The event

The first Global Spine Congress designed to meet the specific needs and interests of spine specialists from around the world was a great success, further establishing AOSpine’s reputation for academic excellence. The event took place at the Westin St. Francis Hotel San Francisco from June 23–26. Organized by AOSpine, the congress was supported by world renowned international faculty and a broad range of industry sponsors.

The fact that 70% of the 392 participants at the Global Spine Congress were from outside of North America substantiated the congress as a truly global event. The participants soaked up the latest approaches to spine care and insights from thought leaders, shared experiences with colleagues, made new contacts and strengthened existing relationships, and furthered their knowledge.

Chairperson Jeffrey Wang, Educational Director Bartolomé Marré and more than 40 international faculty led participants through lively debates, symposia, courses and scientific sessions. Additionally, over 200 research papers were presented making it an extensive program. The program agenda was created through a selection process involving both a public call for abstracts and a thorough investigation of the AOSpine community to identify and invite leading experts and representatives. It is clear from the participant comments that the congress was greatly appreciated. This was due not only to the quality of the input from speakers and panellists but also to the richness and pertinence of the discussions.

Rounding out this special congress were a variety of networking and social events including a cocktail evening in the spectacular setting of the Imperial (32nd) floor of the Westin St. Francis Hotel which offered breathtaking views of San Francisco at night.

Participant region representation

North America 116
Europe & Africa 129
Latin America 63
Asia Pacific 73
Middle East 11

Participant region representation
Congress program summary

The program for the Global Spine Congress was a rich mix of formats, ranging from symposia featuring many well known and thought provoking speakers to social events to complement the sponsor exhibition and provide all attendees with networking opportunities.

Scientific sessions

Peer reviewed abstracts were presented in 5-minute presentations, followed by audience discussion. Participant feedback from the scientific sessions showed a high level of broad benefits. Sessions featuring new approaches in the treatment of spinal disorders, new and innovative techniques, and the latest biological research efforts for tissue repair proved to be very popular.

Symposia

Symposia consisted of didactic lectures presented by international faculty, followed by question and answer sessions. Similar to the scientific sessions, participant response to the learning benefits of the symposia was very broad with the sharing of the faculties’ experience in decision making and treatment strategies being the most appreciated learning benefit.

Instructional course lectures (ICLs)

The ICLs were lectures where industry sponsors had the opportunity to publicize their organizations’ products and services, which clearly attracted high interest from conference participants.

Guest lectures

Honorary guest speakers Dr Henry H Bohlman and Dr K Daniel Riew held a captive audience with their lectures on Cervical Pedicle Subtraction Osteotomies for Ankylosing Spondylitis (Dr Riew) and Thirty Years of Spine Surgery: An Evolution (Dr Bohlman).

Social events

Following the pre-congress World Forum for Spine Research event, a welcome reception was hosted at the opening of the exhibition area. The atmosphere was exceptionally high for this event as congress sponsors, participants and the congress leadership mingled until the close. In addition to the welcome event, the cocktail evening was a very spirited networking opportunity.

"The interaction with colleagues from around the world was great"

"Great course! I’m very impressed!"
Awards ceremony

Keito Ito, Chairman of the AOSpine Research Commission served as chairman of the Awards Committee with Teija Lund, Kenneth Cheung, Emiliano Vialle, Joseph Cheng and Zayed Al-Zayed serving as committee members. The committee selected the Best Clinical Paper from the top 10 abstracts that were submitted for podium presentation. The Best Poster was selected from the top 10 poster abstracts. The abstracts were graded based on the following criteria:

- Originality of work
- Scientific merit
- Quality of the abstract (clarity)
- Importance of the results

Eugene Carragee, MD, Stanford University was the recipient of Best Clinical Paper Award for his presentation of "Does discography cause accelerated progression of degeneration changes in the lumbar disc: A ten year matched control study".

Dino Samartzis, MD, University of Hong Kong was the winner of the Best Poster Award for his poster entitled: "Juvenile disc degeneration of the lumbar spine: prevalence, risk factors, & clinical relevance".

"Excellent worldwide participation"

"Diversity of topics was excellent"

"Hearing about the status of biologic treatment was great!"

"This was a great venue to share clinical expertise with other surgeons"

"Hearing the experience of the experts was most beneficial"
Hansjoerg Wyss Research Grant Awards

The Hansjoerg Wyss Research Awards were established in 2009 through a generous grant to the AOSpine Research Commission (AOSRC) by the HJW Foundation. The purpose of the grants is to provide funding for researchers for projects that explore innovative hypotheses or approaches to clinical and experimental research covering all areas of spine research. The award winners for 2009 are:

Focus Grant

Jeremy Fairbank, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, University of Oxford, UK—Does fusion lead to increased adjacent segment disc degeneration (ASDD) in patients with chronic low back pain?

Start-up Grants

Jaro Karppinen, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Oulu, Finland—Molecular mechanisms in low back pain with modic changes

Guang-Qian Zhou, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, The University of Hong Kong, PRC—MRI and genetic labeling-based molecular imaging for tracking differentiation fates and functionality of mesenchymal stem cells transplanted into the intervertebral disc of a rhesus monkey model

Michael Guy Vitale, Pediatric Spine and Scoliosis Service, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York, USA—Psychosocial effects of repetitive surgery on children and their caregivers in the setting of early onset scoliosis

Joshua Auerbach, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, USA—Disc degeneration below arthrodesis in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis at a minimum 10 year follow-up

Wesley Hsu, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA—Using human chordoma cell lines to understand the pathophysiology and role of stem cells in a primary osseous tumor

"I have always applied AO Principles to my practice, but some new techniques were presented that are helpful"

"I liked the approaches to treatment"
Sponsors and exhibitors

The event enjoyed the enthusiastic support of major industry sponsors who held instructional course lectures provoking dynamic discussions in a professional yet relaxed atmosphere. In addition, the event was accompanied by a parallel exhibition that established itself as a central meeting and networking point within the conference and an opportunity to find out more about the latest services and products.

Sponsors

- Double Diamond
- Diamond
- SIEMENS
- Gold
- Silver
- LANX
- A MEDICA
- Transi
- Medtronic
- Spine Frontier
- Paradigm Spine
- SCIENTx
- K2M
- Life Instruments
- Bauerfeind
- Thieme
- Stryker
- Spine Art
- Elsevier
- Nutech Medical
- Apatech
- Osteotech
- Orthofix
- SeaSpine

Exhibitors
BARCELONA, SPAIN 2011

Building on the success of the inaugural Global Spine Congress in 2009, we look forward to seeing you in 2011!

www.globalspinecongress.org
The AOSpine community—delivering the knowledge, experience, and evidence to improve patient care, patient outcomes, and ensure cost effective spine surgery.