

## Have a look at our greatest achievements from last year

As a review of the past year, our Annual Report is a summary of all activities organized by AOSpine Latin America and it highlights the most significant accomplishments of the region. This publication illustrates all the different projects held in Education, Research, Fellowships & Spine Center, and Community Development.

It foregrounds the focused and hard work carried out by our board and councils members, and Faculty group as well as our spine community, which ultimately took our organization forward.

Throughout 2017, we had continued our successful educational programs and activities. We delivered 65 educational activities, including seminars, hands-on training and online courses, to 4,260 participants. It was a significant year to strength our organization as a leader in education in spine surgery in our region.

The highlights include the second edition of our regional courses held in Mexico City (MX), in June, where around 250 surgeons attended the event. The new virtual library exclusive for members, which allows the users to access information regarding different pathologies, clinical cases, and webinars according to their needs and demographic spot. As well as the Hospital Based Seminars and several principles, cadaver courses and the traditional live tissue course held every year in Curitiba, Brazil.

We count on your support and contribution to continue delivering highest quality and effective educational training, fostering research activities and growing our spine community.



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**“Everything I do in my professional practice, and all the knowledge that I convey are the product of what I have received from AOSpine”.**

**Néstor Taboada** — AOSpine Latin America Education Officer

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**In the following Q&A, AOSpine Latin America Education Officer Néstor Taboada talks about our educational programs and their importance for the career development of a spine surgeon.**

### **What is the importance of continuing education to develop a good professional in the spine area?**

The continuous changes in the management of spine pathologies, both in diagnosis and treatment, are a great challenge to every spine surgeon to constantly develop their knowledge and skills. It is in this sense that AOSpine provides this continued education tool from the basic levels to the advanced ones, supplying the needs of each of its members.

### **What are the main benefits provided by AOSpine education?**

The support given to education by AOSpine allows one to have a basic, intermediate and advanced education, according to the level of each member. There is a range of possibilities on the different continents to which each member has access. Face-to-face courses, online courses, live surgery and practices on specimens make this organization the most complete offer of spine education.

In our region we are leaders in supplying the different demands in education in each country, synchronized with the guidance of our International Board on Education.

### **It is becoming more and more common for medical education around the world to be supported by online teaching. How does it work for AOSpine Latin America?**

Globalization does not ignore education. We took more than a decade to improve our online portfolio, and currently we are an example for the other regions as to what we provide through online education. We have seminars, webinars, continuing education program courses, research courses, besides a platform on which all topics on education and AOSpine principles developed year after year are kept and provide support for any consultation by all members of that region. Daily our online portfolio is growing exponentially with respect to the other forms of education.



### **What are the Hospital based events and how they work? What are the benefits of this event format?**

The growth of our information on the web has allowed us to have this technology and form educational packages on the different topics of spine disease. In this way we can access each Faculty in the region and they can, at their institution, develop these courses with their work group and colleagues close to this hospital. Thus all our Faculty participate yearly in our courses, and we can access many more participants. Among our hospital based events are the courses and seminars. In the former we carry out practices with virtual models that we have developed for now in lumbar pathologies, and surgical techniques with a posterior approach.

Nevertheless the most important are the Hospital based seminars, since they are easy for everyone to access. They take up a morning, and from the financial point of view, they are very attractive, since they are low cost. This is due to not having to transport Faculty, the participants are from the organizing center and the venue is the hospital itself. I can proudly say that in this matter we are pioneers within the organization and have been an example in developing this same activity in the rest of the AOSpine community.

### **In your life, what experiences have been most important to you that are related to Medical education?**

Since my undergraduate training I have liked to be able to share education. My first experience was as a neurophysiology monitor, and as time went by I was always near the sharing of knowledge, although I still think that the most important aspect is to never stop receiving knowledge.

When I ended my training on the spine, I joined a university institution and for over 10 years reinforced this passion for education.

Currently, the most important aspect of education is to share knowledge on the development of minimally invasive spine surgery. I receive groups at my institution for training in the different techniques, and the AOSpine organization has enabled me to grow in this field and connect to all possible events on this topic. I am grateful to the Latin America Board for having given me the opportunity to share education in MIS, and currently, as its member, to be able to go on developing this passion.

### **What does being a member of AOSpine mean to you, how has AOSpine influenced your career?**

I have been a member of AO since 1999, before the spine clinical division existed. AOSpine is part of my life, I have grown with the organization, to the point that AOSpine and my practices as a spine surgeon are a single entity. Everything I do in my professional practice, and all the knowledge that I convey are the product of what I have received from AOSpine.



### **Q&A with Luiz Gustavo Dal Oglio da Rocha (BR), member of the Hospital Based Seminar task force**

We've started the Hospital Based Seminars (HBS) Project in 2017. This is an AOSpine Latin America initiative very well received by the international community and now part of our Educational Plan.

The HBS are low cost educational activities developed in-site at hospitals of the region, based on the AOSpine Curriculum, and case discussions. It's aimed at fellows, residents and medical staff of these hospitals. They are blended learning activity: there is an online platform with pre-reading and complementary materials together with online forums to facilitate integration between participants and Faculty before the face-to-face seminar.

Our goal is to bring the AOSpine principles to new surgeons and referral centers using a pre-established model event.

In the following Q&A, Luiz Gustavo da Rocha (BR), member of the Hospital Based Seminar task force, talks about the project:

#### **How the Hospital Based Seminars works?**

They are low-cost events held in-site at hospitals of the region following the same educational standard of all AOSpine events.

#### **What are the main advantages to the participants?**

Rather than move themselves to an event – with all the time and cost involved – AOSpine goes towards the participants where they are. Moreover, they are interactive seminars, case-based and without any registration fees.

#### **How has the events been held throughout 2017?**

We have a task force in Latin America to develop the educational basis of these seminars, selecting a set of base cases and complementary materials. We had six events in Brazil in 2017, followed by others events held in Colombia and Argentina. This event format can be performed in a practical way in any hospital and it's in constantly improvements it.

#### **What are the plans for 2018?**

Our idea is to broaden and improve these events as a ready-made package according to the AOSpine curriculum. The hospitals apply through a specific form and the Chapters of the related country approves it. Afterwards we just apply the package and move on. Therefore, we must held it in different hospitals throughout Latin America.

### Our first Spine Camp Personal Training Clinic was dedicated to improving minimally invasive spine skills.

A collaboration of AOSpine Latin America and AOSpine North America, the first **Spine Camp—MIS Personal Training Clinic** was a unique opportunity to practice workflows and techniques using actual surgical tools in a highly realistic surgical simulation setting.

#### Chairpersons



**Asdrubal Falavigna**  
Brazil



**Daniel Sciubba**  
U.S.A



**Roger Härtl**  
U.S.A

#### Educational Advisors



**Joseph Cheng**  
U.S.A



**Richard Bransford**  
U.S.A



**Nestor Taboada**  
Colombia

#### Faculty



**Emiliano Vialle**  
Brazil



**Dean Chou**  
U.S.A



**Jaime Segura**  
Colombia



**Yamil Rivera**  
Puerto Rico

The training took place in Tampa (US), last November 10-11, 2017. This was the first in a series of focused clinics to enhance skills in MIS surgery. It was designed for participants to master skills to perform MIS lumbar spine decompression and TLIF, showing how to deal with intraoperative CSF leaks, and on the discussion of clinical cases to facilitate the exchange of opinions between our excellent Faculty group and the participants.

According to Nestor Taboada, one of the Educational Advisor of the training, the use of simulators will be part of the AOSpine courses. Fernando Nin (UY), one of the course participants, thanked the chance to participate and highlighted the quality of the course. "I want to thank and congratulate you for the course in

Tampa. It was very good. The practical models seemed very real; the case discussion was very enriching; and the Faculty group was a very high level and gave good contributions. I hope you can continue giving courses like this".

#### The topics discussed were:

- MIS decompression of lumbar spine stenosis
- Transforaminal lumbar intervertebral approach
- Decision-making process in lumbar disc herniation, lumbar spine stenosis, and spondylolisthesis
- The importance of spinopelvic and sagittal malalignment
- Prevention and management of deep wound infection

## Global Spine Congress Singapore— record number of abstracts submitted

**Join us at the 7th Annual Global Spine Congress (GSC), which will take place in Singapore from 2-5 May, 2018.**

We are delighted to announce that the number of abstracts submitted for Global Spine Congress 2018 has once again exceeded our expectations. With 1 100 abstracts submitted, more abstracts have been submitted to the Global Spine Congress 2018 than to any other spine event world-wide.

All accepted abstracts will be published in the special online issue of the Global Spine Journal, which will be published just before the Global Spine Congress.

The GSC will feature an exciting and unique scientific program with parallel sessions for three full days, covering a wide range of spine related topics.



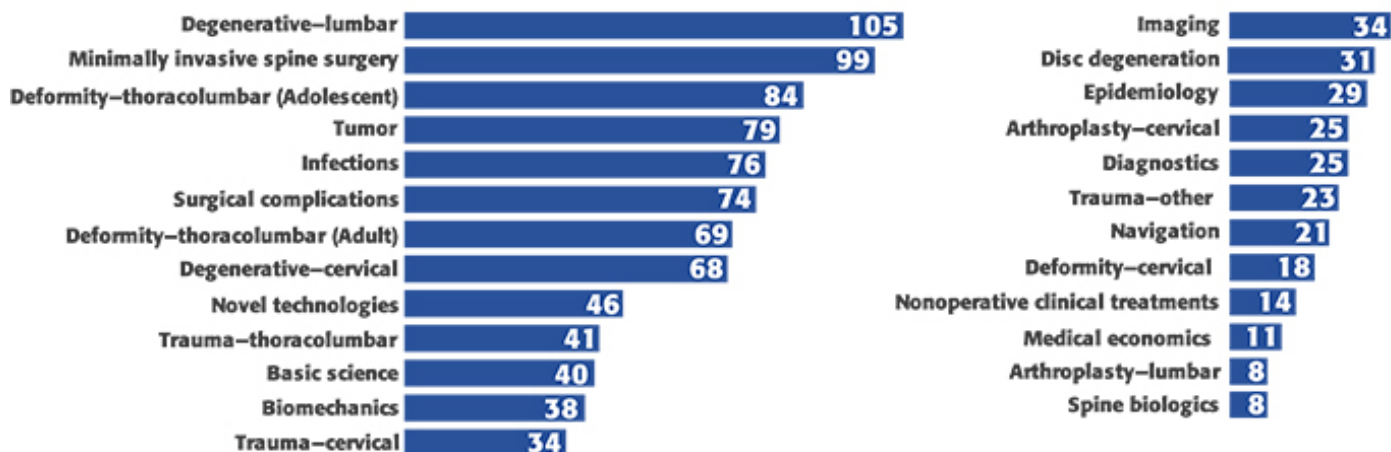
**Register now!** [www.gsc2018.org](http://www.gsc2018.org)

AOSpine members receive a USD 150 discount on the registration fee.

### Submissions by Topic



**Total 1100**



### Submissions per region



**Total 1100**

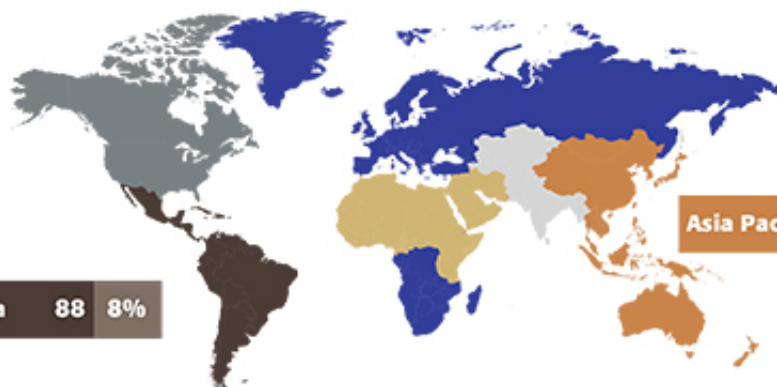
North America 192 17%

Middle East & Northern Africa 48 4%

Europe & Southern Africa 293 27%

Latin America 88 8%

Asia Pacific 479 44%





## THE ULTIMATE SPINE EVENT IN LATIN AMERICA!

The third edition of our **Regional Courses** will take place in **Sao Paulo**, in **June 2018** and for the first time the modules will be all Master Level. The scientific program includes:

Some of the world's leading spine experts will share their knowledge and experience in a comprehensive and highly interactive event. It is a great opportunity to acquire greater expertise in the latest advances in spinal surgery.



**Asdrubal Falavigna**  
Program Director



**Albert Brasil**  
Local Host



### Master Modules **TUMOR**



**William Teixeira**  
Chairperson



**Juan Emmerich**  
Educational Advisor

#### International Faculty



**Charles Fisher**



**Giovanni Barbanti**



**Laurence Rhines**



### Master Modules **DEGENERATIVE DISEASE & SCOLIOSIS**



**Samuel Pantoja**  
Chairperson



**Marcelo Valacco**  
Educational Advisor

#### International Faculty



**Ferran Pellisé**



**Daniel Riew**



**Lawrence Lenke**



### RESEARCH Seminar



**José María Jiménez**  
Co-Chairperson



**Nelson Astur**  
Co-Chairperson



### Master Modules **MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY**



**Néstor Taboada**  
Chairperson



**Alexandre Sadao**  
Educational Advisor

#### International Faculty



**Juan Uribe**



**Roger Härtl**



**Semih Özdemir**

## How to register

1. [Click here](#): complete the registration steps and pay the fee through our website.
2. Once confirmed the payment, you will receive a link by e-mail to choose the modules in which you want to participate. You can choose three modules of the same or different pathologies, with the condition that these do not occur during the same time.
3. You can participate in the Research Seminar, Plenary Session and Ex-Fellows and Fellows Meeting without additional costs.

**Attention:** The registration process to the modules will be done according to the **order of registration**.

**We look forward to see you in Sao Paulo!**

Register now and benefit from the early bird discount:



[saopaulo2018.aospine.org](http://saopaulo2018.aospine.org)