

FORTE Summer School Project

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1. Background

Standardization of the medical education quality in Europe is a growing interest, as mobility necessities increase inside Europe. Thus, the creation of a European Educational Platform and a European Orthopaedic and Trauma Board (EBOT) Exam becomes more prominent. EBOT exam is still not mandatory, but applications are increasing every year, as trainees feel the need to accomplish a "European Certificate of high-quality education".

FORTE represents Trainees interests throughout Europe. Our main concerns regard Educational Standards and learning opportunities. European Summer/Winter Schools are already established in other medical specialties with remarkable success. FORTE feels that there is a gap in the preparation for the EBOT exam, lacking either proper educational material as well as specific educational events. We wish to fill out this area with the creation of the FORTE book series and a FORTE Summer School.

FORTE book series is already a running project, with the first volumes expectably ready to publish in 2016. FORTE Summer School is now our primary project, with its first edition set to start in summer of 2016. This event will be the first of its own, a landmark in the development of European Educational projects and certainly a tremendous help for Orthopaedic Trainees.

Specialty Societies and National Societies share the responsibility of enhancing the practice of Orthopaedics and Trauma, and this is best achieved with investment in Education. This document delineates the strategy for collaboration between FORTE and the European National Societies for the creation of the first European Orthopaedic and Trauma Summer School, together with the strong collaboration of EFORT and the Specialty Societies.

2. Purpose

FORTE Summer School will provide an accessible educational opportunity for all European trainees, during any stage of their progression through residency. One of its main goals is to aid the preparation for the EBOT exam, open to residents in their last two years of training (applying or not to the Exam). The other critical goal is to provide a comprehensive general review course, open to residents in all years of training and young orthopaedic surgeons, below the age of 40.

The format of the event is also thought to enable time for study and most importantly, an environment and setting that would enable informal exchange of clinical and training experiences, case discussions and network between participants and faculty.

3. The Event

3.1 DATE

The event will occur in August 2016.

3.2 DURATION AND CONTENT

The event is set to last from Monday to Friday. Instructional courses will have a 4 hour morning block from 9 am to 13 pm and an a 2 ½ hours afternoon block from 14 pm to 16:30 pm. The morning block will have a 20 minutes coffee break.

The course will have two independent and parallel programs: one EBOT preparation course (advanced - for trainees in their last 2 years of training) and one Comprehensive Review Course – CRC (general - for all trainees). EBOT preparation course is intended to review modules based on case discussions and MCQ group responses, in similarity to the exam. CRC aims to make theme revision sessions.

After the sessions, individual or group study time will be provided (Table 1). Evening programs will consist of educational activities in an informal way, promoting network between participants.

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
9 – 10:45	EBOT basic science	CRC basic science	EBOT spine	CRC spine	EBOT upper limb	CRC upper limb	EBOT lower limb	CRC lower limb	EBOT Child & Tumors	CRC Child & Tumors
10:45-11:05	Coffee Break									
11:05 – 13	EBOT basic science	CRC basic science	EBOT upper limb	CRC upper limb	EBOT upper limb	CRC upper limb	EBOT lower limb	CRC lower limb	EBOT Child & Tumors	CRC Child & Tumors
13 – 14	Lunch									
14 – 16:30	EBOT spine	CRC spine	EBOT upper limb	CRC upper limb	EBOT lower limb	CRC lower limb	EBOT lower limb	CRC lower limb	EBOT Child & Tumors	CRC Child & Tumors
16:30 – 20	Study time		Study time		Study time		Study time			
20-22	Dinner									
22-23	Clinical cases discussion		Training Experiences Exchange / Clinical cases		Small Paper presentation Awards		Farewell Event			

Table 1 – Courses general schedule.

3.3 VENUE

FORTE Summer School 2016 will be held at Faro (Portugal), as it ensures the perfect conditions for the first event (Fig. 1):

- It has a local University Campus, which includes a Faculty of Medicine, able to provide an educational environment, access to auditoriums and room dorms accommodation (Fig. 1);
- it has an international airport with low-cost flights from most European cities;
- it is an inexpensive city.



Fig. 1 – Faro location (upper left); Faro sky view (upper right); University Campus (lower left) and one of the University Campus blocks (lower right).

Future events may be hosted in different cities, as long as standards are maintained. Expected attendance is of approximately 200 residents/young orthopaedic surgeons bellow the age of 40.

4. STRATEGY

4.1 COLLABORATION WITH EFORT

Scientific organization is supported by FORTE together with Specialty Societies, in collaboration with EFORT's Scientific Program Group and (Fig. 2). FORTE and EFORT will be responsible for the event advertisement.

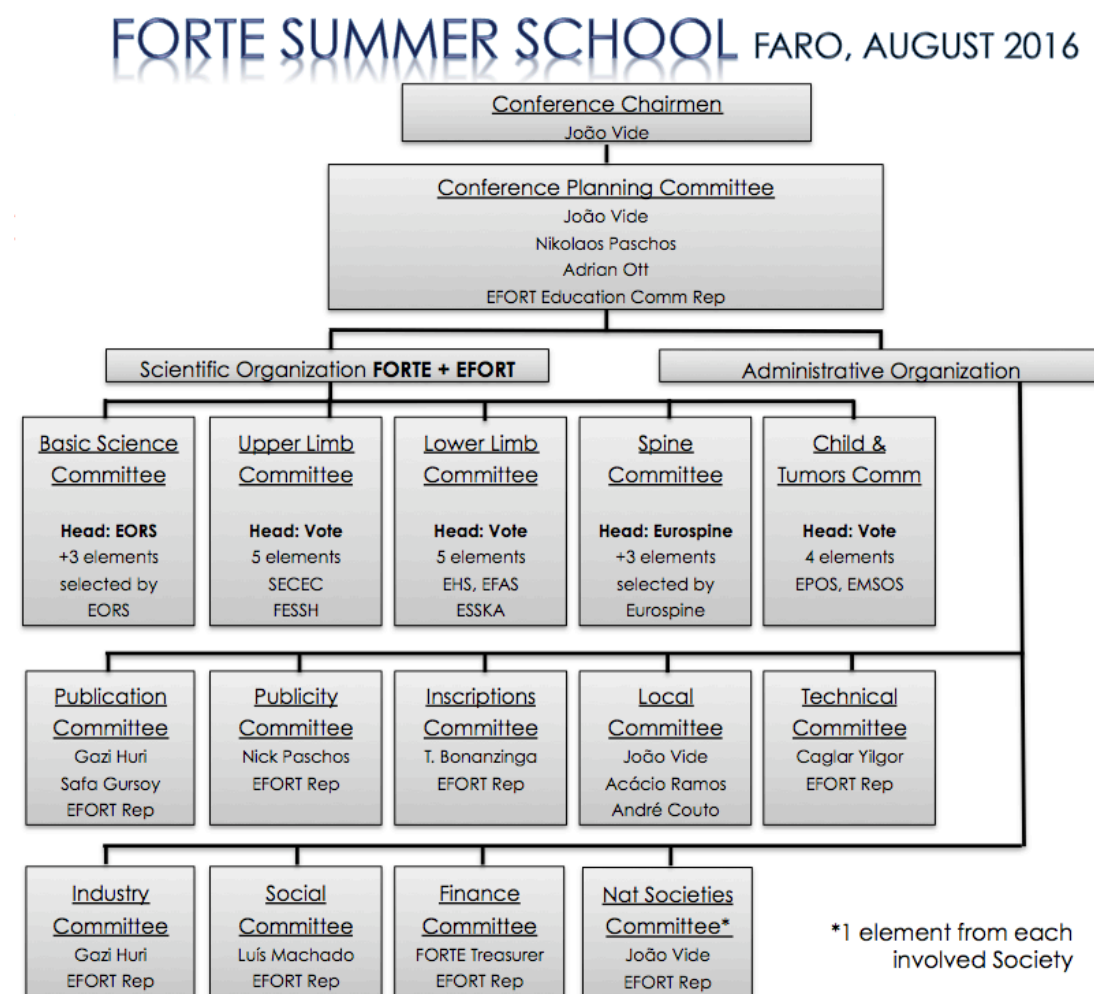


Fig. 2 – Organization scheme.

4.2 COLLABORATION WITH SPECIALTY AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Specialty societies are asked to constitute and lead the working groups in different areas, as it follows (Fig. 2):

- **Basic Science:** 1 European Orthopaedic Research Society Representative (EORS) plus 3 members chosen by it (one element sent from the National Societies rotation scheme – see below)
- **Upper Limb:** 1 European Shoulder Association (SECEC) Representative and 1 Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH), plus 4 members chosen by them (one element sent from the National Societies rotation scheme)
- **Lower Limb:** 1 European Hip Society Representative (EHS), 1 ESSKA and 1 European Foot and Ankle Association (EFAS) Representative, plus 3 members chosen by them (one element sent from the National Societies rotation scheme)
- **Spine:** 1 Eurospine Representative plus 3 members chosen by it (one element sent from the National Societies rotation scheme)
- **Children Orthopaedics and Tumors:** 1 European Pediatrics Orthopedic Society (EPOS) and 1 European Musculoskeletal Oncology Society (EMSOS), plus 2 members chosen by it (one element sent from the National Societies rotation scheme)

Each working group will elect a chair, which will be in charge of developing the program and educational material for both courses (EBOT preparation course and Comprehensive Review Course), together with the collaboration of the Conference Planning Committee.

For the success of this project it is fundamental to have the National Societies support and participation: each is asked to participate with a sponsorship, which will grant one free inscription in the event for a national resident and to appoint an element to the faculty for one of the five available positions every year, on a rotatory basis (Table 2).

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Countries	France Germany Italy Spain U.K.	Malta Netherlands Poland Portugal Turkey	Belgium Greece Luxemburg Romania Sweden	Croatia Czech R. Estonia Hungary Ireland	Austria Bulgaria Norway Serbia Switzerland	Denmark Finland Lithuania Leetonia Slovakia	Cyprus Slovenia France* Germany* Italy*

Table 2 – Rotation of appointed elements by their National Societies.

UEMS will be asked to give scientific sponsorship this activity, with CME accreditation and advertise it by the appropriate channels.

5. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

FORTE believes Summer School is a major advancement in the Education of Orthopaedics and Traumatology in Europe. Not only it will provide an opportunity for trainees in all years of residency to do an annual study revision, as it will be the first EBOT Exam oriented course. The event will further enable network between trainees from different levels of training through Europe, in a close and casual environment, with personal contact with a wide variety of experts in different fields of expertise. The development of a closer network, with face-to-face contact, will allow a better cooperation between the countries involved and will develop a shared sense of duty in increasing standards of education and practice of Orthopaedics in Europe.


Our main goal is not to take direct profit from the event, but to set a high standard and high satisfaction from participant and faculty participation, capitalizing gains from advanced educative and training activities.

National and Specialty Societies will also profit from the enrolment in this European initiative. An important network between countries will grow and other collaboration opportunities will arise and both faculty members and participants will benefit directly from this educational experience.


We hope you find this project interesting for developing orthopaedic knowledge and consider the time, location and program most suitable for its educational purposes. Industry support is crucial to start a project as such, so we are available to clarify any compliance issue that may arise.

Looking forward to hear back from you.

Best regards,



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