



AOSPINE
LATIN AMERICA

AOSpine Latin America
2007 Annual Report



WELCOME TO AOSLA

Last year AOSLA was fully confident that by working together, combining understanding as well as respecting cultural differences, we would be able to propagate even faster, this great organization's philosophy and mission. This has caused 2007 to be a very active and productive year for us. We have experienced several changes this year while maintaining our continuous growth in membership count and high quality standards for our educational events and services. We also had quite a few changes all year round. It was the end of some of our Board members journey, and the time to hold elections to give the opportunity to new surgeons. We thanked our previous board members for all of their hard and diligent work and welcomed our new thriving surgeons whom are anxious to leave their mark as a member of our board.

The education committee had their hands full this year with a growing number of courses, seminars and educational projects within the region; the research committee has officially launched long awaited studies; our marketing committee has been diligently working on special projects to improve membership benefits even further, and last but not least, our fellowship program that has drawing attention of foreign candidates, you will be able to view all this and more throughout this document.

AOSLA ELECTIONS

We are very grateful to our previous AOSLA Board members, whom have dedicated the last three years of their elected terms to extreme hard work and diligence in making the elite surgeons throughout Latin America familiar with the world of AOSpine and increasing knowledge about its philosophy and mission. For all their hard work they shall forever be recognized within this organization. However, all good things must come to an end, and as the end of their terms approached, democratic elections were held and the following changes occurred in 2007:

AOSLA CHAIRMAN ELECTION

Held from May 11th, 2007 to May 30th, 2007

Roberto Vialle passed the baton to his succeeding runner Marcelo Gruenberg

AOSLA DELEGATES ELECTIONS FOR BRAZIL; COLOMBIA; MEXICO; PERU AND VENEZUELA

Held from April 16th, 2007 through April 30th, 2007

THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED:

BRAZIL ▶▶ Ubirajara Bley Filho; Ricardo Borges Ribeiro; Antonio Braconi; Mauricio Calais; Fabiano Canto; Luis Eduardo Carelli; Sergio Daher; Luiz Henrique Damasceno; Rodrigo Diniz; Fernando Facanha-Filho; Alexandre Fogaça Cristante; Jefferson Galves; Amauri Godinho Jr; Mauricio Gusmão; Sergio Hennemann; Elcio Landim; Mauricio Lehoczki; Augustin Malzac; Raphael Martus Marcon; Delio Martins Filho; Marcus Alexandre Mello Santos; Cristiano Menezes; Robert Meves; Wilson Fabio Negrelli; Carlos Oliveira; Wagner Pasqualini; Luiz Otavio Penteado; Amancio Ramalho Jr; Tulio Rangel; Carlos Ribeiro; Luis Eduardo Rocha; Luiz Gustavo Rocha; Jose Luiz Romeo Boullosa; Alexandre Sadao Iutaka; Julio Santiago; Marcos Tebet; Marcio Vinhal; Mauro Volpi; Eduardo Von Uhlendorff, and Sergio Zylbersztejn

COLOMBIA ▶▶ Ricardo Restrepo; Luis Felipe Villota; Juan Uribe; Rodrigo Diaz, and Saul Ariel Barrera

MEXICO ▶▶ Sergio Anaya; Felix Sanches; Luis Rosales; Francisco Cruz; Ricardo Andaluz; Víctor Flores Verdugo; Jesus Bernal; Juan Carlos Valle Landa; Ramiro Ramirez; Oscar Martinez; Gustavo Casas; Aurelio Ramirez; Ricardo Catalan; Ismael Cruz; Alejandro Gallegos; Hernando Cuevas

PERU ▶▶ Alfonso Basurco and Gabriel Polo

VENEZUELA ▶▶ Jose Elias Duran; Wilfredo Cuauro Brett; German Medina; Rafael Eduardo Rojas Ortega

AOSLA BOARD ELECTIONS

Held from June 19th, 2007 to June 30th, 2007

- Nestor Fiore was elected Education Officer
- Roberto Chapa was elected Sci Marketing Officer
- Pablo Vela was elected Fellowships & Ref Centers Officer

AOSLA COUNTRY CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS

Held from September 3rd, 2007 to September 15th, 2007

- Nestor Fiore elected Board Member passed the baton to Alejandro Betemps – Argentina
- Roberto Chapa elected Board Member passed the baton to Jesus Bernal – Mexico
- Pablo Vela elected Board Member passed the baton to Andres Rodriguez – Colombia

AOSLA EDUCATION ORTHO COUNCIL FOR COLOMBIA CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Held from November 26th, 2007 to November 30th, 2007

- Ricardo Restrepo was elected

Considering all of the above-mentioned elections, the following is the current and updated structure for AOSLA's Board, Councils and Delegates members:

AOSLA'S NEW STRUCTURE**BOARD**

| Board Member | Position | Country |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Marcelo Gruenberg | Chairman | Argentina |
| Luiz Vialle | Past Chairman | Brazil |
| Manuel Alvarado | Research Officer | Venezuela |
| Nestor Fiore | Education Ortho | Argentina |
| Osmar Moraes | Education Neuro | Brazil |
| Pablo Vela | Fellowship & Ref. Centers | Colombia |
| Roberto Chapa | Sci Marketing Officer | Mexico |

COUNCILS

| Position | Argentina | Brazil | Chile | Colombia | Costa Rica |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Alejandro Betemps | Mario Taricco | Alejandro Urzúa | Andrés Rodriguez | Mario Solano |
| Education Ortho | TBD | Paulo Cavali | Samuel Pantoja | Ricardo Restrepo | Oscar Uribe |
| Education Neuro | Andrés Cervio | Geraldo Sá | Patricio Bustos | Néstor Taboada | Javier Brenes |
| Sci Marketing | Marcelo Valacco | Emiliano Vialle | Rodolfo López | Carlos Mora | Hugo Dobles |
| Research | Eduardo Galaretto | Helton Defino | Omar Hernández | Ricardo Londoño | Miguel Esquivel |

COUNCILS

| Position | Ecuador | Guatemala | México | Panamá | Peru | Venezuela |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Chairman | Martha Hernández | Otto Alvarado | Jesús Bernal | Raul Arjona | Alfredo Vasquez | Victor Dávila |
| Education Ortho | Patricio Zumarraga | Gabriel Murga | Federico Cisneros | Carlos Martínez | Raul Macchiavello | José Otero |
| Education Neuro | Ernesto Vargas | Julio Pozuelos | Juan Carlos Reina | Antonio Mock | Marco Medina | Edgar Gonzalez |
| Sci Marketing | Jaime Pavón | Juan Pablo de León | Martín Tejeda | Hector Crooks | Hernán Valdivia | Jose Antonio Finnochio |
| Research | Luis Guijarro | Luis Fernando Cruz | Catarino López | Laurent Bruggerman | Daniel Cauti | Daniel Onay |

DELEGATES

| Argentina | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Pedro Luis Bazan | Jose Monayer | Matias Petracchi | Ricardo Prina | Ernesto Bersusky |

| Brazil | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ubirajara Bley Filho | Ricardo B. Ribeiro | Antonio Braconi | Mauricio Calais | Fabiano Canto |
| Luis Eduardo Carelli | Sérgio Daher | Luiz H. Damasceno | Rodrigo Diniz | Fernando Façanha Filho |
| Alexandre F. Cristante | Jefferson Galves | Amauri Godinho Jr | Mauricio Gusmão | Sergio Hennemann |
| Elcio Landim | Mauricio Lehoczki | Augustin Malzac | Raphael Marcon | Delio Martins Filho |
| Marcus A.Santos | Cristiano Menezes | Robert Meves | Wilson Fabio Negrelli | Carlos Oliveira |
| Wagner Pasqualini | Luiz Otavio Penteadó | Amancio Ramalho Jr | Túlio Rangel | Carlos Ribeiro |
| Luis Eduardo Rocha | Luiz Gustavo Rocha | Jose Luiz Boulosa | Alexandre Sadao | Julio Santiago |
| Marcos Tebet | Marcio Vinhal | Mauro Volpi | Eduardo V Uhlendorff | Sergio Zylbersztein |

| Colombia | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Luis Felipe Villota | Saúl Barrera | Juan Uribe | Rodrigo Diaz | German Ochoa |

| Costa Rica | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Jorge Badilla | Adrian Caceres | Miguel Mejia | Alexander Valverde |

| Peru | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Alfonso Basurco | Gabriel Polo |

| México | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Sergio Anaya | Felix Sánchez | Luis Rosales | Francisco Cruz |
| Ricardo Andaluz | Víctor Flores Verdugo | Jesus Bernal | Juan Carlos Valle Landa |
| Ramiro Ramirez | Oscar Martinez | Gustavo Casas | Aurelio Ramirez |
| Ricardo Catalan | Ismael Cruz | Alejandro Gallegos | Hernando Cuevas |

| Venezuela | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|
| James Cardena | Wilfredo Cuauero | Jose Elias Duran | Luis Lara | Germán Medina | Rafael Rojas Ortega |

AOSLA MEMBERSHIP

Our AOSLA Marketing Committee has been working very diligently in order to improve even further our means of communication to our members in order to learn exactly what it is that they expect from their membership benefits. We have been communicating with our members to verify their knowledge about their benefits and find out which ones they utilize the most, via regular general mailing in Latin America, and at the very beginning of the year, we had sent out general emails requesting updated contact information and photos to go into their profile on our website, this project has been successfully completed.

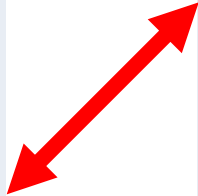
+ we've added even more benefits!

Excellent Publications

- EBSS** – an unbiased review of key literature by AOSpine surgeons
- INSPIRE** – our international news magazine for spine care professionals
- SPIN** – our international news magazine for spine care professionals
- SPINAL** – our international news magazine for spine care professionals

SPECIAL DEALS - Members will be entitled to discounts on AOSpine DVDs, books, courses, and events.

OBID full-text online access to selected spine-related, neurosurgical, and orthopedic journals



Even New Publications for 2007

- INSPIRE** magazine
- SPIN** magazine
- SPINAL** magazine
- AOSpine Manual Principles and Techniques (Vol. 1)**
- AOSpine Manual Clinical Applications (Vol. 2)**

On yet another refreshing note, there has been the Partnership project, which our offices has negotiated several discounts and VIP treatment for our registered members and have now several hotel and resort chains worldwide willing to offer these special discounts and treatment to our members. Hotel Chains such as Pestana Hotel & Resorts Group, Atlantica International Hotels and pending final agreement for the Starwoods Hotel and Resorts, and several other smaller chains in Latin America; discounted rates on car rental services, publications and etc. All partners can be viewed directly from our website as of January 1st, 2008. We invite all of you to check them out on our website.

AOSI Partners

- Atlantica Hotels International**
- Tropical Beach**
- Hotels Slaviero**

Signed Contract!

AOSI Partners

- Pestana Hotels & Resorts**
- National** - Green means go.
- Alamo** - alamo.com
- Starwood Hotels & Resorts**

Signed Contract

Signed Contract on its way!

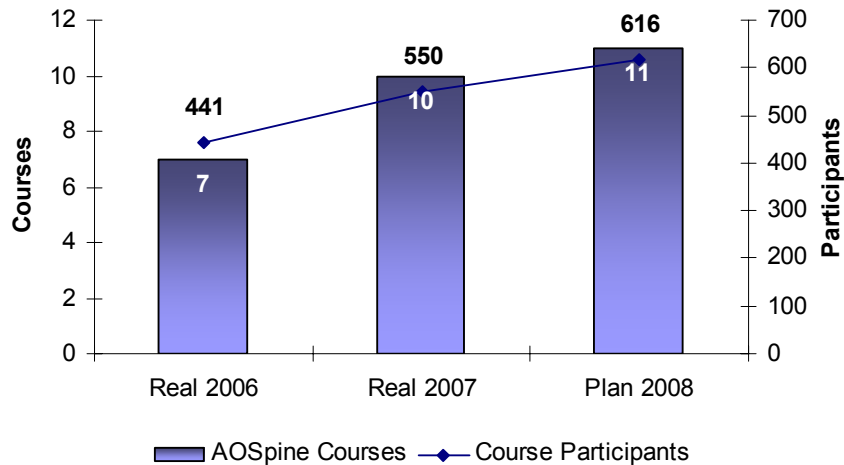
LOCAL SPINE SOCIETIES ACCREDITATION

One other thing that our marketing committee management has been attempting to do is to obtain local accreditation from all spine societies, the orthopedics; neurosurgery and spine societies of each respective Latin American country. In order to receive even more recognition and support from universities, educational institutions and even more endorsements, acknowledgment from the local societies themselves. This has been an ongoing priority for our committee and the positive and final results should be already expected by our first courses next year. It's AOSpine working harder for our members.

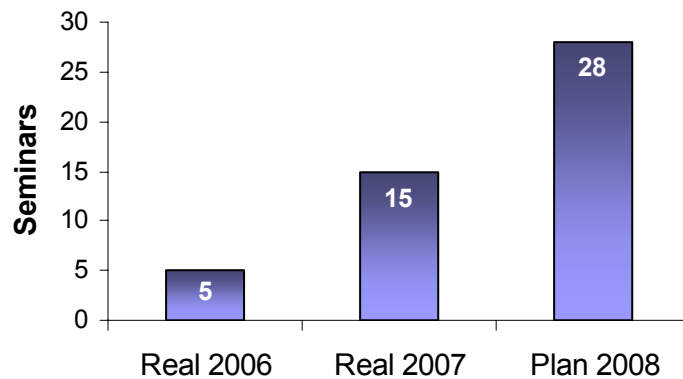
AOSLA EDUCATION

Our education committee had its hands full this year, successfully organizing and managing high Excellency courses and seminars, and even improving and maintaining our high standards for our AOSpine Latin American brand, by training our colleagues on how to follow guidelines and step by step requirement rules for our triumphant events. Learn a little bit more about our past courses for 2007.

AOSLA Courses



AOSpine Seminars



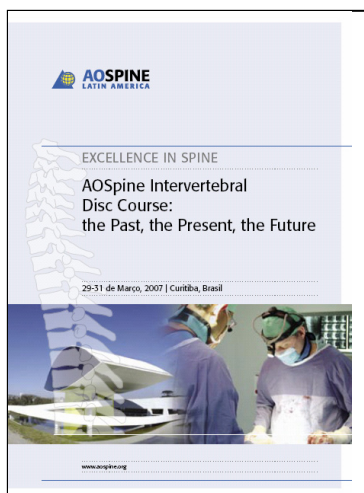
AOSLA LATIN AMERICA EDUCATION COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT PROJECT STANDARDIZATION OF AOSPINE LATIN AMERICA COURSE

AOSLA is always working hard to continue improving the organizational standards for all our courses, seminars and events throughout Latin America and with that in mind, our Education Committee Manager, Fernando Henderson created and managed a project called The Standardization of AOSpine Latin America Courses. He devised an online training program to go over all basic and standard organizational procedures for our events, such as marketing material, online registration, and guidelines etc.

All local Synthes organizers had the opportunity to train directly with Fernando via Interwise and screen sharing options, he went over step by step procedures, to make sure that even though he might not be physically present at every course and or seminar, we can ensure the same quality.

| Country | Organizer | Spine Manager or Responsible | Status |
|------------|--|------------------------------|---------|
| Argentina | Ana Etchelet | Cristian Kucharski | Trained |
| Brazil | Christiane Gimenes & Micheline Bertolani | Edgar Galbiatti | Trained |
| Chile | Soledad Troncoso | Claudia Salas | Trained |
| Venezuela | Anadith Garcia | | Trained |
| Costa Rica | Wendy Delius | | Trained |
| Colombia | Maria Fernanda (AOLAT) | Leonardo Cerón | Trained |
| Peru | TBD | Heinz Bossart | TBS |
| México | Federico Obregon | Javier Casillas | TBS |
| Ecuador | TBD | | Pending |
| Panamá | TBD | | Pending |
| Guatemala | TBD | | Pending |

2007 AOSLA COURSES



AOSpine Intervertebral Disc Course: The Past, The Present, The Future

29 Mar 2007 - 31 Mar 2007
Curitiba, Brazil

This course discussed the new technologies for the future as well as what we have learned from the past and also what we have been currently doing presently for Disc related diseases. Counting very experienced faculty members, whom are recognized both nationally, regionally and most importantly internationally.

We had an the participation of also experienced doctors

in our audience, providing us with the chance to fully interact with one another and during these two and a half days we were able to discuss and exchange knowledge on all of the 20 case presentations and over 25 lectures.

This was undoubtedly one of the most productive courses for a series of events in AOSLA 2007



Course Chairman

Marcelo Gruenberg
Argentina

Course Directors

Emiliano Vialle
Brazil

Ricardo Ribeiro
Brazil

International Faculty

Frank Pfeiffer
Germany

Germán Ochoa
Colombia

Jean Charles Le Huec
France

Kenneth Cheung (via Internet)
Hong Kong

Max Aebi
Switzerland

Michael Janssen (via DVD)
USA

National Faculty

Alexandre Sadao Iutaka
São Paulo, Brazil

Alexandre F. Cristante
São Paulo, Brazil

Deusdeth Nascimento
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Luiz Roberto Vialle
Curitiba, Brazil

Osmar Moraes
São Paulo, Brazil

Eduardo Barreto
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Geraldo Sá
Recife, Brazil

Helton Defino
São Paulo, Brazil

Mario Taricco
São Paulo, Brazil

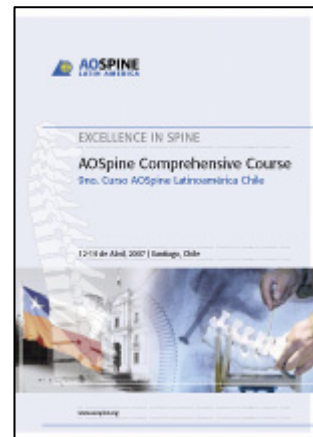
Pil Choi
São Paulo, Brazil

AOSpine Comprehensive Course

12 Apr 2007 - 14 Apr 2007

Santiago, Chile

The main objectives for this course was to analyze most important pathologies within traumatic, and or degenerative of the vertebral spine, and under the expert experience of our national, regional and internationally recognized faculty members exchange knowledge amongst themselves and the participants. It was a fantastic opportunity to dramatically upgrade our level of knowledge, and not to mention that the workshops were the perfect chance to start with hands on practice while learning the process, we learned different alternatives to distinctive instrumental procedures.



We were extremely pleased with course results which were made possible through the ARS system, we utilized during the course. Both organizational aspects of the course and faculty satisfaction was noted. The learning atmosphere was also relaxing, allowing the perfect interaction between the participants and faculty. We look forward to repeating the experience next year.

Course Chairman

Alejandro Urzúa
Chile

Course Director

Patricio Bustos
Chile

National Faculty

Bartolomé Marré
Santiago, Chile

Marcos Baabor
Santiago, Chile

Roberto Postigo
Santiago, Chile

Daniel Piña
Santiago, Chile

Milán Munjin
Santiago, Chile

Rodolfo Labarca
Santiago, Chile

Francisco Ilabaca
Santiago, Chile

Omar Hernández
Santiago, Chile

Rodrigo Vallejo
Santiago, Chile

Franco Ravera
Rancagua, Chile

Patricio Yokota
Valparaiso, Chile

Samuel Pantoja
Santiago, Chile

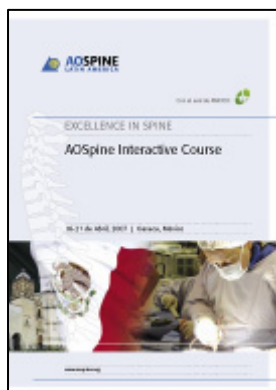
José Fleiderman
Santiago, Chile

Pedro Fodich
Santiago, Chile

Samuel Valenzuela
Santiago, Chile

Julio Urrutia
Santiago, Chile

Ratko Yurac
Santiago, Chile



AOSpine Interactive Course

19 Apr 2007 - 21 Apr 2007

Oaxaca, México

It has been with great satisfaction that the AOSpine Latin American Mexican Chapter had the opportunity to hold 2 AOSpine courses this year. This one was directed to both neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, and allowed us to review the most frequent pathologies with in the spine specialty, both traumatic and or degenerative related, all presented in a very interactive and dynamic manner to allow full interactivity amongst the faculty members and participants. We utilized the ARS

system which facilitated and incremented the opportunity to analyze topics and discuss the cases.

This was also very productive because it gave us the chance to view different perspectives on a variety of therapeutically options that are utilized throughout Latin American countries. Besides, Oaxaca City and the hotel chosen to hold the event held the perfect scenario to promote friendship and interactive between the participants.

That was why holding this event was extremely useful for all of us, and that the knowledge acquired during the course has started produce benefits to our patients and all the hospitals and organizations we work at.



Course Chairman

Roberto Chapa
Mexico

Course Directors

Juan Carlos Reina Gama
Mexico

Martin Tejeda
Mexico

International Faculty

Osmar Moraes
Brasil

Samuel Pantoja
Chile

Emiliano Vialle
Brasil

Germán Ochoa
Colombia

Pablo Vela
Colombia

National Faculty

Ricardo Andaluz
Naucalpan, Mexico

Alejandro Gallegos Balderas
Coahuila, Mexico

Felix Adolfo Sanchez Chavez
Monterrey, Mexico

Gustavo Casas
Ecatepec, Mexico

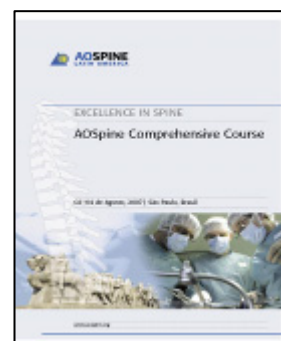
Luis Rosales
Mexico D.F., Mexico

Jose A. Soriano-Sanchez
Mexico DF, Mexico

AOSpine Comprehensive Course

02 Aug 2007 - 04 Aug 2007

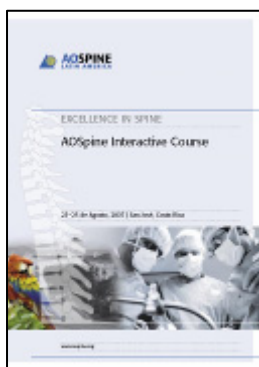
São Paulo, Brazil



As in previous years, AOSpine promotes this Principals Course dedicated and focused exclusively on spine surgeons. The topics are directed entirely and specifically to those surgeons just getting started in spine surgery, or even though to some of those who are a little more experienced; or to experienced surgeons who would the chance to review the basics concerning the specialty. This course intended to present experienced surgeons' cases to the audience in an informal manner. Most of these surgeons' cases belong to AOSpine faculty members. Provided the participants with knowledge about basic cases; mostly based on traumatic pathologies, degenerative, tumor related and infectious diseases of the vertebral spine, as well as treatment for them. Also presented the participants with hands on workshops on how to utilize instruments for fixation of the vertebral spine and case discussions pertinent to the topics; our main objective for this course was to make sure the participants enjoyed the process of learning these basic principals and exchange of knowledge.



One special moment during this course was how Dr. Mario Taricco, Brazil's country chairman, presented Dr. Vialle a plaque and thanking him for his excellent work as AOSpine Latin America's Chairman for the past couple of years. Thanks Dr. Vialle, we really appreciate it!

Course Chairman**Course Directors**Luis Carlos M. Sáenz
ColombiaHelton Defino
BrazilMario Taricco
Brazil**International Faculty**Alejandro Betemps
ArgentinaPablo Vela
ColombiaMarcelo Gruenberg
ArgentinaPrashant Kekre
India**National Faculty**Alberto Capel
São Paulo, BrazilDelio Martins Filho
São Paulo, BrazilJefferson Galves
São Paulo, BrazilMarcus A. M. Santos
São Paulo, BrazilPaulo Cavali
São Paulo, BrazilAlexandre Fogaça
São Paulo, BrazilEduardo Barreto
Rio de Janeiro, BrazilJulio Santiago
Belo Horizonte, BrazilMauricio Lehoczki
São Paulo, BrazilPil Choi
São Paulo, BrazilAlexandre Sadao
São Paulo, BrazilEduardo Von
São Paulo, BrazilLuciano Miller
São Paulo, BrazilMauro Volpi
Botucatu, BrazilRafael Souza
São Paulo, BrazilCarlos Ribeiro
Rio de Janeiro, BrazilEmiliano Vialle
Curitiba, BrazilLuiz Vialle
Curitiba, BrazilOsmar Moraes
São Paulo, BrazilRicardo Ribeiro
Rio de Janeiro, BrazilCarlos Tucci
São Paulo, BrazilFrancisco Santo
São Paulo, BrazilMarcio Vinhal
Brasília, BrazilPatrick Stump
Bauru, BrazilUbirajara Bley Filho
Curitiba, Brazil**AOSpine Interactive Course**23 Aug 2007 - 25 Aug 2007
San José, Costa Rica

Like it says on the title, the course's main objective was to interact. We gave the participants the chance to post their questions and topics they were interested to discuss concerning any topic placed in the program. We designed each lecture to allow the faculty member to present his topic and an extra 5 minutes in order to give the participants the chance to ask questions and faculty members to attend to them.

We promoted a very relaxed ambiance where both the audience and faculty members felt comfortable enough to share their most honest opinion about specific topics. Not to mention the participation of magisterial faculty members such as Bartolomé Marré and Robert McGuire amongst several other well recognized nationally, regionally and internationally faculty members.

We were very pleased with all aspects of the course evaluation responses from all outcomes of the course. Looking forward to doing it again next year.



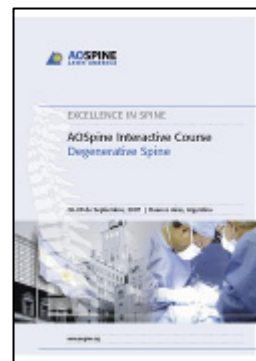
Marriott San José, Costa Rica

Course Chairman**Course Directors**Michael Dittmar
MexicoJavier Brenes
Costa RicaMario Solano Salas
Costa Rica**International Faculty**Bartolomé Marré
ChileOsmar Moraes
BrazilRobert McGuire
United StatesVictor Flores-Verdugo
Mexico**National Faculty**Adrian Caceres
San Jose, Costa RicaAlexander Valverde
San Jose, Costa RicaJorge Badilla
San Jose, Costa RicaMiguel Miranda
San Jose, Costa Rica

AOSpine Interactive Course: Degenerative Spine

06 Sep 2007 - 08 Sep 2007

Buenos Aires, Argentina



This was an interactive course that covered areas such as degenerative problems of the vertebral spine. We divided the sessions into multidisciplinary sessions in order to cover most different pathologies. This was the perfect occasion to exchange experience between all of our national, regional as well as international faculty members, and to interpret distinct point of views for very specific situations.

All of us had the chance to participate with questions and to contribute with personal input which actually enriched the sessions.

We also successfully promoted interesting case discussions that have caused us to reflect on how much we can learn from each other's experiences and during this course all of our objectives were met. The participants' outcome had a successful turnout. We received very positive feedback from all prospects, organization was excellent and the faculty received great remarks as well.

Course Chairman

Manuel Alvarado
Venezuela

Course Directors

Néstor Fiore
Argentina

Andrés Cervio
Argentina

International Faculty

Jeffrey Wang
United States

Emiliano Vialle
Brazil

Osmar Moraes
Brazil

Roberto Chapa
Mexico

National Faculty

Alberto Rivero
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Enrique Reina
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jose Ricardo Prina
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alejandro Betemps
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jorge Cancinos
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Marcelo Gruenberg
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Carlos Mounier
Buenos Aires, Argentina

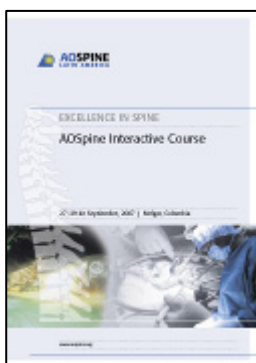
Jorge Cedola
La Plata, Argentina

Marcelo Valacco
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Carlos Sola
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Jorge Lambre
La Plata, Argentina

Osvaldo Romano
Buenos Aires, Argentina



AOSpine Interactive Course

27 Sep 2007 - 29 Sep 2007

Melgar, Colombia

The mainly goals for this course was to provide our surgeons with updated techniques, procedures and treatment of pathologies of the vertebral spine, both degenerative and or tumor related.

This course was also an opportunity to promote and achieve active participation from both our audience of participants and faculty, and we reached the right amount of interactivity between them. Also a chance to stimulate AOSpine's organizational concept, how it's a community of surgeons interested and concerned with improvement and better education and research related to different spinal pathologies and the right solutions for patient care.

We received excellent outcome from this course, both participants and faculty were happy with the exchange of knowledge and the solutions to be tried starting right after the course.



Dr. Vialle receiving recognition from AOSpine Colombia

Course Chairman

Luiz Vialle
Brazil

Course Directors

Pablo Vela
Colombia

Ricardo Londoño
Colombia

International Faculty

Peter Varga
Hungary

Jesús Bernal
Mexico

Néstor Fiore
Argentina

National Faculty

Álvaro Silva-Ardila
Bogota, Colombia

Germán Ochoa
Bogota D.C., Colombia

Mario Herrera
Bogota, Colombia

Andrés Rodríguez
Bogota, Colombia

Jaime Segura
Bogota, Colombia

Néstor Taboada
Barranquilla, Colombia

Carlos Mora
Ibagué, Colombia

Javier Matta
Bogotá, Colombia

Pedro Penagos
Bogotá, Colombia

Fernando Helo Yamhure
Bogota, Colombia

Luis Felipe Villota
Cali, Colombia

Ricardo Restrepo
Bogotá, Colombia

Gabriel Vargas
Bucaramanga, Colombia

Mario González
Armenia, Colombia

Roberto Díaz
Bogota DC, Colombia

AOSpine Interactive Course

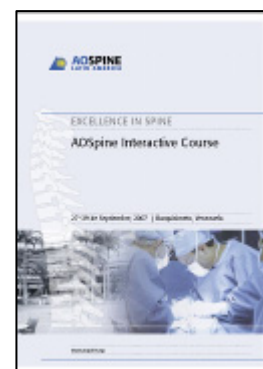
27 Sep 2007 - 29 Sep 2007

Barquisimeto, Venezuela



Given that this was an interactive course about general pathologies of the vertebral spine, several lectures were multidisciplinary dynamic and a big part of it was about post-traumatic pathologies, degenerative, congenital, tumor related and infectious related as well. Most should not focus entirely on the fundamental concepts of spinal surgery, but also in its actual implantation nowadays as in having a vision of its future.

We took advantage of our faculty's experience; national, regional and international faculty members had the chance to share their knowledge amongst the faculty and participants. This course was constituted in a propitious environment; providing the opportunities to develop interpersonal relationships, not only of a professional nature but also on a friendship basis, which served as a perfect sample of how sorted and harmoniously the AOSpine organization is.

**Course Chairman**

Osmar Moraes
Brazil

Course Directors

Manuel Alvarado
Venezuela

Victor Davila
Venezuela

International Faculty

Alejandro Urzúa
Chile

Andrés Cervio
Argentina

Emiliano Vialle
Brazil

Luis Carlos Morales
Colombia

Roberto Chapa
Mexico

National Faculty

Adolfredo Damas
Caracas, Venezuela

Ernesto Carvallo
Caracas, Venezuela

José Finocchio
Valencia, Venezuela

Armando Pineda-Fernandez
Caracas, Venezuela

Freddy Moreno
Maracaibo, Venezuela

Jose-Rafael Otero
Caracas, Venezuela

Axel Tavares
Maracaibo, Venezuela

German Medina
Caracas, Venezuela

Luis Lara
Maturin, Venezuela

Daniel Onay
Caracas, Venezuela

James Cardona
Barquisimeto, Venezuela

Marlon Diaz
Caracas, Venezuela

Edgar Gonzalez
Caracas, Venezuela

José Duran Dautant
Maturin, Venezuela

Wilfredo Cuauero Brett
San Felipe, Venezuela



AOSpine Interactive Course : Complex Spinal Issues

11 Oct 2007 - 13 Oct 2007

Monterrey, México



ENDORSED BY AMCICO
MEXICAN SPINE SOCIETY

This Complications and Complex Lesions course about surgery of the vertebral spine, contained also a special section for tumors with the special AOSLA OMEGA project, previously recorded sessions; where highly recognized specialists pre-record their opinion on specific case studies and then during the course it is shown to the audience for open discussion.



This course was directed to experienced Neurosurgeons and Orthopedic surgeons, and throughout some sections were designed to allow us to review some of the case studies, especially the ones with more frequent

pathologies and more complications of spine surgery, being them either degenerative or traumatic, in a dynamic and interactive, given that the ARS system, would facilitate the communication between faculty members and participants.



It allowed us to review topics discussed and expose more case studies, and learn about the different opinions and different methodology throughout different countries.



Course Chairman

Luiz Vialle
Brazil

Course Directors

Roberto Chapa
México

Federico Cisneros
Mexico

International Faculty

Laurence Rhines
United States

Shankar Acharya
India

Bartolomé Marré
Chile

Marcelo Gruenberg
Argentina

Ricardo Ribeiro
Brazil

National Faculty

Catarino López
San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico

Jesus Bernal
Naucalpan, Mexico

Luis Rosales
Mexico D.F., Mexico

Michael Dittmar
Zapopan, Mexico

Ramiro Ramirez
San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico

Ruben Cardenas
Guadalajara, Mexico

AOSLA 2007 SEMINARS

AOSpine Fellows & Residents Seminar

02 Feb 2007 - 03 Feb 2007

Curitiba, Brazil

This seminar was directed exclusively towards residents as well as fellows throughout Brazil, that were interested in spine surgery, which came as a result of the work being done by AOSpine Latin America, with one of its main objective as to support and guide young spine surgeons in their training from the very beginning of their professional lives.

The concept of this seminar was to give basic instructions and techniques for spine surgery, and it also included a finance and investment instruction class, by a local investor from HSBC, as well as a PowerPoint tips and tricks lesson to guide them with further presentations.



The seminar format basically served as to review and reinforce basic concepts in spine surgery, and most importantly it was approved by the Brazilian Spine Society to serve as a review and practice seminar to instruct and prepare these young surgeons for the Spine Society's exam which was taking place the very next month in Recife. Dr. Mauricio Calais, who is head of their Examiners Commission, participated as faculty during the course and pre-approved all the lectures. Evaluations on the material being thought was taken throughout the seminar in order to check on their current knowledge as well as what they had learned during the seminar. The participants had the opportunity to review cases which were not yet part of their daily practices, and exchange experience and knowledge amongst other young surgeons, and were also thought about the privileges and benefits about being part of a global spine community, such as AOSpine.

The seminar organization and logistic was very well complemented as usual, no surprise there. All AOSpine events in Latin America have exceptional scores in organization and logistics. Both our faculty and participants were extremely pleased with the seminar's program contents; they felt all information thought during the seminar was extremely useful to their just starting career in spine surgery.



Seminar Director

Emiliano Vialle
Curitiba, PR

Faculty

Carlos Maçaneiro, Joinville, SC
Osmar Moraes, Sao Paulo, SP
Ruben Cardenas, Guadalajara, Mexico
Tulio Rangel, Recife, PE
Mauricio Calais, Belo Horizonte, MG
Ubirajara Bley Filho, Curitiba, PR
Luiz Eduardo da Rocha, Curitiba, PR
Luiz Vialle, Curitiba, PR

AOSLA'S STAFF FIRST EXPERIENCE AS FACULTY

During the Residents and Fellows Seminar, we held extracurricular activities in order to provide our young surgeons with all the resources needed to grow into a fine and successful surgical career. Not only we held an investments and money management lesson plan presented by an HSBC representative, but we also had the exciting opportunity to have one of our own staff members teach a PowerPoint class.

Fernando Henderson, our Education Committee Manager had to chance to instruct these young surgeons on the several different types of presentations and how to prepare for them as well as showing them how presentations should look in general. As far coloring, image pollutions and other common mistakes people tend to commit while creating their presentations.



OTHER GENERAL POINTERS LIKE:

- General Tips on how to format slides
- Basic animation tools
- Images formatting
- Exporting slides to different formats



Fernando, took the time to show different samples while responding to specific questions. This was very positive and responsive activity during the course. Especially since this hasn't been Mr. Henderson's first experience as an instruction, he started teaching computer lesson as a hobby at the age of 13 at his home town Salto in Uruguay. Also, while studying IT Engineering in College he taught at the Federal University in Uruguay web design classes for engineering students as well as he has acted as assistant to the education department at the university. The feedback from the participants and faculty was excellent. Let's have him do this again very soon.

AOSpine Mexico Seminar: Spine Trauma

11 May 2007 - 12 May 2007

Aguascalientes, Mexico



The main objective for this AOSpine Vertebral Fractures Seminar was to present to participants the main criteria for the AOSpine Classification and how to manage them accordingly. Our interest was to serve both local trauma and neurosurgeons of the region. The number of participants exceeded the initially expected number and we were able to create a very relaxing atmosphere where the participants and faculty members felt comfortable enough as to share their most honest opinions about professional experiences.

Seminar Director

Roberto Chapa
Monterrey

Faculty

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jesús Bernal México D.F. | Josue Solis Guadalajara | Malco Flores Aguascalientes |
| Maria Del Peral Queretaro | Ramón Guerrero Aguascalientes | Jesús Aleman Aguascalientes |
| Michael Dittmar Guadalajara | Sergio Reyna Aguascalientes | Victor Flores México D.F. |

AOSpine Argentina Seminar

18 May 2007 - 19 May 2007

Mar del Plata, Argentina

Faculty

Alejandro Betemps
Marcelo Valacco

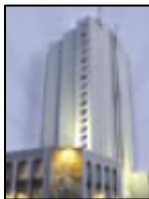
This seminar was specifically to instruct the participants on how to recognize, diagnose and offer treatment for cervical trauma; also diagnose and classify thoracolumbar spinal cord injury; cervical myelopathy and recognize treatment options; degenerative disc on adults, and we are sure that through this seminar our participants were able to improve their surgical practices. Dr. Alejandro Betemps had a chance to open the seminar with AOSLA's presentation, he had a chance to go over the history, structure and philosophy while taking the time to go over any questions presented during his presentation. We've received positive feedback from both the participants and faculty members.



AOSpine Argentina Seminar

5 Oct 2007 – 6 Oct 2007

Neuquén, Argentina



This seminar's main objective was to provide the participants with some new highlights on treatment and techniques concerning topics such as cervical fractures in adults; complex congenital deformities and other related aspects of spine surgery.

Faculty

Andrés Cervio

Eduardo Galaretto

| Viernes 5 de octubre | | |
|---|-----------|-------|
| Agenda | Who | Time |
| Discopatia cervical : Tratamiento quirúrgico Vía anterior | Cervio | 18:00 |
| Discopatia cervical : Tratamiento quirúrgico Vía posterior | Cervio | 18:20 |
| Trauma cervical en la infancia | Galaretto | 18:40 |
| Trauma dorsal | Galaretto | 19:00 |
| Break | | 19:20 |
| Fracturas cervicales en el adulto | Cervio | 19:40 |
| Escoliosis congénita Indicaciones de cirugía precoz | Galaretto | 20:00 |
| Deformidades complejas congénitas (VEFR) | Galaretto | 20:20 |



AOSpine Guatemala Seminar

November 14th, 2007

Guatemala City, Guatemala



The Guatemalan chapter has been extremely busy this year, holding quite a few council meetings; this year alone they held a scientific meeting in July 31st, 2007 where they even had the online participation of Dr. Roberto Chapa, and a couple of weeks prior to this seminar, Antonio Machado, AOSLA's Regional Director held a chapter meeting on October 15th, 2007, where all the country councils had a chance to participate. For this seminar in November, we had Dr. Luiz Roberto Vialle's prerecorded video on Thoracolumbar Fractures and Spinal Cord Injury

and also gave us an update on the new membership scheme.

We counted on 29 participants and we held a very interactive seminar where the participants and the faculty had the chance to trade knowledge.



AOSpine Cadaveric Instrumental Course

22 Nov 2007 - 23 Nov 2007

Buenos Aires, Argentina

This was an interesting course utilizing embalmed treated cadavers. The setting of the course at the cathedral was very appropriate and it also counted with the assistance of local assigned collaborators which was very useful. Both interest shown by the participants, and faculty members was excellent.



We were able to go over all pre-scheduled techniques, even distinctive ones without any inconvenience, while maintaining good structured anatomic vision; although, anterior approach techniques required a bit more preparation time due to the rigidity of the bodies, we still manage to keep the pre-scheduled timing for the practical workshops were correct. In conclusion, it was very impressive to see how distinguished this was, as well as didactic, and most importantly the interest shown by both organizers and participants

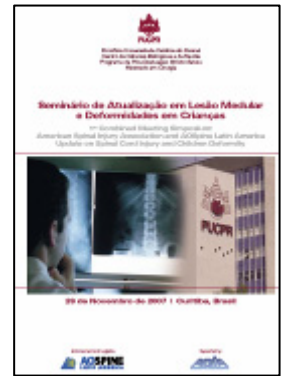




Dr. Randal Betz, USA; Dr. Mary Jane Mulcahey, and Dr. Luiz Roberto Vialle at the first ASIA & AOSLA Spinal Cord Injury and Deformities Seminar at PUC University – Curitiba, Brazil

ASIA-AOSLA SPINAL CORD INJURY & CHILDREN'S DEFORMITIES SYMPOSIUM

Puc University Auditorium
November 28th, 2007
Curitiba, Brazil



International Faculty

Dr. Randal Betz, USA
Dr. Mary Jane Mulcahey, USA

National Faculty

Luiz Roberto Vialle, Curitiba
Emiliano Vialle, Curitiba
Marcus A. Mello Santos, São Paulo
Alexandre Fogaça, São Paulo

It was the first ASIA (American Spinal Injury Association) - AOSpine combined meeting symposium. Together with the Catholic University of Paraná, this seminar provided an update on spinal cord injury as well as on children deformity. Participants from all over Brazil had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Randall Betz and Dr. MJ Mulcahey who were very enthusiastic about the audience level and their interest.



Participants from all over Brazil had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Randall Betz and Dr. MJ Mulcahey who were very enthusiastic about the audience level and their interest.

This was also the beginning of a productive relationship amongst three institutions and provided the opportunity to schedule the next event in 2009, which will be fully organized by AOSpine Latin America with the support of the American Spinal Injury Association.

Dr. Mulcahey, ASIA - American Spinal Injury Association - Executive Board member, mentioned ASIA's interest in sharing their development through our region and was very satisfied for the partnership accomplished with AOSpine Latin America.

AOSPINE COLOMBIAN CHAPTER SEMINARS

"In Colombia during the current year, we've held a series of small seminars organized throughout the following cities: Barranquilla; Medellin; Bogota, Bucaramanga and Cucuta. During such we had the opportunity to spread this great organization's philosophy while going over scientific topics according to AOSpine's standards and excellence and because of it since our chapter's inauguration in March last year we have been able to double the amount of AOSpine members in Colombia. We hope to maintain momentum and grow even further within the AOSLA world, and our members of the Colombian chapter will continue to work hard to make sure we accomplish it soon."

Regards,
Nestor Taboada
Education Neuro
AOSpine Colombia

AOSLA CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PROJECT

We would like to take this moment to review some of last year's highlights. Also to thank Dr. German Ochoa for his diligent work representing AOSpine Latin America in Central America and Caribbean.

PANAMA SEMINAR & DELEGATES ELECTION FOR PANAMANIAN CHAPTER

June 23, 2006
Panama City



27 surgeons both orthopedic and neurosurgeons were able to have a scientific discussion and share each others experiences for the first part of the seminar, and then the following lectures were presented:

1. Classification and Protocol treatment for Thoracolumbar fractures by Dr. German Ochoa.
2. Fusion vs. intervertebral disc arthroplasty evidence based by Dr. Luiz Vialle.

After that Dr. Vialle presented AOSpine Latin America's history and structure, fully describing our organization's philosophy and soon thereafter held the delegates election where:

Raul Arjona – Orthopedic surgeon elected delegate for Panama

Laurent Bruggeman – Neurosurgeon elected delegate for Panama

This was a very productive meeting for AOSLA. We have yet another chapter meeting to take place in February 2007.

COSTA RICA SEMINAR & CHAPTER INAUGURATION

November 24, 2006
Marriot San Jose, Costa Rica

During this scientific event, not only our participants had the chance to review and exchange their knowledge on different pathologies of the vertebral spine, but also Dr. Vialle had the opportunity to present AOSpine's history in Latin America right before inaugurating this country's chapter and holding election for the chapter councils.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE COUNTRY CHAPTER MEETING:

Luiz Vialle; German Ochoa; Hugo Dobles; Oscar Uribe; Mario Solano; Javier Brenes; Miguel Esquivel; Adrian Cáceres; Alexander Valverde Retano; Miguel Mejía Rojas; Jorge Badilla Corrales

The following were elected to represent the Costa Rican Chapter:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Chairman: | Mario Solano |
| Education Ortho: | Oscar Uribe |
| Education Neuro: | Javier Brenes |
| Scientific Officer: | Hugo Dobles |
| Research: | Miguel Esquivel |



GUATEMALA SEMINAR & CHAPTER INAUGURATION

November 25, 2006

Guatemala City, Guatemala

The first scientific part of the event was the following lectures:

1. Spinal Cord Injury from surgical Aspects By Dr. Luiz Roberto Vialle
2. Arthrodesis of the lumbar spine by Dr. German Ochoa

Over 35 both orthopedic surgeons as well as neurosurgeons attended the seminar; after the seminar ended Dr. Vialle went over AOSpine Latin American history and explained details on how the organization, and the availability of the positions for country councils within the Guatemalan chapter and the voting begins:

The following were elected:

Chairman: Otto Alvarado
Education Ortho: Gabriel Murga
Education Neuro: Julio Pozuelos
Scientific Officer: Juan Pablo de Leon
Research: Luis Fernando Cruz



AOSPINE NICARAGUA SEMINAR

May 3, 2007

Managua, Nicaragua

This scientific seminar came at an excellent time to our AOSpine Latin America members in Nicaragua. Dr. German took this opportunity to go over AOSLA's structure and history, and only after all the participants had the opportunity to have all of their questions answered, the scientific lectures on Thoracolumbar Fractures and Degenerative Disc Disease. Drs. Cesar Vargas and Jorge Muñoz are very bonded into the organization and they are interested in starting the AOSpine chapter as soon as possible. The seminar also brought the interest of Dr. Sara Maria Alvarez to attend AOSpine Fellowship in Latin America.

Faculty : German Ochoa, Colombia



AOSPINE EL SALVADOR SEMINAR

May 4, 2007

San Salvador, El Salvador



This seminar started with local visits to the hospitals and we were shocked to find very little contact with spine surgery. However given the commitment of AOSpine local coordinators, Drs. Ricardo Santamaria; Juan Antonio Rodriguez, Julio Alfredo whom have promised to have at least more 25 new AOSpine members in El Salvador, before year's end. After that we held the scientific lectures on Thoracolumbar Fractures and Degenerative Disc Disease and the participants felt comfortable enough to ask questions and share knowledge throughout the seminar. We also had the chance to meet with Dr. Eduardo Lovo who was able to tell us a little bit about his experience at an AOSpine fellowship with Dr. Rhines in Texas, USA.

These series of seminars throughout Central America concludes the AOSLA Central America and Caribbean Project which had as its main objective to increase and propagate knowledge of the excellence and prestige of this great organization's philosophy throughout Central America, providing the same opportunity as all other Latin American countries to grown within the AOSLA world. Congratulations once again to Dr. German Ochoa for all his hard work and dedication to this project.

AOSLA'S FACULTY DEVELOPMENT



TIPS FOR TRAINERS

July 27th – July 28th, 2007
Curitiba, Brazil



The main objective for the Tips for Trainers course in Curitiba, was to pick amongst some of the young surgeons whom have already contributed to AOSLA courses as a faculty member, choosing through the highly experienced educators and surgeons and through a series of didactic material and workshops while exploring a great variety of teaching methods and techniques, concentrating on practical skills rather than theory only, while giving the participants the chance to practice what they have just learned through presenting their own lectures before and after the course while recording their lectures to have an idea of the before and after training activities so they can start utilizing immediately even before the Tips 4 Trainers course is over.



FACULTY

Luiz Roberto Vialle
Emiliano Vialle
Ruth Rappaport

TIPS FOR TRAINERS
10 Aug – 11 Aug , 2007
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Given the success rate for our T4T's realized in Brazil for the past couple of years, it was only deem to assume that we should repeat the excellence through other Latin American countries and this year's lucky pick was Argentina. Most members of the local chapter and some other AOSpine members from Argentina who have participated in our courses and seminars as a member of our faculty were chosen for this specific T4T.



This training course is very useful because of all the tips shown throughout the course, such as: how to carefully prepare a presentation considering everything from speech, tone of voice, body language as well as considering the visual aids to be used through the presentation. The appropriate template, fonts, highlights, and the best part of this T4T's is how they start to apply everything they have learning during the course.



**TIPS FOR TRAINERS ARGENTINA
FACULTY**

Luiz Vialle
Marcelo Valacco
Fabiana Reboiras



AOSLA – CHAPTER’S MEETINGS



N. Taboada; R. Londoño & A. Rodriguez taking a break during the meeting



It's the Chilean Chapter's turn to discuss their strategies

In 2007 we believed we it was utterly important to continue the work started at every single committee meeting taken place last year. Therefore, we held country chapter meetings throughout all Latin American country chapters, and give each the opportunity to express local needs and action plans.

| AOSLA COUNTRY CHAPTER MEETINGS SCHEDULE | |
|---|--|
| Argentina | September 7th, 2007 |
| Peru | September 28th, 2007 |
| Ecuador | September 29th, 2007 |
| Mexico | October 12th, 2007 |
| Guatemala | October 15th, 2007 |
| Costa Rica | October 16th, 2007 |
| Panama | October 17th, 2007 |
| Chile | October 27th, 2007 |
| Venezuela | November 23rd, 2007 |
| Colombia | November 24th, 2007 |

PARTICIPANTS ► each respective country chapter council and AOSLA's Regional Director



Panama's country councils and AOSLA's Regional Director hard at work

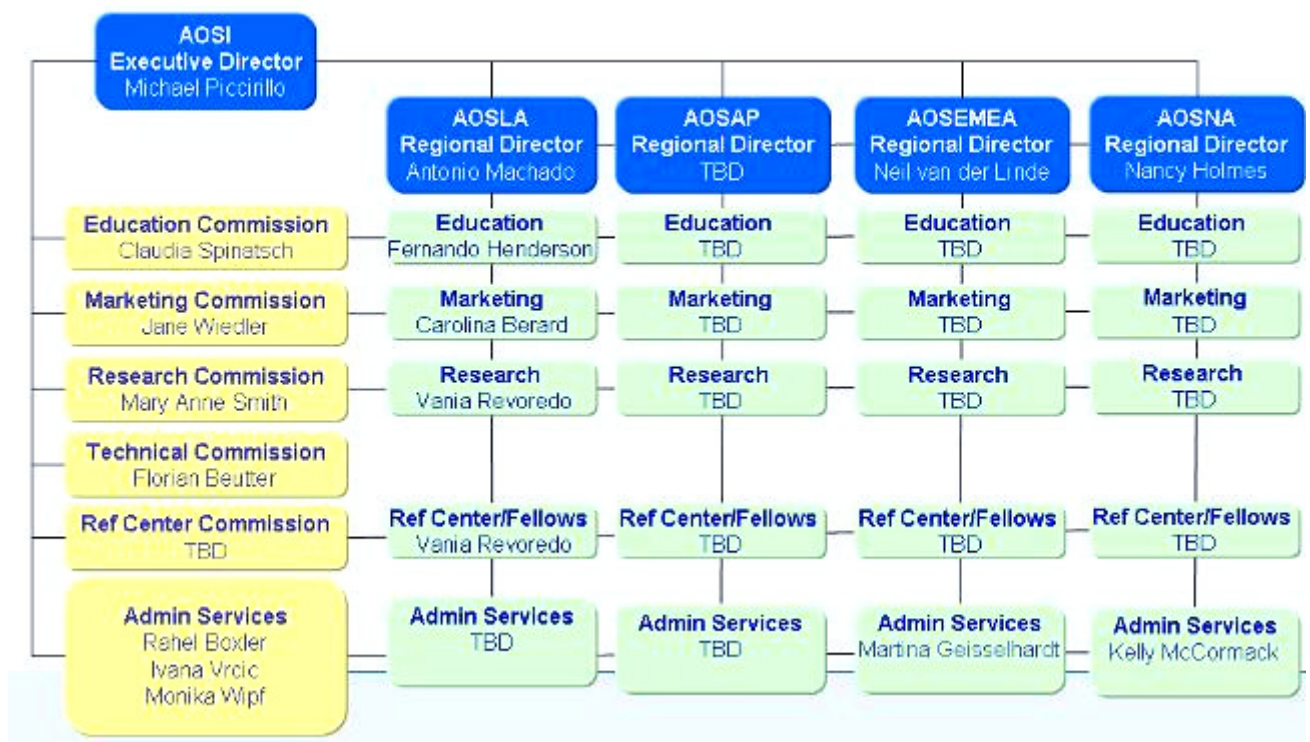
One of the principal objectives of these meetings was to present and discuss new membership scheme as far as packages, cost, progression system and etc. Following with the new administrative structure for both AOSpine International and more specifically AOSpine Latin America; discuss new educational proposals and guidelines as well as presenting the new website and inform about national page. Meanwhile discussing strategies of continue maintaining growth as far as membership counts, based on most attractive benefits, alliances, to be presented before starting each and every local events, events such as courses, seminars, lounges, etc.

Above all, the necessity of reaching self-sustainability within the next 3 years and the need for developing new revenue streams, and also delivering AOSLA Chairman's message to them.

- Encourage Local Activities
 - Invited Professors
 - Admin and/or Economic Support
- Support to national chapters will be based on potential to maintain and grow membership
- Encourage Research > Dedicated Researchers to support Regional and national studies
- Integration Ortho + Neuro

CONCLUSION: In conclusion to all of AOSLA's 2007 Chapter meetings, several ideas were shared and possible marketing strategies came about from these meetings which shall all be presented, reviewed, discussed and put up for approval during the next AOSLA's Board meeting which will take place during Davos' annual courses this coming December 2007. We take this opportunity to thank all of our chapter councils for all their interest and efforts shown in order to fully participate in those meetings.

AOSPINE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STRUCTURE



AOSLA BOARD MEETINGS

AOSLA BOARD MEETING

San José, Costa Rica
February 9th, 2007

Being this the very first AOSLA's Board meeting for 2007; the board was able to review some of the decisions made at the very last Board meeting which in December 2006 at Davos, and this was the meeting where all the future election dates and criteria for the new board; delegates, and councils elections occurring this year. Not forgetting that this meeting was where all the course submissions and faculty for 2007 was finalized. Not to mention the chance to review strategies for countries development; to review AOSLA Research projects; Education ongoing projects and Sci Marketing Commission plans for effective marketing for Latin America concerning new membership scheme to be launched during 2007.



APPROVED AOSLA COURSES FOR 2008

| COURSE NAME | DATE | COUNTRY | CITY |
|---|--------|-----------|----------------|
| AOSpine Tips For Trainers Course | 18 Jan | Mexico | Mexico DF |
| AOSpine Basic Principles in Spine Surgery Course | 22 Feb | Brazil | São Paulo |
| AOSpine Surgical Approaches to the Spine | 27 Mar | Brazil | Curitiba |
| AOSpine Latin American Course : To Fuse or Not To Fuse | 27 Mar | Chile | Santiago |
| AOSpine Comprehensive Course | 15 May | Peru | Lima |
| AOSpine Comprehensive Course | 26 Jun | Panamá | Panamá |
| AOSpine Comprehensive Course | 03 Jul | Mexico | Veracruz |
| AOSpine Interactive Course: Non fusion techniques and deformities | 28 Aug | Colombia | Medellin |
| AOSpine Interactive Course | 04 Sep | Argentina | Buenos Aires |
| AOSpine Comprehensive Course | 18 Sep | Brazil | Rio de Janeiro |
| AOSpine Interactive Course | 16 Oct | México | Torreón |
| AOSpine Comprehensive Course | 13 Nov | Ecuador | Quito |



AOSLA BOARD MEETING
April 27th, 2007
Cancun, Mexico

During AOSLA's second Board meeting for 2007, we counted on the special participation of AOSpine International's Chairman Dr. Michael Janssen, and also during the first part of the meeting while Dr. Janssen presented AOSpine's new administrative structure and membership scheme, we had the intermitted participation of our country chairmen as well as the current Research officers for Latin America, and Drs. Alexandre Sadao Iutaka from Sao Paulo Brazil; Ernesto Bersusky; German Ochoa who are part of the new coming research study for Latin America which the previous mention doctors are a part of the development team for this new randomized control trial of early vs. conservative treatment of active Spinal Tuberculosis, which we are all very excited to start and not forgetting Dr. Bartolomé Marré who was also present intermediately at this board meeting.

This was a very effective meeting for our Latin American Board members, not only they were able to discuss some of the current pending issues such as: Membership Value; standards for Education within AOSLA; standards for Research in AOSLA; Academic Courses – multidisciplinary academic congresses; AOSpine Administration – the possibility of creating “own” admin teams and centers for each region; seeking additional revenue sources; database management, as well as several other topics while having AOSpine International's Chairman point of views and perspectives of all the participants.

AOSLA BOARD MEETING

August 4th, 2007
Sao Paulo, Brazil

During the AOSpine Comprehensive Course in Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo from August 2nd through August 4th, 2007; being all of the current AOSLA's Board members present participating as faculty member, we were able to hold the 3rd and last AOSLA board meeting before its final meeting for 2007 during Davos' annual courses. This was Dr. Marcelo Gruenberg's first AOSLA board meeting as our current Chairman, marking a new era for AOSpine Latin America since his election back in June. AOSLA Research presented current study projects as well as goals for 2008. Studies such as: An Assessment of Surgical Techniques for Treating Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy; Surgical results in patients with Spinal Tuberculosis and motor deficit; Spinal Cord Injury Regeneration Study which would be in collaboration with AO Research Institute ARI Dr. Schneider, and the current development for AOSLA's Web Registry for Basic and Clinical Studies



**Marcelo Gruenberg – AOSLA
Chairman**

The Board members proposed to hire Investigators to develop the protocol and manage the Spinal Tuberculosis study in Latin America. Drs. Manuel Alvarado; Osmar Moraes and Marcelo Gruenberg were assigned to find appropriate candidates. We can't leave out the fact that this was the very first AOSLA meeting with all the new integrants of our new AOSLA Board; right along with Marcelo Gruenberg as our new Chairman, Roberto Chapa – our new Sci Marketing Officer; Nestor Fiore – our new Education Ortho Officer, and last but not least Pablo Vela as our New Fellowships & Reference Centers. On another important note, this meeting was also where the board voted and approved on our new AOSTK representatives for AOSLA. The chosen ones were:

1. Posterior Lumbar Stabilization ▶ Mario Herrera – Colombia
2. Deformity ▶ Paulo Cavali – Brazil
3. Lumbar IB & Fx/Tumor ▶ Alexandre Sadao – Brazil
4. Vertebral Augmentation ▶ Roberto Diaz – Colombia
5. Cervical ▶ Ricardo Andaluz – Mexico
6. Early Degeneration ▶ Emiliano Vialle – Brazil

AOSLA LOUNGES

AOSPINE LOUNGE & BOOTH

Brazilian Spine Society Congress

14th – March 17th, 2007

Recife, Brazil



The AOSpine Lounge and Booth during the Brazilian Spine Society's biggest event of the year, had been carefully planned prior to this event, in order to take advantage of this amazing opportunity, the chance of having over 793 participants; the elite spine surgeons as well as prestigious neurosurgeons of the Brazilian community, along with a few visitors from our neighbor countries like Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay during this event to discuss face to face with some of our existing AOSpine members and some of our not yet members, about the benefits and usefulness of their AOSpine membership. Given the credibility, recognition and respect the Brazilian Spine Society has for AOSpine, our spaces during the entire event were offered to us at no cost.



The AOSpine booth was strategically placed right outside the main course room, so the participants would have a chance to chat with Vania Revoreda and inquire about their benefits, and the new membership fee scheme before, during the breaks and after the end of the day. Between those three days we've acquired over 85 new AOSpine members who are fully aware and willing to pay for the new membership fee. She also had the opportunity of update some of the members profile and instruct some of them how to make fully use of the AOSpine website.

From the booth, AOSpine current members and new members as well were instructed to walk over our lounge, exclusive for members only, where they had the relaxed ambiance of a comfortable atmosphere, where our members would have access to computer workstations, access to our marketing material and where they would be able to register for the upcoming AOSpine courses directly with Fernando Henderson, and where Antonio Machado were available to instruct some of these members on how to fully utilize our website, on top of instructing them to pre-register to our exclusive "Caipirinha Debate" yet just another perk offered exclusively to our members.



The direct interaction along with our members and new members made during this event, both from the AOSpine Lounge and AOSpine Booth, answering any questions, doubts and inquiries they had and seeing their satisfaction for participating in exclusive events in the AOSpine lounge such as the debate and surgery webcasts displayed, have made this congress a remarkable opportunity for reaching out to our members directly and once again showing them their exclusive VIP treatment is only received from being a part of the largest spine community in the world.

Dr. Alexander Vaccaro; Dr. Luiz Vialle; Dr. Marek Spalzki
Dr. David Wong



Dr. Emiliano Vialle – AOSLA’s faculty strongly present at local and international societies events

AOSPINE BOOTH

II SINCOL Spine International Symposium
 August 23rd – August 25th, 2007
 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

AOSpine Latin America strongly support local and international spine related societies’ events, during the II International Spine Symposium wouldn’t be any different. Especially since most of our members are active board and executives on such societies. Therefore we take the chance to market our benefits to new potential members while servicing our current ones. During this event our booth was open to our current members who had the opportunity to update their membership profile as well as learning how to fully utilize their benefits and to get answers concerning their current membership and future membership scheme to be launched during Davos’ annual courses. Fernando Henderson and Vania Revoredo were available to answer questions and instruct members on several topics, sign up for membership, benefits, fellowship and reference centers interest, and during this event we had over 35 new member registrations.



The dynamic duo in action – AOSLA team present during SINCOL II

AOSPINE LOUNGE

AMCICO Mexican Spine Society’s Congress
 September 12th – September 15th, 2007
 Cancun, Mexico



This lounge taking place during the Mexican Society’s annual congress in Cancun, Mexico was yet another opportunity for our present board members such as Dr. Roberto Chapa who was elected AOSLA Board member as our Scientific Marketing Officer who was also attending the congress as one of their faculty members; had the chance to present AOSLA’s standard presentation to potential new members during the event which was very productive. While Fernando Henderson had the chance to update some of our current members at the event profiles and instruct them how to fully utilize their membership benefits. 41 new members signed up for AOSpine membership during this event, marketing material such as membership flyers and future AOSpine Latin American courses were distributed during the event and while having our new and current members pictures taken to update their profile on our current website.



AOSpine members socializing at the AOSpine Lounge at AMCICO

AOSLA RESEARCH

Thanks to the efforts and diligent work of Dr. Manuel Alvarado as our AOSLA Board Research Officer since the beginning of 2006, through a series of Board and Research Committee meetings, Dr. Alvarado worked diligently to ensure that clinical and basic research projects according to AOSpine International's excellence and protocols were started in Latin America. Subsequent meetings and surveys, our Research councils along with Dr. Alvarado's leadership started to identify relevant pathologies according to number of cases in respective countries in order to consider a Multicentric study; and that is how the randomized control trial of early vs. conservative treatment of active Spinal Tuberculosis Investigational Plan came to be an AOSLA study.



Dr. Manuel Alvarado
AOSLA Board
Research Officer

In addition to this very own Latin American study; AOSpine Latin America has been invited and proudly accepted the invitation to participate in an Assessment of Surgical Techniques for Treating Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy International Multi-centric Study along with North America; Europe and Asia. During the AOLAT 2nd Retreat, our Research Councils had the chance to meet with Isabel Diterich of AOCID to discuss the study agenda as far as training and protocol was concerned. Each Country Chapter Council had the chance to participate as well.



AOSLA Research Team

The very first opportunity Dr. Manuel Alvarado had to address the Board and the members of the Panama and Costa Rican's chapters about the ongoing projects the Research Officers had been developing since 2006 was during the Latin America Strategic Meeting, taking place on February 10th, 2007.

Dr. Alvaro presented the board the possible joint study of Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy and how they were currently beginning to choose the possible candidates to serve as reference centers throughout Latin America, and of course how after careful consideration of possible

studies the decided and agreed upon was the Spinal Tuberculosis and that the current survey for the specific candidates for the study was being carefully handled through the AOSpine Latin America.

After the Spinal Tuberculosis was decided upon after different pathologies, a letter had been sent out to all Latin American countries looking for interested and suitable participants back in January 2007, and out of this 68 responses were evaluated carefully and 24 possible centers became the finalist, only to have 7 to 8 maximum centers chosen for the study in order to maintain the quality of the data to be collected from them; and only after protocol was strictly followed, the final reference centers for the study were chosen:

| Name | Country | Reference Center |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Jesús N. Bernal Márquez | Mexico | Unidad Medica de Alta Especialidad (UMAE) Lomas Verdes, IMSS, Toluca |
| Alexandre Sadao Iutaka | Brazil | Hospital das Clinicas, Universidad de Sao Paulo |
| Daniel Cauti De la Cruz | Peru | Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati, Lima |
| Luis Guijarro | Ecuador | Hospital Eugenio Espejo, Quito |

Each of these finalists, along with every Latin America Research Officer Council and the Country Chapters for Latin America were invited to participate in the next research meeting which was going to take place in Cancun, from April 25th through the 28th, 2007. During this event they were going to have special participants such as Isabel Diterich of AOCID (AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation) who was going to assist them with the protocol development for the course. Drs. Egidio Romano – Venezuela and Leandro Nuñez – Argentina were hired to assist AOSLA in developing and managing the Spinal Tuberculosis study in Latin America. These doctors are also responsible to assist Latin American Board, Councils and Delegates with any research projects for the region.



AOSLA Research Councils, Dr. Alvarado, Country Chapter Chairmen and Isabel Diterich from AOCID – Research Meeting in Cancun, April 25-28, 2007

At Cancun, our Research officers and country chairmen had learned that the Assessment of Surgical Techniques for Treating Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy International Multi-centric Study along with North America; Europe and Asia was confirmed and that AOSpine International would be sponsoring the study and AOCID (AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation) would monitor the study. The study protocol was currently being developed and a future meeting to train the study's coordinators would be set in order to train them on how to collect information, utilize the database and which policy would be utilized to manage and keep the information according to international standards.

While the organizational part of the study was being processed, it was decided that the Project Manager for the CSM study from AOCID would be Peter Langer, PhD. and as our Latin American Consultant for AOCID would be Dr. Paula Sotelo. They maintained direct communication between the selected Reference Centers chosen to represent Latin America in the study. It was then that the centers were advised that the assigned Coordinators for the study would have to attend their first meeting for training purposes on November 2nd and 3rd, 2007, and the meeting would be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil for flight connection convenience. A second meeting for the study Investigators will take place during the Davos's annual courses on December 2007.

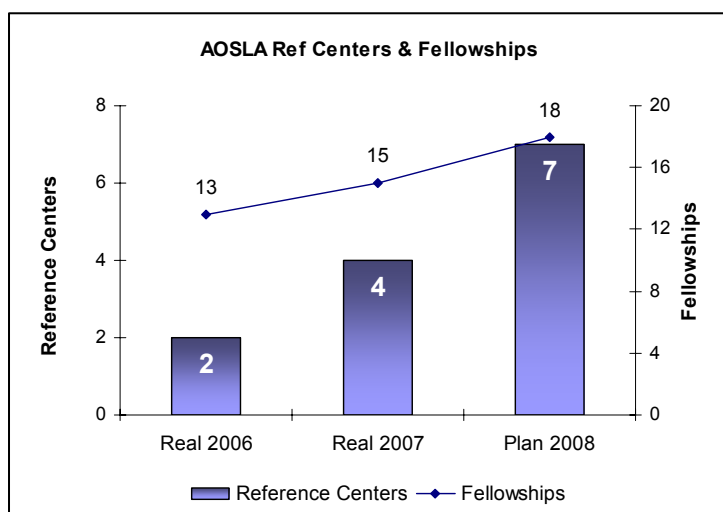


Dr. Paula Sotelo showing the 30 minute walk exam

In November 2nd and 3rd, 2007 we had the first Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy Coordinators Meeting held at Pestana Hotel in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Both Dr. Paula Sotelo – AOCID and Peter Langer PhD – AOCID were the meeting conductors. They trained all of the coordinators on how to maintain the study binders, policies on patient and hospital documentation, web registry for the study and etc. all according to International standards.

The meeting was very successful and now the site agreement for the hospitals (reference centers) authorizations are in the process of being approved and signed by local hospital authorities, once that step is fulfilled the study will be officially started for Latin America.

AOSLA FELLOWSHIP



We had a great expansion in our fellowship program this year. Quite a few reference center application submissions and interestingly enough the different amount of candidates from all over the world have demonstrated interest in attending fellowship in Latin America.

We had to turn down two Indian candidates for lack of availability, fortunately this will decrease having a greater number of reference centers accessible.

We're also redeveloping our fellowship guidelines in order to improve our program even further.

LONG-TERM FELLOWS

| Fellowship | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Name | Country | From | to | Country | RC |
| Luiz Felipe C. Carvalho | Brazil | 01-Feb-07 | 01-Feb-08 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Francisco Ilabaca | Chile | Apr-07 | 01-Mar-08 | Chile | Hospital del Trabajador de Santiago |
| Pablo Godinho | Brazil | 01-Jun-07 | 30-May-08 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |

SHORT-TERM FELLOWS

| Fellowship | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Name | Country | From | to | Country | RC |
| Carlos B. Ramirez | Colombia | 05-Feb-07 | 28-Apr-07 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Leonardo Perez | Mexico | 05-Feb-07 | 30-Mar-07 | UK | Centre for Spinal Studies & Surgery |
| Paola San Martin | Chile | 03-Mar-07 | 03-May-07 | Argentina | Hospital Pediatrico Garrahan |
| Carlos Fernando Herrero | Brazil | 02-Feb-07 | 28-Apr-07 | Brazil | Hospital das Clinicas /USP Ribeirão Preto |
| Alexander Valverde Retana | Costa Rica | 05-May-07 | 30-Jul-07 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Mauricio Gusmão | Brazil | 09-Jul-07 | 31-Aug-07 | UK | Centre for Spinal Studies & Surgery |
| Marco Medina | Peru | 01-Aug-07 | 30-Oct-07 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Luis Claudio Rodrigues | Brazil | 06-Aug-07 | 28-Sep-07 | Finland | ORTON Orthopaedic Hospital & Research |
| Syeed Ahmed | UK | 03-Sep-07 | 23-Nov-07 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Marcos Ziegler | Brazil | 15-Oct-07 | 23-Nov-07 | Brazil | Hospital Universitario Cajuru |
| Jose Luiz Romeo Boulosa | Brazil | 01-Nov-07 | 15-Dec-07 | Italy | Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi |
| Marcelo Valacco | Buenos Aires | 01-Sep-07 | 01-Nov-07 | USA | Harborview |

AOSLA FELLOW OF THE YEAR

Our fellowship program can be very demanding at times, with the weekly meetings on Mondays to go over the scheduled surgeries for the current week; patient attending; classes; ambulatory, and their weekly presentation, where the fellows get the chance to present lectures to their peers for practicing purposes. So whenever we encounter an exceptional team player amongst these fellows, we like to give them the appropriate recognition for it. This year's Fellow of the Year Award goes to Dr. Luiz Felipe Carvalho, a thriving young surgeon who has shown tremendous potential on his future endeavors; hard work, discipline; responsibility and respect towards his fellow mates.

For all his hard work and efforts we would like to take the opportunity to present him with this modest certificate, awarding him as our Fellow of the Year. Thanks Dr. Luiz Felipe Carvalho for all your hard work. We wish you success on your career and congratulate you on winning this award.



Dr. Emiliano Vialle – Fellowship Coordinator and Dr. Luiz Felipe Carvalho AOSLA's Fellow of the Year for 2007



DR. SYEED AHMED'S FIRST EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

This year, we also had our very first neither non-Spanish nor Portuguese speaker, participate in our fellowship program. To tell you a little bit more about his experience, we've interviewed Dr. Syeed Ahmed on Wednesday, November 21st, 2007.

Q: What brought you the interest to attend fellowship in Latin America?

A: I have always been interested in attending an AOSpine Fellowship program, and I had already met Dr. Vialle at a previous course and was familiar with his work and was very excited to take the opportunity offered to me through AOSpine and get to know the service personally.

Q: What would you say have been the pros and cons of this fellowship experience so far?

A: I cannot say anything negative about this experience, everything has been very positive. The language could have been a barrier. However the warm reception and attention received by my colleagues have made me feel so welcome that I didn't even notice there was a language barrier, in classes or even while shopping alone.

Q: So you don't think that the language barrier would be too much of an aggravation for possible future neither non-Spanish nor Portuguese speakers candidates to apply for fellowship here?

A: Well, for me it wasn't because I tend to adapt fairly easily to the new environment and culture; different people tend to have different perspectives, for me though, didn't find any difficulty.

Q: I hear from all the fellows that the current fellowship program is very engaging, you tend to be extremely busy, could tell us a bit more about your experience?

A: We had a very tight weekly schedule starting with Monday meetings, where we go over the surgical procedures taking place for that week, and defining whose going to be part of which surgery; also we get the opportunity to lecture to our colleagues; weekly classes at the university where we work on cadavers and animals, the patient visits and ambulatory, it's a very productive fellowship program and I would recommend it to anyone who has interest to attend fellowship here in Latin America.

THANKS AND WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

THE ALVARADO FAMILY WITHIN THE AOSPINE LATIN AMERICA FAMILY!

Our family's very first contact with AOSpine was a couple of years ago in Davos, however now that my sister and I are older and all of my father's activities within the organization, we get to know more people who are part of it and even more about the organization.



Dinner at the Old Monastery – Costa Rica – Feb 2007

It has been a very interesting and rewarding experience, getting to know all these people from different backgrounds and nationalities, this contact has been enriching and also in helping to broaden my vision and understanding about the benefits of the organization as well as several other aspects. Costa Rica has been the best opportunity we had for this.

About the country itself, we loved it. Many times we have the conviction that European, Asian and even the United States, would be more interesting; nevertheless, Latin American countries are very

unique, beautiful and each has its own enchantment.

We were very surprised by how we were treated by the locals, very politely and helping, each holding ones charm. Even though AOSLA's Board had a very tight schedule during these days, they successfully manage business with family time. We had a good time during the dinners at the Old Monastery and La Isabella Restaurant. Once all the agenda items were completed, we were able to enjoy the tourist activities they had available there.

At Café Britt's Farm, Mayela (my mom), Cristina (my sister), Flavia (Dr. Gruenberg's wife) and I had the wonderful opportunity to learn a bit more about Costa Rica's coffee production while getting to actually taste the best gourmet coffee ever, which Costa Rica is worldly known for.



Adventure at San Lorenzo Canopy – Costa Rica



Soon after that, along with my dad, we went to another coffee-producer farm at the La Paz Park, where we visited several water falls inside the park; we saw very distinguished types of fauna as well as flora typical of the region.

One other trip we could not miss, was to visit the world's second largest crater, Poas, and one of the countries most important volcanoes, Arenal – the one responsible for the thermal waters of Tabacon, which we were lucky to see, given that it was supposed to be closed until November given the activity it was presenting.

Our very last trip, came strongly recommended by some of the members on AOSLA Board, we visited the San Lorenzo Canopy, inside the park and it was quite high, and fairly new, and being on it was very challenging and yet exciting to all of us.

I can honesty say that I am very grateful to AOSpine Latin America for this opportunity.

Regards,

Roxana Alvarado

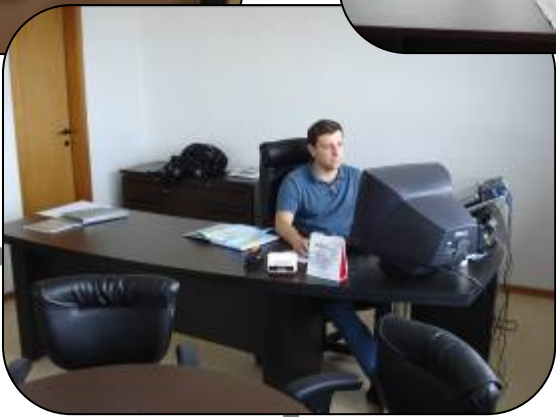
AOSLA OFFICE



Carolina Berard & Vania Revoredo



Fernando Henderson



Antonio Machado

Last year, you learned a little bit about the administration structure for the AOSpine Latin American Office Team. How each member of the team holds specific responsibilities; in order to assist AOSLA’s Chairman; Board, Council and Delegates on general activities. Activities such as maintenance of general documentation (meeting agendas; travel itineraries; local logistics etc. Membership support; AOSLA publications; Reference Centers and Fellowship management (guidelines, processing, documentation control); Research – managing logistics, agenda, data control and correspondence); Education – producing course and seminar programs; flyers, brand maintenance, organization and logistics for all AOSLA’s events as well expenses and budget controls. Meanwhile not being limited to all the above-mentioned activities, and also managing special projects.



To better assist our members and maintain such servicing quality, our staff has gained a new member and therefore moving the office to a new location with more appropriate spacing; holding a conference room and all the required technical equipment in order to better assist you. We now have room to accommodate chapter meetings, commercial partnership meetings amongst other things, come visit us anytime; we look forward to seeing you soon!



ANTONIO MACHADO
Regional Director



FERNANDO G. HENDERSON
Education Committee Manager



VANIA REVOREDO
Research Committee Manager



CAROLINA BERARD
Marketing Committee Manager

AOSLA GALLERY



Dr. Alvarado's Family | Poas Volcano at Costa Rica | Feb, 2007.



AOSpine Cadaveric Course Argentina | Nov, 2007.



Vialle's Tips always welcome | Sincol Symposium Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | Aug 2007.

Dr. MJ Mulcahey from ASIA Board, enjoying her First time at a Brazilian "Churrascaria" AOSI-AOSLA Symposium, Nov 07.



AOSpine Complex Spinal Issues Monterrey, México Oct, 2007.





**Dr. Vialle & Elizabeth
enjoying their free time
in India. Jun, 2007.**



**Got to Register!
AOSLA Lounge | AMCICO Cancun, México
Sep, 2007**



**AOSLA Group
Cancún, México
Apr, 2007.**

**AOSLA Fellowship Program
Hospital Universitario Cajuru
Curitiba, Brazil | Nov, 2007.**



**Tips For Trainers Course
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Aug, 2007.**