

# SRS NEWS

June/July 2004

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The Mission of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) is to foster optimal care of the patient with any disorder that may affect the shape, alignment or function of the spine, throughout life. The SRS accomplishes this through education, research, advocacy and ethical practice.



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## President's Report

*James W. Ogilvie, MD*

As preparations for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Scoliosis Research Society are completed, several significant trends are apparent. The scientific value of the meeting is unparalleled and the social activities will produce an atmosphere which enhances the collegiality that is essential to the success of our society. Buenos Aires will be a spectacular venue for our meeting. The Sheraton facilities have all of the required amenities and our off-site activities will be of the highest quality.

Our pre-meeting course is focused on innovative options in spinal surgery. Through the efforts of John Lubicky and the Education Committee many new and emerging therapies will be highlighted while maintaining the balance between the latest developments and the scientific integrity required of new products and procedures.

Steve Mardjetko and the SRS Program Committee have constructed scientific sessions at the annual meeting which have several noteworthy features. First, there have been a record number of abstracts submitted for both the Annual Meeting and IMAST. The Program Committees of the SRS and IMAST have coordinated the submissions so that with few exceptions there are no duplicate podium presentations at the two meetings. This will enable more members to present their research efforts and with the greater likelihood of presenting, it will stimulate others to submit their work.

Secondly, presentation time has been limited to 4 minutes rather than the 5 minutes time in the past. This allows more original work to be presented, an increase on almost 20 papers, with the expectation that more members will be prompted to submit research. Podium speakers will require added discipline in order to clearly present the essentials of their work. Lengthy introductions, unfocused literature reviews and expressions of gratitude will only subtract time from the core purpose of the presentations.

E-posters will also allow more information to be presented at both IMAST and the annual meeting.

An SRS Educational Fund has been established through the generosity of industry leaders. Through SRS administered scholarships this will enable a number of young spine surgeons to attend the annual meeting. This is part of the Society's initiative in global outreach. It is an exciting development and one which we hope will carry into the future.

Invited speakers include David Bradford's presentation of the Harrington Lecture. David is a past SRS president, former chair of orthopaedics at the University of California-San Francisco and will address the challenges of academic spine surgery in an environment of changing priorities in education, reimbursement and legal issues.

The Steel Lecture will be given by a retired Argentine naval officer who is a recognized expert in the Antarctica. While the Steel Lecture has the pre-requisite of no medical content, it should be both entertaining and instructive.

Professor Kenneth Ward is chair of Ob-Gyn and Women's Health at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Ward is a renowned medical geneticist and will give the Presidential Guest Lecture on the genetics of spinal disease.

I hope that you and your family members will plan on being in Buenos Aires in September. I look forward to seeing you.

James W. Ogilvie, MD

Scoliosis Research Society President 2003-2004

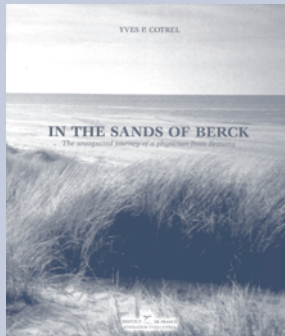
## Dr. Yves Paul Cotrel Autobiography



Dr. Yves Paul Cotrel is considered within the worldwide orthopedic community as one of the pioneers of modern spinal surgery. His development of instrumentation for the three-dimensional correction of scoliosis was revolutionary and is still considered the gold standard in scoliosis treatment.

Although Dr. Cotrel is well-known within the orthopedic medical community for his achievements in spinal surgery, few people know

of the turbulent story behind his extraordinary accomplishments. Throughout his professional and personal life, Dr. Cotrel faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. However, due to his astonishing determination and his passion for serving his patients, Dr. Cotrel was able to overcome the challenges in his life. Dr. Cotrel would go on to be an inventor, founder of the company SOFAMOR of SOFAMOR DANEK, and ultimately the head of two spinal research foundations – the Fondation Yves Cotrel pour la Recherche en Pathologie Rachidienne (Paris, France) and the Cotrel Spinal Research Foundation (Memphis, Tennessee).



After prompting by friends, family, and colleagues, Dr. Cotrel wrote his remarkable story in French entitled *Dans les Sables de Berck* which was published in France in 2003. An English version of the book entitled *In the Sands of Berck* published in April 2004 is now available to the American public. Dr. Cotrel's book makes an ideal gift for the aspiring physician or inventor, graduating medical student, practicing or retired physician, as well as for anyone seeking inspiration!

Dr. Cotrel's autobiography is for sale in the United States through the Cotrel Spinal Research Foundation for the price of \$40.00. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to support spinal research approved by the **Cotrel Spinal Research Foundation (CSRF)** - the US affiliate of the **Fondation Yves Cotrel** of Paris, France. The CSRF headquarters is located in Memphis, Tennessee. Projects supported by the CSRF in the United States first go through a selection process by the **Scoliosis Research Society** before being reviewed and approved by the CSRF Scientific Board. Persons interested in purchasing the book should contact the CSRF by calling Mrs. Corrie Metcalf at (901)762-0080, by emailing [cmetcalf@compassfin.com](mailto:cmetcalf@compassfin.com) or by visiting the Foundation website at [http://www.fondationcotrel.org/english/contact\\_e/contact\\_e.htm](http://www.fondationcotrel.org/english/contact_e/contact_e.htm).

## New PowerPoint presentation on the SRS website: "Application of a Risser-Cotrel Cast for Juvenile Scoliosis"

In March, the SRS Bracing and Non-Operative Management Committee (with primary input from Charles D'Amato, MD) completed a PowerPoint presentation on the technique of applying a Risser-Cotrel cast for juvenile scoliosis. Due to the evolution of spinal instrumentation over the past ten years, the art of applying casts for the temporary correction of spinal deformities in young patients is beginning to fade. This presentation was made to illustrate the technique used to correctly apply a Risser-Cotrel cast and provides SRS members, particularly younger members, useful pictorial guidelines for this method. This PowerPoint presentation is found on the SRS website under the "Medical Professionals" section.

## 2003 -2004 SRS Calendar

August 2, 2004

Pre-registration ends for  
SRS Annual Meeting

September 5, 2004

Board of Directors  
Meeting

Sheraton Buenos Aires

September 6, 2004

SRS CME course

Sheraton Buenos Aires

September 7 – 9, 2004

SRS 39th Annual Meeting

Sheraton Buenos Aires

## SRS Endowment Fund Drive

The Board of Directors is asking for 100% participation from all members of the SRS. We need every member's support in order to provide continued funding for spinal deformity research projects. If you haven't already donated or pledged to the SRS Endowment Drive, please do so now. Donations should be sent to:

SRS Endowment Fund

C/O OREF

6300 N. River Rd, Ste 700

Rosemount, IL 60018

You may contact Gene Wurth or Megan Wilson at OREF (1-847-698-9980) if you have questions or want more information on donation options.



Research Endowment Fund  
\$10 Million by 2010

# Report from the Exhibits Committee

By John R. Fisk, MD, Exhibits Committee Chair

The Exhibits Committee received almost 400 abstract submissions for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina for posters, e-posters and videos. The committee reviewed all of these submissions in a blinded fashion (without author information) and graded the abstracts based on their content, with 5 being the highest score and 0 being the lowest. Based on the average scores from the committee members, the committee chose 61 abstracts to be presented as traditional posters, 63 abstracts to be presented as e-posters, and 10 abstracts to be presented as videos at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. We look forward to outstanding poster, e-poster and video exhibits in Buenos Aires based on the quality of submissions received this year. I would like to thank everyone who submitted abstracts for exhibits this year. The quality was outstanding overall, which made the committee's job even harder in choosing those abstracts that will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

## SRS Research Endowment Fund

The Board of Directors and OREF Liaison Committee would like to thank all members of SRS who continue to support the SRS Research Endowment fund by making donations.

The following list of SRS Fellows\* have recently donated to the Research Endowment fund in April and May:

### Thank You

Wesley V. Carrion, MD

Robert F. Heary, MD

Isao Ohki, MD

Dennis G. Crandall, MD J.

Patrick Johnson, MD

Stephen L. Ondra, MD

Malcolm L. Ecker, MD

Eung-Ha Kim, MD

Anthony P. Schnuerer, PA

Dennis R. Wenger, MD

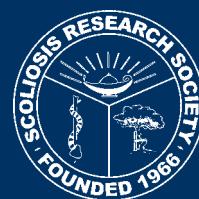
\*Fellows who have made the payment directly to the OREF office may not be included on the above list; those members will be recognized in a future edition of the SRS newsletter.

Please join the list of donors by making a 2004 donation the Research Endowment Fund today! Donations can be made in any amount; a \$100.00 minimum is suggested.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The fax number listed for the Sheraton Buenos Aires is incorrect in the Preliminary Program. The correct fax number is 54 11 4318 9395. The number is listed correctly on the printable hotel accommodations form on the Web site.

SCOLIOSIS RESEARCH SOCIETY



*Announcing two first-class Scoliosis Research Society educational events in one outstanding location:*

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

**Pre-meeting CME Course**

*“Innovative Treatment Options  
in Spine Surgery”*

September 6, 2004

&

**39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

September 7-9, 2004

For more information visit the SRS website:

**www.srs.org** or contact the SRS office.

email: [tjackson@execinc.com](mailto:tjackson@execinc.com)

phone: 1-414-289-9107

fax: 1-414-276-3349

## SRS Program Committee Report May 2004

The last quarter has been exceedingly busy for the Program Committee Members. The Abstract deadline for the SRS 2004 meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina was March 1, 2004. Of the 525 abstracts submitted for consideration, approximately 375 of these were submitted 48 hours before the deadline. Abstract numbers have grown remarkably over the 3 years that I've been on this committee. In 2002 there were 350 abstracts submitted, in 2003, there were 425, and this year a record 525 abstracts were submitted. The 10 committee members graded these over a 21 day period. At a conservative estimate of 3 minutes per abstract this represents nearly 30 hours of work. Abstracts were submitted and graded online using a company called Think Big Communications. Overall, the process went smoothly. Abstract submission was combined with IMAST, hopefully, simplifying the abstract submission process. Abstracts were graded blindly from 0 to 5, and scores were calculated. The quality of submitted abstracts was exceedingly high, cutoff for acceptance was at the 3.7 level this year. The final program was organized with the help of Todd Albert and Jim Roach, and of course Ken Janowski and Tressa Goulding. You can find this online through the SRS Web site.

The SRS Program Committee and the IMAST Program Committee coordinated their efforts to achieve two entirely different venues. There is no overlap in the programs of these two meetings. Having reviewed the programs of both meetings, each maintains the unique qualities that they are known for. Therefore, you should try to attend both meetings if at all possible.

A total of 103 papers made the program as podium presentations. This is an increase of 13 papers over last year. How was this accomplished? The Board of Directors along with the Program Committee decided to shorten the podium presentations to a maximum of 4 minutes. This is in keeping with the SRS leadership's and Program Committee's goal of getting as many high quality papers as possible presented at the annual meeting.

A warning to Podium Presenters - this 4 minute time limit will be strictly enforced. The microphone will be turned off automatically once your time is up. To aid presenters in meeting this time limit, a total number of 20 slides will be allowed, with no more than 14 word/data slides including title, and closing slides. Any presentation submitted to the AV staff exceeding this limit will be reviewed by the Program Committee. If videos are part of your presentation, the time required to run this will be included in the 4 minute limit. If you have an abstract accepted for podium presentation, but feel that you cannot stay within these limits, please contact me ASAP.

Nominees for the Hibb's award for the best Basic Science and Clinical papers were chosen from the top 10 papers, (based on score) in each category. The Program Committee will judge the Clinical papers and the Research Committee will judge the basic science papers. Scoring is based on the strength of the manuscript as well as the podium presentation.

This year the SRS Board of Directors, in an effort to "diversify" the annual meeting, has provided guidelines that set a limit to the number of podium presentations for an individual. The guidelines suggest that SRS members, including international members and candidate members, can present no more than two papers. Non-members are allowed one podium presentation. Interestingly, there were only 7 instances in which this was an issue this year, and all of these have been resolved. Based on my communications with these individuals, I believe that the stated goals of diversifying the podium presenters and encouraging active membership in SRS have been realized.

The SRS Focus Edition on Spondylolisthesis is well underway; 13 contributors have been solicited and 8 manuscripts have been received. The Focus meeting is tentatively scheduled for Chicago in October, 2004.

The SRS FOSA Day program for 2005 will focus on the The Immature Spine (Early Onset Spinal Deformity). SRS FOSA representative, Bill Horton and I are pulling together an excellent faculty drawn from the lectures on this topic from the SRS pre-course on Innovative Methods.

That's all for now! Have a great summer! See you all in Bermuda for IMAST and in Buenos Aires for SRS meeting!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven Mardjetko

# Welcome to Buenos Aires!!!!!!!

The city of Buenos Aires is the Capital of Argentina. Approximately three million people live in it. However, together with the metropolitan area, the total population of Buenos Aires is above ten million, making it one of the most populated urban centers in the world. The climate is mild all year round. The mean annual temperature is 18°C. Thus, visitors can enjoy walking along the city in any season. Our currency is the Peso and the exchange rate is approx. \$3 Pesos = US\$ 1.

The identity of Buenos Aires is marked by the influence of the different waves of immigration that populated the city, providing it with a cosmopolitan profile. Buenos Aires has always been famous for its incredible cultural offer. Museums, cinemas, theaters and **tango** shows provide unlimited variety of options for entertainment. The **Colón Theater**, inaugurated in 1908, is the pride of the “porteños” (it stands for *Puerto*, that means harbor). It has hosted and still hosts the most famous artists of the national and international opera and ballet. Among the museums we may mention the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes** (National Museum of Fine Arts), the **Recoleta Cultural Center** or the **MALBA** (Buenos Aires Latin American Art Museum) that was inaugurated on 2001.

In Buenos Aires “good eating” is somewhat of a cult. The Argentine wines, especially the red varieties, meet the quality requirements of any connoisseur. Some neighborhoods are famous because of their gastronomy. The most important are **Puerto Madero**, **Las Cañitas**, and **Palermo Hollywood**.

**Recoleta** is one of the most famous neighborhoods, surrounded by a beautiful park where you find the old Cemetery and the handicraft market, which is one of the most picturesque proposals of the city. The “flea-market” of **San Telmo** is the ideal place for “antiques”. The Street-Museum **Caminito**, located in La Boca, where 62 plastic artists exhibit their work in the open air, is one of the most important markets of this type in the world. On Sundays and holidays you also have the **Mataderos Market** where you may enjoy a colorful festival of Argentine music and dances and see a number of typical “gaucho” skills.

For “porteños”, cafés and bars are their second home and there are a lot of tangos and poems dedicated to the favorite café. Among the most traditional we may mention: the **Tortoni** in Av. de Mayo or **La Biela** in Recoleta.

You can even enjoy sports by yourself running in Palermo gardens or attending a soccer game one of the best entertainments of our country.

Buenos Aires, the most European city of South America has the spirit of keeping late hours, the activity by night is permanent and streets look animated, even in working days. We look forward to meet with you here in September!

Enrique Reina, Victor Rositto and Carlos Tello  
2004 Local Hosts

## Future Meetings

**SRS 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Course**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina – September 6-9, 2004

**SRS 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Course**  
Miami, Florida, USA – October 26-30, 2005

**SRS 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Course**  
Monterey, California, USA – September 13-16, 2006

**Vision Statement** The SRS will increase its recognition domestically and internationally as the leading source of information and knowledge on spinal disorders affecting all patients, regardless of age.

## Strategic Plan

- 1.0 Goal Communications:** Articulate and communicate to all appropriate audiences the nature and scope of the SRS and what its members do.
- 2.0 Goal Education:** Develop and support a comprehensive educational program designed for members, other health care providers, patients and the public.
- 3.0 Goal Research:** Foster, promote and coordinate basic science and clinical research designed to improve patient care.
- 4.0 Goal Financial Viability:** Assure that the SRS maintains a sound financial base.
- 5.0 Goal Membership Recruitment:** Expand the membership base of the SRS to include those professionals who are qualified and committed to the mission of the SRS, while retaining quality of the membership.
- 6.0 Goal Advocacy and Health Policy:** Advocate practice activities and health policy initiatives designed to foster quality patient care.
- 7.0 Goal Member Participation:** Increase opportunities for member participation in the activities of SRS.
- 8.0 Goal International Presence:** Maintain and strengthen the SRS leadership position internationally.

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