

Welcome letter from Ettore Taverna, president of the Upper Limb Committee (ULC) of ESSKA

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ESSKA Board has recently decided to create a new committee of the society named the **Upper Limb Committee (ULC)**.

The reason to create this committee was the increasing interest of arthroscopic and mini-invasive procedures of the shoulder primarily, but also of the elbow and wrist.

The areas of interest of the ULC are:

- 1) Training Program
- 2) Scientific Program
- 3) Scientific Papers
- 4) Travelling Fellowship

Point 1 Training Program. The wish of the ULC is that they would like to be able to organize once a year a one or two-days course with cadaver lab, dry lab, lectures and discussion.

Of course if somebody has in mind to organize courses and conferences regarding the upper limb pathologies and would like that his course/conference should be part of the training program, we would be happy to include the course/conference in the program. Please note that the event should fulfil the ESSKA Board requirements for an ESSKA patronage.

Point 2 Scientific Programs. The idea is to create every 2 year, one or two multicentric studies that can be discussed in a Symposium during the next ESSKA conference.

During the first ULC course held in Athens in November 2008 Pascal Gleyze has illustrated two studies, which we promote during the next two years. These studies could be discussed at the next ESSKA conference in June 2010, taking place in Oslo / NORWAY. The two studies are:

1) *Prognostic factors for recurrent instability after arthroscopic treatment of traumatic anterior glenohumeral instability* (a cohort European multicentric study) *Chairman of the study are Giuseppe Milano (IT) and Herve Thomazeau (FR)*

2) *Arthroscopic bone reconstruction for anterior instability comparative study and preliminary results* (multicentric European study) *Chairman Antonio Cartucho (PT) and Tom Ludvingsen (NO),*

Point 3 Scientific Papers. The ESSKA publishes a scientific journal 12times pr year as the KSSTA Journal where we would like to submit more and more scientific articles regarding upper limb subjects. Of course experienced upper limb surgeons can be proposed at the ESSKA Board as reviewers of the journal. So please feel free to contact us if you should have any interest.

Point 4 Travelling Fellowship. The wish of the ULC is to sponsor a 6 months to 1 year fellowship in favour of a surgeon under 45 years old, who would be in charge of collecting the data of the scientific studies promoted by the ULC. This surgeon could then choose one of two international recognised institutions of his choice, where he could stay to improve his ability in some specific procedures. The fellowship would be finalized with a scientific paper which could be submitted for the ESSKA Journal.

Last but not the least, we would like to emphasize that **the aim of the ULC is to be open to all the surgeons having good ideas and the willingness to share their expertise experience and know how** with other Europeans orthopaedic doctors.

If you would like to submit or discuss some ideas regarding one of the above mentioned points or even other areas of interest or if you just would like to the future activities of the ULC, please do not hesitate to contact us at (tzanakakisnik@yahoo.gr) Nikos Tzanakakis who is collecting all the email addresses and telephone numbers of all the surgeons interested in our activities.

Good ideas will be always find place at the ESSKA Upper Limb Committee, so we invite all the surgeons interested in these topics to participate at our meetings and courses, to be active in order to create a scientific society with a strong European identity of shoulder, elbow and wrist surgeons

Looking forward to meet you all,

Best regards,

Ettore Taverna,
President of the Upper Limb Committee of ESSKA