

## A “thank you” editorial concerning the evolution and growth of “International Orthopaedics”, the journal team, outstanding authors and acknowledged expert reviewers

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Happy New Year!

The Journal enters the new year with renewed purpose and with new members of the Editorial Board. At our annual Board Meeting in November 2018 plans were made to increase the Editorial Board membership to continue to reflect the diversity of SICOT and represent countries which support the journal through manuscript submission. Three young orthopaedic surgeons joined the Editorial Board representing countries that bring substantial contributions to “International Orthopaedics” and to SICOT. Chen Wei from China, Maximilian Rudert from Germany and Hatem G. Said from Egypt joined the Editorial Board as Associate Editors. The three countries have a voice and a vote now in our Board and this will increase the visibility of the Journal and the access to the Editors from Germany, from China and from Egypt who are major contributors to the Journal and to orthopaedic science.

International Orthopaedics is the official journal of SICOT and represents along with the annual World Orthopaedic Congress the academic side of our multinational organization. There has been a substantial re-organization of the SICOT Head Office with a greater focus on membership affairs and benefits. Significant efforts are underway to increase membership globally and to improve the academic profile of the organization. International Orthopaedics is the academic face of SICOT –

what we turn to the world and by which we are largely judged by the orthopaedic community.

Because of the importance of International Orthopaedics to SICOT the Editorial Board is pushing constantly for higher academic standards in our publications and increasing the number of papers published while maintaining our obligation to represent fairly the diversity of SICOT membership. Accordingly manuscripts with varying levels of evidence are welcomed since individual surgeon experience may be extremely useful in development of similar programs elsewhere in the world. Recently the Board decided to open Editorial Offices in different geographic areas to facilitate the contact between our Deputy Editors and colleagues in the regions. The Regional offices are opened with contacts that can be reached by e-mail by our readers and authors and they will help with the balance between different geographical areas in the Journal. Please check the Journal website and the printed version which shows the organization of the Editorial Board and offices.

The committee structure of SICOT itself is undergoing a fundamental change with a new organization chart consolidating a host of small committees under the umbrella of two academies (Education and Research) and two councils (Governance & Finance). This will allow for more central and rapid decision making which in turn should provide a better academic experience for our members both through an improved orthopaedic world congress but also encouragement to apply for both clinical and research fellowships.

SICOT will be 90 years old next October and International Orthopaedics will turn forty-five this year. International Orthopaedics has been a catalyst for change within orthopaedics in the low and middle income countries and we foresee this continuing for the future.

The Journal published over 360 scientific papers in 2018 and this would not be possible without the expert help and assistance of our reviewers that we acknowledge here in

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alphabetical order. We are grateful to all our colleagues who found time and resources to read, evaluate, analyze and write

about the papers that they received for review. This Editorial is dedicated to them!

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