

Regional Courses Sao Paulo 2018: **Register now** and benefit from the early bird discount

THE ULTIMATE SPINE EVENT IN LATIN AMERICA!

Don't miss the opportunity to get to know the latest advances in spinal surgery. The third edition of our Regional Courses will take place in Sao Paulo, in June 2018.



Asdrubal Falavigna
Program Director



Albert Brasil
Local Host

RESEARCH Seminar



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Co-Chairperson



Nelson Astur
Co-Chairperson

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William Teixeira
Chairperson



Juan Emmerich
Educational Advisor

International Faculty

- Charles Fisher**
- Giovanni Barbanti**
- Laurence Rhines**

Master Modules DEGENERATIVE DISEASE & SCOLIOSIS



Samuel Pantoja
Chairperson



Marcelo Valacco
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- Ferran Pellisé**
- Daniel Riew**
- Lawrence Lenke**

Master Modules MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINE SURGERY



Néstor Taboada
Chairperson



Alexandre Sadao
Educational Advisor

International Faculty

- Juan Uribe**
- Roger Härtl**
- Semih Özdemir**

How to register

1. [Click here](#): complete the registration steps and pay the fee through our website.
2. Once confirmed the payment, you will receive a link by e-mail to choose the modules in which you want to participate. You can choose three modules of the same or different pathologies, with the condition that these do not occur during the same time.
3. You can participate in the Research Seminar, Plenary Session and Ex-Fellows and Fellows Meeting without additional costs.

Attention: The registration process to the modules will be done according to the **order of registration**.



Register now: saopaulo2018.aospine.org

A new virtual library to AOSpine Members



AOSpine Latin America is pleased to launch a virtual library as a member privilege.

The AOSpine Latin America virtual library (AOSpine Latin America Biblioteca Digital) is now available. The library was developed to make easier to discover and access an incredible digital collection with all the content you need at your fingertips.

Through an intuitive and friendly platform, AOSpine members will be able to access with exclusivity the most diverse materials in pdf or video format, divided by pathology. The material already available corresponds to the content developed for the Continuing Education Program, which are articles written by the best spine experts and are available in Portuguese and Spanish.

According to Nestor Fiore, virtual library coordinator, the idea was to provide the materials used in the online activities for permanent consultation. The library has already more than 60 articles (topics) published and several videos, such as the recorded AOSpine Advanced Symposium Online—Trauma thoracolumbar, which happened in May 12, 2017 and 6 Webinars:

- Webinar AOSpine Latin America - Critical analysis of the medical literature, on Oct 18, 2016.
- Webinar AOSpine Latin America - Thoracolumbar spine fractures, on Nov 22, 2016.
- Advanced Webinar AOSpine— Minimally invasive lumbar spine surgery, on Mar 28, 2017.
- Advanced Webinar AOSpine— Degenerative scoliosis (de novo), on May 9, 2017.
- Advanced Webinar AOSpine— Tips and tricks for selecting information from literature relating to spinal problems, on Jul 11, 2017.
- Advanced Webinar AOSpine— High cervical spine fractures, on Aug 29, 2017.

Soon more material will be offered: up to the end of the year, there will be more than 40 clinical cases available, which corresponds to the Advanced Online Courses and presents the discussion of a clinical case with an AOSpine Faculty.

All this content will be available on an online platform, available 24 hours a day. The access will be through the AOSpine website, within the link **Virtual Learning Space**. It is a member privilege and will require to be logged to join the library.

The content available was generated by Faculty AOSpine experts according to the AOSpine Curriculum. Fiore highlight as an advantage of having a virtual library the opportunity to have permanent access to a material that can be consulted at any time and can be used as pre-event materials, such as recommended reading/consultation for different educational activities.

The library was launched last Friday (September 15) and has already more than a 100 members subscribed. Its search engine allows the search per pathology. Moreover, the content is available for download and can be accessed by mobile phone or tablet. The library has also a Discussion Area, as an open tool for considerations.

Access now: <http://biblioteca2017.aospine.org>

How to access: Use your username and password to access your profile at the AOSpine.org. Then use the link "**Virtual Learning Space**" to access the library. For any doubt, please contact: cvinize@aospine.org



Asdrubal Falavigna, AOSpine Latin America Chairperson

Asdrubal Falavigna is among the first five places in the awards that recognizes professionals who bring important contributions to Brazilian University education.

On October 2nd, 2017, Asdrubal Falavigna, Chairperson of AOSpine Latin America and professor of medicine at Universidade de Caxias do Sul (UCS) since 1997, will receive a Merit Award from the Council of Brazilian University Presidents: "Comenda de Mérito do Conselho de Reitores das Universidades Brasileiras". Falavigna is one of the top five placed among the 25 names nominated to receive the honor. All nominees had their curriculum and works reviewed by the evaluation committee.

It is the first time that this award is granted. It highlights professionals from university institutions with recognized performance in the fields of management, teaching, research, social responsibility, or with projects in favor of these areas, that have made major contributions to Brazilian university education.

"I am very pleased at this acknowledgment by the national bodies of research and education. This honor motivates me to continue working to help raise the level of teaching and research-education in the country and in the region. I would like to extend this homage to the University of Caxias do Sul, to the AO organization and to all colleagues who participate actively in educational activities", said Falavigna.





AOSpine Online Course: Guidelines for writing a scientific paper

From August 6 to September 23, we had an online course with guidelines for writing a scientific paper. The objective of the course was to improve and generate competences for writing a scientific paper. It was our first online course dedicated to this theme.

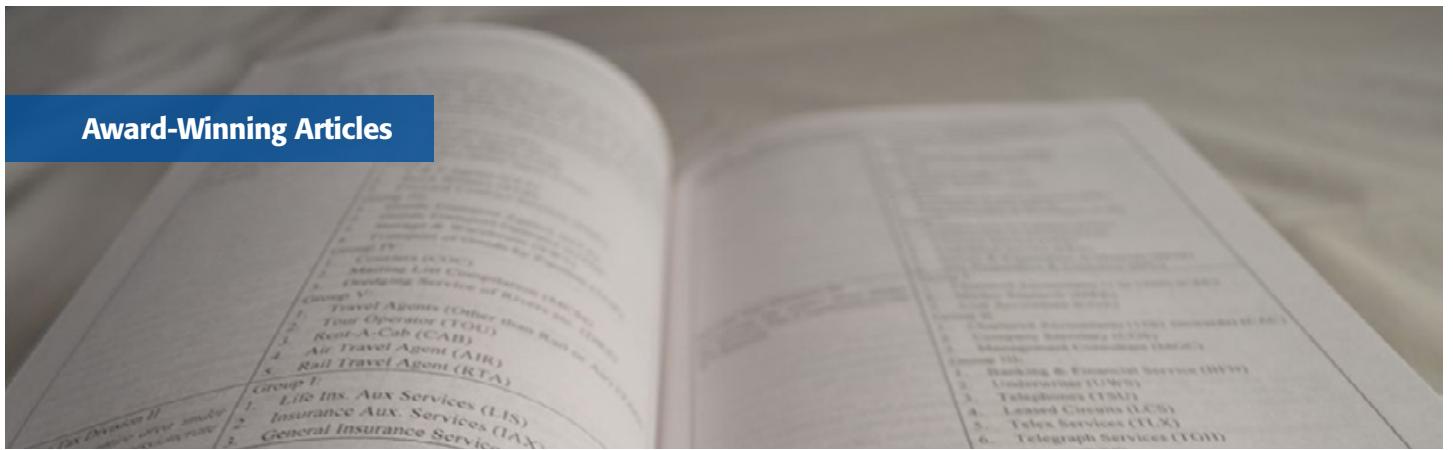
For six weeks, the participants shared the knowledge to facilitate and carry out a research paper from the beginning to the publication. They had the opportunity to learn the characteristics of a protocol, a manuscript and an original article, as well as the tips and tricks of the points that are important to include in this documents.

According to the course chairperson, José Jiménez (MX) – Latin America Research Officer, the scientific paper is the only instrument for scientific dissemination, which is why all spine surgeons must know the entire process for its writing. "Latin America has made a progress in increasing the number of publications that appear internationally, for this reason we will continue with this activity and we invite who did not have the opportunity to take this course, to join this excellent experience in the next year. Remember that successful is not the person who comes up with an idea, but who writes it and convinces the world".

The course also helped the participants to review issues such as bad practices in publication, types of publication and how to choose the best source of information. For Miguel Barrientos, a course participant from Guatemala, the course was a valuable academic experience. "This course helped me to improve my final thesis in order to give a better focus at a cohorts study analysis that I carry out in my Hospital. The professor resolved the doubts promptly week by week, clarifying terms and updating the theory".

Orlando Villarreal, a course' participant from Colombia, said, "I started the course with some doubts about the types of studies as well as how to structure a scientific paper without making it tedious and especially delayed. I recommend it especially for those who do not have time to write a scientific paper. In 6 weeks you can complete a research project through the course".

For 2018, we are preparing a new format for our online courses in research. Do not miss the opportunity to participate in the courses next year.



The journal Coluna/Columna promoted an award to stimulate the production of scientific content.

The Coluna/Columna is a journal of the Sociedade Brasileira de Coluna, which reaches doctors throughout Latin America. The journal promoted an award to stimulate the production of scientific content. The award went to the three best articles published in the journal in four categories:

- Trauma
- Deformity
- Degenerative
- Technical Innovations + Basic Science

Some articles with AOSpine acknowledged will be awarded:

In the category Degenerative disease is the article entitled [CLINICAL-RADIOGRAPHIC CORRELATION OF DEGENERATIVE CHANGES OF THE SPINE – SYSTEMATIC REVIEW](#), by Emiliano Neves Vialle, Luiz Roberto Gomes Vialle, Christiano Esteves Simões, and Phelipe de Souza Menegaz.

In the category Trauma is the article entitled [SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF RECOVERY OF SPINAL CORD INJURY WITH ANTIOXIDANT THERAPY](#), by Marco Antonio Eduardo Koff, Lukman Olalekan Ajiboye, Natália Diel Lisboa, and Asdrubal Falavigna.

In the category Basic science is the article entitled [HISTOLOGICAL MARKERS OF DEGENERATION AND REGENERATION OF THE HUMAN INTERVERTEBRAL DISK](#), by Manuela Peletti-Figueiró, Israel Silveira de Aguiar, Suelen Paesi, Denise Cantarelli Machado, Sergio Echeverrigaray, Mariana Roesch-Ely, Asdrubal Falavigna, and João Antonio Pêgas Henriques.

The award ceremony will take place in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil on November 24th, 2017.

AOPEER

The AO Program for Education and Excellence in Research (AOPEER) is a collection of resources and learning opportunities designed for health care professionals who want to learn or improve the skills they need to conduct clinical research. As a result of this program, several projects are being conducted.

A paper published by AOPEER members - the article entitled [CRITICAL REVIEW OF A SCIENTIFIC MANUSCRIPT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS](#), by Asdrubal Falavigna, Michael Blauth, and Stephen L. Kates - was published at the Journal of Neurosurgery.



The voting members democratically elected the new country council.

AOSpine Latin America is pleased to announce the results of the Country Council elections in Bolivia. All voting members of AOSpine in Bolivia democratically elected the new members. The entire election process was conducted according to the criteria and requirements of the AOSpine Template of Governance.



The voting was for Chairperson, Education Ortho and Education Neuro, and the voters elected Luis Duchén, Marcelo Sea and Gueider Salas, respectively. The new members' three-year term started on September 1st, 2017.

The members of Bolivian country council are as follows:

- Chairperson: Luis Duchén (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)
- Education Ortho: Marcelo Sea (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)
- Education Neuro: Gueider Salas (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)



In those two countries, the voting members democratically elected the new positions.

AOSpine Latin America is pleased to announce the results of the Country Council elections in Argentina and Ecuador. All voting members of AOSpine in those two countries democratically elected the new members. The entire election process was conducted according to the criteria and requirements of the AOSpine Template of Governance.

In Argentina, the voting was for Chairperson and Education Ortho, and the voters elected Juan Guyot and Rodrigo Remondino, respectively. In Ecuador, the voting was for the Chairperson and they elected Carlos Arias for the position, to Education Ortho position Marcelo Ochoa was elected and as Education Neuro Eduardo Ordoñez. The new members' three-year term will start on September 1st, 2017.

The members of Argentinian country council are as follows:

- Chairperson: Juan Guyot (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)**
- Education Ortho: Rodrigo Remondino (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)**
- Education Neuro: Pablo Jalón (Oct 2015 - Sep 2018)
- Community Development: Pablo Barbieri (Oct 2015 - Sep 2018)
- Research: Claudio Fernandez (Oct 2015 - Sep 2018)

The members of the Ecuadorian country council are as follow:

- Chairperson: Carlos Arias (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)**
- Education Ortho: Marcelo Ochoa (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)**
- Education Neuro: Eduardo Ordoñez (Sep 2017 – Aug 2020)**

Elections are happening in Bolivia

In August, the first round of the elections are happening in Bolivia.

The voting are open for three position:

- Chairperson
- Education Ortho
- Education Neuro

This is the opportunity to help to shape the future of AOSpine.

The member must always participate in the voting process.





Q&A with Luiz Gustavo da Rocha (BR), member of the Hospital Based Seminar task force

We've started the Hospital Based Seminars (HBS) Project in 2017. This is an AOSpine Latin America initiative very well received by the international community and now part of our Educational Plan.

The HBS are low cost educational activities developed in-site at hospitals of the region, based on the AOSpine Curriculum, and case discussions. It's aimed at fellows, residents and medical staff of these hospitals. They are blended learning activity: there is an online platform with

pre-reading and complementary materials together with online forums to facilitate integration between participants and Faculty before the face-to-face seminar.

Our goal is to bring the AOSpine principles to new surgeons and referral centers using a pre-established model event.

In the following Q&A, Luiz Gustavo da Rocha (BR), member of the Hospital Based Seminar task force, talks about the project:

How the Hospital Based Seminars works?

They are low-cost events held in-site at hospitals of the region following the same educational standard of all AOSpine events.

What are the main advantages to the participants?

Rather than move themselves to an event – with all the time and cost involved – AOSpine goes towards the participants where they are. Moreover, they are interactive seminars, case-based and without any registration fees.

How has the events been held throughout 2017?

We have a task force in Latin America to develop the educational basis of these seminars, selecting a set of

base cases and complementary materials. We had six events in Brazil in 2017, followed by others events held in Colombia and Argentina. This event format can be performed in a practical way in any hospital and it's in constantly improvements it.

What are the plans for 2018?

Our idea is to broaden and improve these events as a ready-made package according to the AOSpine curriculum. The hospitals apply through a specific form and the Chapters of the related country approves it. Afterwards we just apply the package and move on. Therefore, we must held it in different hospitals throughout Latin America.



Hospital based simulation-training course



The course will happen in December 2nd, 2017 in Curitiba (BR)

The AOSpine simulation training in microsurgical decompression and interbody fusion is a hospital based course (HBC) to take place in Curitiba (BR) in December 2nd.

Participants will train microscopic decompression, interbody fusion, and dural repair using a realistic simulator. The course includes mandatory online pre- and post-course assessments for participants. It also includes blended learning online pre-course activities commencing one month prior to face-to-face practical training. It consists of self-directed learning complemented with virtual tutorial and case-based discussions.

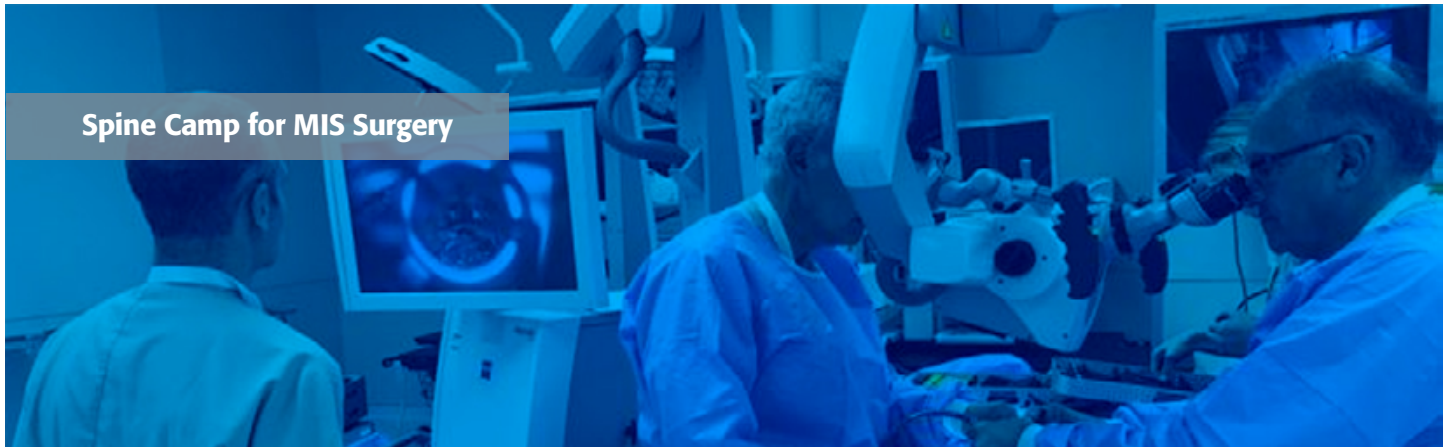
In the practical training groups of two participants work in each station. The learning objectives consist of leading these groups to reach the end of this course being able to:

- Plan appropriate MISS operative treatment.
- Apply strategies to avoid complications in MISS of the lumbar spine.
- Recognize the importance of adequate handling of soft tissue and muscle dissection.
- Perform safe neural manipulation and retraction.
- Recognize the impact of inadequate or partial decompression of lumbar spinal canal and nerve roots.
- Perform a durotomy repair.
- Evaluate the potential risk factors for postoperative lumbar spine instability.
- Perform the key operative steps in TLIF, including insertion of an interbody fusion device.

For more information, go to: http://HBC_PILOT_4.aospine.org



Spine Camp for MIS Surgery



Our first Spine Camp Personal Training Clinic was dedicated to improving minimally invasive spine skills.

A collaboration of AOSpine Latin America and AOSpine North America, the first Spine Camp—MIS Personal Training Clinic was a unique opportunity to practice workflows and techniques using actual surgical tools in a highly realistic surgical simulation setting.

CHAIRPERSONS:

Asdrubal Falavigna (BR), Daniel Sciubba (US), Roger Härtl (US)

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Joseph Cheng (US)

EDUCATIONAL ADVISORS:

Néstor Taboada (CO), Richard Bransford (US)

FACULTY:

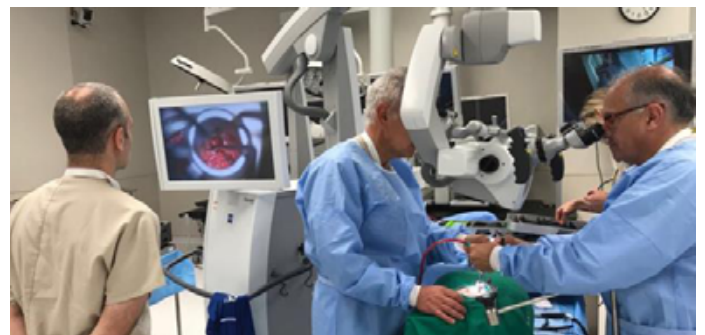
Dean Chou (US), Emiliano Vialle (BR), Jaime Segura (CO), Yamil Rivera (PR)

The training took place in Tampa (US), last November 10-11, 2017. This was the first in a series of focused clinics to enhance skills in MIS surgery. It was designed for participants to master skills to perform MIS lumbar spine decompression and TLIF, showing how to deal with intraoperative CSF leaks, and on the discussion of clinical cases to facilitate the exchange of opinions between our excellent Faculty group and the participants.

According to Nestor Taboada, one of the Educational Advisor of the training, the use of simulators will be part of the AOSpine courses. Fernando Nin (UY), one of the course participants, thanked the chance to participate and highlighted the quality of the course. "I want to thank and congratulate you for the course in Tampa. It was very good. The practical models seemed very real; the case discussion was very enriching; and the Faculty group was a very high level and gave good contributions. I hope you can continue giving courses like this".

The topics discussed were:

- MIS decompression of lumbar spine stenosis
- Transforaminal lumbar intervertebral approach
- Decision-making process in lumbar disc herniation, lumbar spine stenosis, and spondylolisthesis
- The importance of spinopelvic and sagittal malalignment
- Prevention and management of deep wound infection



Global Spine Journal



GSJ had a very busy year which is now wrapping up. Seven issues have already been released, with the final issue coming out at the end of November. In September, we published our newest Special Issue, “Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy and Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury”.

This special issue was spearheaded by GSJ Deputy Editor and Chairperson of the AOSpine Knowledge Forum for Spinal Cord Injury, Michael Fehlings (CA) and AOSpine International, in collaboration with the Cervical Spine Research Society and the American Association/Congress of Neurologic Surgeons. This issue seeks to develop clinical practice guidelines to outline how to best manage patients with tSCI and DCM and address existing areas of controversy.

[This issue is available to read in full online](#)