

30 years of the European Hip Society

HIP International
2022, Vol. 32(6) 698–707
© The Author(s) 2022
Article reuse guidelines:
sagepub.com/journals-permissions
DOI: 10.1177/11207000221134508
journals.sagepub.com/home/hpi



The European Hip Society celebrates its 30th birthday this year. Please enjoy our brief biography spanning 3 decades, throughout which EHS has shone ever brighter as a friendly beacon to hip surgeons keen to share knowledge, tackle every hip difficulty and look to a better future for our patients.

Think back to 1992. Remember a time before the worldwide web; before smartphones, online platforms and social media connected us all. A time before Open Access, when reading the latest scientific literature meant holding a printed journal in your hand or feeding a floppy disc into a thin slit in a huge hard drive.

We have come a long way in 30 years (Figure 1). Developments in the medical world in 1992 alone included magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the Hepatitis B vaccination and great advances in DNA mapping technology, plus the discovery of the Telomere Mechanism for genetics studies. The age of modern “Guidelines” began, defined by the Institute of Medicine in 1992 as “systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate healthcare for specific clinical circumstances”.

In the “OrthoWorld” of the early ‘90s, hip replacement surgery involved 14 days of recovery in a hospital bed. It meant Charnley or Muller hips, or later, Exeter implants, cemented. There was a move away from metal-on-metal hip joints towards polyethylene-based implants and metal-on-polyethylene prostheses, then ceramic-on-ceramic implants, further to Boutin’s works, became popular in central Europe (but not in the UK and USA).

To network with fellow hip surgeons around the world meant talking on the phone or waiting for a congress to meet up in person. Arranging a scientific meeting meant sending invitations in the post – stamps and envelopes! And promotion was via scientific journals like this one, as well as posters in hospital corridors and of course, word of mouth.

This was the environment in orthopaedic Europe when a few enthusiastic, convivial and determined hip surgeons got together to establish the European Hip Society (EHS), led by Mr Reg Elson (Sheffield, UK) and Dr Elmar Nieder (Hamburg, Germany). And there was a need for it, as the American Hip Society had been founded in 1968 and the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

(AAHKS) had started in 1990, but no European association existed, yet.

With no time to lose, 2 meetings took place in 1992 between these founding members:

Austria: Prof. R Bauer
Belgium: Dr Jean Lewalle
Denmark: Dr J Steen Jensen
Finland: Prof. E B Riska
France: Dr Herve Olivier
Germany: Dr Elmar Nieder
Greece: Prof. E K Dretakis
Irish Republic: Mr Garry C Fenelon
Italy: Dr L Specchia
The Netherlands: Dr Sjoard Bulstra
Norway: Prof. Pal Benum
Portugal: Dr Jose Adraio Proenca
Spain: Dr Eduardo Garcia-Cimbrelo
Sweden: Dr Lennart Sanzen
Switzerland: Prof. Dr B G Weber
UK: Mr Reginald Elson

EHS’s primary aim was to improve the care of patients with hip diseases. It was agreed that an EHS Congress would be held every other year, to effectively share and discuss the latest science in the field of hip, and to learn from the top surgeons in the world, as well as building relations with the industry. The object of the association was then and still is:

“to provide a forum for the discussion of research, advances in clinical practice and the results of predominantly surgical procedures of all types relating to the hip joint to promote current evidence-based best practice.”

The EHS is an active forum connecting experienced surgeons, well-known experts and young physicians, sharing knowledge and mentoring one another.

So what did this mean for European hip surgeons? They could join a society of like-minded hip-obsessed colleagues and attend the biennial EHS Congress, where all the great advances in hip surgery have been presented, analysed and discussed ever since. High scientific level



Figure 1. 30years bringing hip surgeons together.

and top speakers from all over the world came to characterise the EHS meetings. The EHS unites all areas in the vast field of hip pathologies, from paediatric orthopaedics, ultrasound, children and orthogeriatrics.

Our Past President and EHS History Committee Chairman, Dr Eduardo Garcia-Cimbrelo says: "The importance of EHS is of course our high scientific level; top speakers from all over the world share their experience with us, and the EHS is one of the most influential speciality societies in Europe. . .but it is also a group of friends that meet every 2 years."

EHS was presented as a Speciality Society at the first EFORT congress in Paris in 1993 and held its first EHS Congress in 1994 in Crete, Greece. Since then, EHS holds its congress every other year and also organises a half-day session at each annual EFORT congress.

EHS's official journal since the start is of course this one, *HIP International*, the only international, peer-reviewed, bi-monthly journal dedicated to diseases of the hip, with a

5-year Impact Factor of 1.910, up to 2.135 in 2022, and an annual Growth Rate of 18.0%.

The structure of EHS

In the course of time, EHS has grown from 16 to 480 active members today, plus 82 Emeritus members (Figure 2). It has modified and improved its constitution (available on our website www.europeanhipsociety.com) and is officially registered as a non-profit organisation with its HQ in Innsbruck, Austria. Full Members are from Europe (and have full voting rights), International Members are from beyond Europe, Young Members are qualified hip surgeons starting out as consultants in their careers and Companion Members are from the Industry.

EHS consists of an Executive Committee (ExCom) and 4 standing committees: National Representatives Committee (Nat Reps), Scientific Committee (SciCom), Educational Committee (EduCom) and Historical Committee.

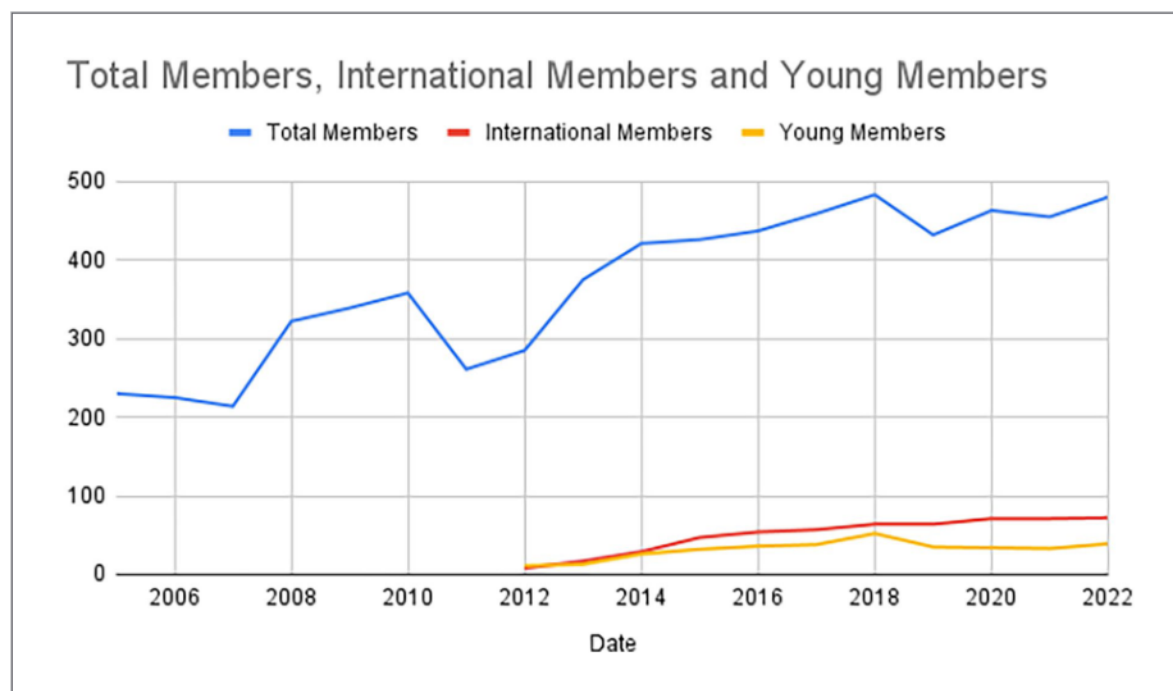


Figure 2. EHS members.

The ExCom 2022 is: EHS President: Prof. Klaus Siebenrock (Switzerland); EHS President Elect: Prof. Eleftherios Tsiridis (Greece); EHS Past President: Dr Jean-Alain Epinette (France); EHS Secretary General: Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Bondarenko (Ukraine); EHS Treasurer: Assoc. Prof. Martin Thaler (Austria) (Figure 3).

The EHS Committees hold regular cyber meetings throughout the year, saving EHS money and time. The EHS ExCom meets on a monthly basis, the SciCom every few months and the EduCom once or twice a year. A General Assembly is held every year for all members.

There are 26 Nat Reps, who are proposed by a country's National Hip Society or National Orthopaedic Society. They consult with the ExCom as a direct liaison between the society and their national community of hip surgeons, as well as hosting an EHS Fellowship in their country when required and being actively involved in the EHS Congress as reviewers and often faculty.

The EHS SciCom (10 members) supports the President to carry out his duty of organising the biennial EHS Congress in his or her home country, by creating the scientific programme, as well as any EHS Sessions in other congresses, such as EFORT. The committee is also responsible for the coordination of scientific studies. The current SciCom Chairman is Prof. Luigi Zagra and the SciCom Vice Chairman is Prof. Theofilos Karachalios.

The EHS EduCom (10 members) helps to distribute the knowledge about hip diseases and surgical procedures around the hip to the orthopaedic community at large, with a selection of programmes and speakers representing EHS

at national orthopaedic societies and local meetings. The EduCom also organises the EHS Fellowships and selects the successful applicants, with approval of the ExCom. The current Chairman is Prof. Gosta Ullmark and the Vice Chairman is Prof. Bulent Atilla.

Ambassadors

An initiative in the Presidency of Dr Jean-Alain Epinette (2018–2021) was to create the EHS Ambassadors, of which there are 32. These are top surgeons in their fields who are willing to join faculty and speak at national and local hip congresses, representing EHS. In this way, EHS can enrich the scientific content and prestige of hip meetings around Europe.

Beyond Europe

With the appointment of Prof. Eleftherios Tsiridis as Secretary General in 2012, EHS started to attract more international members, sharing hip surgery advances and knowledge across continents. Our first international members could be counted on 2 hands:

Dr Jason Brockwell, Hong Kong; Prof. Martin Alejandro Buttaró, Argentina; Prof. Dariush Gouran Savadkoobi, Iran; Dr Motomi Ishibi, Japan; Prof. Ko Kato, Japan; Dr Timothy McTighe, USA; Prof. Manuchehr Vahid Farahmandi, Iran; and Dr Steven Velkes, Israel.

It is quite a different picture today, with 78 International Members of EHS, representing hip surgery from no less than 27 countries.

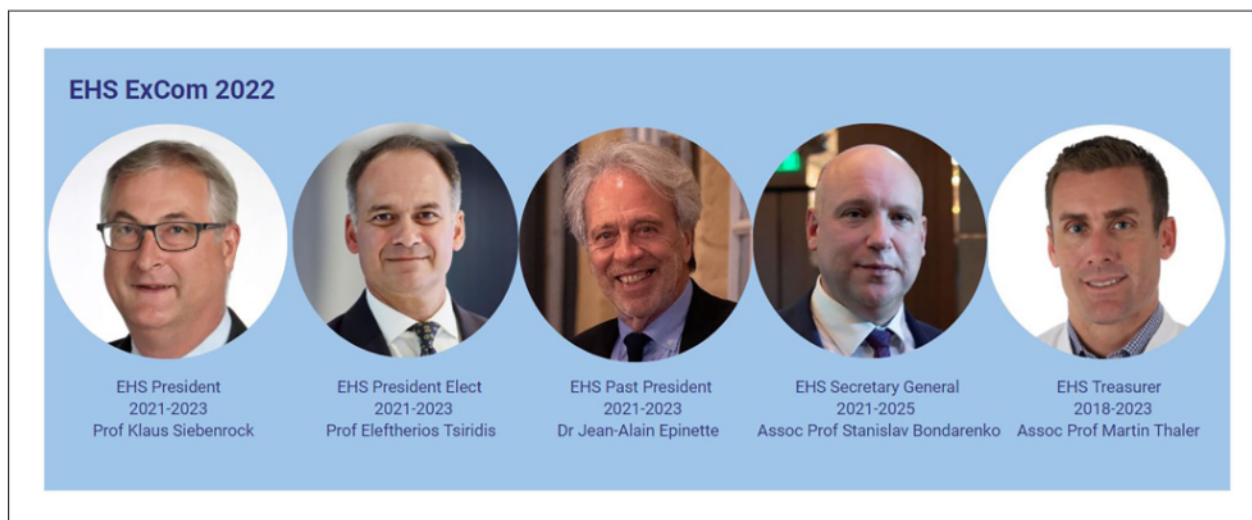


Figure 3. EHS ExCom 2022.

Today there are EHS members in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UAE, UK, USA (Figure 4).

Japan will be our EHS Guest Nation at the 15th EHS Congress in Bern in October 2023. Today EHS is proud to have 5 Japanese members and hopes to welcome more. But the biggest increase without doubt is from USA, and today EHS has 22 members from USA! They will be honoured at the 16th EHS Congress in Thessaloniki in 2024 when the EHS Guest Nation will be USA.

EHS is a fully active, dynamic society and - since 2012 - to maintain the connection and sense of unity between its far reaching membership, EHS employs a Membership Secretary to liaise between committees and each and every member and publishes a monthly Newsletter via its website (www.europeanhipsociety.com). Here, the President and Secretary General can address the community and academic announcements are made, such as calls for papers on special hip issues as well as surveys, plus dates for the hip surgeon's diary of hip congresses and webinars worldwide.

This means that although growing exponentially in numbers and influence, and despite a pandemic, EHS still nurtures the friendly and effective connection between its members that it was based on 30 years ago. Our immediate Past President, Dr Jean-Alain Epinette, describes this *je ne sais quoi* as "the Spirit of EHS".

Honorary and legendary members

EHS is very proud to list among its honorary members the following legends of hips surgery:

Martin Northmore-Ball, Reginald Elson, Miguel Cabanela, Reinhold Ganz, Reinhard Graf and Laurent Sedel.

We recently commiserated the loss of our international member, Dr Larry Dorr, 1941–2020. He was a Founder of The Knee Society, The Hip Society, AAHKS (American Academy of Hip and Knee Surgeons) and The Bone and Joint Institute in Los Angeles. In 1996 he launched Operation Walk, a non-profit organisation providing free joint replacement for people in underserved countries which today has operated over 13,000 people including in Cuba, China, Nepal, Philippines, El Salvador, Tanzania, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Vietnam. Dr Dorr's many accolades include 3 "Humanitarian of the Year" awards (from American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in 2005, from the Iowa Orthopedic Society in 2007 and AAHKS in 2017).

EHS Fellowships

As EHS membership developed and grew from 16 orthopods up to the 480 members today, EHS gained the means to establish its Visiting and Travelling Fellowships. EHS now educates 4 young hip surgeons for 2–3 weeks each year. They attend surgery and hip meetings at top hip centres in Europe where complex cases are discussed and take home invaluable tips and tricks from the world experts.

EHS also collaborates to organise Guest Fellowships, such as a Visiting Fellowship in the USA with the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) in 2017. Dr Eduardo Garcia-Rey visited Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina and the Rothman Research Centre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, culminating in the



Figure 5. EHS Fellows.

“...At Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Dr Julian Stanovic performed a complex case of total hip arthroplasty using custom-made femoral stem with bikini incision, it was an amazing case, and we learned many tips and tricks about anterior direct approach. In the other operating room Dr Alexander Antoniadis performed Hardinge approach in a case with post-traumatic arthrosis with implant removal. Then, we had another case with Dr Stanovici, an acetabular component revision by anterior approach in an unstable hip. In the afternoon we moved to another building of the hospital and Dr Julian Favre and Dr Jolles-Haeberli presented us the amazing SwissBioMotion Lab and their investigation projects, including the testing of a robot for primary and revision prosthetic surgery. They gave a talk about the *in vivo* 3D analysis cartilage analysis using CT arthrography, and about a novel MRI-based knee cartilage biochemical composition analysis probing OA pathogenesis. We visited the fully equipped gait analysis laboratory of the CHUV.... Probably they were and will be the landscapes and the mountain air, and the good wine and cheeses, and the chocolate, to stimulate the minds of great surgeons and researchers towards

new discoveries and to consolidate the milestones of the knowledge of hip surgery.

We would sincerely like to thank the European Hip Society for this opportunity. We are now richer, in hip knowledge and as persons. And we, the fellows, will be friends forever.”

The opportunity to apply is offered through the EHS website and although open to non-members of EHS, candidates must meet these requirements:

- Age not older than 45 years
- Major interest in orthopaedic hip surgery
- Scientific works (publications, research reports on hip surgery)
- Satisfactory knowledge of English
- Completed orthopaedic training with extra experience in hip surgery
- Resident of an EHS member country
- CV, motivational letter and 2 letters of recommendation.

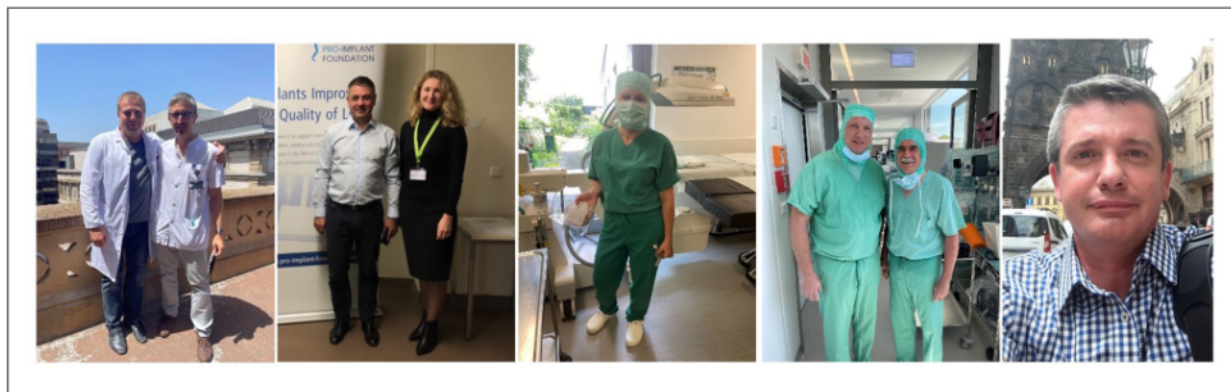


Figure 6. Ukraine Fellows.

Judging the applicants

Each application is studied by our EHS Education Committee in great depth, and each makes an independent selection of 3 candidates. These results are then shared with the EHS Executive Committee, who makes the final vote on 2 winning candidates.

Ukraine fellowships

Following the events in Ukraine this year, EHS was pleased to offer 5 orthopaedic colleagues so far a 3-month Emergency EHS Fellowship (Figure 6):

- EHS Secretary General Assoc Prof. Stanislav Bondarenko was hosted by Prof. Klaus-Peter Günther, Professor and Chairman at the University Centre of Orthopaedics, Traumatology & Plastic Surgery, in Dresden, Germany
- Dr Yuriy Prudnikov was hosted by Prof. Jenaro Fernandez-Valencia, Head of the Hip Unit of Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Spain
- Dr Iryna Harbuzniak was hosted by Prof. Jung at the OCM Munich, Germany
- Dr Oleksii Tankut was hosted by Prof. Vojtech Havlas at Charles University, 2nd Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Motol in Prague, Czech Republic
- Dr Olga Pidgaiska was hosted by Prof. Dr Andrej Trampuz, Co-Head of the Septic Surgical Unit, Charité – Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, Germany.

Thank you very much to all involved.

Supporting hip courses

EHS supports national and local hip courses all over Europe by co-organising them and sending the best speakers in the field to enhance faculty and boost

scientific content (Figure 7). The initiative is organised by the EHS ExCom, EduCom and SciCom. 3 such recent meetings were:

Inaugural Global Experts Hip Symposium, London, UK, 27 May 2022

“A huge success organised by EHS & Cleveland Clinic London. Over 150 attendees of this fantastic 1-day virtual conference were treated to 40 hip leaders from US, UK, Europe and Australasia giving in-depth reviews and analyses of current concepts in primary and revision hip arthroplasty. The entire EHS ExCom took part, as well as EHS members: Dr Marco Ezechieli, Assistant Prof. Stathis Kenanidis, Assoc. Prof. Mattia Loppini, Prof. Sebastien Lustig, Dr Oliver Marin-Pena, Prof. Javad Parvizi, Prof. John Skinner, Prof. Fritz Thorey and Prof. Luigi Zagra. Our statistics showed an average 5/5 star rating for the webinar and an 80% interest rate. Attendees came from far and wide, including Greece, Hong Kong, Brazil, Indonesia, India, Ukraine, Iraq and of course, USA.”

Organisers: Prof. Eleftherios Tsiridis, Prof. Howard Ware, Prof. Alister Hart, Mr Panagiotis Gikas.

2nd International Conference: Advanced Treatment of Hip, Knee & Shoulder Pathology, Kharkiv, Ukraine 15–16 October 2021

“A great 2-day scientific and educational event. Thanks to everyone who took part. 180 orthopaedic surgeon delegates joined our 2nd International Conference “Advanced Treatment of Hip, Knee & Shoulder Pathology” with 38 high-profile Ukrainian and international experts, who lead symposia and sessions on innovative approaches to treating major joint pathologies – from reconstructive surgery to revision arthroplasty, discussions of complex cases associated with complications of total joint replacement, diagnosis and treatment options for periprosthetic joint infection, including shoulder joint pathologies, plus practical workshops.”

Organiser Assoc. Prof. Stanislav Bondarenko.



Figure 7. EHS Congresses: an opportunity to learn the latest hip science, as well as meet like-minded colleagues and plan future collaborations.

8th Masterclass in Arthroplasty Surgery Thessaloniki ("MAST") Greece 17–19 Dec 2021

"Ortho Olympics" was a great success. During the 3-day hybrid conference, 385 delegates gleaned expert opinions, solutions and advice on the latest arthroplasty surgery techniques in an amazing total of 88 stunning international presentations of data and videos from our top teams. 74 delegates were on site in person at the congress venue, while 311 joined online from 27 countries."

Organiser Prof. Eleftherios Tsiridis.

HIP International Awards at 14th EHS Congress in Lille 2021

Celebrating their strong relationship, EHS and HIP International publisher, SAGE, offers 2 awards at each EHS Congress for the best abstracts (Figure 7).

1st prize EHS-SAGE Award (€1500): Prof. Pascal-André Vendittoli and his team on: "*Hip resurfacing compared to 28mm metal-on-metal total hip replacement randomised study with 15 years of follow-up.*"

2nd prize EHS-SAGE Award (€1000): Assoc. Prof. Rihard Trebse and his team on: "*Investigating the inflammatory potential of alumina matrix ceramic composite wear particles on osteoarthritic patient's immune system: an in vitro study.*"

The future: EHS Webinars

Basic science, current trends, new technologies

Launching in January 2023. Monthly EHS webinars will create a link throughout the year between our scientific hip community in Europe and beyond!

- Each EHS Member will be invited to provide a list of best presentations ALREADY given to create a global thesaurus...
- Our webinars will be selected at least 3 months in advance by our "Webinar Task Force"
- Webinars will be 60 minutes: 3 moderators and 3 lectures by 3 speakers, with interactive discussion, plus "chat" for all attendants.


The EHS aims to stay at the cutting edge of knowledge and to create - within Europe and overseas – a sound link between each surgeon interested in hip surgery. Now our members and non-members all over the world will be able to benefit from our EHS Webinars,

launching next year as live events with replay available. More information to follow at www.europeanhipsociety.com

See you all at our 15th EHS Congress in Bern, 12–13th October 2023 (Figure 8).



Figure 8. 15th EHS Congress.

EHS ExCom: Klaus Siebenrock¹, Eleftherios Tsiridis²,
Jean-Alain Epinette³, Stanislav Bondarenko⁴ and
Martin Thaler^{5,6} 

¹Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology,
Inselspital University Hospital Bern, Bern, Switzerland

²Academic Orthopaedic Department, Papageorgiou
General Hospital, Aristotle University Medical School,
Thessaloniki, Greece

³Jean-Alain Epinette, Orthopaedic Centre of Research in
Arthroplasty, Houdain, Hauts-de-France, France

⁴Sytenko Institute of Spine and Joint Pathology, Kharkiv,
Ukraine

⁵Arthroplasty Centre Munich West, Munich, Germany

⁶Centre for Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, University
of Greifswald, Germany

ORCID iD

Martin Thaler  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3025-2930>