

# EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF BIOMECHANICS

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6th February, 1979.

## NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your Board feel it is time that you are brought up to date with the general affairs of your Society.

On 21st May 1976, 20 individuals from 9 countries of Europe met in Brussels and established the European Society of Biomechanics.

The aims of the Society are to encourage progress, foster, promote and develop research, and disseminate information concerning all biomechanical problems. Although various societies, both national and international, are concerned with many aspects of bioengineering, biomaterials and biomechanics, it was considered that there was a special need for a European society which would, from time to time, bring together those who are particularly interested in the study of forces acting on and generated within the body and the effects of these forces on the tissues or materials implanted within the body. Biomechanics is a truly interdisciplinary field. It is of particular concern to the clinicians and biologists who deal with the locomotor system in health and disease, and those in engineering and material science who work towards a better understanding of human movement, and generation of forces, and the performance of materials used in a hostile environment for the repair or replacement of tissues.

The participants at the meeting in May 1976, were considered founder members. These members of the Society constituted the Council and elected 7 members to form an organising Board to establish the Society and prepare for the first General Assembly meeting, at which the Statutes would be discussed and ratified.

Secretary : F. BURNY  
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The registered office was at that time, established in Brussels. However, for various reasons which will facilitate the activities of the Society in the future, the registered office has been transferred to Strasbourg. The provisional Statutes of the European Society will be circulated and be subject to amendment and ratification at the first General Assembly meeting to be held during the second meeting of the European Society of Biomechanics in Strasbourg, September 13th-15th, 1979, in conjunction with the first symposium of the G.E.B.O.A.S. (Groupe d'Etudes de Biomecanique Osteo-Articulaire de Strasbourg).

It is the aim of the European Society to associate whenever possible with other societies who may have common interests. The Sociedad Iberica de Biomecanica Ossea held their first meeting November 18th-19th, 1977 in Madrid. The meeting was sponsored by the European Society of Biomechanics. I was kindly invited to take part in the meeting and presented a paper. A combined meeting of the European Society for Biomaterials, European Society of Biomechanics, the 5th symposium of the CIBO (Centre Interdisciplinaire de Biomecanique Osseuse, the Congress of the Societe Belge de Chirurgie Orthopedique et de Traumatologie and the first combined meeting of the Orthopaedic Societies of the countries belonging to the Common Market was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Brussels, May 22nd-27th, 1978, under the Presidency of Professor Robert de Marneffe, and under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The meetings were enjoyed by all participants and our thanks are due to the organisers, in particular, Professor Robert de Marneffe.

There were 107 registrations for the first meeting of the European Society of Biomechanics.

Members of the Board of the European Society of Biomechanics have met from time to time. At the last meeting held at the Centre de Traumatologie et de Orthopedique de Strasbourg, in December, 1978, it was reported that there were 81 registered members of the Society.

Since the inception of the Society, there has been a particular desire to collaborate closely with the European Society for Biomaterials, since obviously both societies have many interests in common. Various discussions have been held between members of both societies, and with the Scientific Advisor of the Council of Europe - Dr. Massue. It is considered that recognition by the Council of Europe of a Federation of European Societies should be possible. An advantage of such a Federation would be the co-ordination of activities, for example, meetings at a European level. This is

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an urgent matter particularly in view of the escalating costs of such functions.

An "acting" Editorial Board of five members was established at the meeting of the Board of the European Society of Biomechanics held at the Erasmus Hospital, Brussels, January 12th, 1978. Dr. Rik Huiskes was unanimously elected as Chairman. Members will serve in the first instance for 3 years. It was given the mission of arranging for the publication of papers submitted by members of the Society. It was considered that rather than attempt to produce a new journal, it would be better to come to an arrangement with an already existent journal of high standards. Rik Huiskes has given a great deal of time to this end. He has successfully negotiated with the Editors and the publisher of the Journal of Biomechanics. The general terms of the arrangement are set out in the attached report, by the Chairman of the Editorial Board. Dr. F. Burny has come to an arrangement with Messrs. Springer-Verlag for the publications of the proceedings of the meeting held in Brussels in May 1978.

I have at this stage to mention the finances of your Society. There is a very small positive balance. However, there are some members whose annual subscriptions are still owing. I am sure this is an oversight and the treasurer would be grateful if this oversight could be rectified, as soon as possible.

We now look forward with confidence to the second meeting of the European Society of Biomechanics to be held in Strasbourg, September 13th-15th, 1979, in conjunction with the G.E.B.O.A.S. (Groupe d'Etudes de Biomecanique Osteo-Articulaire de Strasbourg). I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our hosts in Strasbourg for all they already have done and are doing to make this a successful meeting. You may have already received the first announcement of this meeting, the call for papers, and general information. If you have not, a copy is attached.

I wish you all the best of health in 1979, and look forward to seeing you in Strasbourg. Please give maximum support to our activities to ensure that your Society will flourish in the years ahead.



John T. Scales.

From the Editorial Board

An 'acting' Editorial Board of our Society was formed in January 1978. It was given the mission to provide for a publishing agreement with a professional journal for articles written by our members. Rather than erecting a new journal, we considered it better to link up with an already existing journal of high standards.

Although other possibilities were considered and investigated, we have chosen for the Journal of Biomechanics, which, no doubt, every member is familiar with.

I am happy to be able to inform you, that my negotiations with the editors and the publisher of the J.Biomechanics came to positive conclusions. In general terms it was agreed that:

- Our society will become a sponsoring organization for the J.Biomechanics (In the meantime also the American Soc. of Biomechanics became a sponsoring organization).
- From the ranks of our society new members for the responsible Editorial Boards of the J.Biomechanics will be nominated. They will, together with those European referees already in the Boards, review the European articles and upon acceptance process them directly to the publisher.
- Articles will be in English; the publisher will appoint a sub-copy-editor, who will be responsible for ensuring spelling and good quality English.
- The members of our society will receive their individual subscription at a reduced price\*:
  - + Appr. \$ 20/year if the subscriptions are collective and included in the membership fee (which will then become appr. \$ 35/year, J. Biomechanics included).
  - + Appr. \$ 25/year if the subscriptions are individual and payed directly to the publisher.

Both the publisher and we favor the collective arrangement; however, we think that the members should have the opportunity to express their opinions on this. I therefore ask you kindly but urgently to fill in the tear sheet below and return it to me as soon as possible. If no sheet is send in, we assume that you also favor the collective arrangement. Hoping to see you all in Strasbourg, September next, and best wishes for 1979.

Rik Huiskes  
Chairman of the Editorial Board

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Name : .....

Address where the J.Biomechanics will have to be sent:  
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I favor a collective subscription at \$ 20,-/year, included in the membership fee

I favor an individual subscription at \$ 25,-/year.

Please send to: R.Huiskes, Dept.Orthop.Surg., University of Nijmegen,  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

\* The regular subscription fee of the J.Biomechanics is \$145,-/year for institutions and \$ 30,-/year for additional individual subscriptions.