

International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities

Barcelona 23-24 January 2004

Program Chairman

Manuel Rigo, M.D. (Spain)

International Faculty Members

Hans Rudolf Weiss M.D. (Germany), Stefano Negrini M.D. (Italy), Tomasz Kotwicki M.D. (Poland), Franz Landauer M.D. (Austria), Jacques Chêneau M.D. (France), Toru Maruyama M.D. (Japan), Dror Ovadia M.D. (Israel), Theodoros B. Grivas M.D. (Greece), Charles-Hilaire Rivard M.D. (Canada), Renzo Aulisa M.D. (Italy), Jean Claude De Mauroy M.D. (France).

February 2004

Last January , the first International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities was run in Barcelona (hotel Alexandra). Seventy eight delegates attended the meeting in an informal and friendly atmosphere, and they had the chance to discuss openly on this really fascinating topic. Twenty eight accepted abstracts were presented as oral communications of 10'. Three keynotes were given as special lectures by Professor Peter Edelmann – State of the art in operative treatment of scoliosis- , Dr. Hans Rudolf Weiss – Conservative treatment of idiopathic scoliosis- and Dr. Manuel Rigo – Natural history of juvenile and adolescent idiopathic scoliosis-. Also a special round table on standard of bracing was closing the conference. All the 28 abstracts have been published in a special issue of Pediatric Rehabilitation (Pediatric Rehabilitation, 2004, Vol. 7, NO. 1, 51-64). A social dinner was served by 'Principal del Tragaluz' in a comfortable as well as warm room which contributed to a relaxed soirée.

At the end of the meeting the conference took charge of a new working group, initially informal, with two main goals: improving the quality of conservative management of spinal deformities and to reach the orthopedic surgeons community in order to establish the real place of conservative treatment. All the attendants were declared members at first. Five members were invited to the International Faculty which is formed as follows: David Allen, Renzo Aulissa, Jean Claude De Mauroy, Peter Edelmann, Bettina-Grage-Rossmann, Theodoros Grivas, Tomasz Kotwicki, Franz Landauer, Toru Maruyama, Tamar Neuhaus, Stefano Negrini, Dror Ovadia, Manuel Rigo, Charles H Rivard, Marian Wade and Hans R Weiss.

The organized group took provisionally the name used during this first meeting: International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities (ICMSD) and later Study

Group On Spinal Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Treatment (SOSORT). New meetings are going to be arranged every years, scientific and consensus meeting with alternation.

With regard to the opened questions left by the passed meeting it was decided to meet again on January 2005 in Milan with Stefano Negrini as our next host. There will be two main selected topics for the next conference: ' Evaluation of patient in the conservative management of spinal deformities' and 'Biomechanics of the different treatment concepts'.

By the other hand, Tomasz Kotwicki presented a very interesting paper on a protocol for the prospective study on the effectiveness of bracing for scoliosis. The protocol is already introduced in the departments of their faculty of medicine and is being prepared to be accessible on-line.

All the members at first have been claimed to send back a form with their professional data and a signed declaration of their interest on the conservative management of spinal deformities and this new working group.

As a host of the first meeting I want to thank all the delegates for their active and positive participation. I also would like to thank Orthoscan, Ortholutions, SpineCor and Diers for their support.

Looking forward to meet you next year in Milan.

Sincerely yours,

Manuel Rigo M.D.