

LETTER FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Dear Colleagues,

Spine problems have always been the focus of medical interest at any time, over time. Both, the investigation and the treatment of the complex diseases of the Spine were evolving at the same time with the general course of medical science and the technological development.

Looking back to ancient times we are surprised to find that, the study and the treatment of Spinal Diseases was of great concern to mankind, principle originated by the ancient Egyptians. The disease that particularly concerned them was tuberculosis which, among other problems, caused the destruction of the vertebrae. Consequence of this condition was the kyphoid deformity and often paralysis which resulted from the pressure exerted on the spinal cord.

Hippocrates of Kos, the father of Medicine, made the greatest contribution and sought to give a rational scientific interpretation of the existence of Spinal diseases and the therapeutic methods to be followed, thus removing any theocratic and metaphysical intervention,

In Greece, the first "Scoliosis and Spine Unit" was established in 1976 at the KAT Hospital under Dr.P.Smyrnis direction. Later, on 2006, HAOST aware of this special chapter of Orthopaedics, established an autonomous "Section of Spinal Diseases" which annually holds a Conference called "Annual Spine Conference N.Giannestras-P.Smyrnis" honoring with this title the pioneers surgeons who envisioned it and established the modern study and treatment of Spine Diseases. Since then, HAOST hosts in its Annual Conference also the Conference "N.Giannestras-P.Smyrnis"

A further development of HAOST Department, was the collaboration with the Greek Neurosurgery Society in order to create the "Greek Spine Society", which held its first Panhellenic Conference in 2007, incorporating in the annual Conference also the Conference of "N.Giannestras-P.Smyrnis".

Professor Nicos Papaioannou, distinguished friend and collaborator, former President of the "Greek College of Orthopaedic Surgeons" and current Chairman of the Editorial Board for the official magazine ACTA ORTHOPAEDICA ET TRAUMATOLOGICA HELLENICA, highly honored me by entrusting for the organization of publishing the first issue of the magazine for the 2021, exclusively dedicated to Diseases of the Spine.

Having in mind that the colleagues who express special interest in the subject of the Spine are excellent with a rich literary work as well as many Greek and international presences and distinctions, I tried to select the Authors combining the subject with geographical origin.

Most of the publications are reviews, which show that the authors want to present the current views on certain topics.

It is perfectly understandable that it is impossible to cover a varied subject like that of the Spine in a few pages, about 50-60 available for medical announcements. But even if that happens, this issue sends a strong message in the international community that the "Backbone Case" is in our country contemporary, absolutely substantiated and equal with the international scientific standards.

I hope that there will be in the future an opportunity for an upcoming issue to be dedicated to the Spine, so that other colleagues can have the possibility to participate.

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