



## Foreword

Pierre J. Hoffmeyer

*EFORT Open Reviews* (EOR) was launched this January, 2016. High-quality reviews are now online and accessible to all by going to the website: [www.efort.org/openreviews](http://www.efort.org/openreviews). Three to four reviews have been published each month since January 2016, with all reviews subject to rigorous peer scrutiny. These numbers will increase, and already a great number of articles are in the pipeline. The information is cross-checked and will be useful to juniors, seniors and experienced surgeons and specialists alike.

The philosophy of EOR is to be an open access, internet-based journal; however, under the editorship of Professor George Bentley, the present print issue is ready for the EFORT Congress in June 2016, as has always been the case over the years. The Instructional Lectures can all be found in this print format, and the Editors have also selected a handful of review papers to accompany these, so that EFORT attendees may have access to some of the high-quality review articles that have been published in EOR thus far.

*EFORT Open Reviews* aims to provide state-of-the-art updates on common and less common orthopaedic and trauma conditions and procedures. The format consists essentially of narrative reviews. EOR does not currently aim to publish original research papers or formal meta-analysis research articles, but instead hopes to make available to a large audience the latest research and best practice in the sciences related to orthopaedics and traumatology.

Of the 219 journals related to musculoskeletal disorders and rehabilitation published yearly worldwide, 133 stem from European countries<sup>1</sup> and this represents an overwhelming 15 691 articles published in 2014, for example (all types of articles included). These generated close to half a million references and over 60 000 citations. No specialist in the field can possibly assimilate, or even want to assimilate, this mountain of information. Authors willing to review their domain of expertise are a precious breed indeed, and EOR intends to give them a sounding board.

Education in the arts and sciences of orthopaedics and traumatology must be harmonised throughout Europe so that patients will be assured of receiving the same quality care from east to west and north to south. EFORT has established an educational platform and elaborated a

consensual curriculum applicable to all Orthopaedic and Trauma trainees. EOR will do its utmost to propagate the curriculum and to provide the educational tools necessary for this curriculum to be implemented.

*EFORT Open Reviews* will also publish articles related to the practice of orthopaedics in its social, economic and political environment. Today the situation in Europe is difficult: the economy is under duress, unemployment rates are high throughout the EU and allied countries, and the current refugee crisis is straining relationships. In the face of these hardships, the population is ageing but wanting to remain physically active. Orthopaedics and traumatology contribute to patient welfare by keeping patients active in spite of increasing age-related degenerative diseases affecting joints and rising fracture rates due to osteoporosis and sarcopenia. Patient care is priceless but the costs involved are high, and these expenses are rising faster than individual incomes in many countries. If we all wish to preserve the high levels of care that our patients need, we as a group must be cognisant of economic realities, and EOR will publish papers and reviews relating to the economic and social aspects of our specialities.

I would again wish to thank our Associate Editors and reviewers for the time-consuming tasks that are so vital in order to ensure the ongoing quality of our work.

### AUTHOR INFORMATION

Editor-in-Chief, *EFORT Open Reviews*.

Correspondence should be sent to: Pierre Hoffmeyer, University Hospitals of Geneva, Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland.

Email: [Pierre.Hoffmeyer@efort.org](mailto:Pierre.Hoffmeyer@efort.org)

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### REFERENCE

1. No authors listed. SCImago journal and country rank: orthopedics and sports medicine. [http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?area=2700&category=2732&country=all&year=2014&order=sjr&min=0&min\\_type=cd](http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?area=2700&category=2732&country=all&year=2014&order=sjr&min=0&min_type=cd) (date last accessed 11 April 2016).