



My Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to reach to the first issue of 2014. Firstly, I wish a happy New Year to all my colleagues and their families, and wish the New Year to bring happiness, health and peace. As you know, we first published the missing issues from 2005, and we have then made an effort to publish the journal regularly. Our journal is still included in the TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM Turkish Medicine Series. We also made a great effort for our journal to be included in the PubMed and SCI expanded lists. Although PubMed has not yet included our journal in the citation list, it has included it in the list of suggested journals on the subject of spinal surgery. Next year, we hope that we will be in the PubMed (Index Medicus) list. For this purpose, all the articles in our journal will be in English, and the articles in Turkish will be translated to English. For this, if our Administrative Board approves, we will take professional support.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of bereavements. Prof. Dr. Hakan Caner, who was a member of the Turkish Spinal Organization Administrative Board and a faculty member of Başkent University Medical School Neurosurgery Department, died on 18 December 2013, after a long struggle with stomach cancer. This loss was a great shock. We commemorate him with respect and mercy due to his contributions to Turkish Spinal Surgery, and we wish patience to his family. Thus, in this issue, we gave Prof. Dr. Hakan Caner the place in our “Frontiers of Spinal Surgery” section. Prof. Dr. Nur Altınörs prepared the article.

There are six research articles in this issue. The first is a study analyzing osteoporosis that developed after brace usage for idiopathic scoliosis, the second analyzes the postoperative complications of Lenke type III cases in idiopathic scoliosis, and the third compares the clinical results of discectomy interventions administering fusion with PEEK cages and discectomy interventions without fusion for cervical disc hernia. The fourth study is a comprehensive study analyzing the prevalence of intraspinal abnormalities in congenital and neuromuscular scoliosis, and reporting the surgical results of patients who had previously had neurosurgical intervention and who had serious scoliosis. The fifth study analyzes lumbar pseudoarthrosis and its causes. The final study is a research article comparing posterior spinous process dilator implants received from Gazi University with a finite element method. I think that all these studies will greatly interest the readers.

There are three case presentations in this issue. The first is a case of Brown-Séguard syndrome caused by a ganglion cyst that developed after cervical disc surgery. The second case presentation describes a patient who was prevented from developing pulmonary emboli by the use of a vena cava filter during vertebroplasty. The last case presentation is a hemivertebra case who received very successful surgery.

This year, the “Marmara Spinal Group Meetings” will be continued, which include Istanbul and neighboring cities and which are conducted to increase the interest in spinal surgery, especially for assistants and new specialists, to

contribute to their training and to transfer the experiences of experienced colleagues, and are organized regularly each month by the regulatory board. This year Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tezer will perform the headship of the regulatory board and Surgeon Mehmet Aydođan will perform the secretariat. Marmara Spinal Group 2013–2014 training year meetings began, with the first meeting conducted at Istanbul Florence Nightingale Hospital (New Building) ađlayan on 20 November. In the first meeting of this year, Prof. Dr. Azmi HAMZAOĐLU was the speaker and presented his talk entitled “Posterior vertebral column osteotomy in the treatment of pediatric and adult complex and rigid sagittal and coronal spinal deformations”, giving important and detailed information to a number of participants. We thank him both for this informative presentation and his great hospitality. We also express our gratitude to our Turkish Spinal Organization Head Prof. Dr. Serdar Kahraman, who attended and chaired the meeting.

The second of the Marmara Spinal Group 2013–2014 training year meetings was conducted at S.B. Balta Limanı Metin Sabancı Training and Research Hospital on 18 December 2013. Prof. Dr. Hakan Caner was commemorated, a member of The Turkish Spine Organization Administrative Board who we lost untimely before this meeting. His background and contributions to Turkish spinal surgery were discussed. We commemorate him once more with mercy and sadness for the loss of him, and we give condolences to his mournful family and all our colleagues. Dr. Mehmet Bülent Baliođlu gave his talk entitled “Surgical treatment in rigid complex spinal deformations: indications, technique, results and problems”, and then cases were discussed. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kaygusuz chaired the meeting. We thank our colleagues who attended and pay our respects. You will find detailed information about the other meetings in 2014 in the announcements section.

We are continuing to answer the STE questions in this issue, which we publish in accordance with the request from TOTBİD TOTEK for recertification. The answers to the questions included in this issue should be sent to the addresses cutku@ada.net.tr or admin@jtss.org.tr, as also indicated on the page that includes the questions. Answers received will be sent by us to the relevant secretary at TOTBİD TOTEK.

We wish a New Year with health, success and peace to the Turkish Spinal Surgery family, and we present our deepest respects.

Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman BENLİ
JTSS Editor Assist.