

WFNS SPINE COMMITTEE

Newsletter 1st Issue | April 2022

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PAST CHAIRMAN
PROF MEHMET ZILELI

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2021 PUBLICATION OF
SPINE COMMITTEE

EDITORIAL

Francesco Costa and Nikolay Peev



Dear All,

We are glad that the first newsletter for the 2022 year is finally reaching you. This is the year of hope for many of us that finally the Covid 19 pandemic will fade away and we will be possible to return to the normal life – the one we remember from 2019 and before, or at least close to that. Being realistic we know that we will be facing the pandemic aftermaths in the years to come. As a consequence of Covid 19, many spinal patients were left behind, waiting to see their spinal surgeon for a consultation, waiting to have their spinal surgery done, waiting to see their rehabilitation practitioner that will help them to recover from the surgery they had.

As a consequence of Covid, many surgeons were left overworked, depressed and burned out. Some of our colleagues, some of our friends are not anymore with us. WFNS Spine Committee did not stay idle, embracing the opportunity for organizing multiple online educational events.

With the world reopening and travel resuming in its shape and form more or less similar to the one before the pandemic, the time came for us to resume our on site education in form of courses, conferences and symposia. We are already planning many events that will hopefully be possible to be conducted on site and provide education locally where needed.

The committee is aiming to keep the pace of the online education with high quality standards. On-site educational events will offer a hybrid solution for learners or educators who have obstacles to travel. With this newsletter we hope to reach you and to provide you with the latest in the world of the spinal surgery. We will also be glad to hear back from you.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Salman Sharif, Pakistan

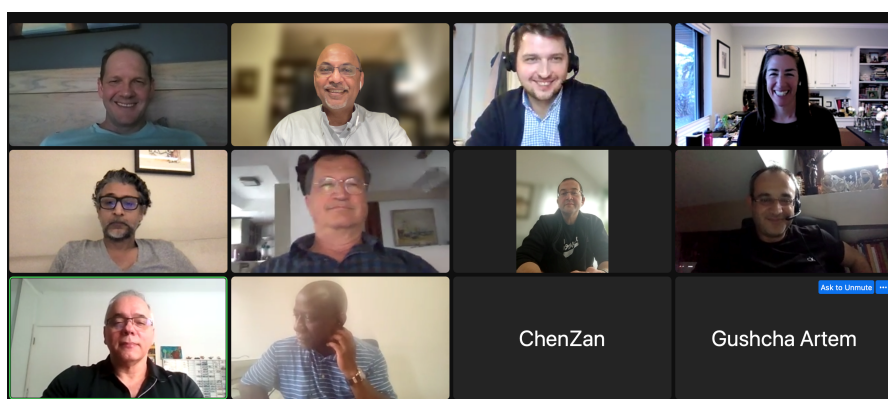


Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the activities of the WFNS Spine Committee. This committee has achieved amazing milestones in the last 4 years under the chairmanship of Prof. Zileli and many other eminent Neuro and Spinal Surgeons before that. We have a mammoth task ahead of us and we can fulfill this with the help of all the

members of the spine committee, new and past. We would like all of you to participate in our activities. Young Neurosurgeons and Spinal Surgeons from around the world should make use of societies like the WFNS Spine Committee to improve their skills and expertise by staying involved in activities. Your feedback and suggestions on how we can further improve our services, are always welcome via email at wfnspinecommittee@gmail.com.

I sincerely thank Prof Costa and Prof Peev for their hard work.



Virtual Meeting of the Spine Committee (2021-2023)



Former and Present Members of the Spine committee sharing the Stage with Prof. Mehmet Zileli and Prof. Salman Sharif in WFNS Bogota 2022

Learning from the Past Chairman



***Prof. Mehmet Zileli
(Turkey)***

We are pleased to present to your attention the interview of Prof. Mehmet Zileli, former chairman of the WFNS Spine Committee. The interview is lead by Erica Bisson, Professor of Neurosurgery and research leader of Utah University, US. The Interview is moderated by Nikolay Peev, Consultant Neuro-Spinal Surgeon from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

During the interview, Prof. Zileli talks about the active work of the Spine Committee over the last years, and also gives his vision for the future developments. The Old and the new members of the committee as well as the young neuro-spinal surgeons are addressed with advice and directions. Professor Zileli also talks about the Covid 19 pandemic and how it had affected the work of the Spine Committee educational activities and how the disadvantages of the imposed restrictions were turned to advantages, with a major boost of the Online educational activities.

The whole interview is uploaded in the website of WFNS: <https://wfns.org>

Question No. 1: How would you summarize the work of the WFNS Spine Committee over the last few years during your leadership.

Thank you Erica and Nikolay. It's my pleasure to be with you. My term has just ended in 2021. It was from 2017 till now, about 4 years. Since 2017, the spine committee achieved many of its goals. First, we prepared the website which is very active and getting too many views. It includes meeting announcements, newsletter, recommendations, webinar recordings etc and we started publishing a newsletter once a year and Oscar Alves was the editor of the newsletter. Since 2018, we started doing virtual symposium webinars and numbers increased in COVID wave times in 2020 and 2021. Really we could not get the opportunity to have live meetings. More valuable activity, we performed in last 4 years can be considered preparing the guidelines on some common spine disorders and we had contributions of many active members. We prepared and published the WFNS Spine Committee Recommendation. Among those I can count, Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy and OPLL, Lumbar Spine Stenosis, Cervical Trauma, Spinal Cord Injury, Thoracolumbar Trauma and Osteoporotic vertebral fracture. We publish many papers in the name of WFNS Spine Committee in different open access journals.

We always try to be open access to be able to reach recommendation to all World Neurosurgeons. We have also published a book on Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy and OPLL with Thieme publisher in 2021. These are what we have achieved with contributions of very valuable members.

Question No. 2: What would say your vision of the Future to the WFNS Spine Committee?

I am sure it will be more bright than our period and I wish the spine committee to proceed to prepare recommendation on other spinal disorder as well. we had a plan to prepare a basic and advance spine curriculum, we couldn't achieve during our times since we did not get the permission to start the program. I wish the new committee can succeed to start that program specially in lower and middle income countries. I believe WFNS Spine Committee must have pioneering role in developing a spine training program for Neurosurgeons. We had also plans to prepare consensus meetings on basilar invagination and chiari malformation and spine tumor. I think new leadership and new Committee members will continue these program.

Question No. 3: What would you say is your message to your prior members who already serve their time in the committee and to the new members.

I also mentioned some. I appreciate the willingness of the previous committee members and to do all significant work and their expertise on preparation of activities. It will be impossible to finish them without their collaboration specially consensus meeting and manuscript preparation. I am thankful

to them. If the new members can show similar efforts, I am sure the WFNS Spine Committee will remain to be most productive committee in WFNS.

Question No. 4: How do you feel that COVID restricted WFNS Spine Committee activities particularly?

Yes, its a fact that we could not make any live meeting or biannual meeting which was promised to be done in Milan in 2020 was postponed then we did it Online in 2021. We learned how to be proficient in Online meeting organization. This is what we did at the same time. Sometimes we did 2-3 meetings in a month. Besides, we organized 12 virtual symposia of which some of them took 5-7 hours a day. Some examples are virtual symposia of CV junction surgery, adult degenerative deformity or minimally invasive spine surgery or update on Spine tumors and this last one was in collaboration with Korean Spine oncology research society including 6 panel and 20 speakers, it was like a congress. We learned alot from each other and having engaged with Online meeting. It was very different times actually.

Question No. 4: What you think in the future will it be some combination of the two (Virtual/ Live) in order to allow to meet us as a group from different places on the globe vs that of feeling of getting together?

This is the fact. There are some advantages of Online virtual meetings like you can reach anywhere in the world without any significant cost. No need to travel. The people can sit down at home and watch and ask questions to the presenters but it is lacking, still lacking, Sense of humor. The human being has psych-

-ology to react with seeing, even smelling the environment. These are senses that we need to learn. and some aspects are yet to learn with virtual meetings. Another thing is the medical information is very dynamic and has a rapid change of character. Updating the knowledge is possible by making continuous critics and evolution far results. Young generation are aware of that, probably me somewhat senior person are not that much. It may be probably my reaction to that but the young generation are very keen to that.

Question No. 5: What would you say as your message to young neurosurgeons and particularly Young Spinal neurosurgeons that want to follow in your foot steps being a global leader and so involved in global spine education?

They must be patient. They must be open to learn it. Even us, we are still learning. There is no phase of life that learning can leave somewhere, I mean, this process is continuous. This is life long, I think. I am sure they will invent more and they will achieve more, the young generation.

Its great to see you all so motivated and wish you could achieve big goals.

WFNS Spine Committee *Publications*

Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures (Dec 2021)

1- Introduction to Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures: WFNS Spine Committee Recommendations: Salman Sharif, Mehmet Zileli.

Neurospine 2021;18(4):651-653.

2- Editorial: Looking for the Optimum Treatment of Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures: WFNS Spine Committee Recommendations: Se-Hoon Kim.

Neurospine 2021;18(4):654-655.

3- Classification and Radiological Diagnosis of Thoracolumbar Fractures: WFNS Spine Committee Recommendations. Abdul Hafid Bajamal, Khrisna Rangga Permana, Muhammad Faris, Mehmet Zileli, Nikolay A. Peev

Neurospine. 2021;18(4):656-666.

4- Surgical Techniques for Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures: WFNS Spine Committee Recommendations. Salman Yousuf Sharif, Yousuf Shaikh, Onur Yaman, Mehmet Zileli

Neurospine. 2021;18(4):667-680.

5- Kyphosis After Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures: WFNS Spine Committee Recommendations. Onur Yaman, Mehmet Zileli, Salim Senturk, Kemal Paksoy, Salman Sharif

Neurospine. 2021;18(4):681-692.

WEBINAR 3

28th January 2022: Salman Sharif, Luis Borba, Keki Turel

Major Complication with Minor Surgeries - Lessons Learnt ! Complication in Spine Surgery



WEBINAR 4

27th February 2022: Sandeep Vaishya (India)/ Nikolay Peev (UK)/ Mirza Pojskic (Germany)/ Shiban Ehab (Germany)/ Mehmet Zileli (Turkey)/ Onur Yaman (Turkey)/ Andrzej Maciejczak (Poland)

WSCS/ WFNS Spine Committee/ EANS How I Do It Session

<https://youtu.be/dhA68UpAPdk>



WEBINAR 5

5th March 2022: Nelson Oyesiku, Edward Benzal, Michael Fehlings, Faridah Amin, Salman Sharif, Luis Borba

Publication in Neurosurgery

<https://youtu.be/Zn2c4Szxfs0>



Group Photograph

**INTERVIEW WITH
PROF. MEHMET ZILELI**
<https://youtu.be/5wRL1dbVFPw>



Spine Robotic Surgery

We are pleased to introduce a new member of Spine Committee, Dr Mirza Pojskic, from the Department of Neurosurgery, University Marburg, Germany.



In particular dr Pojskic introduce to us his initial experience with thoracolumbar pedicle screw placement using the surgeon-controlled robotic arm, recently published in 2021 (Pojskic M et al. Initial intraoperative experience with Robotic-Assisted pedicle screw placement with Cirq. J Clin Med 2021; 10(24).

“It has been argued that the accuracy of screw placement with use of navigation is high enough, so that use of a robotic arm is not necessary. However, possibility of screw planning prior to surgery can significantly

decrease surgical time and maximize the fidelity of screw placement and mitigate the human error that is ever present in repetitive manual tasks. Recent meta-analysis which included randomized controlled trial and 5 comparative cohort studies consisting of 529 patients and 4081 pedicle screws has shown that robotic-guided surgery has a significantly higher accuracy than computer-assisted navigation in terms of optimal and clinically acceptable pedicle screw insertions. Furthermore, the robotic technique showed significantly less blood loss but has equivalent intraoperative time, complications and revision surgery caused by malposition. Many studies showed that robotic guidance with intrapedicular accuracy rates ranging from 78.8% to 91.3% was remarkably more accurate than CAN with accuracy rates that ranging from 66.0% to 84.1%.

In our initial experience with the first 70 screws, 65 screws were GRS A screws (92.85%), with the mean time per screw of $08:27 \pm 06:54$ minutes, whereas the time decreased as the experience was gained. Mean entry point deviation was 1.9 ± 1.23 mm, mean deviation from the tip of the screw was 2.61 ± 1.6 mm and mean angular deviation was $3.5^\circ \pm 2^\circ$. (7). Also if the experience is limited the Robotic Alignment surgeon-controlled robotic arm seems promising to better manage in a safe and beneficial method the thoracolumbar pedicle screw placement with high accuracy”. Obviously the robotic spine surgery remain a field pretty new, ready to be explored and analyzed not only in term of efficacy, but also with cost-effectiveness study.

Educational Activities

After almost 2 years of absence of in-person congress and courses, in 2022 live scientific activities restarted. XVII World Congress of Neurosurgery in Bogotá, Colombia was outstanding event full of ideas, meeting friends, discussing scientific Neurosurgical issues, leading to improving perspectives for the future of Neurosurgery. The Spine Committee presented different sessions with an interesting mix of new and “old” members ranging in the different field of the spine pathologies.

Some future activities of WFNS Spine Committee are as follows.

- 2nd International Spine Conference of NESON (INSPINE 2022)
- WFNS Spine Committee Consensus Meeting on Back Pain and Hands-On Cadaver Lab 14-15th May 2022 (Karachi, Pakistan)
- WFNS Spine Committee and Japanese Spine Society Webinar (Spinal Cord Tumors) - June 2022
- 1st Basic Course of WFNS Spine Committee with Ivorian Society of Neurosurgery (23-26th June 2022)
- Consensus on CV Junction in 3-4th August 2022 (Sao Paulo - Brasil)
- Advance Spine Education Course in December 2022 (South Africa)
- 6th Congress of the Middle East Spine Society with WFNS Spine Committee - 23-25th September 2022 (Istanbul, Turkey)
- WFNS Spine Committee with YNS Award Committee

WFNS Bogota 2022 *13 to 18th March*

World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies 2022 Meeting was held in Bogota from 13-18th March 2022. The WFNS Spine Committee has been at the forefront of all the committees and continuously working for the betterment of the Neurosurgical Community Worldwide.

During the meeting, the WFNS Spine Committee arranged 3 sessions on Update on Minimally Invasive Spine surgery and Update on Cervical Trauma and Spinal Cord Injury on 13th March, Management of Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy on 15th March and Management of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis on 16th March based on WFNS Spine Committee recommendations.

There were 9 eminent members of WFNS Spine Committee including some of the Ex-Committee members of WFNS Spine Committee which include Marcos Masini from Brazil, Scott Robertson from USA, Jose Soriano Sanchez from Mexico, Richard Fessler from USA, Oscar Alves from Portugal, Past Co-Chair, Mehmet Zileli from Turkey, Enrique Osario from Columbia, Krishna Sharma from India, Nikolay Kononov from Russia and Ben Roitberg from USA.

Salman Sharif, Chairman WFNS Spine Committee from Pakistan participated in this event along with Nikolay Peev from UK, Joachim Oertel from Germany, Ricardo Botelho from Brazil, Francesco Costa who is Vice Chair of WFNS Spine Committee from Italy, and Mirza Pojskic from Germany. All the Members delivered wonderful lecture on the assigned topics.

WFNS Spine Committee also organized their Committee meeting during the Event on 17th March to discuss the achievements and upcoming future plans.

Feedback from the participants were outstanding. It was a wonderful event with all the eminent speakers and well attended.



WFNS SPINE COMMITTEE

2021-2023

CHAIRMAN



Salman Sharif (Pakistan)

VICE-CHAIRMAN



Francesco Costa (Italy)

MEMBERS



Artem Gushcha
(Russia)



Aderehime Haidara
(Ivory Coast)



Erica Bisson (USA)



Ian Vlok (South
Africa)



Joachim Oertel
(Germany)



Mirza Pojskic
(Germany)



Nikolay Peev (United
Kingdom)



Onur Yaman (Turkey)



Sandeep Vaishya
(India)



Toshihiro Takami
(Japan)



Zan Chen (China)