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# SICOT

Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie  
International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology



## ■ Newsletter

An exclusive interview with Prof Alvarez Cambras,  
Conference President of SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference

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# Awards handed out at the Closing Ceremony of SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference, Havana

## SICOT Diploma Examination (25-26 September 2004)

### Examiners

Prof Allende	Dr Loehr
Dr Andersen	Prof Pitto
Prof Awais	Dr Raveendran
Prof Bünger	Prof Said
Prof Cila	Prof Sedel
Dr D'Ambrosia	Dr Smith
Dr Duhaime	Prof Sorbie
Prof Dr Eulert	Prof Dr Szendroi
Prof Dr Fucs	Assoc Prof Trç
Dr Halawa	Dr Tregonning
Prof Dr Herman	Mr Tuson
Mr Horan	Mr Walker
Prof Dr Knahr	



### Successful candidates

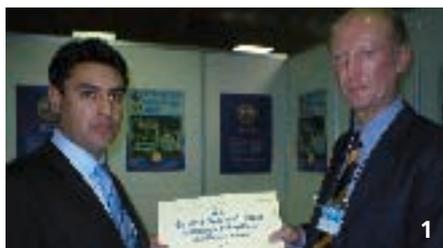
Alejandro Alvarez Lopez  
Ibrillo Castillo Garcia  
Ernesto Gonzalez Martinez  
Rolando Hernandez Gonzalez  
Ivan Marintshev  
Livan Pena Marrero  
Luis Oscar Marrero  
Guido Salles Bentancourt

## Lester Lowe Scholarship

An award of maximum USD 1,000 each has been granted to:

Alfredo Pozzo, Bolivia (1)

Vikas Trivedi, India (2)



## Australian SICOT Scholarship

An award of AUD 3,000 each has been granted to 3 candidates:

Andrew Graydon

Jacob Munro

Salil Pandit

## SICOT Trainees Best Paper

Fahad Attar

## SICOT Oral Presentation Prizes

Lars Carlsson  
Antonio Castro Soto del Valle  
Michael Goebel  
Axel Hempfing  
Petra Krepler

Haisheng Li  
Anders Oden  
Ole Rahbek  
Eddy Sanchez Noda



## SICOT Poster Prizes



István Domán  
Petra Krepler  
Haysell Lopez Diaz  
Luis Oscar Marrero  
Kazuhiko Saeki

Eddy Sanchez Noda  
Alexander Schuh  
Gabor Skaliczki  
William Stetson

## SIROT Prizes

Kaan Erler  
Dariush Gouran Savadkoohi  
Andrea Manunta  
Theodore Miclau



**T**he SICOT Annual International Conference held in Havana in September 2004 was a great success. The last meeting of SICOT held in Latin America, a Triennial World Congress, was in Rio de Janeiro in 1981. Thanks to the efforts of Prof Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, SICOT was able to come back to Latin America, not only this year but also in 2006, when the Annual International Conference will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In total 1,033 participants from 68 countries attended the meeting in Havana. 362 Cuban orthopaedic surgeons were able to participate. The scientific programme was excellent and focused mainly on external fixation, paediatric orthopaedics (with a special interest in the paediatric spine), bone oncology, the shoulder and sports traumatology. A workshop on SICOT Telediagnostic was also conducted. The sessions were well attended and gave an opportunity for full, relevant discussions even when the attraction of the old city and the Cuban beaches was so great.

The SICOT sessions were preceded by a Trainees' Meeting chaired by Prof Dr Patricia Fucs. A half day was dedicated to SIROT. The second SICOT Diploma Examination took place under the supervision of Chief Examiner Tony Hall. More than 400 abstracts were submitted, 211 oral presentations were given and 124 posters displayed. There were 40 guest and 5 plenary lecturers who gave state of the art talks on a wide variety of hot subjects. It is worth noting that the whole procedure of abstract submission, registration and payment was handled online.

The Conference President, Prof Alvarez Cambras, was deeply involved in creating the scientific programme and he dedicated his support on the promotion of the Conference. He organised unforgettable social events: the welcome party at the Bucan Restaurant, a farewell party at Club Habana and a wonderful spectacle of Cuban dance and song in the Karl Marx Theatre. The President's Dinner at the Tropicana Cabaret was outstanding. All participants really enjoyed these great social events - a good demonstration of one of the objectives of SICOT, the sharing of high-level scientific knowledge in a very convivial atmosphere.

Prof Maurice Hinsenkamp  
Secretary General

# Orthopaedic Surgery in Slovenia



Organised clinical and teaching activity in the field of surgery has a long tradition in Ljubljana. In the years 1694-1825, the Medical Board for Examinations in Surgery granted a licence for surgical practice to 96 candidates. The Healers' and Surgeons' Order for the town of Ljubljana, regulating the practice of surgery, was founded in 1682. The Ljubljana Guild of Surgeons was established in 1736, and the Medico-Surgical Lyceum functioned from 1782 to 1810. The first Medical Faculty was active from 1810 to 1813, while the Medico-Surgical School was in existence from 1813 to 1850. An incomplete Faculty of Medicine was established after World War I, followed by a complete one after World War II.

The first department of orthopaedic surgery in Slovenia was founded in 1923 by Dr Frantisek Minar, a native Czech. It began as a small unit with only 12 beds. In 1945, a chair of orthopaedic surgery was established at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana and Dr Bogdan Breclj became our first professor of orthopaedic surgery.

From a historical point of view, Ljubljana was the place where the



*Bled, jewel of the Julian Alps*

first operation for a herniated intervertebral disc was carried out. It was performed by Dr Minar and Prof Breclj in 1933 on a young woman with severe back and leg pain. Oil myelography revealed a "tumour" mass at the level of L4-L5, which on histological examination proved to be made up of fibrous tissue and cartilage-like cells. A few years later, this type of "spinal tumour" was recognised as intervertebral disc prolapse. In 1948, Prof Pohar made surgical treatment of sciatic pain a routine part of the operative programme in Ljubljana. In the fifties, Profs Breclj and Debevec designed a domestic system of plates and screws for osteosynthesis. In the

sixties, Prof Srakar developed an external fixation device and special screws for the treatment of slipped capital femoral epiphysis.

Prof Breclj was the leading orthopaedic surgeon in the former Yugoslavia. In his time, many patients from all parts of our country and from abroad were treated at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Ljubljana. Our biggest problem in those years was congenital dislocation of the hip (CDH), occurring to 3 to 5 % of all newborn infants. Prof Breclj introduced early screening for CDH as well as treatment with special splints and surgery. Since then, the rate of CDH in newborns has declined to less than one case per year. In orthopaedic trauma there are currently two main problems: complex intra-articular fractures in multiply injured persons and fractures in elderly patients.

Our Department was among the first orthopaedic departments outside Switzerland to adopt the AO method of osteosynthesis and use the original Swiss internal fixation devices. In 1968 we organised the first AO course held in the former Yugoslavia. Since then, a number of AO courses have been organised in Slovenia. We have also hosted numerous other in-

ternational orthopaedic meetings and congresses, including the Tenth SICOT Trainees' Meeting in Portoroz in 1999. We maintain close contacts with colleagues in all our neighbouring countries, and take an active part in regional orthopaedic meetings. In May 2006 the seventh European Trauma Congress will be held in Ljubljana.

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Ljubljana is the second largest in the country and serves as the training base for the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana. We have also four other big orthopaedic departments and four smaller ones, located in regional hospitals. Altogether, there are 500 hospital beds and 70 active orthopaedic surgeons. Traumatology is a separate branch of surgery. Currently, 450 patient beds are set aside for trauma and 48 surgeons work in this field. Slovenia has three large trauma centres and eight smaller ones. Specialists training in orthopaedic surgery take six years and end with an exam. The Slovenian Society of Orthopaedic Surgery has 85 members. A national congress of orthopaedic surgeons is held every three years.

Nearly all the people of Slovenia are covered under the national health insurance scheme. Prac-

tically all hospitals are owned by the state, and most doctors work for the national health service. Everybody can receive the best treatment available, but the limitations imposed make waiting lists years-long. Since there is a sharp rise in diagnostic procedures after traffic accidents, one suspects the health-care system is abused for insurance claims.

Slovenia is a small country, situated in Central Europe. It formed a part of the former Yugoslavia until 1991, when it became an independent state. All distances in this part of Europe are short. We

have several congress centres. The three largest ones are in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, Portoroz, a summer resort on the Adriatic coast, and Bled, a small town located on the shore of a lake surrounded by mountains. Slovenia has a varied and picturesque landscape, characterised by high mountains (the Alps), vast forests, swiftly flowing rivers. The Karst region has the famous Postojna cave well known for its marvellous stalagmites and stalactites. Karst also has a short stretch of the Mediterranean coast. ■



- ▶ **Country name:** Slovenia
- ▶ **Location:** Central Europe - bordered by Austria (north), Italy (west), Hungary (east), Croatia (south)

- ▶ **Population:** 1,976,290
- ▶ **Capital:** Ljubljana
- ▶ **Surface area:** 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Language:** Slovene
- ▶ **Weather:** continental climate.



Temperature ranges from - 20°C in January to 35°C in July, humidity from 40% in winter to 80% in summer.

- ▶ **Type of government:** parliamentary democracy
- ▶ **No. of doctors:** 4,341
- ▶ **No. of medical schools:** 2
- ▶ **No. of orthopaedic and trauma surgeons:** 70 + 48 = 118
- ▶ **No. of SICOT active members:** 24

# National Delegates' Banquet Club Habana, 24 September 2004



*Prof Dr Knahr and his daughter and  
Prof Dr and Ms Vecsei*



*Prof Pitto, Prof Suk and Prof Hinsenkamp*



*Prof Gouran Savadkoohi and Dr Duhaime*



*Dr Oqueli Colindres, Dr Fernandez-Palazzi, Dr  
Jacobo Nuñez, Prof Alvarez Cambras, Dr Amow*



*Prof and Ms Leong, Prof Alvarez Cambras and  
Dr Jacobo Nuñez, Dr and Ms D'Ambrosia,  
Prof Dr Fucs*



*Dr Andersen, Mr Walker and Prof Said*



*Prof Herberts and Prof Sorbie*



*Mr Hall, Mr Horan, Mr Walker and  
Dr Fernandez-Palazzi*



*Prof Hinsenkamp, Prof Suk and Dr Benzakour*



*Prof Hinsenkamp, Prof Leong, Prof Alvarez  
Cambras and Prof Dr Fucs*



*Prof and Ms Kokubun, Prof Dr and Ms Kotz,  
Dr and Ms Duhaime and Prof and Ms Said*



*Prof Awais and Dr Smith*

# International Council Meeting

## 25 September 2004



**From left to right - 1st row:** Prof Bünger (Denmark), Dr Benzakour (Morocco), Prof Dr Kotz (Austria), Prof Alvarez Cambras (Conference President, Cuba), Prof Leong (Hong Kong), Dr Smith (USA), Dr Al-Othman (Saudi Arabia), Prof Gouran Savadkoohi (Iran) - **2nd row:** Dr Oqueli Colindres (El Salvador), Dr Duhaime (Canada), Prof Ege (Turkey), Prof Hinsenkamp (Belgium), Prof Awais (Pakistan), Dr Zaratsyan (Armenia) - **3rd row:** Prof Said (Egypt), Prof Kokubun (Japan), Prof Dr Fucs (Brazil), Dr Raveendran (Malaysia), Dr Fernandez-Palazzi (Venezuela), Dr Lopez-Duran Stern (Spain) - **4th row:** Dr Tregonning (New Zealand), Prof Suk (Korea), Dr Lemseffer (Morocco), Dr Gil-Orbezo (Mexico), Dr Santori (Italy), Prof Raie (Estonia) - **5th row:** Prof Haspl (Croatia), Dr Toma (Austria), Mr Hall (UK), Dr Halawa (Examiner, UK), Mr Tuson (UK) - **6th row:** Prof Dr Herman (Slovenia), Prof Allende (Argentina), Dr Andersen (Denmark), Mr Walker (UK) - **7th row:** Prof Dr Vecsei (Austria), Dr Zhao Jr (China), Dr Amow (Trinidad and Tobago), Prof Dr Eulert (Germany), Mr Horan (UK), Prof Pitto (New Zealand), Prof Herberts (Sweden), Dr Lazarov (Macedonia), Prof Järvinen (Finland), Prof Dr Knahr (Austria), Prof Sorbie (Canada), Dr D'Ambrosia (USA).



The podium party. From left to right: Dr Benzakour (Treasurer), Prof Hinsenkamp (Secretary General), Prof Leong (President), Prof Dr Kotz (Immediate Past President), Dr Smith (President Elect), Prof Said (First Vice President).

# Havana Third Annual International Conference

## Exhibition area



One of the exhibitors



SICOT booth



Poster area

For a full account of the scientific sessions of SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference by our SICOT Conference Reporters, see our pages on the SICOT World portal (<http://www.sicotworld.org>).

## The Cultural Gala at Karl Marx Theater, 27 September 2004



## President's Dinner, Tropicana Cabaret, 28 September 2004



*Dr and Ms Benzakour*



*Prof and Ms Sorbie and Dr and Ms Tregonning (background)*



*Prof and Ms Allende*



*Dr Fernandez-Palazzi, Prof Hinsenkamp and Prof Awais*



*Prof and Ms Said*



*Prof Bünger and Ms Elvekjaer and Prof Pitto (background)*



*Prof Dr and Ms Kotz*



*Left: Prof and Ms Leong, Prof and Ms Allende. Right: Prof Alvarez Cambras and Dr Jacobo Nuñez and Dr and Ms Benzakour*



*Prof Alvarez Cambras and Dr Jacobo Nuñez*



*Dr Smith and Ms Duhaime*



*Prof and Ms Leong*



*Prof Dr and Ms Vecsei and Prof and Ms Said (background)*

## Obituary

### K.T. Dholakia, FRCS, M. Ch. Orth (1920-2004)



SICOT and the Orthopaedic Community have lost Dr Kandarp T. Dholakia who died on 17 June 2004 after a prolonged illness. A very active member of SICOT, he attended regularly all its meetings and congresses as a member and Indian National Delegate, contributed constantly

to its affairs and programmes. He was elected President from 1978 to 1981.

K.T., as he was popularly known, was truly a towering figure in International Orthopaedics. In his long practice of nearly six decades he served as an important link with the past and proved to be a living history. He started his career in Mumbai, as Surgeon Superintendent of Children's Orthopaedic Hospital and thereafter was Honorary Professor at G.S. Medical College for nearly 20 years. He had a life long association as Chief Surgeon at the Bombay Hospital where he established a

Post-graduate Department and organised teaching programmes.

His goal of achieving excellence in teaching, training and practice of orthopaedic surgery was achieved by a single minded commitment to it. He was responsible for bringing in the latest orthopaedic technology in its various specialities such as the spine, joint replacement, paediatrics and trauma. In the last decade of his career he was the founder President of their societies.

Amongst the many honours he received, the most notable are the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the Master Surgeons Award of the International College of Surgeons. He received "Padmashri" - a National Award by the President of India - in 1973 and the Dhanwantri Award in 1982.

■  
*Dr Prabodh M. Desai*  
*National Delegate of India*

## Obituary

### Professor Calogero Casuccio (1909-2003)



Prof Calogero Casuccio died on 12 August 2003, at the Ospedale di Pieve di Cadore. He was born on 22 October 1909 in Villaga, a small town in the province of Vicenza, where his father worked as a general practitioner. He moved to Padua, where he enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine.

Soon after receiving his degree in 1932, he met Vittorio Putti, who convinced him that he should study orthopaedics at the Rizzoli Institute, where he soon began his career.

Putti died on 1 November 1940 and his place was taken by Francesco Delitala. Under Prof Delitala's guidance, Casuccio had every opportunity to become familiar with the innovations that were enriching the practical makeup of orthopaedics just after the war. Prof Casuccio was given a teaching post at the University of

Bari in 1948, where he taught surgery of the locomotor apparatus. He won the esteem of the management of the new hospital in Bari, who decided to give him his own ward with about a hundred beds. The new "Clinic" was inaugurated in 1955, and one year later its director, Casuccio, was one of the winners of a full professorship of orthopaedics at the University of Catania. This appointment was enough to convince the Board of Trustees at the Faculty of Padua to assign him a post there to teach surgery of the organs of movement. In just a few months he became fluent in English and began to frequent international circles. He earned the honour of admission to SICOT, which he attended first as the Italian representative. He became Vice President and finally was elected President, in Copenhagen on 10 July 1975. Once his role as President of SICOT ended, he devoted his life to running the institute he had created.

■  
*Ferdinando Vigliani*

# ■ An exclusive interview with Prof Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, Conference President of SICOT/SIROT 2004 Third Annual International Conference



## How did you fare as Conference President?

I am very happy with the result, all the more so

since we have been working so hard. I would never have thought running a conference was such a difficult task. But it is worthwhile to work in close collaboration as we did with SICOT, SIROT and the local organising committee when everything ends well.

## How did this Presidency impact your country?

This Conference is very important to my country because it has been awaited since a long time, not only by me but also all Cuban orthopaedic surgeons. It is the first time that a conference of that level is taking place in Central America and we are proud that Cuba has been chosen. From a scientific point of view it is of meaning because we are receiving great professors who give excellent lectures. But also the opportunity is given to Cuban orthopaedists to show what they can do.

## What is the role of SICOT in your country?

All Cubans would like to become members of SICOT and that is why we will take the opportunity

of this Conference to increase the SICOT Cuban membership. But as the economic situation of the country is difficult the Frank Pais International Orthopaedic Complex and the Cuban Orthopaedic Society, of which I am President, pay the SICOT membership.

## What can your country bring to SICOT?

First of all our warmth. Then our expertise, among others in external fixators, colloid of bone marrow, banks of tissues, sports traumatology, etc. We are very happy to welcome members of SICOT to our country and we were proud to offer the gala show at the Karl Marx Theater. I have asked the best artists if they would agree to present a show and they did, free of charge. And even the Karl Marx Theater offered the places free of charge. I think we have offered something very special to SICOT.

## What is the effect of the political system of your country on the health system?

Our country is not a rich country but nor is it a poor one. Everybody goes to school, is well-dressed, has a healthy diet. There is no starvation in Cuba. And the public health is very good. The result of the impact of the socialist system on health is that health care is free for 100% of the popu-

lation. As a result all diseases that you normally encounter in developing countries have been eradicated (infectious and respiratory diseases, dysentery, etc.) and we now suffer from the same diseases as in developed countries (cancers, vascular and cardio-vascular diseases). Furthermore we achieved a very low infant mortality rate of 6.2 ‰, the third rate in the world. And life expectancy is now 80 years for women and 78 years for men.

## As a Cuban orthopaedist what is the advantage for you of belonging to SICOT?

SICOT is the representative of world orthopaedics and represents the gathering of fraternity among orthopaedists. Today there are a lot of specialised orthopaedic societies and even if it is important to belong to these societies, there is also a need for global societies gathering orthopaedists throughout the world, and this is what SICOT does.

## What do you think you have contributed to your country as a SICOT National Delegate?

First of all my country and SICOT are now in touch. Secondly the SICOT/SIROT Third Annual International Conference could take place in Cuba. Thirdly Cuban members of SICOT are allowed to receive the Journal. ■

# SICOT / SIROT 2005

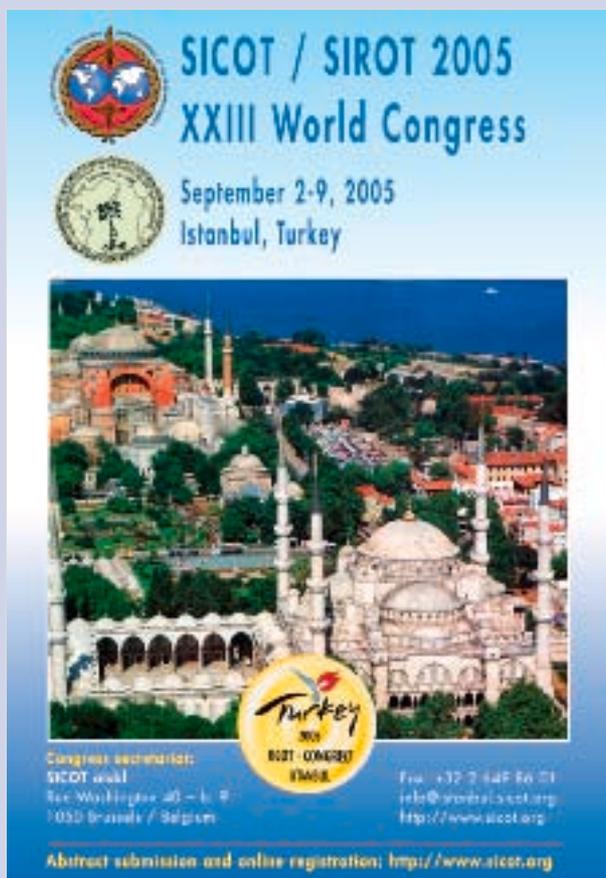
## XXIII World Congress

2-9 September 2005 - Istanbul, Turkey

**Abstract deadline:  
10 January 2005**

### SICOT main topics

- ▶ Spinal deformities and diseases
- ▶ Sports medicine and arthroscopy
- ▶ Trauma
- ▶ Paediatric orthopaedics
- ▶ Shoulder and elbow disorders
- ▶ Wrist and hand disorders
- ▶ Musculoskeletal tumours and infections
- ▶ Current trends in orthopaedics
- ▶ Hip disorders
- ▶ Knee disorders



### SIROT main topics

- ▶ Research on cartilage
- ▶ Research on biomaterials
- ▶ Tissue engineering
- ▶ Research on minimally invasive surgery
- ▶ New rehabilitation tools
- ▶ Osteoporotic fracture treatment and prevention
- ▶ Spine research

Congress secretariat: SICOT aisbl

Rue Washington 40 - b.9 • 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Fax : + 32 2 649 86 01 • E-mail : [info@istanbul.sicot.org](mailto:info@istanbul.sicot.org) • Website : <http://www.sicot.org>

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<http://www.sicot.org/?page=application>**

### Editorial Department

Editorial Secretary: Prof Rocco P. Pitto

External Affairs: Nathalie Pondeville

Rue Washington 40-b.9, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Phone : + 32 2 648 68 23 - Fax : + 32 2 649 86 01

E-mail : [edsecr@sicot.org](mailto:edsecr@sicot.org) - Website : <http://www.sicot.org>

