA San Martín	La Plata, Argentina	July-14	June-15	Long-term
Julian Zuluaga	Instituto Roosevelt	Bogotá, Colombia	May-14	July-14	Short-term
Ramon Patino	Instituto Roosevelt	Bogotá, Colombia	November-14	November-14	Observership
Theophilo Lins	International: Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	January-13	July-14	Long-term
Diego Martínez	International: Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	February-14	May-14	Short-term
Lucas Aurich	International: Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	May-14	August-14	Short-term
Nicolas Siderakis	International: Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	August-14	October-14	Short-term
Ángel Sotopolendo	International: Complejo Hospitalario Universitario	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	October-14	November-14	Short-term

Observership 2014

The Observership Program, launched in 2011, is a short-term program aimed at the formation of spine surgeons with over five years of experience. As of 2014, 15 specialists have already participated in the Program, completing their training in different centers in Asia, Latin America and Europe, in accordance with the details presented next.

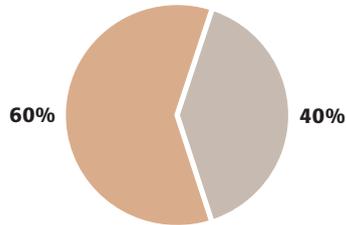
Nationality

Country	Number	%
Brazil	4	40%
Argentina	2	20%
Colombia	1	10%
Cuba	1	10%
Guatemala	1	10%
Peru	1	10%



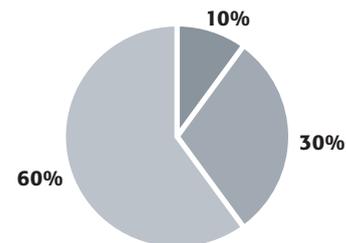
Specialization

Specialty	Number	%
Orthopedics	6	60%
Neurology	4	40%



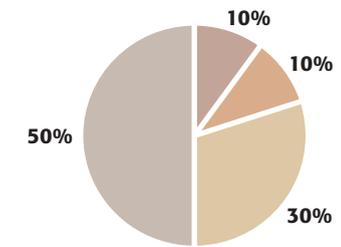
AOSpine

Role	Number	%
Faculty Member	1	10%
Officer	3	30%
-	6	60%



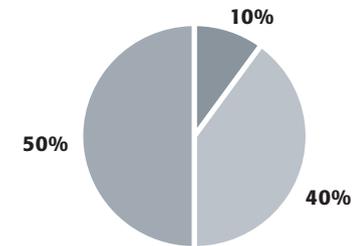
Age

Age	Number	%
+50	1	10%
40-50	5	50%
35-40	3	30%
-35	1	10%



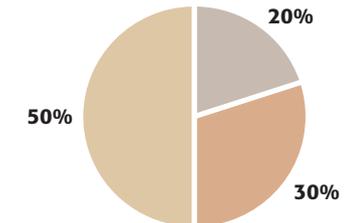
Spine surgery

Years of experience	Number	%
+20	1	10%
10-20	5	50%
5-10	4	40%
-5	0	-



Work

Position	Number	%
Chief of Spine	3	30%
Assistant	2	20%
Staff	5	50%



*Data from February 2014 (10 participants)

Fellows' testimonies



I invite all AOSpine members to benefit from participating in the training programs offered by the organization. In these programs, we can learn, reaffirm and expand our experience in the spine-related themes that we have a special interest in. I am very grateful and appreciative for all of AOSpine's educational programs, and in particular to Dr. Geraldo Sá and his team.

Armando Rojas, Colombia
Short-term Fellowship 2014
Hospital da Restauração, Recife, Brazil

I am very glad that AOSpine gave me the opportunity to participate in the Fellowship Program with Drs. Emiliano and Luiz Vialle, who were always more than willing to help and teach me. The experience made me a better person, allowing me to acquire a lot of knowledge. The team was excellent and I would gladly participate in the Program again at any time.

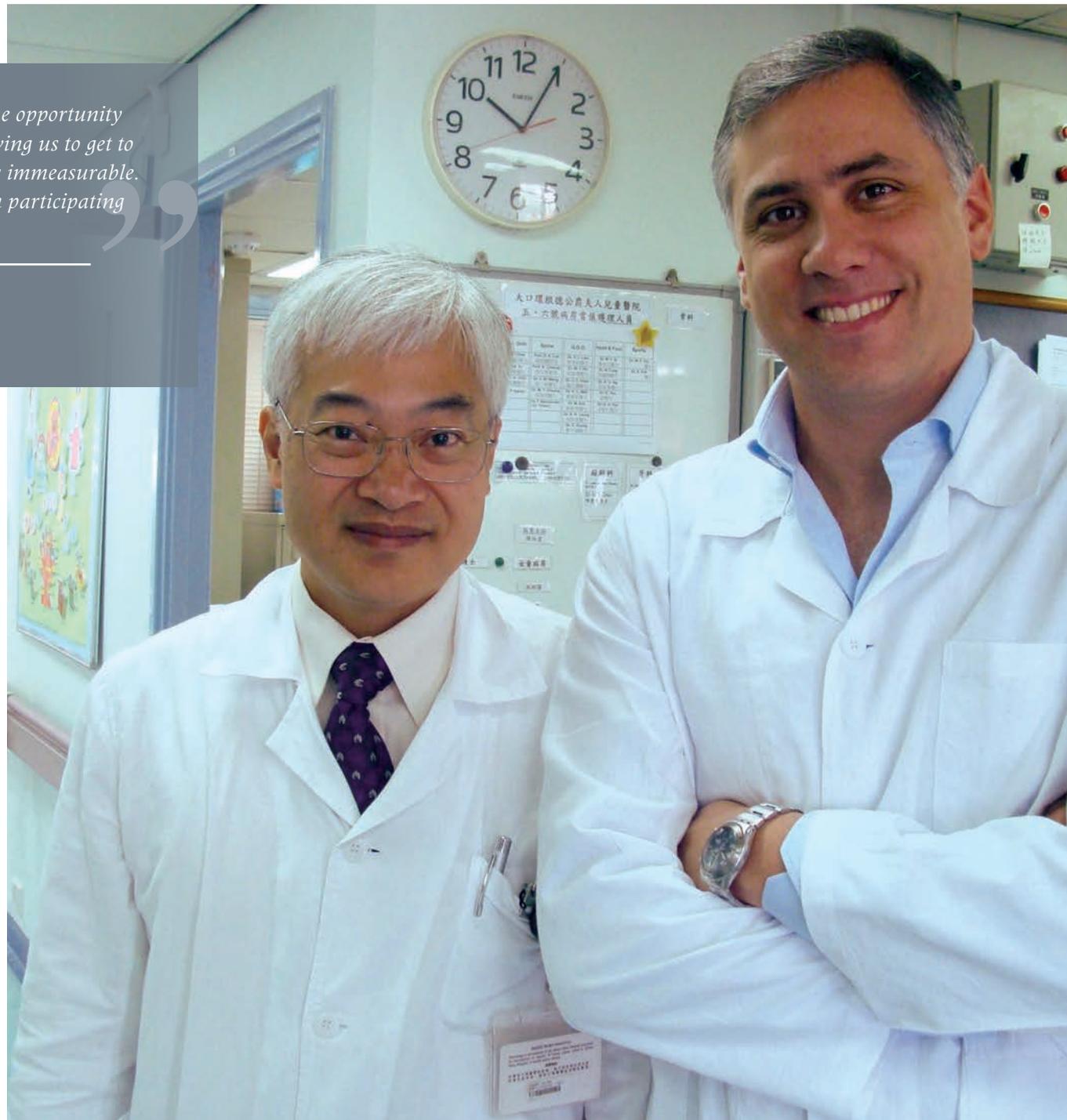
Alejandro Fuentes, Mexico
Short-term Fellowship 2014
Hospital Cajuru, Curitiba, Brazil

The AOSpine Observership Program gives members the opportunity to visit the best reference centers in our specialty, allowing us to get to know their daily practice. Its value in our formation is immeasurable. I recommend the Program to all members interested in participating in an excellent learning experience.

Ramiro Barrera, Argentina
Observership 2013
Hong Kong University, Hong Kong

I believe every AOSpine member, no matter their experience or career level, should take part in the experience of a training program like this. It is a unique experience to learn, teach and collaborate with colleagues, working towards a common goal, which is the teaching and investigation of spine surgery.

Ernesto Fleites, Cuba
Observership 2014
Hospital Cajuru, Curitiba, Brazil





Apart from the daily clinical meetings, my Observership allowed me to participate in the regular activities of the surgery center, allowing me to assist at 90 surgeries. The experience taken from complex surgeries and minimally invasive procedures was a huge benefit for my education.

Lucas Aurich, Brazil
Short-term Fellowship 2014
Krankenhaus Rummelsberg,
Schwarzenbruck, Germany

Professionally speaking, I think it is essential to take part in a training program like this, because one is given the possibility of getting involved in developing scientific projects and continuing education, as well as analyzing each case in particular and receiving surgical training. I suggest all AOSpine members participate in this type of activity.

Sergio Terraza, Argentina
Long-term Fellowship 2014/2015
HIGA, La Plata, Argentina

Fellowship Program 2015

The 2015 Fellowship Program received a total of 41 applications, 20 of which were approved according to the selection process guidelines. The selected candidates for 2015 are listed in the following.

Name	Spine Center	City, Country	From	To	Program
Wellington Ueda	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	February-14	December-15	Long-term
Phelipe Menegaz	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	July-15	June-17	Long-term
Fernando Lira	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	July-15	June-16	Long-term
Luis Duchén	Hospital Cajuru	Curitiba, Brazil	March-15	May-15	Short-term
Hugo Reynoso	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, Chile	March-15	February-16	Long-term
William López	Hospital del Trabajador	Santiago, Chile	September-15	February-16	Long-term
Julián Zuluaga	Hospital Garrahan	Buenos Aires, Argentina	–	–	Long-term
Daniel Uruchi	Hospital Militar	Bogotá, Colombia	February-15	July-15	Long-term
Jorge Salazar	Hospital HIGA San Martín	La Plata, Argentina	July-15	December-15	Long-term
Ongoing	Hospital da Restauração	Recife, Brazil	–	–	Short-term
Ongoing	Unidad de Alta Especialidad	Monterrey, Mexico	–	–	Long-term
Eddy Almira	International: Complejo Hospitalario Universitario	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	January-15	April-15	Short-term
Eibar Cabrera	International: Guy's Hospital	London, United Kingdom	June-15	August-15	Short-term
Ongoing	International: Harborview Medical Center	–	–	–	Short-term
Guilherme Gontijo	International: Klinik für Wirbelsäulen Chirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	February-15	April-15	Short-term
Federico Sartor	International: Istituto Rizzoli	Bologna, Italy	–	–	Short-term
Rony Brito	International: Istituto Rizzoli	Bologna, Italy	–	–	Short-term
Javier Ramos	International: Berufsgenossenschaftliche Unfallklinik	Frankfurt, Germany	July-15	September-15	Short-term
Rafael Mazzuia	International: Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, United Kingdom	September-15	November-15	Short-term

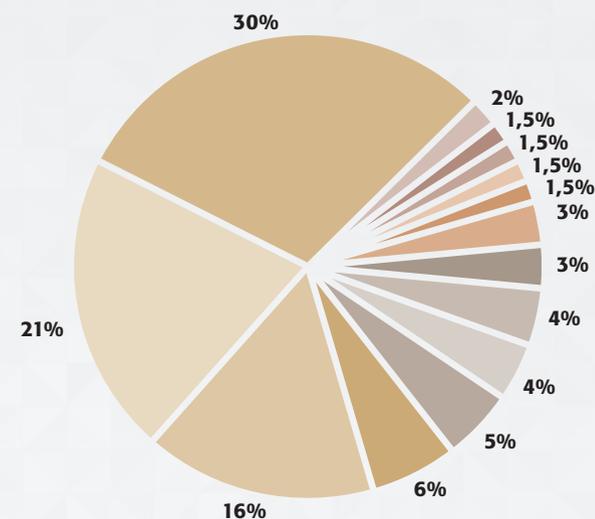
AOSpine Fellowship history

A total of 131 fellows from several parts of the region have been trained by the leading specialists in different AOSpine Centers around the world. The following data presents the participation of the different fellows listed by country of origin, reference center and training periods from 2006 to date.

Participation of fellows according to country of origin

2006–2014

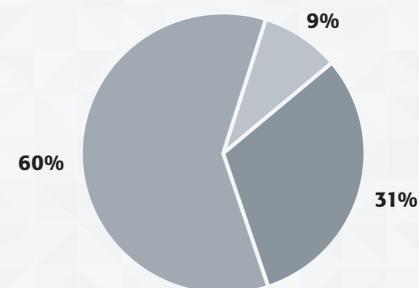
Country	Fellows	%
Brazil	39	30%
Argentina	27	21%
Colombia	21	16%
Mexico	8	6%
Peru	7	5%
Chile	5	4%
Venezuela	5	4%
Costa Rica	4	3%
Ecuador	4	3%
Bolivia	2	1,5%
Guatemala	2	1,5%
Panama	2	1,5%
International	2	1,5%
Cuba, Paraguay, Dominican Republic	3	2%



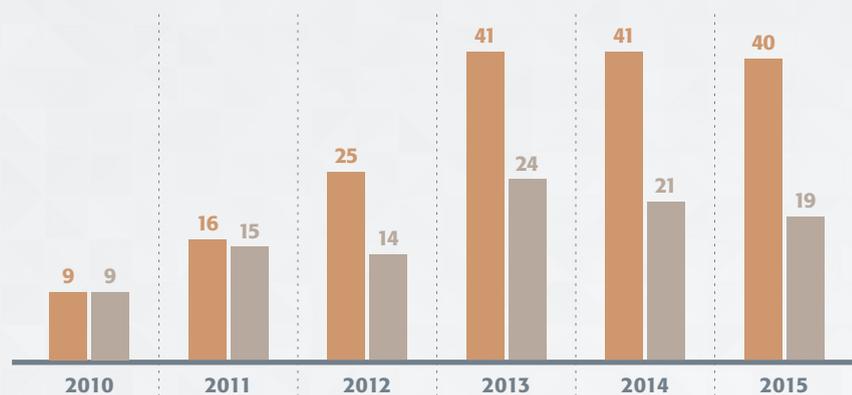
Distribution of fellows according to programs

2006–2014

Country	Fellows	%
Long-term	41	31%
Short-term	79	60%
Observership	11	9%



Number of applications 2010–2015



Year	Applications	Approved
2010	9	9
2011	16	16
2012	25	14
2013	41	24
2014	41	21
2015	40	19

Fellows at Hospital Garrahan–Buenos Aires, Argentina

Program Director: Ernesto Bersusky

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Joel Acevedo	Dominican Republic	Short-term	March-11	May-11
Nicolas Coombes	Argentina	Short-term	March-11	May-11
Esteban Araya	Costa Rica	Short-term	October-11	November-11
Alfredo Gotfryd	Brazil	Observership	October -11	October-11
Javier Espinoza	Peru	Observership	July-11	July-11
Saul Barrera	Colombia	Observership	August-11	August-11
Fabrizio Aguilar	Ecuador	Short-term	August-12	October-12
Carlos Vargas	Peru	Short-term	March-12	April-12
Antonio Carvajal	Colombia	Long-term	March-12	August-12
Henry Solaque	Colombia	Short-term	May 12	June-12
Heber Torres	Colombia	Short-term	October-12	November-12
Martín Medina	Argentina	Long-term	January-13	June-13
Luis Brenes	Costa Rica	Short-term	September-13	November-13
Salvador Gutierrez	Mexico	Short-term	July-13	September-13
Napoleón Avendaño (SYNTHEs)	Colombia	Short-term	May-13	June-13
Martín Medina	Argentina	Long-term	January-13	June-13
Jhonny Gómez (SYNTHEs)	Colombia	Short-term	October-13	December-13
Daniel Barros	Brazil	Observership	April-12	April-12

Fellows at Hospital Italiano–Buenos Aires, Argentina

Program Director: Marcelo Gruenberg

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Godoy Carrero Wilmer	Colombia	Short-term	April-06	May-06
Daniel Cauti De la Cruz	Peru	Short-term	September-06	October-06
Juan M. Sea Aramayo	Bolivia	Short-term	September-06	November-06
Paola San Martin	Chile	Short-term	March-07	May-07
Horacio Resano	Argentina	Long-term	July-09	June-10
Fernando Alvarado	Colombia	Short-term	October-10	December-10
Maximiliano Mereles	Argentina	Long-term	July-10	July-11
Pablo Diaz	Argentina	Long-term	June-11	May-12

Fellows at Hospital Cajuru–Curitiba, Brazil

Program Director: Emiliano Vialle

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Pablo Pazmino	United States	Short-term	February-06	March-06
Javier Ricardo Méndez	Argentina	Short-term	March-06	May-06
Miguel Alejandro A. Sarmiento	Colombia	Short-term	May-06	July-06
José Fleiderman	Chile	Short-term	August-06	October-06
Rafael Vazquez Preciado	Mexico	Short-term	July-06	August-06
Marlon González Rivas	Venezuela	Short-term	August-06	October-06
Daniel Mosquera Mayorga	Ecuador	Short-term	October-06	December-06
Maurício Santos Gusmão	Brazil	Long-term	February-06	January-07
Túlio de Moura Rangel	Brazil	Long-term	February-06	January-07
Rubén Cárdenas Morón	Mexico	Long-term	July-06	June-07
Carlos B. Ramírez	Colombia	Short-term	February-07	April-07
Alexander Valverde Retana	Costa Rica	Short-term	May-07	July-07
Marco Medina	Peru	Short-term	August-07	October-07
Syeed Ahmed	United Kingdom	Short-term	September-07	November-07
Marcos Ziegler	Brazil	Short-term	October-07	November-07
Rodrigo Medeiros	Brazil	Short-term	May-07	July-07
Leonardo Quiroz	Argentina	Short-term	July-07	August-07
Joel Abramczuk	Brazil	Short-term	September-09	December-09
Luiz Felipe C. Carvalho	Brazil	Long-term	February-07	February-08
Pablo Godinho	Brazil	Long-term	June-07	May-08
Fernando Coutinho	Brazil	Long-term	February-08	January-09
Rodolfo Paez	Colombia	Long-term	July-08	June-09
André Vidigal	Brazil	Long-term	February-09	January-10
Juan Suarez Henao	Colombia	Long-term	February-09	January-10
Gustavo Giraldo	Colombia	Long-term	June-09	June-10
Christiano Simões	Brazil	Long-term	July-09	August-10

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Alessandro Cardoso	Brazil	Short-term	July-10	October-10
Alexandre Borba	Brazil	Short-term	September-10	December-10
Antonio Krieger	Brazil	Long-term	February-10	February-11
Chárbel Jacob	Brazil	Long-term	July-10	February-11
Nicolás González	Argentina	Long-term	January-11	December-11
Allan Kato	Brazil	Short-term	February-11	June-11
Ramon Ferreira	Brazil	Long-term	February-11	January-12
Diego Loza	Argentina	Long-term	July-11	June-12
Orlando Colina	Venezuela	Long-term	July-12	June-13
Luiz Muller	Brazil	Long-term	February-12	January-13
Abel Carneiro	Brazil	Long-term	July-12	June-13
Yaidelys García	Venezuela	Short-term	May-12	July-12
Olger Alarcon	Peru	Short-term	February-12	April-12
Eduardo Mariúba	Brazil	Long-term	July-13	June-14
Juliano Chaves	Brazil	Short-term	March-13	May-13
Juan Castro	Colombia	Long-term	July-13	June-14
Juan M. Sea Aramayo	Bolivia	Short-term	September-13	November-13
Luís Pereira	Brazil	Short-term	July-13	August-13
Samuel Conrad	Brazil	Long-term	February-13	January-15
Wellington Ueda	Brazil	Long-term	February-14	December-15
Alejandro Fuente	Mexico	Short-term	March-14	May-14
Germán Olmedo	Argentina	Short-term	June-14	August-14
Diego Gomez	Colombia	Long-term	August-14	July-15
David Schleifer	Argentina	Long-term	August-14	December-14
Ernesto Fleites	Cuba	Observership	February-14	February-14
Oswaldo Ojeda	Chile	Observership	November-14	November-14

Fellows at Hospital das Clínicas–São Paulo, Brazil

Program Director: Alexandre Fogaça

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Irani Paez	Venezuela	Short-term	October-13	December-13
Hugo Kunzle	Paraguay	Short-term	October-13	December-13
Richard Hernandez	Peru	Short-term	April-13	June-13
Manoel Filho	Brazil	Observership	July-11	July-11
Jean Castelo	Peru	Short-term	February-14	April-14
Luis Lamus	Venezuela	Short-term	April-14	June-14

Fellows at Hospital das Clínicas–Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

Program Director: Helton Delfino

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Carlos Fernando Herrero	Brazil	Short-term	February-07	April-07
William Contreras	Colombia	Short-term	February-07	April-07
Djalma Amorim	Brazil	Short-term	February-09	April-09
Aldimarina López	Panama	Long-term	February-09	January-10

Fellows at Hospital Santa Casa–São Paulo, Brazil

Program Director: Robert Meves

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
José Corredor	Colombia	Long-term	February-14	July-14
Ignacio Garfinkel	Argentina	Observership	November-14	November-14

Fellows at Hospital da Restauração–Recife, Brazil

Program Director: Geraldo Sá Carneiro

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Armando Rojas	Colombia	Short-term	April-14	June-14

Fellows at Hospital del Trabajador–Santiago, Chile

Program Director: José Fleiderman

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Alfredo Jordán	Ecuador	Short-term	March-06	May-06
Javier Gutiérrez Bonilha	Costa Rica	Long-term	April-06	March-07
Alfredo Jordán	Ecuador	Short-term	March-07	May-07
Francisco Ilabaca	Chile	Long-term	April-07	March-08

Fellows at Instituto Infantil Roosevelt–Bogotá, Colombia

Program Director: Carlos Montero Silva

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Jorge de Haro	Mexico	Short-term	March-13	May-13
José Matheus	Guatemala	Observership	May-13	May-13
Julian Zuluaga	Colombia	Short-term	May-14	July-14
Ramón Patiño	Colombia	Observership	November-14	November-14

Fellows at Hospital HIGA San Martín–La Plata, Argentina

Program Director: Pedro Bazán

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Tamara Gisela	Argentina	Short-term	May-12	July-12
Gustavo Montoya	Panama	Long-term	July-13	December-13
Sergio Terraza	Argentina	Long-term	July-14	June-15

Fellows at Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad–Monterrey, Mexico

Program Director: Marco Salazar

Fellow	Nationality	Program	From	To
Julian España	Colombia	Long-term	August-11	February-12
Edgar Cardeña	Mexico	Long-term	February-13	December-13

Fellows at International Spine Centers

Fellow	Country	Spine Center	City, Country	From	To	Program
Luiz Gustavo Rocha	Brazil	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	March-06	June-06
Manuel Valencia Carrasco	Chile	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, UK	Short-term	June-06	July-06
Leonardo Pérez	Mexico	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, UK	Short-term	February-07	March-07
Maurício Gusmão	Brazil	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, UK	Short-term	July-07	August-07
Luís Claudio Rodrigues	Brazil	Helsinki	Helsinki, Finland	Short-term	August-07	September-07
Jose Luiz Romeo Boullosa	Brazil	I.R.C.C.S. Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Milan, Italy	Short-term	November-07	December-07
Marcelo Valacco	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	February-07	April-07
Túlio Rangel	Brazil	Helsinki	Helsinki, Finland	Short-term	August-07	September-07
Guillermo Kahl	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	January-09	March-09
Juan Guyot	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	January-10	March-10
Felix Imposti	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	January-10	March-10
Christiano Simões	Brazil	Istituto Rizzoli	Bologna, Italy	Short-term	September-10	February-11
Santiago Menendez	Argentina	Sint Maartenskliniek	Nijmegen, Netherlands	Short-term	September-11	November-11
Danilo Bernardi	Brazil	I.R.C.C.S. Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi	Milan, Italy	Short-term	October-11	November-11
Vinicius Benites	Brazil	Berufsgenossenschaftliche Unfallklinik Frankfurt am Main	Frankfurt, Germany	Short-term	July-13	August-13
Dolores Posadas	Argentina	Istituto Rizzoli	Bologna, Italy	Short-term	February-13	March-13
Mario Garcia	Guatemala	Spine Education and Research Institute	Denver, United States	Short-term	February-13	April-13
Lazaro Lutzky	Argentina	Hirslanden Klinik St. Anna	Luzern, Switzerland	Short-term	April-13	May-13
Diego Flores	Argentina	Queen's Medical Centre	Nottingham, UK	Short-term	July-13	September-13
Alejandro Calniquer	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	April-13	June-13
Ramiro Barrera	Argentina	Hong Kong University	Hong Kong	Observership	April-13	May-13
Theophilo Lins	Brazil	Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	Long-term	January-14	July-14
Diego Martinez	Argentina	Harborview Medical Center	Seattle, United States	Short-term	February-14	May-14
Lucas Aurich	Brazil	Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	Short-term	May-14	August-14
Nicolas Siderakis	Argentina	Klinik für Wirbelsäulenchirurgie	Nürnberg, Germany	Short-term	August-14	October-14
Ángel Sotopolendo	Mexico	Complejo Hospitalario Universitario	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	Short-term	October-14	November-14

Research



Research Officer's word

Dear AOSpine members,

Another year has passed so quickly and I have finished my second term as AOSpine Latin America Research Officer. It has been a challenge as well as an opportunity to learn more about research in the region. The results accomplished in the past two years are the consequence of the efforts of a network of researchers from different parts of the world working together with the AOSLA Office.

This year brought both good and bad news. The bad news, unfortunately, was the loss of our colleague Germán Ochoa, a great person who always supported and motivated research activities – may God bless him. Despite the sadness of his passing, this year also brought the opportunity to accomplish great things. I am thankful to everyone who supported and collaborated in the research activities, providing exceptional ideas and thereby helping to contribute to the improvement of Latin American research.

We have developed the Education in Research project according to three innovative and high performance areas: the Education in Research Curriculum; Research offers; and multicenter studies.

The Education in Research Curriculum is an innovation that enables the presence of research education topics in different ways, independent of the event type or structure. The Research Curriculum framework is based on competences and learning outcomes as guides for improving knowledge in research.

The Research area also developed two new educational offers: the research book entitled “AOSpine Latin America Education in Research: From the idea to the publication”, published in Portuguese and Spanish; and an e-learning course, also developed in both languages. The book was met with impressive acceptance by the AOSpine members and events participants. The first edition is almost sold out and the volume will be soon re-edited, as well as being translated into English.

Furthermore, we have also started an international project focusing on mentorship, offered to all AOSLA members. Four multicenter projects were performed by Latin American researchers: two have already been published and two are currently

in the journal peer-review phase. This promising outcome demonstrates what was indicated by last year's survey and the PubMed review on scientific production, which read: “The LA spine surgeons are willing and able to work together in research”. We are building a research network for future team work on specific projects, based on the participants' interests and abilities.

As I have stated before, there is no need for prior knowledge to conduct a research study; only the drive to do so. The results of the Global Spine Congress, for example, confirm this reality, with 178 Latin American abstracts submitted to the next edition of the Congress, which will be held in 2015, in Argentina.

Previous projects developed by AOSpine have identified the reasons behind the limitations on scientific publications by Latin American doctors, and we have since then implemented strategies to change these circumstances. As a result, several research education symposia and research lectures were held in different countries in the region. I am happy to report that we have had good feedback about the insertion of the research lectures in AOSpine activities. Due to their success, the organization will strengthen and increase activities of this type in the next years.

The main objective of scientific education is to improve patient care, through the collection of relevant data and an attentive practice. The paper publication which comes after the research is a learning consequence of the knowledge acquired through scientific training. The Research team will carry on the pursuit of improving spine surgery research in Latin America. To this end, we already have a research meeting integrated with the other AO areas, new research educational offers and more regional multicenter studies scheduled for 2015.

Kind regards,

Asdrubal Falavigna
AOSpine Latin America Research Officer

Project Education in Research

Curriculum

The AOSpine Education in Research Curriculum employs a competence-based approach that aligns four components: development of a research educational plan; research performance; technical and professional support; and needs assessment and progress tracking. These contents are then delivered through appropriate learning methods and techniques.

The objective of this framework is to organize and present the competences and learning outcomes of research educational activities as part of the AOSpine Curriculum, offering the activities according to three levels of experience: Principles, Advanced and Masters.

The Education in Research Curriculum is a unique offer featured exclusively by AOSpine. The framework serves as a guide to improve knowledge in research and is applied together with other different educational strategies.



Besides being an effective way to deliver knowledge, the Education in Research Curriculum also enhances the visibility of the research projects and helps to increase membership numbers.

AOSpine e-learning course: Research in Scientific Databases

This course is based around the access to research databases through online modules, and promotes a collaborative space via forum, chat and videoconferences. The goal is to enhance the participants' skills in accessing, evaluating and using scientific information in an efficient manner. The online component of the course manages to eliminate any eventual problems of schedule incompatibility, which makes the educational offer very flexible for participants. Portuguese and Spanish versions are available.

Topics and structure of the course

Module 1. Evidence-based decision-making in health

- **Class 1:** Introduction to evidence-based practice
- **Class 2:** Elaborating the search terms

Module 2. Database search

- **Class 1:** Google and Google Scholar
- **Class 2:** Searches on the Research Portal of the Virtual Health Library
- **Class 3:** Searches on the Pubmed database



Pilot version (Portuguese): 50 participants

Second version (Spanish & Portuguese): 30 participants

Research projects

International mentoring and multicenter study

C7-T1 Disc Herniation

The study entitled “Surgical planning and neurologic outcome after anterior approach to remove a disc herniation at the C7–T1 level in 19 patients”, from 2013, was the first international mentoring and multicenter project developed

by AOSLA. The study was performed in participation with different spine surgery centers in Latin America, with Daniel Riew (Washington University in Saint Louis, USA) acting as the international mentor in charge of the project.

Investigators

The following table presents the participating investigators and centers.

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Orlando Righesso	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Olivia Egger de Souza	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Pedro Guarise da Silva	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Alejandro Betemps	Instituto de Rehabilitación Psicofísica	Argentina
Rangel Guimarães	Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Marcus Ziegler	Hospital São Lucas da PUC–RS	Brazil
Pablo Fernando Vela de los Ríos	Hospital Universitario San Jorge	Colombia
Daniel Riew	Washington University Orthopaedics/ Barnes-Jewish Hospital	USA

Results

The data collected from 19 patients demonstrated that the standard anterior cervical supramanubrial approach can be used for most C7-T1 fusions and discectomies. Although the procedure consists of a single-level discectomy and fusion, the researchers found that a stand-alone cage would be inadequate in these cases. Therefore, the use of an anterior cervical plate was recommended. Post-operative and radicular pain disappears immediately and normal motor function is re-established in the majority of the cases with intrinsic hand motor deficits.

Status

The study was published in *Spine* (Philadelphia, Pa. 1976). 39: E219 – E225, 2014.

Sponsor

AOSpine Latin America.

Type-II Odontoid Fracture

Objective

The objective of this study was to evaluate the epidemiology and management of type-II OF in Latin America, treated either with rigid cervical orthosis or surgery.

Investigators

The following table presents a list with the participating investigators and institutions from Latin America.

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Carlos Rocca Siri	Instituto de Ortopedia y Traumatología	Uruguay
Jefferson W. Daniel	Irmandade da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de São Paulo – Faculdade de Ciências Médicas	Brazil
José María Jiménez	Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social	Mexico
Felix Adolfo Sanchez Chavez	OCA Medical Center	Mexico
Ericson Sfreddo	Grupo Hospitalar Conceição – Hospital Cristo Redentor	Brazil
André Cecchini	Grupo Hospitalar Conceição – Hospital Cristo Redentor	Brazil
Marcelo Martins Dos Reis	Grupo Hospitalar Conceição – Hospital Cristo Redentor	Brazil
Luís Eduardo Carelli	INTO – Instituto Nacional de Traumatología e Ortopedia	Brazil
Gustavo Borges	INTO – Instituto Nacional de Traumatología e Ortopedia	Brazil
Laurindo de Azevedo	INTO – Instituto Nacional de Traumatología e Ortopedia	Brazil
Ratko Yurac	Clínica Alemana de Santiago	Chile

Preliminary Data

Eighty-three patients were included in this study; 78.3% were male, with an average age of 44.98 (± 23.20) years. Traffic accidents (66.3%) were the most common cause of trauma. The main symptom was pain in the posterior cervical region (85.5%). The median time elapsed from accident to surgery was seven days (P25: 2 / P75: 27.5). Median follow-up was 23.66 (± 25.43) months. Conservative treatment with cervical orthosis, for example, Miami J collar or halo-vest, was used in 20.5% of the cases. Odontoid screw technics (57.6%) were the most common surgical treatment adopted as primary surgical treatment. Symptomatic non-union was observed in two cases with conservative treatment and in three cases after odontoid screw fixation. All patients were referred to posterior C1-C2 fixation. The posterior fixation tended to be used after a failed conservative therapy, after non-union anterior screw surgery and in fractures with greater displacement. The most common radiological features were the non-displacement of the odontoid process in relation to the body of C2, horizontal fracture lines, gap fractures smaller than 2 mm, no subluxation across each C1-C2 facet joint and no comminuted fractures.

Status

The study was submitted to the Global Spine Congress and is collecting the data from the new cases submitted. The article is currently being written.

Sponsor

AOSpine Latin America.

“Twelve years of scientific production on Medline by Latin American spine surgeons”

Objective

The goal of this project was to perform a PubMed search on research published by spine surgeons in different Latin American countries. Officers and Council members from several countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Mexico, conducted an investigation in their countries of origin, collecting data on studies published between January 2000 and December 2011.

Investigators

The following table presents the researchers who participated in the study.

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Alisson Roberto Teles	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Pedro Guarise da Silva	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Ricardo Vieira Botelho	Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual Francisco Morato de Oliveira	Brazil
Délio Martins	Universidade Federal de São Paulo – Escola de Medicina Paulista	Brazil
Juan Pablo Guyot	Hospital Universitario Fundación Favaloro	Argentina
Helton Luiz Aparecido Defino	Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto da Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil
Álvaro Silva Gonzalez	Clínica Alemana – Universidad del Desarrollo	Chile
José María Jiménez	Unidad Médica de Alta Especialidad – Centro Médico Nacional del Occidente	Mexico

Results

The research showed a significant growth in the number of studies published by Latin American spine surgeons in the analyzed period.

Relevance

This research was important to understand some of the difficulties encountered by surgeons when performing a scientific project. This allowed AOSLA to provide the necessary information about how to develop research projects, encouraging the members to do so in an ethical and efficient manner.

Status

Published in Plos One, volume 9, p. e87945 -, 2014.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.

“Thirteen years of scientific production on Medline by spine surgeons in Latin America, Africa, Oceania and Asia”

Objective

Information about spine pathologies is more important when it originates from different continents, as it shows that information can be provided and applied by physicians from around the globe to solve medical problems that are encountered on a daily basis. The present study performed a literature search of publications written by spine surgeons in Latin America, Africa, Oceania and Asia on spine- or spinal cord-related topics. The search was performed using the online database Pubmed.gov. The results were limited to articles published from January 2000 to December 2013. The variables taken into consideration were the year of publication, scientific journal that published the papers, the neurosurgical or orthopedic department where the study was performed, the type of study, the main pathology studied, the Oxford classification, the journal impact factor (IF) and the type of article.

Investigators

The study featured the participation of researchers from different countries, as shown in the following table.

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Pedro Guarise da Silva	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Francine Wurzius Quadros	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Luiz Henrique Merlin	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Lucas Radaelli	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Diego Dozza	Hospital do Servidor Público Estadual Francisco Morato de Oliveira	Brazil
Délio Martins	Universidade Federal de São Paulo – Escola de Medicina Paulista	Brazil
Juan Pablo Guyot	Hospital Universitario Fundación Favaloro	Argentina
Kawaguchi Yoshiharu	University of Toyama	Japan
Daniel Riew	Washington University Orthopaedics/ Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St Louis	USA

Results

This study comprised 5846 articles published in the Medline database by Latin American, African, Oceanian and Asian spine surgeons from 2000 to 2013. In this period, 5102 articles were published in Asia, 410 in Latin America, 138 in Africa and 79 in Oceania. There was a correlation between the number of publications and the papers classified at the Oxford levels of evidence 1, 2 and 3, with significant results and positive association.

Relevance

It is necessary to discuss a way in which to increase the quantity and quality of scientific publications, mainly through improving education in research.

Status

The study was submitted to the Global Spine Congress. The article is currently being written.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.

“Responsiveness of depression and its influence on surgical outcomes of lumbar degenerative diseases”

Objective

The aim of this study is to demonstrate the responsiveness of depression after surgery in cases of lumbar degenerative disease, verifying the impact of this condition on surgical outcomes.

Principal Investigator

Asdrubal Falavigna, from the Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

International Mentoring

Joseph Cheng, from the Vanderbilt Medical Center, USA.

Results

The overall prevalence of preoperative depression was found to be at 28.6%. After surgery, 19.8% were seen to have a depressive episode within 30 days and 17.6% within the one year postoperative period. Poor preoperative HRQoL measures were associated with higher rates of responsiveness of depression during the follow-up. Patients who found themselves in a depression at the one year postoperative evaluation mark had a worse functional outcome than patients who did not have depression. Dissatisfaction within the one year postoperative period was higher in patients who became depressed after the surgery and remained depressed at the one year follow-up mark than in those who were already depressed in the preoperative period and saw no improvement after the surgery.

Relevance

Symptoms of depression are common in patients submitted to spine surgery due to degenerative disease. The exact impact of depression in the postoperative outcomes has not yet been fully understood. This study aims at demonstrating the responsiveness of depression after surgery for lumbar degenerative disease and at verifying the impact of this condition on surgical outcomes.

Status

The study was submitted to the Global Spine Congress and is currently undergoing journal peer-review.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.

“Economic analysis of lumbar disc herniation surgery in Brazilian health insurance”

First cost-utility analysis on spine surgery in Latin America

Objective

Cost-benefit studies are useful for assessing the value of health care interventions. The objective of this study was to evaluate, for the first time, the cost-effectiveness of spine surgery (lumbar discectomy) in Latin America, in terms of the cost per quality-adjusted life years (QALY) gained.

International Mentoring

Joseph Cheng, from the Vanderbilt Medical Center, USA.

Investigators

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Orlando Righesso	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Alisson Roberto Teles	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Maria Carolina Rosa Gollo	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Joseph S. Cheng	Vanderbilt Medical Center	USA
Nicolas Scheverin	Vanderbilt Medical Center	USA

Results

The analysis presents the costs of medical treatment recorded in 143 consecutive patients who underwent open discectomy for lumbar disc herniation. The estimated cost-utility ratio was R\$ 30.828,35 (\$ 12.845,14) per QALY gained. The sensitivity analysis showed a range of R\$ 25.690,29 (\$ 10.714,28) - R\$ 38.535,44 (\$ 16,056.43) per QALY gained.

Relevance

This project was the first ever assessment of the cost-QALY gain in spine surgery in Latin America, and was based on the analysis of lumbar discectomy patients at a single institution in Brazil over the course of one year. This choice was made taking the literature evidence in developed countries into consideration regarding the cost-effectiveness estimation of surgical treatment of LDH and the heterogeneity of the study design (sample population, surgical techniques, baseline assumptions).

Status

The study was submitted to the Global Spine Congress and is currently being written.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.

“Radiotherapy induced tumors of the spine, peripheral nerve and spinal cord”

Objective

Radiotherapy-induced (RT-I) tumors have become increasingly important due to population’s longer life expectancy, even in the case of oncologic patients. This study discusses and presents cases of secondary tumors induced by radiotherapy to the spine.

Investigators

Investigator	Institute	Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Orlando Righesso	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
Pedro Guarise da Silva	Universidade de Caxias do Sul	Brazil
William Teixeira	Instituto do Câncer do Estado de São Paulo	Brazil

Results

Most of the RT-I tumors are secondary to the treatment of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma with radiotherapy, sarcoma being the most frequent. The current gold standard treatment is a complete resection with clear margins. The neural tumor type has a longer survival period.

Status

The study was submitted to the Global Spine Congress and is currently undergoing journal peer-review.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.

Open call for multicenter study “Dysphagia”

Objective

Cohorts of patients will be recruited for this observational study in order to determine the degree of dysphagia and predict factors associated with it.

Study groups

Patients with degenerative pathologies undergoing anterior cervical surgery are the target of this investigation, while patients undergoing lumbar surgery will be enrolled as a control group to determine the effect of the intubation itself on postoperative dysphagia.

Status

The project will be initiated in November 2014.

Fractures A3-A4

Objective

This study aims at evaluating whether patients with thoracolumbar fractures, without neurological deficits, exhibit a faster rate of recovery and better improvement of functionality when surgically treated, in comparison to patients submitted to conservative treatment. The project focuses on measuring whether surgically treated patients have a higher average difference in their scores on the Roland-Morris Disability Questionnaire (RMDQ), between baseline and a six week follow-up, than patients submitted to the conservative treatment. The analysis is being developed based on a total of 140 patients with thoracolumbar fractures, to whom either conservative or surgical treatment are assigned.

Principal Investigators

Emiliano Vialle, from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil, as Latin American regional coordinating investigator; and **Giuseppe Barbagallo**, as regional coordinating investigator in Europe.

Co-Investigators

AOSpine Latin America has been participating in this project with four centers. The following table lists the investigators and respective locations, in Latin America and internationally.

Co-Investigator	City, Country
Asdrubal Falavigna	Porto Alegre, Brazil
Milan Munjin	Santiago, Chile
Osmar Moraes	São Paulo, Brazil
Manuel Cunha e Sá	Almada, Portugal
Wilco Peul	Leiden, Netherlands
Roman Harcuba	Liberec, Czech Republic
Pietro Mortini	Milano, Italy
Bernhard Meyer	Munich, Germany

Clinical Research Organization

AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation (AOCID).

Project Manager

Ivo Schauwecker.

Consultant for Latin America

Shandher Tovar.

Status

The study is currently being developed in the aforementioned centers.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America and Giuseppe Barbagallo.

Educational activities in Research

Seminars

2nd AOSpine Research Seminar: New era in clinical research in spine surgery

São Paulo, Brazil
April 11-12, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Evidence-based medicine – Research and publication

Ciudad de México, Mexico
May 29, 2014

Research Seminar

Caxias do Sul, Brazil
June, 2014

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Publication

Monterrey, Mexico
November 01, 2014

AOSpine Course on information access: Database searches

Online course
November 03, 2014



Publications

Manuscripts

The research activities developed this year generated several publications, which were featured in different renowned international journals. The Research team is thankful to everyone involved in these projects, who dedicated their efforts and knowledge to the development of these studies. Some of the year's publications are listed next.

- Falavigna, Asdrubal; Medeiros, Gregory Saraiva; Canabarro, Carolina Travi; Barazzetti, Daniel Ongaratto; Marcon, Grasiela; Carneiro Monteiro, Gabriela Massaro; Bossardi, Júlia Bertholdo; da Silva, Pedro Guarise; Teles, Alisson Roberto; Velho, Maíra Cristina; Ferrari, Priscila. **How can we teach them about neurotrauma prevention? Prospective and randomized study with multiple interventions in preteens and adolescents.** Journal of Neurosurgery Pediatrics, v.1, p. 1 - 7, 2014.
- Falavigna, Asdrubal; Righesso, Orlando; Betemps, Alejandro; Vela De los Ríos, Pablo Fernando; Guimarães, Rangel; Ziegler, Marcus; De Souza, Olivia Egger; da Silva, Pedro Guarise; Riew, Daniel K. **Surgical planning and neurological outcome after anterior approach to remove a disc herniation at the C7-T1 level in 19 patients.** Spine (Philadelphia, Pa. 1976), v.39, p. E219 - E225, 2014.
- Falavigna, Asdrubal; Botelho, Ricardo Vieira; Teles, Alisson Roberto; Guarise da Silva, Pedro; Martins, Délio; Guyot, Juan Pablo; Gonzalez, Álvaro Silva; Avila, José María Jiménez; Defino, Helton Luiz Aparecido. **Twelve years of scientific production on medline by Latin American spine surgeons.** Plos One, v.9, p. e87945 -, 2014.

2014 Congress presentations “Open papers”

- Posterior approach for the cervicothoracic transition.
- Evidence on rehabilitation and surgery for low back pain.
- Histological and immunohistochemical protocol for studying the different severity degrees of lumbar degenerative discopathy.
- Isolating stem cells of degenerated lumbar intervertebral disc using a low-cost and highly effective technique.
- Low back pain after lumbar disc herniation surgery.
- Neural tumor induced by radiotherapy.
- Responsiveness of depression in surgical patients with degenerative lumbar disorders.
- Scientific publication by spine surgeons and its relationship with financial support.
- Stem cells and disc regeneration.

Education in Research book “From the idea to the publication”

Objective

In consideration of the different projects developed in the last years, AOSpine Latin America Research identified the need to provide members with basic knowledge in research. As a result, the organization worked on a book entitled “AOSpine Latin America Education in Research: From the idea to the publication”, which was released in Portuguese and Spanish. The volume was coordinated and edited by Asdrubal Falavigna, AOSLA Research Officer, and José María Jiménez, Mexico Research Officer. The book is composed of 31 chapters spread over 360 pages and featured 25 contributors from seven different countries.

The acceptance of the publication was very positive and the first edition is now almost sold out. The book will soon be translated into English and also re-edited in Spanish and Portuguese.

Sponsors

AOSpine Latin America.





Community Development



Community Development Officer's word

Dear AOSpine friends and members,

I am proud to be able to say that AOSpine continues to be the largest international community dedicated to the science of spine care. Despite the significant economic challenges being faced globally, AOSpine still manages to remain a large, international organization which continues to grow, with over 6000 members from all corners of the world. Latin America, with more than 1300 members alone, is a strong voice in our community.

The outstanding work of our Community Development International Chairperson, Carlos Tucci, and his team have produced valuable tools for further improving our membership experience: the AOSpine news app, which allows members to quickly get acquainted with news, upcoming events and other pertinent information; the AOSpine twitter and Facebook accounts, which are up and running with great success; and a redesigned webpage which makes it easier for members to access their benefits, preferred tools and topics of their choice. The membership benefits are many and diverse and are permanently being reviewed and updated to better serve our members.

Furthermore, Luiz Vialle has led a team of master surgeons through the development of the AOSpine Masters Series, which is to be launched soon and can already be ordered on our webpage. We are confident that these volumes will be an expression of everything AOSpine truly represents: comprehensive and high-quality information generated through the collaborative effort of experts in their field and the delivering of the best available evidence in a standardized, learning objective-based educational format.

Our Global Spine Journal will have open access from 2015 onwards, ensuring even greater visibility for your research. The GSJ will also incorporate podcasts on iTunes, where our editors perform in depth examinations of articles with the main authors, facilitating our aim of a more comprehensive learning experience.

In 2015, the premier event for our community will be the upcoming Global Spine Congress in Buenos Aires, to be held from May 20-23. With over 700 abstracts submitted, this event will be a superb opportunity to share knowledge, network and reinforce the uniqueness of being a truly multinational and multicultural organization devoted to spine care. Not to be missed!

As we all know, the loss of our very dear friend Germán Ochoa has been an unexpected and heavy blow. We offered a much deserved tribute to the man who furthered quality education in spine science, not only in our region, but as a true global ambassador of the Latin American scientific community. Germán certainly set the standard for education in spine care, which we are only too glad to follow.

I thank you all for the support provided and I am very enthusiastic about continuing to lead the Community Development activities in our region. Our goal for 2015 is to make the largest and best spine community even larger and better still!

Sincerely,

Samuel Pantoja

AOSpine Latin America Community
Development Officer

Membership

The work developed in the areas of Education, Fellowships and Research, and with the support of Community Development, has shown great results with a steady increase in the number of memberships in the last years. In 2014, in particular, the number of memberships registered a growth of 10% in comparison to 2013.

At the same time, the implementation of a new system for controlling and measuring membership statistics has allowed AOSLA to keep precise track of the retention numbers in the region. This year, the retention rate reached around 55%.

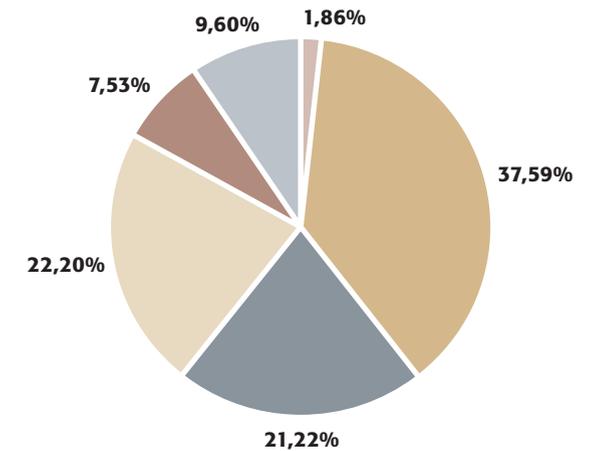
We are greatly thankful to all the personnel who made this growth possible, and who took part in consolidating the role of AOSpine in the region.

The next pages present membership statistics, trends and development during 2014 and in the previous years, as well as the numbers at a global level.

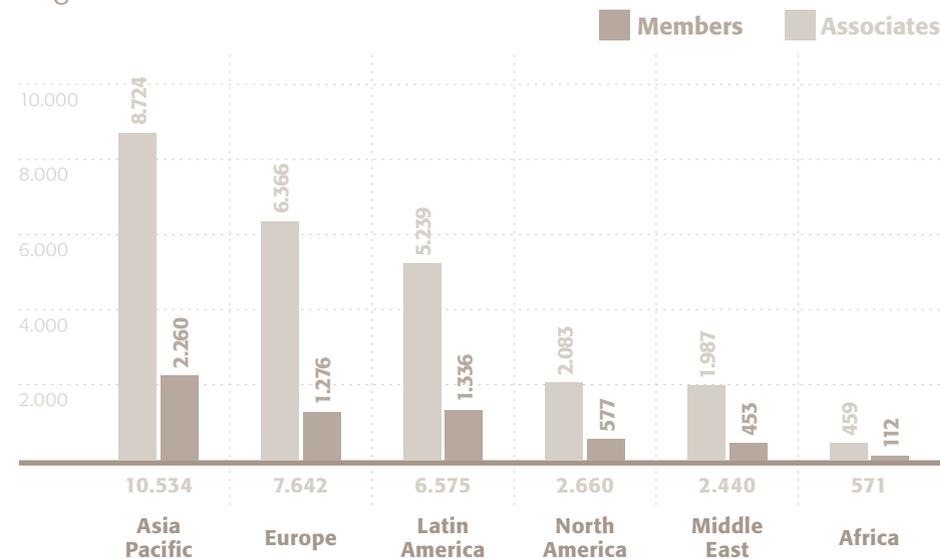
Global membership overview

Region	Members	%
Asia Pacific	2.260	37,59%
Latin America	1.336	22,20%
Europe	1.276	21,22%
North America	577	9,60%
Middle East	453	7,53%
Africa	112	1,86%

*Data from October 31st, 2014



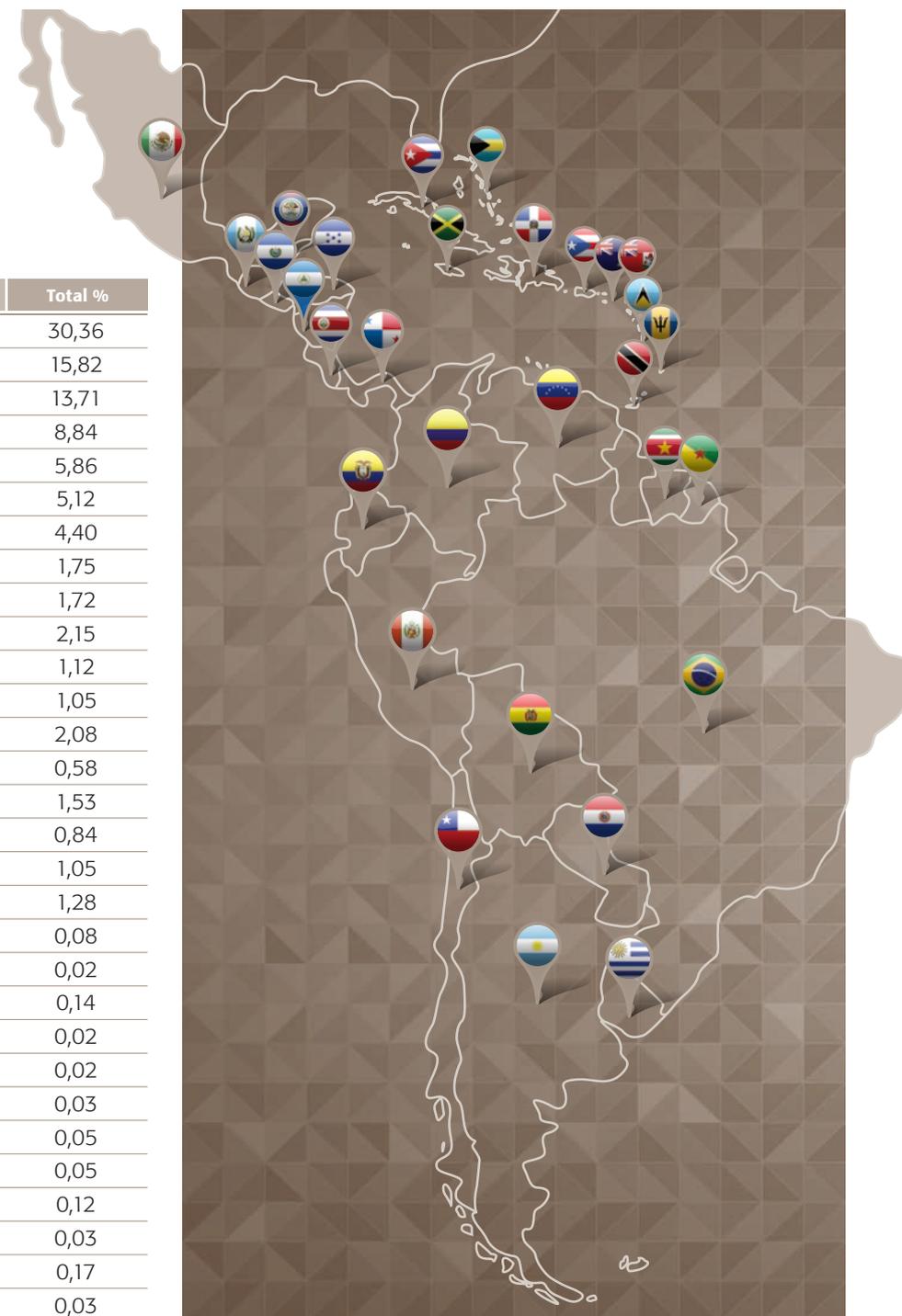
Membership statistics Regions 2014



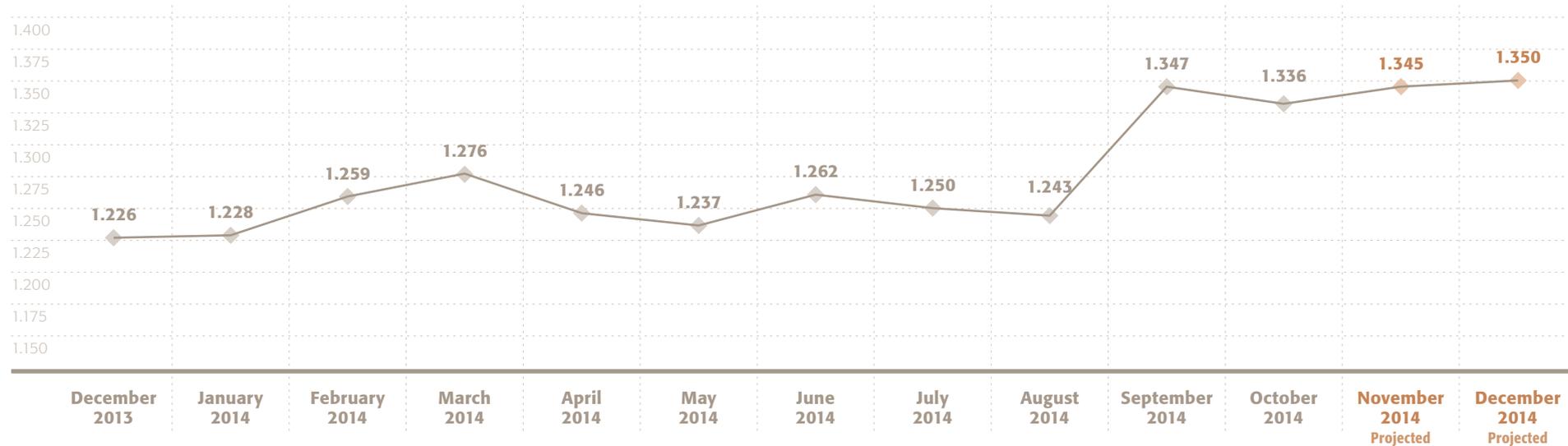
Latin America membership overview

Members and associates by country

Country	Members	Members %	Associates	Associates %	Total	Total %
Brazil	487	36,15	1.457	28,81	1944	30,36
Mexico	202	15,00	811	16,04	1013	15,82
Argentina	198	14,70	680	13,45	878	13,71
Colombia	78	5,79	488	9,65	566	8,84
Venezuela	75	5,57	300	5,93	375	5,86
Chile	63	4,68	265	5,24	328	5,12
Peru	61	4,53	221	4,37	282	4,40
Dominican Republic	29	2,15	83	1,64	112	1,75
Bolivia	23	1,71	87	1,72	110	1,72
Ecuador	23	1,71	115	2,27	138	2,15
Uruguay	23	1,71	49	0,97	72	1,12
Panama	19	1,41	48	0,95	67	1,05
Costa Rica	16	1,19	117	2,31	133	2,08
Honduras	15	1,11	22	0,44	37	0,58
Guatemala	11	0,82	87	1,72	98	1,53
Paraguay	9	0,67	45	0,89	54	0,84
Cuba	5	0,37	62	1,23	67	1,05
Nicaragua	5	0,37	77	1,52	82	1,28
Barbados	1	0,07	4	0,08	5	0,08
British Virgin Islands	1	0,07	0	0,00	1	0,02
Jamaica	1	0,07	8	0,16	9	0,14
Saint Lucia	1	0,07	0	0,00	1	0,02
Surinam	1	0,07	0	0,00	1	0,02
Bahamas	0	0,00	2	0,04	2	0,03
Belize	0	0,00	3	0,06	3	0,05
Bermuda	0	0,00	3	0,06	3	0,05
El Salvador	0	0,00	8	0,16	8	0,12
French Guiana	0	0,00	2	0,04	2	0,03
Puerto Rico	0	0,00	11	0,22	11	0,17
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0,00	2	0,04	2	0,03



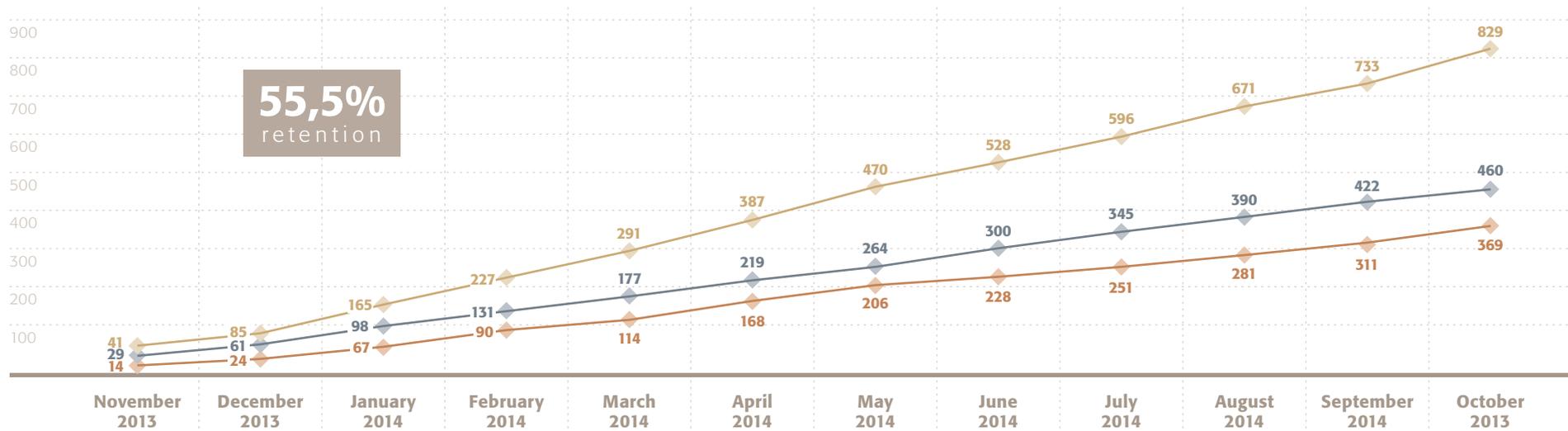
Membership development 2014



History-Date	New Members	Late Renewals	On Time Renewals	Expired	Members	Month Result
December/2014-Projected	-	-	-	-	1.350	+5
November/2014-Projected	-	-	-	-	1.345	+9
October/2014	43	11	34	65	1.336	-11
September/2014	111	28	27	35	1.347	104
August/2014	20	12	35	39	1.243	-7
July/2014	10	14	30	36	1.250	-12
June/2014	43	20	22	38	1.262	25
May/2014	34	13	23	56	1.237	-9
April/2014	21	12	32	63	1.246	-30
March/2014	41	7	38	31	1.276	17
February/2014	62	11	22	42	1.259	31
January/2014	40	17	28	55	1.228	2
December/2013	11	4	26	19	1.226	-4

Membership retention 2014

This year, AOSpine Latin America was ranked as one of the regions with the highest membership retention rates at a global level, reaching an impressive 55,5%. This index is calculated by the difference between renewed and expired memberships within a certain time frame.



Membership trend 2010–2014

Members (dark grey bars)
Associates (light grey bars)



Community Development projects 2014

This year, besides continuing to develop local action points based on the marketing and communication projects, AOSLA also focused on adapting the marketing materials to the new international communication guidelines. The Community Development team also worked on the development of a system for measuring indicators in the variation of membership rates, in order to achieve better strategic management.

The AOSpine communication guidelines

One of the main achievements of 2014 was the development and implementation of the communication guidelines, which are the result of a collaborative effort by the AOSpine Commissions and the regions.

The new guidelines ensure consistency in AOSpine communications across all touch points, the standardization of communication materials, the clarification of AOSpine corporate design and ultimately the strengthening of the AOSpine brand. In following with the objective of reinforcing AOSpine's position in the world of spine care, the guidelines were also implemented at a regional level and for all AOSLA corporate materials.



Membership Analytics System

In 2014, the Community Development area worked on developing a new tool for the measurement of variations in membership numbers by country, region and globally. The effort is part of larger project to develop adequate communication and marketing strategies for the region, which allow AOSLA to adopt efficient procedures for upholding the growth in membership numbers and maintaining satisfactory retention rates.

Some of the main features of the system are related to:

- Retention rates;
- New members;
- Renewal rates;
- Late renewals;
- Expiration rates;
- Reports (trends, development, comparative data, etc).

AOSLA Social Media

AOSLA social networks (Facebook and Twitter) have been an important part of our Marketing & Communication plan during 2014.

We have achieved more than 400 followers on Facebook and our goal for 2015, is to increase this number to 600 followers through a fitting strategic plan, thereby getting closer to our community and better understanding their needs and requests.



AOSpine presence in Latin America

As part of the ongoing communication plan and marketing strategy, AOSLA was able to once again increase its participation in the organization of academic events in partnership with the largest orthopedics, neurosurgery and spine-related organizations in the region.

AOSpine was present at several different symposia, seminars and trans-congresses in 2014. These academic activities were developed with the incorporation of a stand or lounge area to facilitate the interaction between Faculty members and participants, as well as offering a common space for those wishing to get acquainted with the organization.

The results of our presence at these events are reflected in the high participant assistance rates, supported on-site by the AOSLA staff, and the high number of new and renewed memberships registered during these activities.

More information about AOSpine Latin America's participation in lounges and stands at the most relevant events of 2014 can be found next.

14th Congress of Spinal Surgery

Date. March 19–22, 2014

Venue. Maksoud Plaza Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress–XXVI Brazilian Neurosurgery Society (SBN) Congress: Current Management of Spinal Cord and Tumors

Date. September 14, 2014

Venue. Expo Unimed – Curitiba, Brazil

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (AMCICO): Trauma

Date. September 14, 2014

Venue. Tuxla Gutierrez, Mexico

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (SAPCV): Trauma

Date. October 01, 2014.

Venue. Sheraton Hotel – Córdoba, Argentina

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal Trauma

Date. November 7–8, 2014

Venue. JW Marriott Hotel – Bogota, Colombia

AOSpine Master Trans-Congress Symposium–XXVI International Society of Orthopedics Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT) Triennial World Congress and 46th Brazilian Congress of Orthopedics and Traumatology (CBOT)

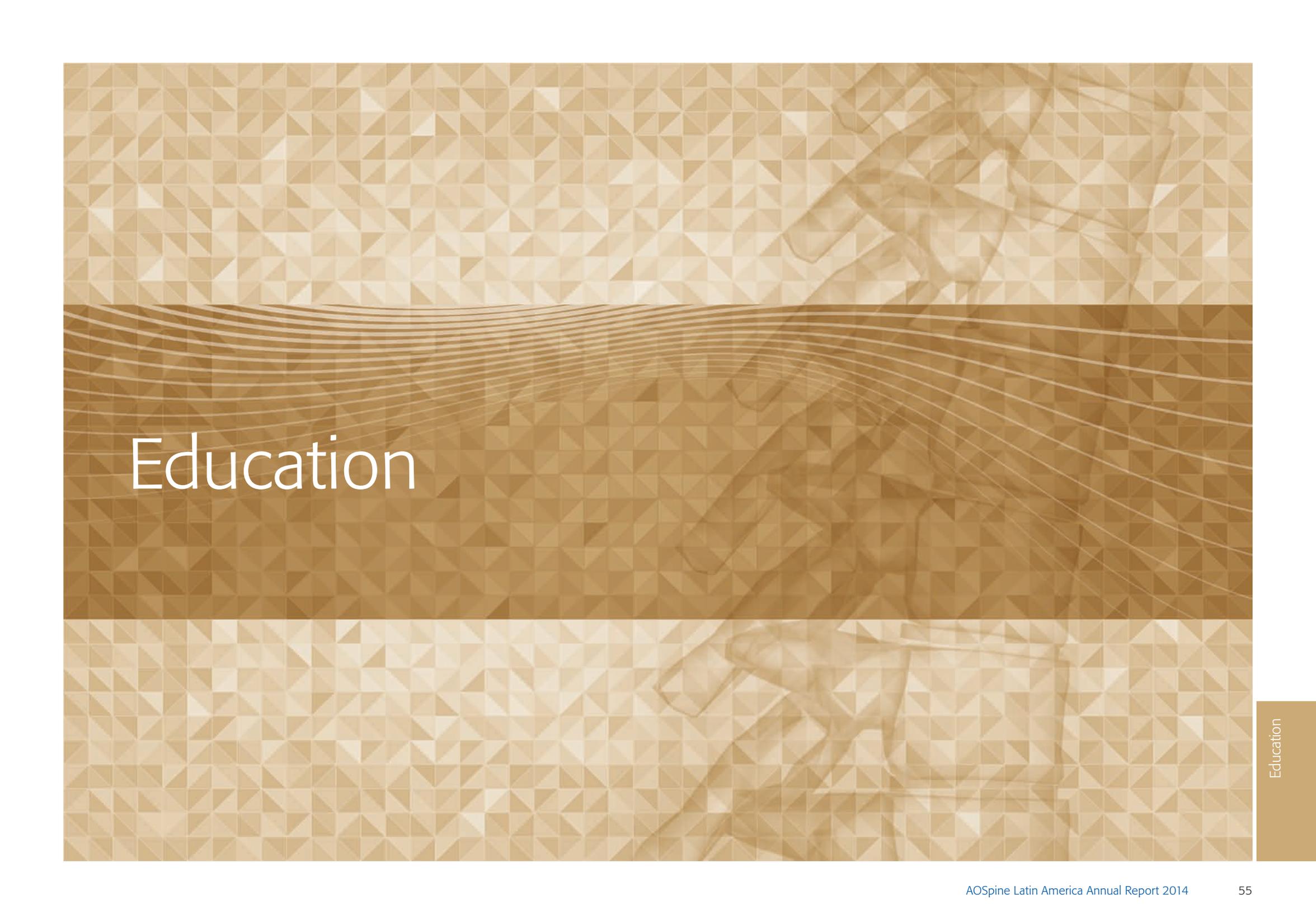
Date. November 19, 2014

Venue. SulAmérica Convention Center
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (Neuropinamar)

Date. November 27–29, 2014

Venue. Del Bosque Hotel – Pinamar, Argentina



Education



Education—Ortho and Neuro Officers' word

Dear friends,

As 2014 draws to a close, we can once again look back on another year full of growth and challenges.

After celebrating its 10th anniversary, AOSpine has continued to consolidate its position as the number one scientific institution on spine pathologies in the region, thanks to the quality and quantity of events performed in all of the member-countries this year.

The hard work during this time has enabled many ideas to come to fruition, many of which began years ago, and which have now become concrete actions that all of us can benefit from.

One of these ideas is the Continuing Education Program, originally known as the Diploma Project, which saw its third online level released this year. This terrific project included the development of original material written by Faculty members from throughout the region. It features a structure that allows members to benefit from a complete educational program with no geographical barriers, enabling us to access the program from our computers wherever we are. The program also has the accreditation of a University degree, issued by the National University of La Plata – Argentina, an academic achievement that fills us with pride. While this project has counted with the support of a large group of Faculty members, who have actively participated in its development, we would also like to highlight the importance of the Course Director as the Program's main supporter. Néstor Fiore has dedicated so much of his time and effort to implementing this Program of continuing education and we could not be more thankful for his diligence.

The AOSLA Virtual Courses have also established themselves within our educational offers, reaching an impressive level of maturity and excellence. The Courses include different pathologies and levels and are considered a reference point inside AOSpine, leading other regions to adapt similar formats for their educational agendas.

The face-to-face events developed this year are a point of reference in the region when it comes to the quality of scientific programs. Our wide range of events have successfully incorporated the AOSpine Curriculum into the activities, allowing the organization to standardize event programs in the region, thereby assuring levels of excellence in all our activities.

Furthermore, the conclusion of the course templates project provides the events' Chairpersons with a valuable tool for elaborating programs for academic events. This project has generated standard templates and modules which are very easy to apply and that offer clear objectives, while at the same time allowing the Chairs to adapt the guidelines to local needs.

This year, we worked emphatically on settling agreements with universities and other academic institutions so as to accredit our activities and provide participants with joint certificates. In this regard, we must highlight the aforementioned agreement with the National University of La Plata, as well as the accreditation of activities in Brazil by the National Commission for Accreditation (CNA) and the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB). It is our intention to continue on this path in other countries in the region.



Given the complexity and differences between the countries in the region, we began handling the communication with the local Chapters in a more active manner this year, holding regular meetings, both face-to-face and virtual. Through this initiative, we hope to be more available for every Chapter, while also getting to know their local needs better.

In that respect, we also conducted an educational survey for all our members. The results have allowed us to improve our activities even more and also get acquainted with the problems and local realities of the participants, helping us generate a customized educational plan for the region and for each country, based on their needs.

Other big news in 2014 was the joint work developed with Adrubal Falavigna, AOSLA Research Officer, who has been supporting the educational activities on research and performing an outstanding job. This type of activity is groundbreaking within the organization as it allows us to not only reach spine surgeons, but also all health workers interested in research.

The Faculty and Chair Training programs are also going through some restructuration processes. As we advanced as an educational organization, it seemed necessary to update the training programs according to our classic formats: online education, research, Curriculum and event management. These changes will further improve the quality of our Faculty members and our educational events.

The end of the year is also a moment of gratitude. On the one hand, we are thankful to Roberto Postigo and Marco Medina, who were previously in charge of this position, and who allowed us to carry on their great work. On the other hand, we thank the Curitiba Office, which always puts in exceptional work and effort, providing us with their invaluable help as the operational staff for many of our most successful projects.

Lastly, we would like to offer a small tribute and thanks to Germán Ochoa, who sadly passed away this year. Germán was a symbol of education inside AOSpine, accomplishing major achievements such as holding the position of International Education Chairperson, and was recognized by all as a relentless worker and a tireless architect of innovative projects. He was an admirable example of dedication and commitment, even when affected by a severe illness which detracted from his physical capabilities. Extremely generous with the youth, he motivated them to strive for continuous growth and improvement. Germán always worked as a true ambassador of AOSpine Latin America in international forums, proudly presenting his Colombian and Latin roots. Dear friend, you will be very much missed.

Finally, we would like to wish our members and their families a joyful 2015, and we hope we can continue to share many more projects in the new year.

Kind regards,

Juan Emmerich
AOSpine Latin America
Education–Neuro Officer

Robert Meves
AOSpine Latin America
Education–Ortho Officer

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS 2014

AOSpine Curriculum

Just as in previous years, AOSpine Latin America implemented the AOSpine Curriculum in all of 2014's educational activities. The main objective of this project is to establish a structured and cohesive educational framework, based around competences, learning outcomes and participants' needs, and using adequate didactical models. This methodology is based on the competences that allow spine surgeons to work in a more effective way within the field of six spine-related pathologies, thereby reaching the highest standards of their speciality through three progressive levels (Principles, Advanced and Masters).



Full implementation courses

In 2014, the region saw the full implementation of the AOSpine Curriculum in six educational activities, including the complete alignment of the program with competences and the corresponding learning outcomes. Out of these six activities, three featured pre- and post-course participant self-assessment.

The list of the events with program alignment is presented next.



AOSpine Principles Course

Santiago, Chile | May 09–10, 2014

Chairperson. Álvaro Silva

Educational Advisor. Roberto Postigo



AOSpine Principles Course

Querétaro, Mexico | May 23–24, 2014

Chairperson. Oscar Martínez

Educational Advisor. Martín Tejeda



AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Minimally invasive surgery

São Paulo, Brazil | May 23–24, 2014

Chairperson. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka

Educational Advisor. Osmar Moraes



AOSpine Principles Course

Ciudad de México, Mexico | May 30–31, 2014

Chairperson. Michael Dittmar

Educational Advisor. Roberto Chapa



AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications

Ciudad de México, Mexico | May 30–31, 2014

Chairperson. Martín Tejeda

Educational Advisor. Osmar Moraes



AOSpine Principles Course

São Paulo, Brazil | September 4–6, 2014

Chairperson. Alberto Gotfryd and William Teixeira

Educational Advisor. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka

The following table presents the results of the pre- and post-course participant self-assessment, indicating the level of participation at each activity.

Activity	Venue	Total Participants	Pre-course self-assessment	Post-course self-assessment
Advanced Symposium: Minimally invasive surgery	São Paulo	49	45%	39%
Principles Course	Ciudad de México	49	28%	8%
Principles Course	São Paulo	48	72%	23%
Total		146	69 (47%)	34 (23%)

Program templates

The use of program templates and their alignment with the AOSpine Curriculum are important tools for supporting the Chairperson when creating the academic program for an event. They function as a mechanism to ensure that all academic activities performed are in accordance with the highest standards of educational quality and that they are based on the participants' needs.

This year, the templates were revised and validated, meaning that they are now an official guideline for the program's elaboration in accordance with the quality standard recommended by AOSpine. These models were developed in correspondence with the AOSpine Curriculum competences and learning outcomes. The Chairpersons can also offer direct orientation to the event Faculty through the syllabi, which helps avoid the repetition of the themes approached. The templates were developed as a joint project by Marco Medina, Pablo Vela, Alexandre Sadao and Robert Meves, under the supervision of Néstor Fiore. The pathologies approached in the Principles activities' templates are:

1. Trauma, tumor and infection;
2. Degeneration, deformity and various pathologies (metabolic-inflammatory-genetic).

Given the diverse cultural characteristics of Latin American countries, and in regard to the performance of seminars and symposia within large congresses by scientific societies, AOSLA has increased the flexibility in the use of the templates. According to the Latin American Board, the only mandatory aspect is meeting the objectives of each session. The Chairperson is therefore free to complement the themes, schedule, lecture time and course format. The templates can be used by the event's Chairperson to include new themes, educational activities, competences, learning outcomes and syllabi.

As an option, the Chairpersons can receive the templates with the themes suggested for each session. In this case, the Chair will have to insert the competences and learning outcomes in order to meet the session's objective. It is also important to highlight that the Advanced courses are comprised of a 21-module template, with sessions that cover all pathologies, plus a module on complications. The modules are organized according to the graph on the following page.

Tumor		Trauma		Degeneration		Infection		Deformity		Metabolic, Inflammatory, Genetic		Complications		
5 events	20 modules	4 events	16 modules	6 events	24 modules	1 event	4 modules	3 events	12 modules	1 event	4 modules	1 event	4 modules	
A Benign primary bone tumors	Module 1. General topics	A Cervical spine trauma	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	A Degenerative pathology of the cervical spine	Module 1. Cervical disc herniation	A Infection	Module 1. Non-specific primary infections	A General topics on spinal deformity	Module 1. General topics	A Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	Module 1. Inflammatory arthritis 1	A Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications	
	Module 2. Specific topics		Module 2. Specific topics. Upper cervical spine		Module 2. Cervical spinal canal 1		Module 2. Specific spondylodiscitis tuberculosis		Module 2. Idiopathic scoliosis		Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2		Module 2. Dural lesions	
	Module 3. Specific topics		Module 3. Specific topics. Lower cervical spine 1		Module 3. Cervical spinal canal 2		Module 3. Postoperative infections		Module 3. Congenital malformations		Module 3. Metabolic affections		Module 3. Disassembling materials	
	Module 4. Specific topics		Module 4. Degenerative cervical pain		Module 4. Vertebral infections sequelae		Module 4. Neurolytic deformities		Module 4. Genetic affections		Module 4. Vascular lesions			
B Benign secondary bone	Module 1. General topics	B Lower cervical spine trauma	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	B Degenerative pathology of the lumbosacral spine	Module 1. Lumbar disc herniation	B Idiopathic scoliosis	B Kyphosis	Module 1. Idiopathic scoliosis. General topics and orthopedic treatment	B Complications in spine surgery	B Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	B Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications		
	Module 2. Specific topics		Module 2. Specific topics. Lower cervical spine 1		Module 2. Lumbar spinal canal 1			Module 2. Specific spondylodiscitis tuberculosis				Module 2. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 1	Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2	Module 2. Dural lesions
	Module 3. Specific topics		Module 3. Specific topics. Lower cervical spine 2		Module 3. Lumbar spinal canal 2			Module 3. Alterations in body balance				Module 3. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 2	Module 3. Metabolic affections	Module 3. Disassembling materials
	Module 4. Specific topics		Module 4. Specific topics. Lower cervical spine 3		Module 4. Lumbar spinal canal 3			Module 4. Adult scoliosis				Module 4. Juvenile and infantile idiopathic scoliosis	Module 4. Genetic affections	Module 4. Vascular lesions
C Metastasis	Module 1. General topics	C Thoracolumbar spine trauma	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	C Degenerative pathology of the thoracolumbar-sacral spine	Module 1. Thoracic disc herniation	C Disc pathology	C Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. Thoracic disc herniation	C Complications in spine surgery	C Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	C Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications		
	Module 2. Specific topics		Module 2. Thoracolumbar trauma 1		Module 2. Lumbar pain: discogenic, facetary, instability			Module 2. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 1				Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2	Module 2. Dural lesions	
	Module 3. Specific topics		Module 3. Thoracolumbar trauma 2		Module 3. Alterations in body balance			Module 3. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 2				Module 3. Metabolic affections	Module 3. Disassembling materials	
	Module 4. Specific topics		Module 4. Thoracolumbar trauma 3		Module 4. Adult scoliosis			Module 4. Juvenile and infantile idiopathic scoliosis				Module 4. Genetic affections	Module 4. Vascular lesions	
D Intramedullary tumors	Module 1. General topics	D Thoracolumbar and sacral-pelvic spine trauma	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	D Degenerative pathology of the cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral spine	Module 1. Cervical spine	D Disc pathology	D Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. General topics	D Complications in spine surgery	D Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	D Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications		
	Module 2. Specific topics		Module 2. Thoracolumbar trauma 1		Module 2. Thoracic spine			Module 2. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 1				Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2	Module 2. Dural lesions	
	Module 3. Specific topics		Module 3. Thoracolumbar trauma 2		Module 3. Lumbar spine 1			Module 3. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 2				Module 3. Metabolic affections	Module 3. Disassembling materials	
	Module 4. Specific topics		Module 4. Sacral-pelvic trauma		Module 4. Lumbar spine 2			Module 4. Juvenile and infantile idiopathic scoliosis				Module 4. Genetic affections	Module 4. Vascular lesions	
E Tumors in general	Module 1. General topics	E Disc pathology	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	E Degenerative pathology of the cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral spine	Module 1. Cervical disc herniation	E Disc pathology	E Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. General topics	E Complications in spine surgery	E Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	E Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications		
	Module 2. Metastasis		Module 2. Cervical pain		Module 2. Thoracic spine			Module 2. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 1				Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2	Module 2. Dural lesions	
	Module 3. Intramedullary tumors		Module 3. Lumbar disc herniation		Module 3. Lumbar spine 1			Module 3. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 2				Module 3. Metabolic affections	Module 3. Disassembling materials	
	Module 4. Primary bone tumors		Module 4. Lumbar pain		Module 4. Lumbar spine 2			Module 4. Juvenile and infantile idiopathic scoliosis				Module 4. Genetic affections	Module 4. Vascular lesions	
F Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. Adult lumbar scoliosis	F Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. Politraumatism. General topics	F Degenerative pathology of the cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral spine	Module 1. Cervical disc herniation	F Lumbar deformity in adults	F Lumbar deformity in adults	Module 1. General topics	F Complications in spine surgery	F Metabolic, inflammatory and genetic pathology	F Complications in spine surgery	Module 1. Neurological complications		
	Module 2. Adult spondylolisthesis		Module 2. Cervical pain		Module 2. Thoracic spine			Module 2. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 1				Module 2. Inflammatory arthritis 2	Module 2. Dural lesions	
	Module 3. Adult lumbar kyphosis		Module 3. Lumbar disc herniation		Module 3. Lumbar spine 1			Module 3. Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis 2				Module 3. Metabolic affections	Module 3. Disassembling materials	
	Module 4. Multioperated lumbar spine		Module 4. Lumbar pain		Module 4. Lumbar spine 2			Module 4. Juvenile and infantile idiopathic scoliosis				Module 4. Genetic affections	Module 4. Vascular lesions	

Total: 21 events—seminars/symposia (eg: A, B, C, etc.)
 84 modules (eg.: Tumor B 2, Degenerative C 4, etc.)
 Each event has four 4.5 hour modules (half day)
 All modules take the same time, so they can be combined as necessary.

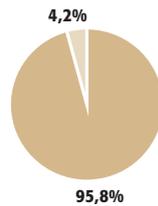
Faculty evaluation

As part of the educational projects in 2014, AOSpine Latin America added a new procedure to the current education processes, with the aim of improving the quality of our educational activities.

The "Faculty evaluation" is an online survey, available in Portuguese, Spanish and English, which presents 15 questions on event-related themes such as communication, lecture assignments, infrastructure, etc. The survey is sent directly to each Faculty member involved in the event after the activity has ended (National, Regional and International Faculty).

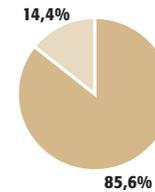
Invitation was sent with the proper advance?

Answer options	Responses	%
Yes	159	95,8%
No	7	4,2%



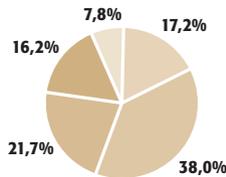
Chair or EA: sent any guidance or summary regarding your activities?

Answer options	Responses	%
Yes	142	85,6%
No	24	14,4%



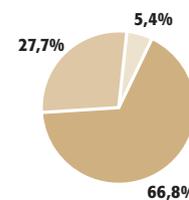
Advance time did you receive the program?

Answer options	Responses	%
Less than one month	27	16,2%
1 month	36	21,7%
2 months	63	38,0%
3 months	27	17,2%
4 months or more	13	7,8%



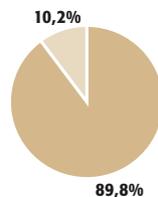
Chairperson: level of interest, quality of performance, interaction, problem solving, motivation and leadership.

Answer options	Responses	%
Excellent	111	66,8%
Good	46	27,7%
Regular	9	5,4%



Program was sent with enough time to prepare your activities?

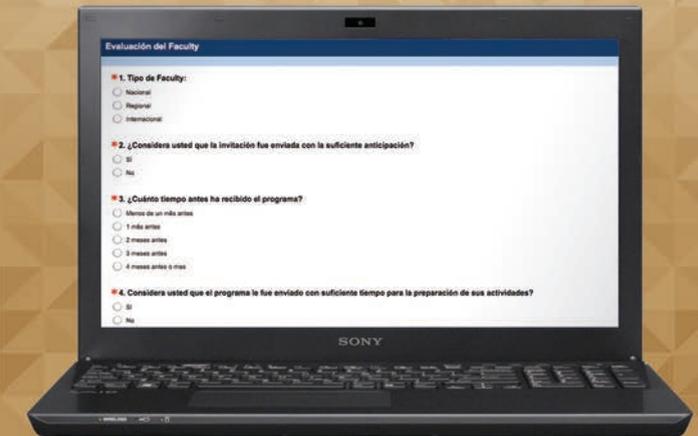
Answer options	Responses	%
Yes	149	89,8%
No	17	10,2%



Turnout rate: 68,8%
as of November 2014

QUESTIONS:

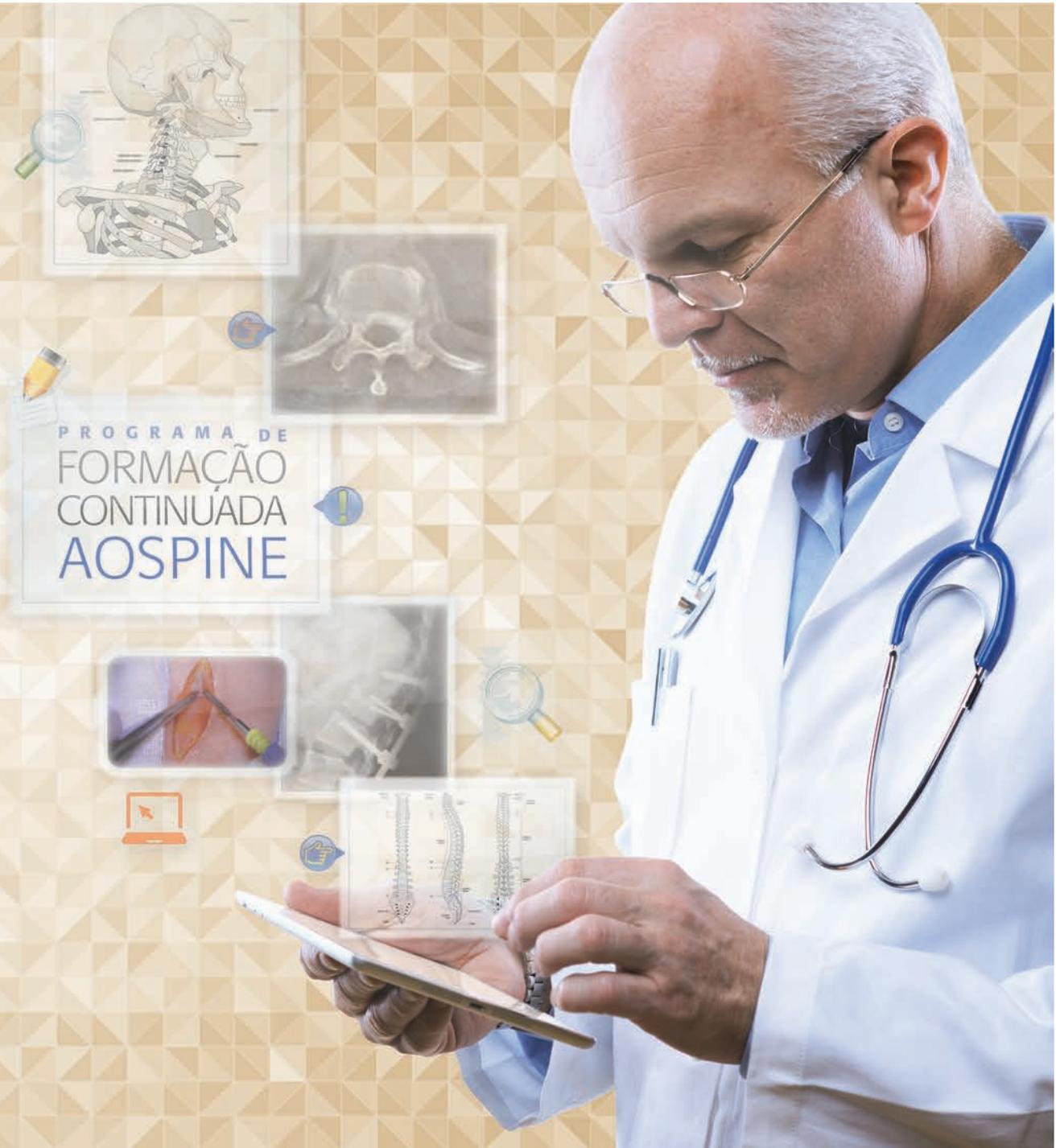
01. Type of Faculty:
02. Do you consider that the invitation was sent with the proper advance?
03. With how much advance time did you receive the program?
04. Do you consider that the program was sent with enough time to prepare your activities?
05. Did you feel comfortable with the quantity of activities assigned to you?
06. The themes that were assigned to you were in accordance with your experience?
07. Did you receive from the Chair or EA any guidance or summary regarding your activities?
08. About the Chairperson, how do you qualify his/her level of interest, quality of performance, interaction, problem solving, motivation and leadership?
09. About the faculty' pre course meeting:
10. Content of faculty' pre course meeting:
11. About the faculty' trans course meeting:
12. Content of faculty' trans course meeting:
13. About the faculty' post course meeting:
14. About the event infrastructure, how do you qualify the event infrastructure (conference rooms, workshops, implants and instruments, staff support, videos, food, audiovisual, event material)?
15. How do you qualify the coordination of your travel and accommodation?



CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Beginning in 2011, AOSpine Latin America has continuously developed its premier educational program focused on doctors' continued education, and exclusively for members. Since its launch in 2012, the Continuing Education Program has successfully been implemented through a progressive three-year educational plan, based on the pathologies of the spine. The contents are delivered through both face-to-face and online activities and are aligned to the AOSpine Curriculum guidelines. Certificates are provided by both AOSpine Latin America and the National University of La Plata (UNLP – Argentina), with Brazilian students also able to request credits at the National Commission for Accreditation (CNA – Brazil).

In October 2014, the organization concluded the implementation of the last level of the Program (Level 3). The materials are available on an e-learning platform provided by Desire2Learn, which also offers online forums and assistance to participants via e-mail.



Levels 1 and 2

The first level of the Program, launched in 2012, continues to receive new participants every week, all of whom are eager to take part in the activities. The following chart presents some data on Levels 1 and 2:

LEVEL 1.	LEVEL 2.
24 topics of study	23 topics of study
+50 interactive cases	+45 interactive cases
24 graded exams	23 graded exams
+75% participants graduated	+85% of Level 1. graduates

So far, the Program seems to be having very rewarding results, generating constant positive feedback from participants.

“The Continuing Education Program has been of great use for me, especially in my daily consultations, allowing me to check up on concepts and questions regarding spine pathologies. It keeps me up-to-date and is also very practical, as I can access it from my tablet or laptop to check on information concerning my daily practice or surgeries.”

Germán Jesús Ramón Juárez
Level 2 participant

Participants' profile

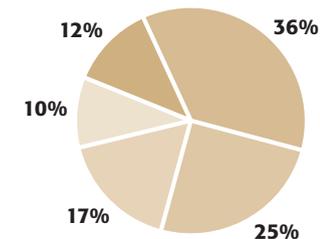
The participants currently enrolled in Level 1 and Level 2 are distributed throughout Latin America, as shown in the following map.



The following charts show relevant data on participants' demographic profile, according to the AOSLA database.

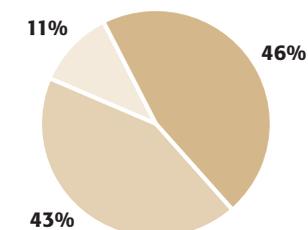
Participant's age (in years)

Age	%
25-30	12%
31-35	36%
36-40	25%
41-50	17%
Over 50	10%



Specialty

Specialty	%
Ortho	46%
Neuro	43%
Other	11%



Level 3

This October, AOSLA released the contents of Level 3, incorporating new topics of study into the online platform. Level 3 is composed of 15 topics of study, with corresponding interactive cases and graded exams. The list of themes covered by Level 3 is shown in the following table.

Module	Topic	Author
Module I: Anatomy and Techniques	1. Anterior approach to the cervicothoracic junction	Asdrubal Falavigna, Brazil
	2. Anterior lateral approach to the upper cervical	Pablo Vela, Colombia Néstor Fiore, Argentina
	3. En bloc total sacrectomy	William Teixeira, Brazil
	4. Posterior approach	Robert Meves, Brazil
Module II: Physiology and Biomechanics	1. Osteobiological materials	Osmar Moraes, Brazil
Module III: Trauma	1. Inveterate fractures	Néstor Fiore, Argentina
	2. Treatment of sacropelvic injuries	Mario Herrera, Colombia
Module IV: Tumor	1. Treatment of intraspinal tumors	Mario Taricco, Brazil
	2. Treatment of recurrent bone tumors	William Teixeira, Brazil
Module V: Deformity	1. Congenital scoliosis	Carlos Montero, Colombia Fernando Helo, Colombia
	2. Neuroparalytic deformities	Robert Meves, Brazil
Module VI: Degeneration	1. Multioperated spine (cervical and lumbar)	Ricardo Ribeiro, Brazil
	2. Deformities in adults	Marcelo Valacco, Argentina
	3. Lumbar disc replacement	Pablo Vela, Colombia
Module VI: Inflammatory-Metabolic-Genetic	1. Ankylosing spondylitis: osteotomies	Luiz Vialle, Brazil Emiliano Vialle, Brazil Juan D. C. Gómez, Colombia

The registration for the Program begins with the enrollment in Level 1, with participants moving through every Level as they are approved in the exams. Registration has been open permanently for AOSpine members.

AOSpine Continuing Education Program meeting

A meeting to discuss the Continuing Education Program (CEP) was held in Cartagena, Colombia, on May, 1st, 2014. The meeting saw the participation of AOSEC members and AOSLA Board Members, as listed next.

Member	Country	Role
Chung Chek Wong	Malaysia	Asia Pacific Community Development Officer
Claudio Lamartina	Italy	Europe Chairperson
Imad Hashim Ahmad	United Arab Emirates	Middle East Education Officer (Neuro)
Michael Grevitt	United Kingdom	International Education Officer
Steven Theiss	USA	North America Education Committee Member
Juan Emmerich	Argentina	Latin America Education Officer (Neuro)
Osmar Moraes	Brazil	Past Latin America Chairperson
Roberto Chapa	Mexico	Latin America Chairperson
Germán Ochoa	Colombia	Past International Education Officer

The main goal of the meeting was to present the CEP to the different regions and AOSEC members, collecting their feedback and regional perspectives on the project. The Program presentation included the strengths and weaknesses of the project, as well as data on its development up until the present moment.

A brief summary of the main points discussed in the meeting is listed next.

- Program's impact in Latin America;
- Accessibility of online activities (geographic distances, resources);
- Unique Program structure;
- Program's target audience (younger generation of surgeons, but also attractive to senior surgeons);
- Time flexibility (participants are allowed to move through the program at their own convenience);
- Mixed model of online and face-to-face (cost effective).

The CEP was very well received by the regional representatives, who will, in turn, be in charge of presenting the project at their upcoming board meetings, analyzing the possibilities for adapting the Program to other countries.

Activities for 2015

This year saw the conclusion of the implementation phase of the project, marked by the launch of the Level 3 online activities in October. The project's team is thrilled to carry on with the second phase of the project in 2015, focusing on investigating new learning strategies and performing a deeper

analysis of the first years of the Program. Identifying the educational outcomes of the Program, the points to be improved and getting to know our target audience are some of the exciting tasks to be developed in the next phases of the project, beginning in 2015.

ACCREDITATION

This year the Education team continued their pursuit of new agreements for certifying and accrediting educational activities through academic societies and institutions in the region. The main goal is to offer our academic programs as a reference for high quality events in Latin America, following an international trend to have certificates validated by academic organizations.

Similar to the agreement signed with the National University of La Plata for the Continuing Education Program, AOSLA also managed to settle agreements with the Brazilian National Commission for Accreditation (CNA) and the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB), in order to accredit AOSpine events performed in Brazil.

Considering the need to revalidate the title issued by the AMB – which can be accomplished through the sitting of an exam or by obtaining 100 continued education credits –, the CNA agreement comes as a very useful arrangement for AOSpine members in Brazil. As the CNA is now accrediting a great number of activities developed by AOSLA in Brazil, participants can use these points as part of their revalidation process at the AMB. All AOSpine activities are registered at the CNA webpage 90 days before the event, so as to be evaluated by the specialty societies. Once the event is approved, the CNA indicates how many points will be accredited by activity.

The following list presents the events accredited by the CNA in 2014.

AOSpine Principles Course

São Paulo, Brazil
September 04–06, 2014

Continuing Education Program

Levels 1 and 2

AOSLA Virtual Course

Modules 1 and 2 – Principles

AOSLA Virtual Course

Modules 1 to 4 – Advanced



FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS MÉDICAS
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE LA PLATA



Joint certificate AOSpine and UNLP

New template of the certificates issued by the University of La Plata, to be implemented in 2015.



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Once again AOSpine included Faculty and Chairperson Training activities as one of the main educational projects in the region. The training activities are an effective way to consolidate the high levels of quality delivered in all of our educational offers and help us maintain the educational area as the main platform for exchanging knowledge on spine surgery.

Faculty Training

The Faculty Training programs focus on improving the educational skills, knowledge and experience of our Faculty team. In 2014, the organization continued with the training programs, developing several activities in the region. The training activities gave participants the chance to get acquainted with different didactical methods, understanding how to apply these tools in their daily teaching practices.

As in the previous years, the Mini T4F format continued to be developed in the region. The activities were developed in accordance with the structure presented in the next graph.



ONLINE MODULE

When

Twice a year

Duration

Five weeks

Virtual educator

Available

Contents

Concepts and theory

Participants

Faculty members of the educational event who do not have training yet

FACE-TO-FACE MODULE

When

Before the event (on-site)

Duration

4.5 hours

Educator

Educational Advisor in charge of event

Contents

Practical topics

Participants

Faculty members of the educational event who do not have training yet

The following list presents the training activities done in the Mini T4F format.



Santiago, Chile

Date. May 08, 2014

Venue. Vitacura Atton Hotel

On-site Educational Advisor.
Roberto Postigo – Santiago, Chile

Virtual Educator.
Fabiana Reboiras – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participants.
José Ballesteros Plaza, Patricio Melero, Rodrigo Valenzuela.



Monterrey, Mexico

Date. May 29, 2014

Venue. Fiesta Americana Hotel

On-site Educational Advisor.
Roberto Chapa – Monterrey, Mexico

Virtual educator.
Fabiana Reboiras – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participants.
Jorge Cabrera, Gustavo Casas, Antonio Hurtado, Edgar Marquez.

Besides the Mini T4F activities, two training activities were also performed in the traditional format. This format consists of online pre-course modules spanning five weeks, with the assistance of a Virtual Educator, plus a full day of face-to-face with the participation of an Educator and an Educational Advisor. The training activities performed in the traditional format (T4F) are listed next.



La Habana, Cuba

Date. April 24, 2014

Venue. Ibero Parque Central Hotel

Educator.
Fabiana Reboiras – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participants.
Eddy Almira, Raul Candebat Rubio, Carlos Santos Coto, Madelín Sosa Carresco, Norbery Rodriguez de la Paz, Rene Rubinos Ruiz, Raul Arjona, Roberto Abreu, Adriano Valdez, Carlos Roberto Contreras, Luis Brenes Rojas, Juan Fernández Sánchez.



São Paulo, Brazil

Date. May 22, 2014

Venue. Blue Tree Morumbi Hotel

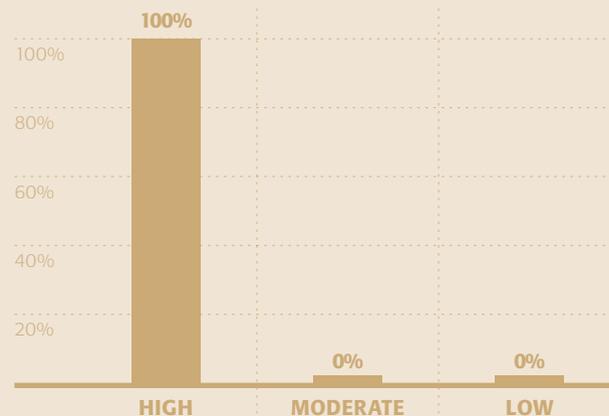
On-site Educational Advisor.
Alexandre Sadao Iutaka – São Paulo, Brazil

Educator.
Fabiana Reboiras – Buenos Aires, Argentina

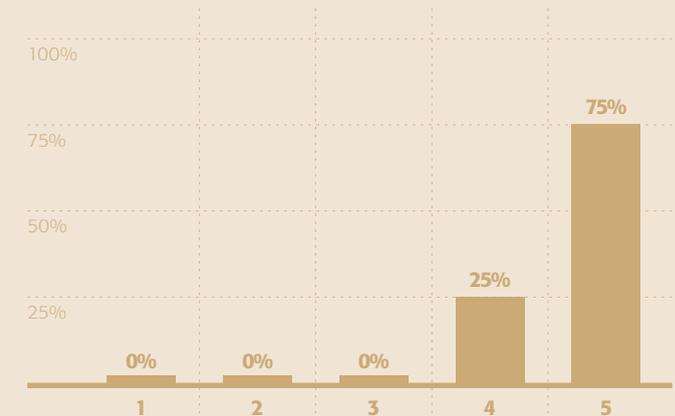
Participants.
Guilherme Meyer, Luciano A. N. Pellegrino, Luciano Miller, Marcelo Mudo, Marcelo Wajchenberg, Nelson Astur Neto, Olavo Letaif, Rafael Wilson de Souza, Ricardo Henrique Dória Netto, Ricardo Shigueaki Galhego Umeta, Roger Brock, Rogério Resende.

The next graphs show the evaluation results for the Faculty Training events.

Contribution to learning and utility of the online module



Commitment to change



Chairperson Training

We continued to develop the Chairperson Training activities in 2014 as part of the training programs for our educational staff. As in the previous years, the Chairs who were to be in charge of Courses and Symposia during the year were selected to receive the Training. Through the activity, which was based on the use of the AOSpine Curriculum, the future Chairpersons could get familiar with knowledge and information concerning the competences, goals and learning outcomes, teaching methods, assessment and evaluation and feedback tools. The Training also helped Chairs understand the invaluable importance of the Educational Advisor and their role as an academic event planner and organizer.

This year, the Training took place in Curitiba, Brazil, where participants got together for two days of hard work. Through different activities, the Chairs were able to work on the organization and planning of their respective events, receiving instant feedback from their peers, which helped enrich the scientific and academic quality of the educational activities.



Curitiba, Brazil

Date. February 12-13, 2014

Venue. Pestana Hotel

On-site Educational Advisor.

Alexandre Sadao Iutaka – São Paulo, Brazil

Educator.

Fabiana Reboiras – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Participants.

Alberto Gotfryd (Brazil), Álvaro Silva (Chile), Cesar Covarrubia (Venezuela), Ernesto Fleites (Cuba), Herman Michael Dittmar (Mexico), José Vasconez (Ecuador), Luis Arango (Colombia), Michael H. Hinojosa (Peru), Julio Pozuelos (Guatemala), Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia), Oscar Carreras Scotto (Uruguay), Oscar Martínez (Mexico), Reddy Simón (Paraguay), Ratko Yurac (Chile), Robert Meves (Brazil), Víctor Davila (Venezuela).



“As a result of what I learned, I will now be able to organize courses based on the AOSpine Curriculum, optimizing knowledge acquisition through dynamic and interactive formats.”

T4C participant

“The Training was easily accessible and developed with a great deal of knowledge. We could feel the Educators were eager to teach and share their experience with us.”

T4C participant



The list of all the trained Faculty members in the region is presented in the following.

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Alejandro Betemps	ARG	X		X	X		X
Alejandro Mengotti	ARG	X					
Andrés Cervio	ARG	X					X
Carlos Mounier	ARG	X					
Carlos Sola	ARG	X					
Cristian Illanes	ARG	X					
Eduardo Galaretto	ARG	X					X
Enrique Gutiérrez	ARG	X					
Ernesto Bersusky	ARG	X					
Javier Martínez	ARG	X					
Jorge Cancinos	ARG	X					
Jorge Lambre	ARG	X					
José Prina	ARG	X					
Juan Emmerich	ARG	X			X	X	
Juan Pablo Guyot	ARG		X				
Julio Bassani	ARG		X				
Lucas Rueda	ARG	X					
Marcelo Amaro	ARG	X					
Marcelo Gruenberg	ARG	X		X			X
Marcelo Valacco	ARG	X			X	X	X
Mario Fleita Pedrazzi	ARG	X					
Martín Medina	ARG	X					
Matías Petracchi	ARG	X					
Néstor Fiore	ARG	X		X		X	X
Nicolas Ciccioi	ARG		X				
Oswaldo Romano	ARG	X			X		
Pablo Jalón	ARG		X				

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Pedro Luis Bazán	ARG	X			X	X	X
Ramiro Barrera	ARG	X					
Ramiro Gutierrez	ARG	X					
Ruben A. Morales Ciancio	ARG	X					X
Eddy Antonio Dorado Alanez	BOL		X				
Edmundo Antezana	BOL		X				
Jaime Linares	BOL		X		X		X
Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo	BOL	X			X		X
Luis Duchén Rodríguez	BOL		X				
Marcel Jemio	BOL		X				
Marco Antonio Paredes Nuñez	BOL		X				
Martín Aliaga	BOL		X				
Rene Torrejon	BOL		X				
Albert Brasil	BRA	X					
Alberto Capel Cardoso	BRA	X					
Alberto Gotfryd	BRA	X			X		
Alexandre Fogaça Cristante	BRA	X		X			
Alexandre Sadao Iutaka	BRA	X		X	X	X	
Amancio Ramalho Jr	BRA	X					
Amauri Godinho Jr	BRA	X					
André Hübner	BRA	X					
Antonio Braconi	BRA	X					
Asdrubal Falavigna	BRA	X			X	X	
Augustín Malzac	BRA	X					
Carlos Engelhorn	BRA	X					
Carlos Tucci	BRA	X		X			
Chárbel Jacob Jr	BRA	X					

AOS T4F AOSpine Faculty Training

- T4F 1** Complete program
- T4F 2** Mini Faculty Training (extended pre-course)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Cristiano Menezes	BRA	X					
Délio Martins	BRA	X					
Eduardo von Uhlendorff	BRA	X		X	X		
Emiliano Vialle	BRA	X		X		X	X
Fabiano Canto	BRA	X					
Fernando Dantas	BRA	X					
Fernando Façanha Filho	BRA	X					
Geraldo Sá Carneiro	BRA	X		X			X
Guilherme Meyer	BRA	X					
Helton Defino	BRA	X					X
Henrique Jorge	BRA	X					
Jefferson Galves	BRA	X					
Jerônimo Milano	BRA	X			X		
José Augusto Araujo	BRA	X					
Luciano Miller	BRA	X					
Luciano Pellegrino	BRA	X					
Luís Eduardo Rocha	BRA	X					
Luiz Vialle	BRA	X		X			X
Luiz Felipe Carvalho	BRA	X					
Luiz Gustavo Dal'Oglio Rocha	BRA	X					
Marcelo Mudo	BRA	X					
Marcelo Wajchenberg	BRA	X					
Marcio Vinhal	BRA	X					
Marcos Tebet	BRA	X					
Marcus Alexandre Mello Santos	BRA	X					
Mario Taricco	BRA	X		X		X	X
Maurício Calais	BRA	X					

AOS T4C AOSpine Chairperson Training

- T4C 1** Chairperson Training (before 2012)
- T4C 2** Chairperson Training (Curriculum)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Mauricio Gusmão	BRA	X					
Mauro Volpi	BRA	X					
Nelson Astur Neto	BRA	X					
Olavo Letaif	BRA	X					
Osmar Moraes	BRA	X		X	X	X	X
Paulo Cavali	BRA	X					X
Rafael Souza	BRA	X					
Raphael Martus Marcon	BRA	X					
Ricardo Botelho	BRA	X					
Ricardo Ribeiro	BRA	X		X	X	X	X
Ricardo Umeta	BRA	X					
Ricardo Dória Netto	BRA	X					
Robert Meves	BRA	X		X	X		X
Roger Brock	BRA	X					
Rogério Resende	BRA	X					
Ronald Farias	BRA	X					
Sérgio Daher	BRA	X					
Túlio Rangel	BRA	X					
Ubirajara Bley Filho	BRA	X					
Wagner Pasqualini	BRA	X					
William Teixeira	BRA	X			X		
Alejandro Urzúa	CHL	X					X
Aliro San Martín	CHL	X			X	X	
Álvaro Silva	CHL	X			X		
Andres Lisoni	CHL	X					
Bartolomé Marré	CHL	X		X		X	
Carlos Valenzuela	CHL		X				

AOS T4EA AOSpine Educational Advisor Training

- AOSLA FI** AOSLA Faculty Improvement

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Enrique Concha Julio	CHL	X					
Enzo Mantelli	CHL	X					
Gonzalo Arriagada Ocampo	CHL	X					
José Vicente Ballesteros Plaza	CHL		X				
Lyonel Beaulieu	CHL	X					
Manuel Valencia	CHL	X					
Marcela Chamorro	CHL	X					
Marcos Ganga	CHL	X					
Martín Hidalgo	CHL	X					
Mauricio Campos	CHL	X					
Milan Munjin	CHL	X					
Osvaldo Ojeda Serrano	CHL	X					
Patricio Bustos	CHL	X					
Patricio Melero	CHL		X				
Ratko Yurac	CHL	X		X			
Roberto Postigo	CHL	X		X		X	
Rodolfo Lopez Allendes	CHL	X					X
Samuel Pantoja	CHL	X		X			X
Yokota Beuret	CHL			X			
Andrés Rodríguez Munera	COL	X		X		X	X
Carlos Alberto Mora Ojeda	COL						X
Carlos Alberto Carmona Lourdy	COL		X				
Constanza Bedoya	COL		X				
Fernando Helo Yamhure	COL	X					
Fernando Alvarado Gomez	COL		X				
Guido Pugliese	COL	X					
Jaime Segura	COL	X					

AOS T4F AOSpine Faculty Training

- T4F 1** Complete program
- T4F 2** Mini Faculty Training (extended pre-course)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Javier Matta	COL	X					
Julián España Peña	COL		X				
Luis Arango	COL	X			X		
Luis Carlos Morales Sáenz	COL	X					X
Mario Herrera	COL	X					
Miguel Alejandro Alfonso	COL	X					
Nelson Morales	COL		X		X		
Néstor Guzmán	COL	X			X		
Néstor Taboada	COL	X			X	X	X
Pablo Vela	COL	X		X		X	X
Ricardo Londoño	COL						X
Ricardo Restrepo	COL	X					
Rodolfo Paez Gonzalez	COL		X				
Alexander Valverde	CRI	X			X		
Edgar Jiménez Masis	CRI	X					
Hector Torres	CRI	X					
Hugo Dobles	CRI	X					
Javier Brenes	CRI	X					
Javier Gutierrez	CRI	X					
José Pérez-Berrios	CRI	X					
Juan Fernández Sánchez	CRI	X					
Luis Alejandro Saenz Orozco	CRI	X					
Luis Eugenio Brenes Rojas	CRI	X					
Mario Solano Salas	CRI	X					
Carlos Santos	CUB	X					
Eddy Almira	CUB	X					
Ernesto Fleites	CUB	X			X		

AOS T4C AOSpine Chairperson Training

- T4C 1** Chairperson Training (before 2012)
- T4C 2** Chairperson Training (Curriculum)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Madelin Sosa	CUB	X					
Norbery Rodríguez de la Paz	CUB	X					
Raul Candebat	CUB	X					
Rene Rubinos	CUB	X					
Adriano Valdez	DOM	X					
Giovanni Ureña	DOM	X					
Iohan Fernandez	DOM	X					
Roberto Abreu	DOM	X					
Elio Ramirez	ECU	X					
Ernesto Vargas Rivadeneira	ECU						X
Gladys Pavón	ECU	X		X			
Jaime Pavón	ECU						X
Jose Vasconez	ECU	X			X		
Juan Lasso	ECU						X
Luis Guijarro	ECU						X
Mario P. Zumarraga Velasco	ECU	X		X			X
Martha Hernández Gálvez	ECU	X			X		X
Raúl Chimbo Jurado	ECU	X					
Erick Rodas	GTM	X					
Juan Pablo De León Palacios	GTM	X			X		
Julio Luis Pozuelos Lopez	GTM	X			X		
Otto Alvarado Ortiz	GTM	X					
Rafael De la Riva Rohrmoser	GTM	X					
Carlos Contreras	HND	X					
Antonio Hurtado	MEX		X				
Armando Alpizar-Aguirre	MEX	X					
Arturo Rodríguez Montalvo	MEX	X					

AOS T4EA AOSpine Educational Advisor Training

- AOSLA FI** AOSLA Faculty Improvement

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Aurelio Ramirez	MEX	X			X		
Catarino López	MEX	X					X
Cesar Gonzalez	MEX	X					
Cristóbal Herrera Palacios	MEX	X					
David Servin Carmona	MEX	X					
Diana Guerrero Alvarez	MEX	X					
Edgar Abel Marquez	MEX		X				
Federico Cisneros	MEX	X					X
Felix Adolfo Sanchez Chavez	MEX	X					
Gustavo Caldera	MEX	X					
Gustavo Casas	MEX	X	X				
Hernando Cuevas	MEX	X					
Hugo Vilchis Sámano	MEX	X					
Jesus Bernal-Marquez	MEX	X					
Jorge Cabrera	MEX	X	X				
José Estrada Mastache	MEX	X			X		
José Jimenez	MEX	X					
José Ernesto Garcia	MEX	X					
Juan Reina Gama	MEX	X					X
Juan Carlos Valle Landa	MEX	X					
Leonardo Pérez Hernandez	MEX	X					
Luis Rosales	MEX	X					
Martín Tejeda	MEX	X			X	X	X
Mauricio Montalvo Galindo	MEX	X					
Michael Dittmar	MEX	X			X		X
Oscar Martínez	MEX	X			X		
Pedro Reyes	MEX	X					

AOS T4F AOSpine Faculty Training
T4F 1 Complete program
T4F 2 Mini Faculty Training (extended pre-course)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Ricardo Andaluz	MEX	X					
Roberto Chapa	MEX	X		X		X	X
Ruben Cardenas	MEX	X					
Victor Flores-Verdugo	MEX	X					
Manuel J. Orozco Membreño	NIC	X					
Antonio Mock	PAN	X					
Carlos Briceño Sarasqueta	PAN	X					
José Neira	PAN	X					
Mitzadi Ordoñez	PAN	X					
Raul Arjona	PAN	X					X
Alejandro Diaz Calvo	PER	X					
Alfonso Basurco	PER		X				
Alfredo Vasquez Rodriguez	PER	X					X
Arturo Morales	PER	X		X	X		
Carlos Cárdenas	PER	X		X			
Daniel Cauti De la Cruz	PER	X		X			X
Francisco Salinas Malaga	PER		X				
Hernán José Valdivia Sosa	PER	X		X			X
Marco Medina	PER	X			X	X	X
Marleny Llerena	PER	X		X			
Michael Hinojosa	PER	X		X	X		
Olger Alarcon	PER		X				
Raul Macchiavello	PER						X
Robert Rosado Inga	PER		X				
Reddy Simón	PGY	X			X		
Edgardo Spagnuolo Dondero	URY				X		
Fernando García	URY	X					

AOS T4C AOSpine Chairperson Training
T4C 1 Chairperson Training (before 2012)
T4C 2 Chairperson Training (Curriculum)

Name	Country	AOS T4F		AOS T4C		AOS T4EA	AOSLA FI
		T4F 1	T4F 2	T4C 1	T4C 2		
Oscar Carreras Scotto	URY	X			X		X
Albaro Barrera	VEN	X					
Armando Pineda-Fernandez	VEN	X					
Cesar Covarrubia	VEN	X			X		
Daniel Onay	VEN						X
Edgar Gonzalez	VEN	X					X
Ernesto Carvalho	VEN	X					
James Cardona	VEN	X					
José Duran Dautant	VEN	X					
José Rafael Otero	VEN	X			X		X
Juan José Valero Quintero	VEN	X					
Luis Lara Requena	VEN	X					
Manuel Alvarado	VEN	X		X			X
Marlon Diaz	VEN	X					
Nayib Marquez	VEN	X					
Olga Morillo	VEN	X					
Victor Davila	VEN	X			X		X
TOTAL		223	29	29	44	19	45

AOS T4EA AOSpine Educational Advisor Training
AOSLA FI AOSLA Faculty Improvement

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2014

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES STATISTICS 76

ARGENTINA

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma	79
Bahia Blanca – April 5, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications	80
Buenos Aires – July 25– 26, 2014	
AOSpine Principles Seminar: Spinal trauma	80
Salta – September 6, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (SAPCV): Trauma–New classification	80
Córdoba – October 1, 2014	
AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Thoracolumbar trauma	81
La Plata – October 30, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (Neuropinamar)	81
Pinamar – November 28–29, 2014	

BRAZIL

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents	83
São Paulo – February 21–22, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course: Anterior approach and spinal osteotomy	84
Curitiba – March 28–29, 2014	
2nd AOSpine Research Seminar: New era in clinical research in spine surgery	84
São Paulo – April 11–12, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Minimally invasive surgery	85
São Paulo – May 23–24, 2014	
AOSpine Seminar: Collaboration between health workers involved in spine-related areas	85
São Paulo – August 9, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Latin American Course: Cadaveric	86
Palm Beach, USA – August 29–30, 2014	
AOSpine Principles Course	86
São Paulo – September 4–6, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Symposium (SBN) Current concepts on spine and spinal chord tumors	87
Curitiba – September 14, 2014	
AOSpine Masters Trans-Congress Symposium (SICOT/CBOT)	87
Rio de Janeiro – November 20, 2014	

BOLIVIA

AOSpine Principles Course	89
Santa Cruz de la Sierra – August 28–29, 2014	

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (Central American Congress of Orthopedics): Complications in spine surgery	91
San José – October 3, 2014	

Cuba

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative lumbar spine	93
La Habana – April 25–26, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar: Thoracolumbar trauma	93
La Habana – December 5, 2014	

Dominican Republic

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (SLAOT): Trauma	95
Punta Cana – July 19, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal degeneration	95
Santo Domingo – September 27, 2014	

Guatemala

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents	96
Guatemala – May 28, 2014	
AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal degeneration	96
Guatemala – September 5, 2014	

Honduras

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Trauma and degeneration	97
San Pedro – June 6–7, 2014	

Jamaica

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium): Common spinal diseases	98
Montego Bay – February 1, 2014	



Panama

AOSpine Principles Seminar 99
 Panamá – April 11, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal complications 99
 Panamá – October 10, 2014

CHILE

AOSpine Principles Course 100
 Santiago – May 9–10, 2014

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents Ortho and Neuro 1: Cervical trauma 101
 Santiago – August 2, 2014

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents Ortho and Neuro 2: Thoracolumbar and spine tumors 101
 Santiago – October 18, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (Congress of the Chilean Society of Orthopedics and Trauma): Trauma 101
 Santiago – October 29, 2014

COLOMBIA

AOSpine Masters Symposium: AOSpine solutions for complex spinal problems 103
 Cartagena – May 2–3, 2014

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents 104
 Paipa – October 17–18, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal trauma 104
 Bogotá – November 7–8, 2014

ECUADOR

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents and Young Surgeons 106
 Guayaquil – May 30, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (SEOT): Trauma and degeneration 107
 Quito – August 21, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Tumor and infection 107
 Quito – October 24, 2014

MEXICO

AOSpine Principles Trans-Congress Seminar (7th National Congress for Ortho and Trauma Residents) 109
 Querétaro – January 24–25, 2014

AOSpine Principles Course 110
 Querétaro – May 23–24, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Evidence-based medicine–Research and publication 110
 Ciudad de México – May 29, 2014

AOSpine Principles Course 111
 Ciudad de México – May 30–31, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications 111
 Ciudad de México – May 30–31, 2014

AO Latin America Symposium: Bone biomaterial 112
 Ciudad de México – June 14, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Symposium (AMCICO): Trauma 112
 Tuxtla Gutiérrez – September 14, 2014

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Publication 112
 Monterrey – November 1, 2014

PARAGUAY

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Trauma 114
 Asunción – November 14–15, 2014

PERU

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Deformity 115
 Lima – May 24, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications in spine surgery 115
 Lima – September 26–27, 2014

VENEZUELA

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (SVCOT): Minimally invasive surgery 116
 Valencia – September 11–12, 2014

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications 117
 Maturín – October 31–November 01, 2014

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Advanced Courses 119

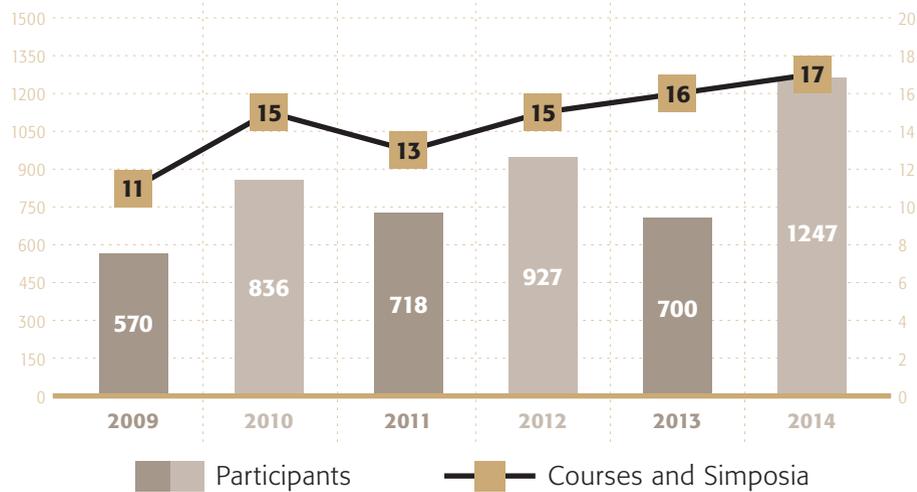
Principles Courses 120

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES STATISTICS

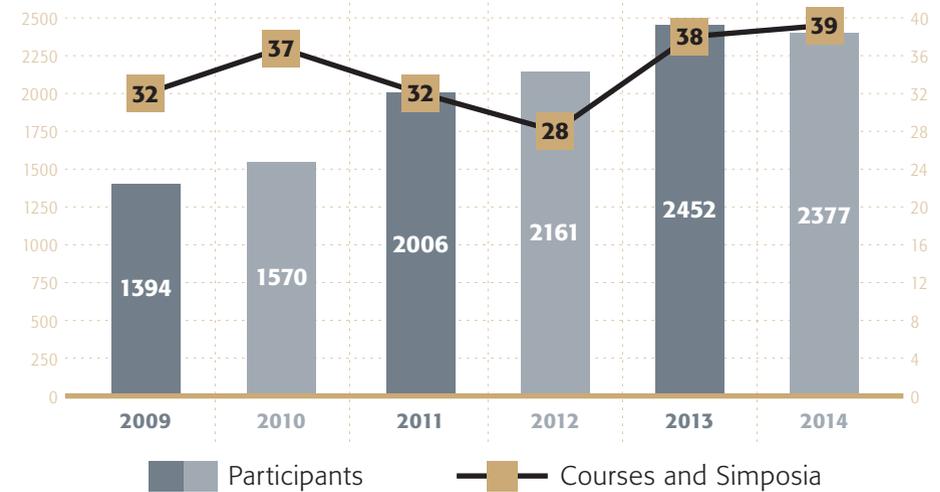
We continued with our growth tendency in regard to the “Educational days X participants” rates this year. AOSpine Latin America organized 56 different events, which included courses, seminars and symposia, at the Principles, Advanced and Masters levels. The 2014 events registered 3624 participants in the region.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Courses & Symposia	11	15	13	15	16	17
Participants	570	836	718	924	700	1.247
Seminars	32	37	32	28	38	39
Participants	1.394	1.570	2.006	2.161	2.452	2.377
Educational events	43	52	45	43	54	56
Participants	1.964	2.406	2.724	3.088	3.152	3.624
Educational days X Participants	3.660	3.770	3.994	4.191	4.202	4.668

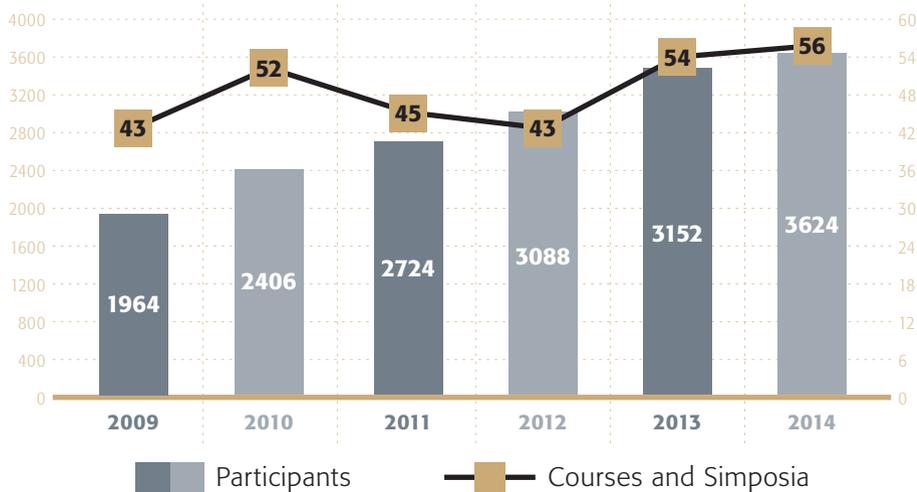
Courses and Simposia



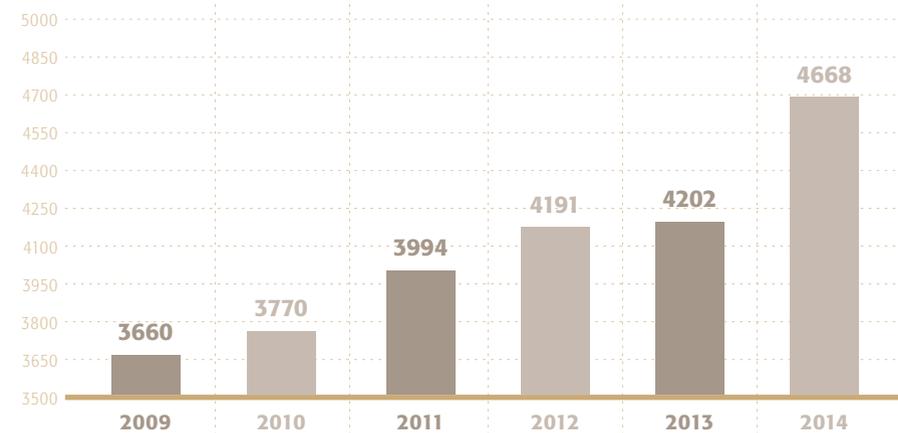
Seminars



Educational events



Educational days X Participants



ARGENTINA



2014 was a very active year for Argentina, with a high demand for educational activities from the members, as well as our ongoing initiative to promote the organization within the country.

One of the activities developed was the **Principles Course**, which took place in the city of Bahia Blanca. The event saw a great number of participants and was supported by the brilliant work of the local organization. In July, we were honored to host the **Advanced Symposium on complications**, which included the participation of two renowned International Faculty members. Another remarkable activity was carried out in September, in Salta, with both members and non-members attending. The participants showed a strong interest in taking part in new educational formats, such as case round-table discussions, as well as the drive to get acquainted with the new fracture classification. The new concepts on classifications were also discussed at the event held in La Plata last October, which also included the participation of notable National Faculty members.

We must thank the work and commitment of all the members and non-members who got more involved with the organization, always operating under the same motto: learning, teaching and getting updated on new medical concepts, with the aim of benefitting our patients' treatment.

We hope to see you again at future events, so that we can continue to get together to strengthen our educational mission and the bonds of friendship we have developed throughout the years.

Marcelo Valacco
Argentina Council Chairperson

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Trauma



April 05, 2014

Venue. Land Plaza Hotel – Bahia Blanca, Argentina

Chairpersons. Ricardo Lucero (Argentina),
Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

National Faculty. Fernando Cesar Iarlori, Gabriel Salman, Martin Alberto, Nicolas De La Iglesia, Van Ooteghem

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 43

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications



July 25–26, 2014

Venue. Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel & Convention Center – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Chairperson. Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

Educational Advisor. Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

International Faculty. Alan Hilibrand (USA), Christopher Shaffrey (USA)

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Ratko Yurac (Chile), Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Robert Meves (Brazil), Samuel Pantoja (Chile)

National Faculty. Juan Guyot, Juan Emmerich, Julio Bassani, Carlos Sola, Marcelo Gruenberg, Néstor Fiore, Osvaldo Romano

Registration fee. Members: USD 500.00
Non Members USD 650.00

Number of participants. 66

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,35 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,37 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,29 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,48 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,18 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,14 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Spinal trauma



September 06, 2014

Venue. Casa Real Hotel – Salta, Argentina

Chairpersons. Ramiro Barrera (Argentina), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

National Faculty. Alberto Jove Choque, Joaquin Alvarado, Diego Carrizo, Eduardo Pacios, Gustavo Martin, Jose Monayer, Rodrigo Torres, Sebastian Dib Ashur, Osvaldo Medina

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 29

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,39 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,41 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,17 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,51 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,20 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (SAPCV): Trauma–New classification



October 01, 2014

Venue. Venue: Sheraton Hotel – Córdoba, Argentina

Chairpersons. Luiz Vialle (Brazil), Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

International Faculty. Alexander Vaccaro (USA)

National Faculty. Alejandro Betemps, Marcelo Gruenberg

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 350

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents: Thoracolumbar trauma



October 30, 2014

Venue. Hospital Italiano – La Plata, Argentina

Chairperson. Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

Virtual Educational Advisor.

Juan Emmerich (Argentina)

National Faculty. Alvaro Borri, Alejandro Betemps, Alejandro Mengotti, Javier Méndez, Martín Medina, Nicolás Ciccioli, Néstor Fiore, Osvaldo Romano

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 18

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,66 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,55 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,75 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	4,75 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,75 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,49 ^{out of 5}

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (Neuropinamar)



November 28–29, 2014

Venue. Marcin Hotel – Pinamar, Argentina

Chairpersons. Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Pablo Jalón (Argentina)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Manuel Valencia (Chile)

National Faculty. Andres Cervio, Jorge Lambre, Juan Jose Mezzadri, Pablo Jalón, Ricardo Prina

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 180

Cancelled activity:

AOSpine Advanced Cadaver Course

October 31–November 01, 2014 | La Plata, Argentina

BRAZIL



The Brazilian AOSpine Board worked on consolidating the course model based on case discussions, thereby continuing to improve the Principles Course even more. This year's course featured more interactivity time and more focus on the conservative treatment of low back pain, presenting a multidisciplinary format which has continuously matured and benefitted from the full use of the Curriculum.

The Research project integrated into the course programs was also implemented in the minimally invasive and Principles courses this year. In addition, we have also worked on forming new Chairpersons, focusing on the importance of pre-, trans- and post-course planning. This effort has also already prepared us for the 2015 Principles Course, which is now almost completed and is only in need of a few adjustments in some of the clinical cases.

From 2012 through to 2015, we will have managed to meet the Principles and Advanced Curriculum requirements in almost all pathologies (trauma, degeneration, tumor and deformity), finalizing the process with a course on osteoporosis (metabolic-inflammatory-genetic) in Porto Alegre in 2015.

Being able to share this work with the other members of the Brazilian Board has been an incredible experience. It has been a pleasure to work with a young and innovative group, driven by a concerted team effort, and we are pleased to have been able to successfully carry out the educational plan to which we agreed in 2012.

Alexandre Sadao
Brazil Council Chairperson



AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents



February 21–22, 2014

Venue. Blue Tree Faria Lima Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil

Chairperson. Jerônimo Milano (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Mario Taricco (Brazil)

National Faculty. Albert Brasil, Alberto Gotfryd, Alexandre Fogaça Cristante, Alexandre Sadao Iutaka, Eduardo von Uhlendorff, Luiz Dal'Ogliio da Rocha, Nelson Astur, Roger Brock, Robert Meves, William Teixeira

Registration fee. Members: USD 125.00
Non Members USD 190.00

Number of participants. 49

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,72 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,80 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,00 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,16 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,44 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course: Anterior approach and spinal osteotomy



March 28–29, 2014

Venue. Universidade Católica do Paraná–PUC PR – Curitiba, Brazil

Chairperson. Luiz Roberto Vialle (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

International Faculty. Finn Christensen (Denmark), Daniel Rosenthal (Germany)

National Faculty. Cláudio Dorigo, Christiano Simões, José Augusto Araújo, Luis Carelli, Ricardo Ribeiro, William Teixeira

Registration fee. Members: USD 1530.00
Non Members USD 1850.00

Number of participants. 40

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,71 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,58 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,47 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,10 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,39 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,45 <small>out of 5</small>

2nd AOSpine Research Seminar: New era in clinical research in spine surgery



April 11–12, 2014

Venue. Grand Mercure Ibirapuera Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil

Chairpersons. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Délio Martins (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. José Jiménez (Mexico)

National Faculty. Alexandre Fogaça Cristante, Angela Tavares Paes, João Belloti, Marianna Porto, Ricardo Botelho, Robert Meves, Rogério Bittencourt, William Teixeira

Registration fee. Members: USD 64.00
Non Members USD 85.00

Number of participants. 28

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,58 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,61 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,85 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,54 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,87 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,69 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Minimally invasive surgery



May 23–24, 2014

Venue. Blue Tree Morumbi Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil

Chairperson. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

International Faculty. Roger Härtl (USA),
Chun-Kun Park (South Korea)

National Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna, Cristiano Menezes,
David del Curto, Guilherme Meyer, Emiliano Vialle,
Ivan da Rocha, Roger Brock, Thiago Coutinho

Registration fee. Members: USD 260.00
Non Members USD 390.00

Number of participants. 49

Course Evaluation

Average Faculty Performance	4,56	out of 5
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,38	out of 5
Scientific Program Content	3,81	out of 5
Quality of Material Received	3,74	out of 5
Course Facilities	4,24	out of 5
Overall Course Evaluation	4,15	out of 5

AOSpine Seminar: Collaboration between health workers involved in spine-related areas



August 09, 2014

Venue. APM Associação Paulista de Medicina – São Paulo, Brazil

Chairpersons. Osmar Moraes (Brazil),
Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil)

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 71

AOSpine Advanced Latin American Course: Cadaveric



August 29–30, 2010

Venue. Depuy Synthes Institute & Palm Beach Gardens Marriott – Palm Beach, USA

Chairperson. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brasil), Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Leonardo Duplat (Colombia)

Registration fee. Members: USD 2000.00
Non Members USD 2200.00

Number of participants. 26

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,54 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,31 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	5,00 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,37 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,03 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,45 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Principles Course



September 04–06, 2014

Venue. Novotel Morumbi Hotel – São Paulo, Brazil

Chairpersons. Alberto Gotfryd (Brazil), William Teixeira (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Néstor Taboada (Colombia), Samuel Pantoja (Chile)

National Faculty. Alexandre Fogaça Cristante, Asdrubal Falavigna, Délio Martins, Eduardo von Uhlendorff, Guilherme Meyer, Jerônimo Milano, Luiz Gustavo Dal'Oglio da Rocha, Mario Taricco, Nelson Astur Neto, Olavo Letaif, Ricardo Umeta, Robert Meves, Roger Brock

Registration fee. Members: USD 935.00
Non Members USD 1050.00

Number of participants. 48

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,75 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,79 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,77 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,20 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,40 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Symposium (SBN): Current concepts on spine and spinal chord tumors



September 14, 2014

Venue. Expo Unimed – Curitiba, Brazil

Chairperson. William Teixeira (Brazil)

Educational Advisor. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil)

International Faculty. Michael Fehlings (Canada), Ziya Gokaslan (USA)

National Faculty. Albert Brasil, André Chen, Ariel Kann, Fernando Dantas, Geraldo Sá Carneiro, Jerônimo Milano, Luiz Vialle, Marcio Vinhal, Mario Taricco, Ricardo Botelho, Ricardo Ribeiro

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 86

AOSpine Masters Trans-Congress Symposium (SICOT/CBOT)



November 20, 2014

Venue. Centro de Convenções SulAmérica – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Chairperson. Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

Internacional Faculty. Alexander Vaccaro (USA), S. Rajasekaran (India)

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)

National Faculty. Emiliano Vialle

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 300

BOLIVIA



This year Bolivia hosted a **Principles Course** in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, which was coordinated by Jaime Linares and counted 32 participants from different parts of the country. The participation of the Regional and National Faculty members, and the great presentations given, met all the participants' expectations and stimulated lively debate and interaction between the doctors present. The practical activity was also very well developed and students were able to benefit a great deal from it.

The **Principles** and **Advanced Virtual Courses** were also an integral part of our activities, and were attended using the different auditoriums in the country, as well as through individual connections.

We are thankful for the contribution of all AOSpine members in Bolivia towards the success of these events and hope to continue developing new activities in 2015.

Juan Marcelo Sea
Bolivia Council Chairperson



AOSpine Principles Course



August 28–29, 2014

Venue. Camino Real Hotel – Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

Chairperson. Jaime Linares (Bolivia)

Educational Advisor. Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Valacco (Argentina),
Pablo Vela (Colombia), Ratko Yurac (Chile)

National Faculty. Eddy Antonio Dorado Alanez,
Edmundo Antezana, Fernando Martín Aliaga Rocabado,
Gueider Salas, Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo,
Luis Miguel Duchén Rodríguez, Marco Antonio Paredes Nuñez,
Ramiro Villavicencio Aponte, Rene Torrejon

Registration fee. Members: USD 430.00
Non Members USD 480.00

Number of participants. 31

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,42 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,43 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,60 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	4,33 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,82 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,32 ^{out of 5}

CENTRAL AMERICA



The educational activities developed in Central America this year took place in Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica and Panama.

These countries were also pleased to host Principles and Advanced Seminars with a wide group of professionals benefitting from the programs developed for the area. The events featured the presence of renowned Faculty members.



COSTA RICA

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (Central American Congress of Orthopedics): Complications in spine surgery



October 03, 2014

Venue. Intercontinental Hotel – San José, Costa Rica

Chairperson. Mario Solano (Costa Rica)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia)

Regional Faculty. Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia)

National Faculty. Alexander Valverde, Andrés Angulo, Edgar Jiménez, Juan Fernández, Luis Brenes

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 32

Cancelled activity:

AOSpine Principles Course

March 21–22, 2014 | San Jose, Costa Rica

CUBA



On April 25-26, we hosted the **Advanced Seminar on vertebral degeneration and infection**, at the Hotel Habana Libre, aimed at orthopedics and neurology doctors specialized in spine surgery. The Seminar was part of the educational activities developed by the spine surgery chapter at the Cuban Society of Neurology and Neurosurgery, and saw the participation of 16 orthopedists and 33 neurosurgeons.

The activity focused on the discussion of nine clinical cases, as well as the presentation of the medical evidence related to these nine topics. Thanks to the dynamic and informative discussions, the activity was able to boast full and well-rounded participant contributions, with lots of individual experience sharing and documented presentations on every topic.

We are very thankful to Enrique De Jonhg, president of the Cuban Society, who enabled the realization of this seminar, the fourth now developed in partnership with AOSpine.

Ernesto Fleites
Cuba Council Chairperson

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Degenerative lumbar spine



April 25–26, 2014

Venue. Habana Libre Hotel – Havana, Cuba

Chairperson. Ernesto Fleites (Cuba)

Educational Advisor. Pablo Vela (Colombia)

Regional Faculty. Mario Taricco (Brazil),
Alexander Valverde (Costa Rica)

National Faculty. Carlos Santos Coto, Eddy Almira, Rene Rubinos

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 35

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar: Thoracolumbar trauma



December 05, 2014

Venue. Habana Libre Hotel – Havana, Cuba

Chairperson. Ernesto Fleites (Cuba)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Michael Dittmar (Mexico)

National Faculty. Madelín Sosa Carrasco,
Norbery Rodríguez de la Paz, Raúl Candebat Rubio

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 25 (estimated)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (SLAOT): Trauma



July 19, 2014

Venue. Hard Rock Hotel – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Chairpersons. Iohan Fernandez (Dominican Republic), Pablo Vela (Colombia)

Regional Faculty. Roberto Postigo (Chile)

National Faculty. Carlos Rodriguez Estevez, Giovanni Ureña, Lizardi De la Cruz, Miguel Luna Ortiz, Roberto Abreu

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 30

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal degeneration



September 27, 2014

Venue. Hilton Hotel – Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Chairpersons. Giovanni Ureña (Dominican Republic), Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina)

National Faculty. Adriano Valdez, Adriano Valdez, Freddy Flores, Iohan Fernandez, Piero Perroni, Roman Santana

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 47

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,55 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,53 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,53 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,10 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,70 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,28 <small>out of 5</small>

GUATEMALA

Thanks to the seminars performed by AOSpine in Guatemala, the country has been able to increase its technical and academic levels in spine surgery. The feedback from participants has been very positive and we are happy to see the satisfaction of the ortho and neuro residents who took part in these events.

In September, the country hosted the **Advanced Seminar on degeneration**, which was a success despite the saddening absence of Germán Ochoa. The event saw the participation of several local doctors, with Roberto Chapa as Regional Faculty.

We hope to carry on with our work through the new AOSpine activities next year, delivering high educational standards for our members and associates.

Julio Pozuelos
Guatemala Council Chairperson

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents



May 28, 2014

Venue. Barceló Hotel – Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Chairperson. Julio Pozuelos (Guatemala)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Regional Faculty. Sergio Anaya Vallejo (Mexico)

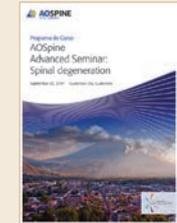
National Faculty. Juan Pablo De León Palacios, Erny Leal Guerra, Gabriel Murga, Pedro Brol

Registration fee. Members: USD 40.00
Non Members USD 45.00

Number of participants. 22

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,48 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,48 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,60 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	4,80 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	4,50 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,57 ^{out of 5}

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal degeneration



September 05, 2014

Venue. Barceló Hotel – Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Chairperson. Julio Pozuelos (Guatemala)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Michael Dittmar (Mexico), Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

National Faculty. Erny Leal, Francisco Díaz, Gabriel Murga, Juan Pablo De León Palacios, Mario Bran, Pedro Brol

Registration fee. Members: USD 50.00
Non Members USD 57.00

Number of participants. 14

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,62 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,74 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,71 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	4,14 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,95 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,43 ^{out of 5}

HONDURAS



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Trauma and degeneration



June 06–07, 2014

Venue. Real Intercontinental Hotel – San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Chairpersons. Carlos Contreras (Honduras), Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Néstor Taboada (Colombia), Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

National Faculty. Ena Miller, Marlon Barahona, Pedro Reyes, Roberto Alvarez

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 21

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,47 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,77 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,80 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	4,40 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,80 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,51 ^{out of 5}

JAMAICA

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium): Common spinal diseases



February 01, 2014

Venue. Montego Bay Convention Center – Montego Bay, Jamaica

ChairpersonS. Roberto Chapa (Mexico), Carl Bruce (Jamaica)

Regional Faculty. Mario Taricco (Brazil)

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 25

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,58 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,80 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,13 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>

PANAMA

We were very happy about the positive responses received during the academic activities developed in 2014. All events showed an overall increase in the number of participants, including residents and young doctors, as well as more experienced surgeons.

We plan on continuing to develop the local educational activities in 2015 with the aim of carrying on our educational mission. Our objective is to keep reaching out to more members every day, to find all those who share our goal of personal and professional growth and, in doing so, to collaborate with the spine community and come together as part of this globally relevant organization.

Raúl Arjona

Panama Council Chairperson

AOSpine Principles Seminar



April 11, 2014

Venue. Crowne Plaza Hotel – Ciudad de Panamá, Panama

Chairpersons. Dionisia Marín Escobar (Panama),
Ricardo Bermudez (Panama)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Martín Tejeda (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Jaime Segura (Colombia)

National Faculty. Andrés Báez, Juan Núñez, Mitzadi Ordoñez,
Raul Arjona

Registration fee. Members: USD 75.00
Non Members USD 100.00

Number of participants. 19

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Spinal complications



October 10, 2014

Venue. Crowne Plaza Hotel – Ciudad de Panamá, Panama

ChairpersonS. Raúl Arjona (Panama)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Sergio Anaya (Mexicano),
Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil)

National Faculty. Andrés Almendral, Andrés Baez, Carlos Briceño,
Héctor Crooks, Nelson Sopalda, Ricardo Bermudez

Registration fee. Members: USD 75.00
Non Members USD 100.00

Number of participants. 22

CHILE

Once again, several academic activities were developed in Chile in 2014, both at the Principles and Advanced levels. Among these activities, two courses focusing on resident doctors took place in Santiago, attracting a total of 50 participants. In addition, we also had the opportunity to participate at a congress in partnership with the Chilean Society of Orthopedics and Trauma (SICOT) for the first time, which was held in October in Viña del Mar. We look forward to having these and other activities again next year.

Aliro San Martín
Chile Council Chairperson



AOSpine Principles Course



May 09–10, 2014

Venue. Atton Vitacura Hotel – Santiago, Chile

Chairperson. Álvaro Silva (Chile)

Educational Advisor. Roberto Postigo (Chile)

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil),
Ricardo Ribeiro (Brazil)

National Faculty. Alejandro Urzúa, Aliro San Martín, Andrés Lisoni,
Bartolomé Marré, Enrique Concha Julio, Enzo Pedro Mantelli,
Jaime Fuentes, Jaime Oyarzó, Julio Urrutia, Manuel Valencia,
Marcelo Butron, Marcos Ganga, Mauricio Campos, Ratko Yurac,
Rodrigo Valenzuela, Samuel Pantoja

Registration fee. Members: USD 468.00

Non Members USD 520.00

Number of participants. 22

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,49 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,56 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,41 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,78 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,09 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,27 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents Ortho and Neuro 1: Cervical trauma



August 02, 2014

Venue. Atton Las Condes Hotel – Santiago, Chile

Chairperson. Manuel Valencia (Chile)

National Faculty. Mauricio Campos Daziano, Ratko Yurac, Juan Zamorano

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members USD 100,00

Number of participants. 30

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents Ortho and Neuro 2: Thoracolumbar and spine tumors



October 18, 2014

Venue. Atton Las Condes Hotel – Santiago, Chile

Chairperson. Ratko Yurac (Chile)

National Faculty. Álvaro Silva, Felipe Rossel, Franco Ravera, Manuel Valencia, Marcos Gangas, Mauricio Campos, Vicente Ballesteros, Roberto Postigo

Registration fee. Members: USD 90,00
Non Members USD 90,00

Number of participants. 21

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,45 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,35 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	3,78 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,67 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,12 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	3,87 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (Congress of the Chilean Society of Orthopedics and Trauma): Trauma



October 29, 2014

Venue. Enjoy Casino & Hotels – Viña del Mar, Chile

Chairperson. Manuel Valencia (Chile)

International Faculty. Carlo Bellabarba (USA)

Regional Faculty. Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

National Faculty. Álvaro Silva, Alejandro Urzúa, Andrés Chahin, Andrés Lisoni, Bartolomé Marré, Felipe Rossel, Gonzalo Arriagada, Javier del Río, Juan Zamorano, Mauricio Campos, Marcos Ganga, Martín Hidalgo, Marcelo Molina, Ratko Yurac, Samuel Pantoja

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 35

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,43 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,34 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	3,84 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,56 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,57 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	3,91 <small>out of 5</small>

COLOMBIA



In 2014, the Colombian Chapter carried out the development of educational activities at both a national and regional level.

In May, we hosted the **Masters Symposium: AOSpine solutions for complex spinal problems** in Cartagena, with Pablo Vela as Chairperson and our dear colleague Germán Ochoa as Educational Advisor. This event was very well received by the participants from throughout the entire region, who benefitted from the friendly atmosphere, the completely interactive format and the high scientific quality standards. The **Principles Seminar for Residents** took place in October, which is a much anticipated event for the youngest generations of participants and reinforces our commitment to the future of the region. Finally in November we concluded our activities with the **Advanced Symposium on vertebral trauma**, which brought together the International Faculty members Alexander Vacarro and Zdenek Klezl. Furthermore, we have also started a program of quarterly forums in smaller cities in Colombia, providing the opportunity for closer ties between our Chapter and spine surgeons from different areas in the country.

The mission to continue developing these great projects remains our leading objective, and we know 2015 awaits us with lots of work to be done.

Jaime Segura
Colombia Council Chairperson



AOSpine Masters Symposium: AOSpine solutions for complex spinal problems



May 02, 2014

Venue. Las Americas Hotel – Cartagena, Colombia

Chairperson. Pablo Vela (Colombia)

International Faculty. Chung Chek Wong (Malaysia), Michael Grevitt (United Kingdom), Claudio Lamartina (Italy), Imad Ahmad (United Arab Emirates) Steven Theiss (USA)

Regional Faculty. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), Juan Emmerich (Argentina), Osmar Moraes (Brazil), Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

National Faculty. Jaime Segura, Néstor Taboada

Registration fee. Members: USD 600.00

Non Members USD 750.00

Number of participants. 69

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,60 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,68 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,65 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,96 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,83 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,34 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents



October 17–18, 2014

Venue. Estelar Paipa Hotel – Paipa, Colombia

Chairperson. Rodolfo Páez (Colombia)

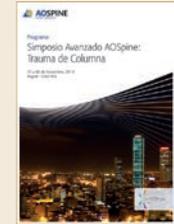
National Faculty. Fernando Alvarado Gómez, David Meneses, Julián España, Jaime Segura, Juan Sierra, Juan Suarez Henao, Leonardo Duplat

Registration fee. Members: USD 650.00
Non Members USD 710.00

Number of participants. 25

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,76 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,75 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,74 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,08 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,51 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,57 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal trauma



November 07–08, 2014

Venue. JW Marriott Hotel – Bogotá, Colombia

Chairperson. Luis Arango (Colombia)

Educational Advisor. Néstor Taboada (Colombia)

International Faculty. Alexander Vaccaro (USA), Zdenek Klezl (United Kingdom)

Regional Faculty. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

National Faculty. Jaime Segura, Javier Matta Ibarra, Leonardo Duplat, Mario Herrera, Miguel Berbeo, Nelson Morales, Pablo Vela, Ricardo Restrepo, Roberto Díaz

Registration fee. Members: USD 450.00
Non Members USD 482.00

Number of participants. 87

ECUADOR



This year, Ecuador continued the seminars aimed at resident doctors, with the participation of the National Congress of Orthopedics and Trauma. According to the evaluations performed, the participants were very satisfied with the educational programs presented and highlighted the importance of the interaction between Faculty members and participants.

We thank the Ecuadorian Board for the work developed, as well the Regional Board and the Faculty members involved in the events, whose contribution was essential to carrying out these activities according to the expected educational standards.

Martha Hernández Gálvez
Ecuador Council Chairperson



AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents and Young Surgeons



May 30, 2014

Venue. Sheraton Hotel – Guayaquil, Ecuador

Chairperson. José Vasconez (Ecuador)

National Faculty. Carlos Arias Pesántez, Marcelo Ochoa, Mario Pinos, Martha Hernández Gálvez, Raúl Chimbo Jurado, Willian Olvera Gómez, Xavier Luis Sánchez Alarcón

Registration fee. Members: USD 100.00
Non Members USD 120.00

Number of participants. 18

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Seminar (SEOT): Trauma and degeneration



August 21, 2014

Venue. Hilton Colon Hotel – Quito, Ecuador

Chairpersons. Martha Hernández Gálvez (Ecuador),
Robert Meves (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Roberto Chapa (Mexico),
Pablo Vela (Colombia)

National Faculty. Carlos Arias Pesàntez, José Vasconez,
Marcelo Ochoa Valarezo

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 30

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,41 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,60 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,51 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Tumor and infection



October 24, 2014

Venue. Sheraton Hotel – Quito, Ecuador

Chairpersons. Marcelo Ochoa (Ecuador), Mario Taricco (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Ratko Yurac (Chile)

National Faculty. Carlos Arias, Jaime Moyano, José Vasconez,
Marcelo Ochoa, Martha Hernández

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 19

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,72 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,67 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	3,50 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	3,77 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,23 <small>out of 5</small>

MEXICO





This year Mexico hosted several AOSpine courses with the purpose of providing wider educational opportunities so as to meet the professional needs of local surgeons.

Similar to previous years, all activities featured a number of renowned Faculty members from all around the world.

AOSpine Principles Trans-Congress Seminar (7th National Congress for Ortho and Trauma Residents)



January 24–25, 2014

Venue. Misión Juriquilla Hotel – Querétaro, Mexico

Chairperson. Jesus Bernal-Marquez (Mexico)

National Faculty. Aurelio Ramirez Consuegra, Gustavo Casas, Martín Tejeda, Roberto Chapa

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 86

AOSpine Principles Course



May 23–24, 2014

Venue. Fiesta Americana Hotel – Querétaro, Mexico

Chairperson. Oscar Martínez (Mexico)

Educational Advisor. Martín Tejeda (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Jaime Segura (Colombia),
Robert Meves (Brazil)

National Faculty. Armando Alpizar-Aguirre,
Arturo Rodríguez Montalvo, Federico Cisneros,
Jesus Bernal Marquez, Jorge Cabrera, Tulancingo Hidalgo,
Pedro Reyes, Sergio Castillo

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members USD 500.00

Number of participants. 35

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,72 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,76 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	N/A <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,74 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Evidence-based medicine–Research and publication



May 29, 2014

Venue. Fiesta Americana Santa Fé Hotel –
Ciudad de México, Mexico

Chairperson. José Jiménez (Mexico)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Martín Tejeda (Mexico)

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil)

National Faculty. Barón Zárate, Leonardo Roberto Palapa,
Manuel Pérez Atanasio, Martín Tejeda, Rubén Torres

Registration fee. Members: USD 500.00
Non Members USD 600.00

Number of participants. 9

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,82 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,85 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,82 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,45 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,48 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,70 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications



May 30–31, 2014

Venue. Fiesta Americana Santa Fé Hotel –
Ciudad de México, Mexico

Chairperson. Martín Tejeda (Mexico)

Educational Advisor. Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

International Faculty. Daniel Riew (USA), Randall Chesnut (USA)

Regional Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Luiz Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty. Alejandro Reyes-Sánchez, Barón Zárate,
Gonzalo Santiago, Gustavo Casas, Michael Dittmar,
Ricardo Andaluz, Sergio Anaya Vallejo

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members USD 300.00

Number of participants. 40

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,75 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,81 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,89 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,18 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,23 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,57 <small>out of 5</small>

AOSpine Principles Course



May 30–31, 2014

Venue. Fiesta Americana Santa Fé Hotel –
Ciudad de México, Mexico

Chairperson. Michael Dittmar (Mexico)

Educational Advisor. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

International Faculty. Daniel Riew (USA), Randall Chesnut (USA)

Regional Faculty. Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez (Peru),
Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Eduardo von Uhlendorff (Brazil),
Luiz Vialle (Brazil), Osmar Moraes (Brazil)

National Faculty. Antonio Hurtado, Barón Zárate,
Edgar Abel Márquez, Gustavo Casas,
Jorge Alberto De Haro Estrada, Jorge Cabrera, José Jiménez,
Martín Tejeda, Ricardo Andaluz, Sergio Anaya Vallejo

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members USD 500.00

Number of participants. 49

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,51 <small>out of 5</small>
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,64 <small>out of 5</small>
Scientific Program Content	4,31 <small>out of 5</small>
Quality of Material Received	4,20 <small>out of 5</small>
Course Facilities	4,21 <small>out of 5</small>
Overall Course Evaluation	4,37 <small>out of 5</small>

AO Latin America Symposium: Bone biomaterial



June 14, 2014

Venue. Marriot Polanco Hotel – Ciudad de México, Mexico

Chairpersons. Roberto Chapa (Mexico),
Michael Dittmar (Mexico)

International Faculty. Vikas Patel (USA)

National Faculty. Antonio Hurtado, Federico Cisneros

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 76

AOSpine Principles Seminar: Publication



November 01, 2014

Venue. Safi Centro Hotel – Monterrey, Mexico

Chairpersons. Felix Sanchez (Mexico),
José María Jiménez (Mexico)

National Faculty. Antonio Morales, Edgar Márquez, Manuel Pérez,
Pedro Reyes, Roberto Palapa, Rubén Torres

Registration fee. Members: Free | Non Members USD 33.00

Number of participants. 26

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Symposium (AMCICO): Trauma



September 14, 2014

Venue. Centro de Convenciones Tuxtla Gutiérrez – Chiapas, Mexico

Chairperson. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

International Faculty. Alexander Vaccaro (USA)

Regional Faculty. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

National Faculty. Barón Zárate, Gustavo Casas, Michael Dittmar,
Martín Tejeda, Oscar Martínez, Sergio Anaya

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 450

Cancelled activity:

AOSpine Advanced Cadaver Course: Current approach on spinal cord
October 16–18, 2014 | Monterrey, Mexico

PARAGUAY



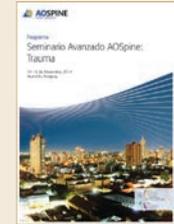
A new **AOSpine Seminar**, focusing on vertebral trauma, took place in Asunción this year. The theme was chosen due to the fact that this has become an increasingly frequent pathology in our daily practice, considering the rising numbers of accidents involving spinal trauma.

This activity delivered up-to-date knowledge on the new approaches for treatment, especially in regard to occipitocervical stabilization, as well as providing the chance to get to know the practical use of the new AO Thoracolumbar Fractures Classification.

Reddy Simón
Paraguay Council Chairperson



AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Trauma



November 14–15, 2014

Venue. Crowne Plaza Hotel – Asunción, Paraguay

Chairpersons. Reddy Simón (Paraguay),
Carlos Feltes (Paraguay)

Regional Faculty. Alexandre Sadao (Brazil),
Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

National Faculty. Cristian Miltos, Elio Marín, Fabrizio Frutos,
Hugo Kunzle, Juan Jara, Juan Silva,

Registration fee. Members: USD 200.00
Non Members USD 300.00

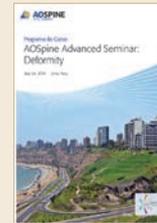
Number of participants. 10

PERU



This year Peru hosted very important AOSpine advanced courses, such as the **AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications in spine surgery** and **AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Deformity**. Both hosted in Lima and counted more than 50 registered participants.

AOSpine Advanced Seminar: Deformity



May 24, 2014

Venue. Novotel Hotel – Lima, Peru

Chairpersons. Rene Chirinos (Peru)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil)

Regional Faculty. Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Samuel Pantoja (Chile)

National Faculty. Alfonso Basurco, Carlos Cárdenas, Daniel Cauti De la Cruz, Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez, Edgar Morales Vasquez

Registration fee. Members: USD 125.00

Non Members USD 150.00

Number of participants. 29

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,18 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,34 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	3,70 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	3,10 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,54 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	3,77 ^{out of 5}

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications in spine surgery



September 26–27, 2014

Venue. Novotel Hotel – Lima, Peru

Chairpersons. Michael Hinojosa (Peru)

Educational Advisor. Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

International Faculty. Maximo Alberto Diez Ulloa (Spain)

Regional Faculty. Roberto Postigo (Chile)

National Faculty. Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez, Arturo Morales, Pedro Leonidas Soto Padilla

Registration fee. Members: USD 250.00

Non Members USD 300.00

Number of participants. 26

Course Evaluation	
Average Faculty Performance	4,21 ^{out of 5}
Average Importance to Daily Practice	4,37 ^{out of 5}
Scientific Program Content	4,23 ^{out of 5}
Quality of Material Received	3,36 ^{out of 5}
Course Facilities	3,83 ^{out of 5}
Overall Course Evaluation	4,00 ^{out of 5}

VENEZUELA

The first academic activity organized for 2014 in Venezuela was supposed to be a Principles Course, planned to take place in April, in Caracas. Sadly, the event had to be cancelled due to the political instability and violence in the country at the time. A few months later, in September, we were fortunate enough to be able to hold an **Advanced Transcongress Seminar (SVCOT)**, which had the use of minimally invasive procedures as its main theme. The event boasted outstanding academic standards and high levels of attendance by participants.

According to the calendar of educational events, we still have one pending activity for 2014, which will be carried out next January. The **Advanced Symposium on complications** will feature the participation of Max Aebi, Dante Marchesi, Roberto Chapa and Emiliano Vialle, and will take place in Maturín.

José Rafael Otero
Venezuela Council Chairperson



AOSpine Advanced Pre-Congress Seminar (SVCOT): Minimally invasive spine surgery



September 11–12, 2014

Venue. World Trade Center Esperia – Valencia, Venezuela

Chairperson. José Rafael Otero (Venezuela)

Virtual Educational Advisor. Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

Regional Faculty. Andrés Rodríguez (Colombia),
Pedro Bazán (Argentina)

National Faculty. Cesar Covarrubia, Nelson Cruz, Victor Dávila,
Marlon Díaz, José Duran, Ileana Escobar, Juan Hernández,
Luis Lara, Hazem Nicola, Alejandro Pérez, Armando Pineda,
José Rodríguez

Registration fee. Free

Number of participants. 43

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications*



October 31–November 01, 2014

Venue. Stauffer Hotel – Maturin, Venezuela

Chairpersons. Victor Dávila (Venezuela)

Educational Advisor. Emiliano Valle (Brazil)

International Faculty. Dante Marchesi (Switzerland),
Max Aebi (Switzerland)

Regional Faculty. Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

National Faculty. Albaro Barrera, César Covarrubia, Marlos Díaz

Registration fee. Members USD 450.00

Non members USD 550.00

Number of participants. Pending

***Rescheduled to January 23–24, 2015**

Cancelled activity:

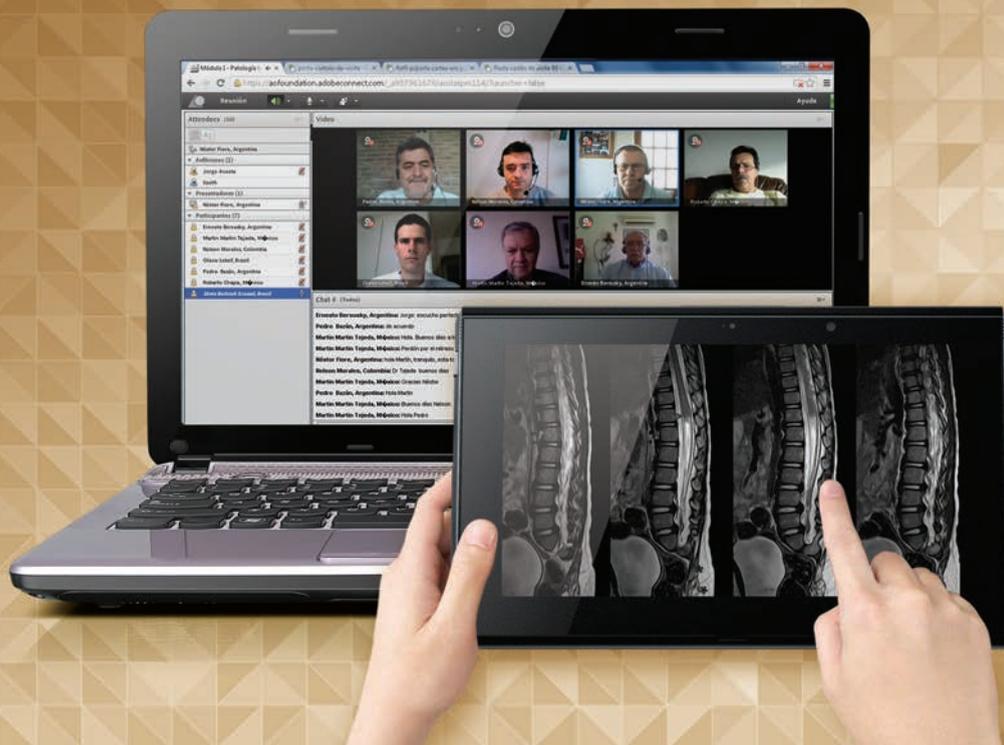
AOSpine Principles Seminar

April 04–05, 2014 | Caracas, Venezuela

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

In 2014, AOSLA completed the seventh consecutive year of the Virtual Course with great success. The Course allows participants to get connected and attend from any geographical location in the region, via an individual connection or through visiting one of our auditoriums. This year, participants had the opportunity to participate using one of the eight different auditoriums in Latin America: La Paz and Santa Cruz, in Bolivia; Ibagué, Bucaramanga, Medellín, Bogotá and Barranquilla, in Colombia; and Monterrey, in Mexico.

The virtual space currently used provides a high quality transmission, thereby facilitating the exchange of information and interaction between Faculty members and participants.



This year we carried out the activity for the seventh year in a row, maintaining the two Courses presented in the last years: two Principle modules and four Advanced modules, each two hours in length.

There were a total of 24 Faculty members taking part in both activities, which is a similar level of participation to 2013. Following a trend initiated in the past, we employed less Faculty members in the activities, which improved the organization of the Course and the exchange of ideas with participants without compromising the quality of the contents presented.

Around 80% of participants got connected via individual connections, either from their homes or workplace. The percentage of resident doctors who participated is similar in both Courses: 13% on the Principles modules, and 15% on the Advanced modules.

In respect to the technical aspects, we can say that the Virtual Courses are continuously improving, as this year we managed to ensure stable connections and good image and audio quality for every session – both in individual connections and for the auditoriums.

The performance of preparatory activities with the lecturers, so as to adjust the technical aspects and revise the scientific content, are key to achieving a successful event, as is the support provided by the AOSLA Office.

The AOSLA Virtual Courses continue to be an activity of great interest for participants, allowing all of us to share and spread knowledge on spine-related topics in Latin America. The challenge for the next years is to continue improving the Courses and maintain a high level of scientific interest, while also sustaining the interaction between the different countries in the region.

Néstor Fiore, Argentina
Course Coordinator

Principles courses

Module I.

Trauma, Tumor and Deformity

Date. March 22, 2014

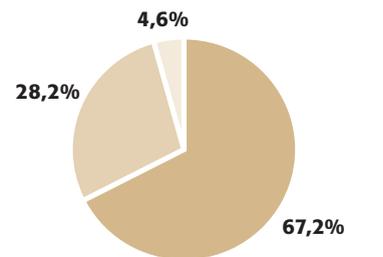
Course Coordinators. Néstor Fiore (Argentina), Germán Ochoa (Colombia)

Faculty. Ernesto Bersusky (Argentina), Martín Tejada (Mexico), Nelson Morales (Colombia), Olavo Letaif (Brazil), Pedro Bazán (Argentina), Roberto Chapa (Mexico)

Number of participants in auditorium. 49

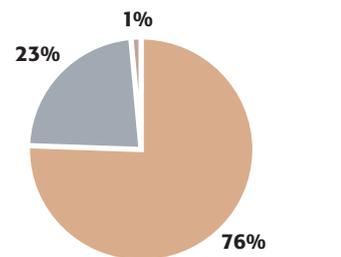
Number of participants via individual connections. 104

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



Very interesting	67,2%
Interesting	28,2%
Average	4,6%

What is your opinion on the format and structure of the course?



Very good	76%
Good	23%
Regular	1%

Getting to know the Virtual Courses was a great pleasure for me. It's very practical and allows me to follow the Course and the lectures from my cell phone in perfect quality. The concepts were very well explained and the images presented were on point. I will definitely carry on with these Courses, besides the other activities, in order to improve spine surgery in my community.

Alejandro Ibáñez, Bolivia
Participant

Module II.

Degeneration, Infection and IMG

Date. August 16, 2014

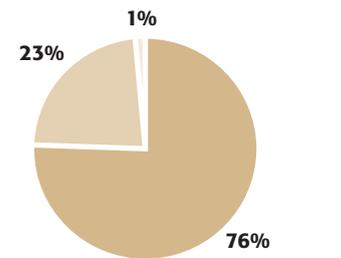
Course Coordinator. Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Cristian Illanes (Argentina), Jaime Segura (Colombia), Juan Marcelo Sea Aramayo (Bolivia), Marcelo Valacco (Argentina)

Number of participants in auditorium. 18

Number of participants via individual connections. 101

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



Very interesting	76%
Interesting	23%
Average	1%

Advanced courses

Module I.

Trauma

Date. April 26, 2014

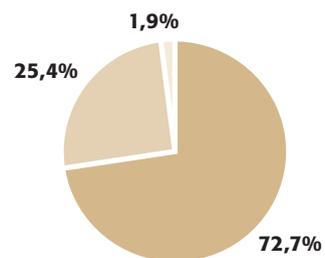
Course Coordinators. Néstor Fiore (Argentina), Germán Ochoa (Colombia)

Faculty. Asdrubal Falavigna (Brazil), Ratko Yurac (Chile)

Number of participants in auditorium. 20

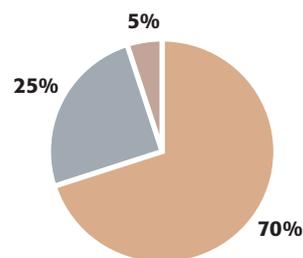
Number of participants via individual connections. 126

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



Very interesting	72,7%
Interesting	25,4%
Average	1,9%

What is your opinion on the format and structure of the course?



Very good	70%
Good	25%
Regular	5%
Average	0%

Module II.

Tumor and Deformity

Date. June 07, 2014

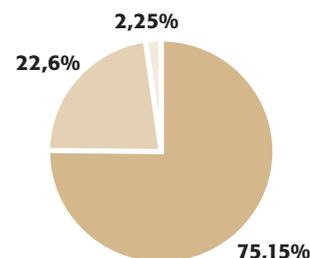
Course Coordinators. Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Faculty. Carlos Montero Silva (Colombia), Eduardo von Uhlendorff (Brazil), William Teixeira (Brazil)

Number of participants in auditorium. 23

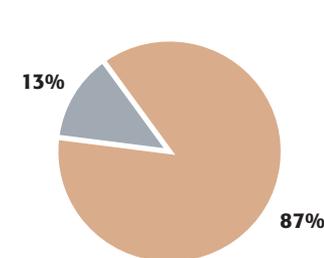
Number of participants via individual connections. 104

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



Very interesting	75,15%
Interesting	22,6%
Average	2,25%
Regular	0%

What is your opinion on the format and structure of the course?



Very good	87%
Good	13%
Regular	0%
Average	0%

Module III.

Infection and IMG

Date. October 04, 2014

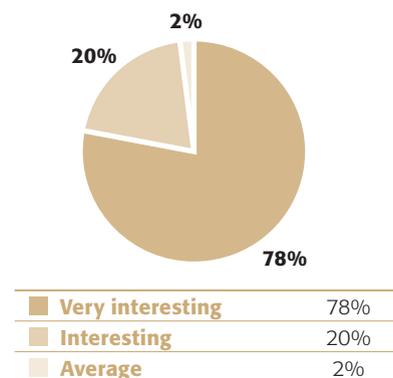
Course Coordinators. Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Faculty. Emiliano Vialle (Brazil), José María Jiménez (Mexico), Luiz Gustavo Dal'Oglío da Rocha (Brazil), Robert Meves (Brazil)

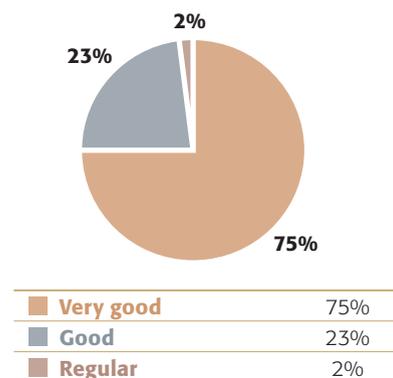
Number of participants in auditorium. 19

Number of participants via individual connections. 95

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



What is your opinion on the format and structure of the course?



Module IV.

Degeneration

Date. November 22, 2014

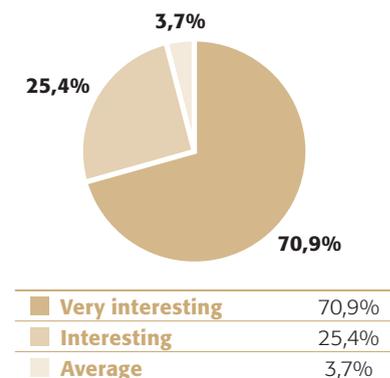
Course Coordinators. Néstor Fiore (Argentina)

Faculty. Alfredo Vásquez Rodríguez (Peru), Marcelo Gruenberg (Argentina), Osvaldo Romano (Argentina), Pablo Vela (Colombia)

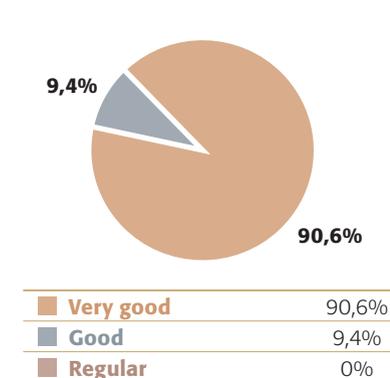
Number of participants in auditorium. 25

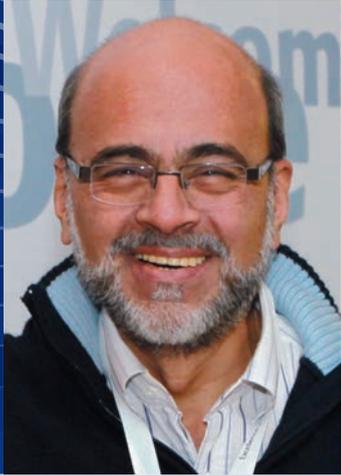
Number of participants via individual connections. 95

What is your opinion on the scientific content?



What is your opinion on the format and structure of the course?





Germán Ochoa—A life, a legacy

This section pays tribute to Dr. Germán Ochoa through a collection of his most relevant professional achievements, both in Latin America and worldwide.

At the age of 34, after the completion of his education in Mexico, the United States and Europe, Germán Ochoa returned to Colombia and began work in the field of pain management in 1986, as a spine surgeon and pain specialist. In the same year, Germán and other fellow pain specialists founded a practice in Bogotá, Colombia, where he spent a lengthy time working in the field of acute and chronic pain, with special emphasis on the lumbar area, and neuropathic pain.

After a few years, and as a result of his unquestionable dedication and perseverance, Germán Ochoa became a founding member of the Colombian Association for the Study of Pain (ACED) in 1988. Germán served as president of the Association for two terms, in 1993–1996 and 1998–1999.

In 1992, Germán co-founded the Latin American Federation of IASP Chapters (FEDELAT), in which he served as president from 1999 to 2002. In 2007, he coordinated the FEDELAT meeting with health ministers from the Latin American member countries and the Andean Community of Nations, in an effort to improve pain treatment in Latin America. Alongside these activities, he also published numerous scientific articles, chapters and books on pain management.

Germán Ochoa was president of the Colombia Society of Orthopedics Surgery and Trauma (SCCOT), as well as Professor at the Military University Nueva Granada and Rosario University. Additionally, he was also a member of the Orthopedics and Trauma Department at the University Hospital San Rafael, in Bogotá, where he was Chief of the Spine and Pain Treatment Unit.



Germán Ochoa and AO

Germán Ochoa first made himself noticeable through his passion for the AO education and, in particular, through his commitment to AOSpine. Germán started his activities at AOSpine as a founding member of AOSpine Latin America, being the first president of the Education Committee (LASEC) in 2000. He was also elected Chairperson of the AOSpine Education Commission from 2011 to 2014.

During his countless engagements as Faculty at AOSpine events, Germán chaired three AOSpine Courses in Davos, Switzerland; co-chaired the Global Spine Congress in Hong Kong in 2013, starting the AO Surgery Reference module on spine; was one of the driving forces behind the advanced program for Faculty formation; and coordinated the development and implementation of educational projects at the international level, such as the AOSpine Curriculum, among many other achievements.

Particularly in Latin America, Germán Ochoa had played an integral part in a great number of educational activities since the very beginning, of which we would like to highlight the following.



First Chairperson of the Central American & Caribbean Task Force

The Central American & Caribbean Task Force was created in 2008 under the leadership of Germán Ochoa, aiming at stimulating the participation of this part of the region in AOSpine's educational projects, besides helping strengthen the bond with local academic institutions. Countries such as Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama and the Dominican Republic have been part of this great undertaking, boosting the educational offers in the area.



First AOSpine Virtual Course

In 2009, AOSpine Latin America developed a virtual course for the first time, thereby pioneering the use of online education in spine surgery. Germán Ochoa played a crucial role as Chairperson of the activity, alongside Néstor Fiore as Educational Director of the course. The activity, unique and ahead of its time, was composed of eight modules which were broadcast in 14 auditoriums throughout Latin America, as well as over individual connections. It saw the participation of over 150 people (in auditoriums and online) and became an academic model which has been implemented regionally and internationally until today.



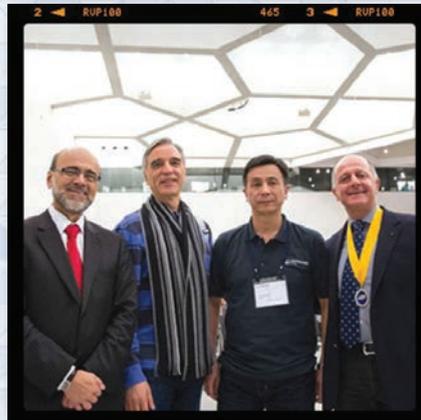
First AOSpine Seminar in Cuba

In 2011, the Cuban Chapter celebrated Cuba's first AOSpine academic activity together with Germán Ochoa, taking place in the Clínica Cira García, in Habana. This first AOSpine event in the country was only possible due to the efforts of a group of committed members led by Ernesto Fleites and the staff of the practice. Roberto Chapa was the new Chairperson of the Central American & Caribbean Task Force, elected to carry on Ochoa's work, and also played an important role in the event.



Founding member of the Continuing Education Program

Also in 2011, a new educational project entitled Diploma Project was launched, aiming at developing and implementing AOSpine's Continuing Education Program. The Program was designed as a long-term educational offer, in three progressive levels, approaching all pathologies established by the AOSpine Curriculum. Germán Ochoa was one of the founding members of the activity and very active in the project's Task Force, which also included Néstor Fiore, Mario Taricco, Osmar Moraes, Ricardo Ribeiro and Roberto Postigo.



AOSpine Advanced Symposium, Colombia, May 2014

This event in May 2014 was the last time we were able to participate in activities with Germán Ochoa. As usual, this was an event with massive participation from doctors from different countries in Latin America, who benefitted from high level conferences and debates. Ochoa, as the Chairperson of the activity, focused his efforts in delivering the necessary tools, knowledge and expertise to the next generations of spine surgeons.



We could continue to list Germán's endless achievements and contributions to AO, which clearly reflect his commitment with education for 30 years. His dedication and the knowledge shared with us reveal his passion and experience in the academic field, being an example for his successors.

AOSpine lost one of its most devote and dedicated leaders and followers. The memory of Germán Ochoa's warmth, affection and social responsibility will be carried on the hearts of his friends and colleagues of the AO family.

Dr. Germán Ochoa Amaya

1952–2014

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

Regional Director

Regional financial budget management, support for all Country Councils and coordination of projects implemented at regional level.



Carlos Montero

Senior Project Manager

Community Development, Fellowships and Research areas.



Fernanda Dias

Project Coordinator

Control and execution of Community Development and Fellowships projects.



Paula Vila

Project Manager

Logistics and organization of academic events, focusing on congresses.

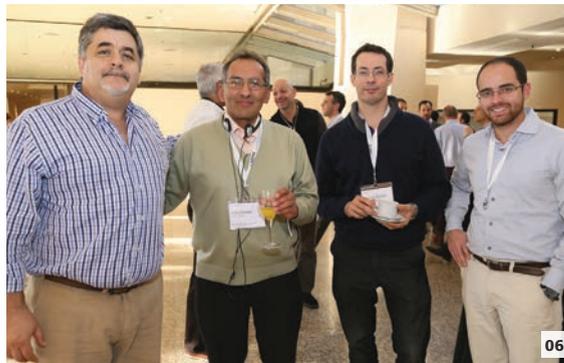


Sônia Budziak Scussel

Project Manager

Logistics and organization of academic events and Education projects.

2014–The year in review



ARGENTINA

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications – Buenos Aires

01. Alan Hilibrand speaking

02. Auditorium

03. Christopher Shaffrey speaking

04. Christopher Shaffrey speaking

05. Christopher Shaffrey

06. Faculty members and participants during coffee break

07. International Faculty members Alan Hilibrand and Christopher Shaffrey



08



09



10



11



12

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Complications – Buenos Aires

- 08. Pedro Bazán, Asdrubal Falavigna, Marcelo Gruenberg and Roberto Chapa
- 09. Fernando García, Oscar Carreras, Juan Emmerich and Samuel Pantoja
- 10. Marcelo Gruenberg speaking

- 11. Marcelo Valacco speaking
- 12. Néstor Fiore and Nelson Picard



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03



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BRAZIL

2nd AOSpine Research Seminar – São Paulo

- 01. Alexandre Fogaga at group discussion
- 02. Asdrubal Falavigna at group discussion
- 03. Auditorium

- 04. José Jimenez speaking
- 05. William Teixeira at group discussion

AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course – Curitiba

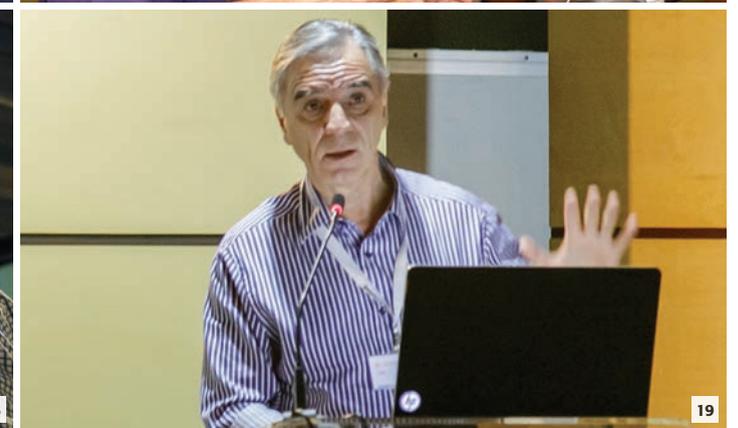
- 06. Alfredo Vásquez and Ricardo Ribeiro
- 07. Auditorium
- 08. Daniel Rosenthal speaking



AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course – Curitiba

- 09. Course Chairperson Emiliano Vialle
- 10. Faculty Members and participants

- 11. Luis Carelli speaking
- 12. Christiano Simões speaking
- 13. Emiliano Vialle and participants practicing



AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course – Curitiba

- 14. Faculty Daniel Rosenthal
- 15. Fellows from Cajuru Hospital
- 16. Finn Christensen speaking

- 17. International Faculty members Finn Christensen and Daniel Rosenthal
- 18. José Augusto Araujo speaking
- 19. Luiz Vialle speaking



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AOSpine Advanced Live Tissue Course – Curitiba

- 20. Participant and Faculty member practice
- 21. Operating room
- 22. Participants

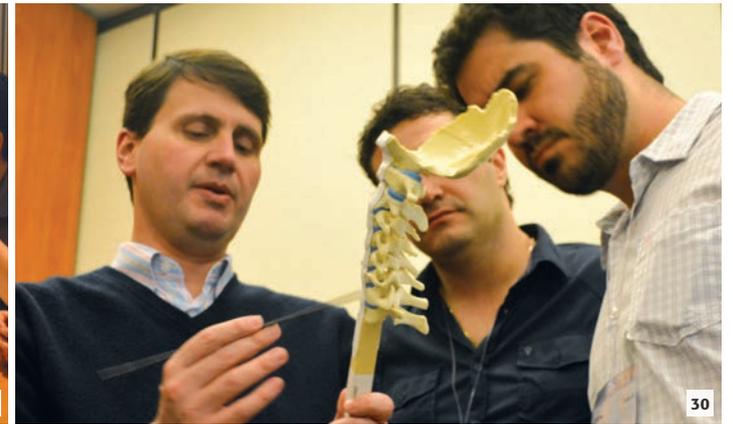
- 23. Course practice
- 24. Official course photo



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AOSpine Principles Course – São Paulo

- 25. Auditorium
- 26. Faculty members and participants
- 27. Faculty members and participants

- 28. Group discussion
- 29. Workshop
- 30. Workshop

AOSpine Masters Trans-Congress Symposium (SICOT/CBOT), Rio De Janeiro

- 31. AOTRAUMA–AORECON–AOSPINE stand
- 32. S. Rajasekaran speaking



33



01



03



02



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05

AOSpine Principles Seminar for Residents – São Paulo
33. Official course photo

CENTRAL AMERICA

01. Participants at AOSpine Advanced Seminar – La Habana, Cuba
02. Group discussion at AOSpine Advanced Seminar – La Habana, Cuba

03. AOSpine Faculty Training – La Habana, Cuba
04. Official Faculty Training photo – La Habana, Cuba
05. Faculty members at AOSpine Advanced Seminar – San Pedro Sula, Honduras



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06

COLOMBIA

AOSpine Centers Directors Meeting – Cartagena

01. Official meeting photo

AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal Trauma – Cartagena

02. Claudio Lamartina speaking

03. Auditorium

04. Djalma Castro de Amorim Júnior and Carlos Montero Silva

05. Claudio Lamartina at group discussion

06. Ratko Yurac, Luis Arango and Javier Matta



AOSpine Advanced Symposium: Spinal Trauma – Cartagena

- 07. Steven Theiss speaking
- 08. Osmar Moraes speaking
- 09. Official course photo

AOSpine Masters Symposium – Bogota

- 10. Jaime Segura, Alexander Vaccaro and Luis Arango
- 11. Memorial service: Germán Ochoa's family

- 12. Germán Ochoa's wife, Mrs. Patricia Abella, and their two children
- 13. Auditorium
- 14. Participants



01



04



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06

MEXICO

AOSpine Advanced Trans-Congress Symposium (AMCICO) – Tuxtla Gutiérrez

01. Alexander Vaccaro and Roberto Chapa

02. Alexander Vaccaro speaking

03. Alexander Vaccaro

04. Auditorium

05. Emiliano Vialle speaking

06. Faculty panel: Alexander Vaccaro, Roberto Chapa, Emiliano Vialle and Martín Tejada

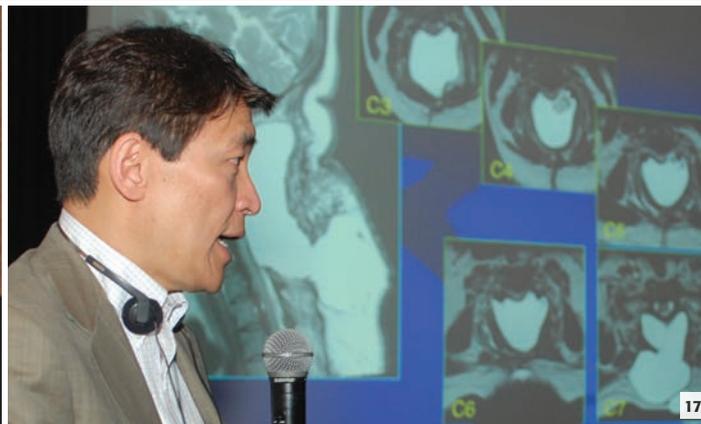


AOSPine Advanced Trans-Congress Symposium (AMCICO) – Tuxtla Gutiérrez

- 07. Martín Tejeda speaking
- 08. Michael Dittmar speaking
- 09. Participants

- 10. Registration
- 11. Roberto Chapa speaking

- 12. Roberto Chapa speaking
- 13. Sergio Anaya speaking
- 14. AOSPine stand



AOSPine Principles and Advanced Courses – Ciudad de México

- 15. Martín Tejeda, Osmar Moraes, Daniel Riew, Asdrubal Falavigna, Randall Chesnut and Sergio Anaya
- 16. Daniel Riew and Asdrubal Falavigna
- 17. Daniel Riew speaking

- 18. Eduardo von Uhlendorff speaking
- 19. José Jiménez and workshop participants
- 20. Martín Tejeda and Sergio Anaya



AOSpine Principles and Advanced Courses – Ciudad de México

- 21. Osmar Moraes and Asdrubal Falavigna
- 22. Roberto Chapa, Randall Chesnut, Daniel Riew and Michael Dittmar
- 23. Participants

- 24. Randall Chesnut speaking
- 25. Workshop
- 26. Official course photo



USA

AOSpine Advanced Latin American Course:
Cadaveric – Palm Beach

- 01. Auditorium
- 02. Faculty members and participants at operating room

- 03. Faculty members and participants at operating room
- 04. Operating room
- 05. Participants at operating room

CHILE

Chile Chapter and Board Meetings – Santiago

- 06. AOSpine Chile Chapter meeting
- 07. AOSLA Board meeting

- 08. Board meeting social activity
- 09. Board meeting social activity



Advancing
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worldwide

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