



My Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to reach the fourth issue of 2013. I was appointed to the editorship of our journal, which has been being published for 24 years, in the TOD Administrative Board meeting on 21 September 2013, beginning from October 2013. This is the happiest and most honorable job in my entire life. I thank firstly Prof. Dr. Serdar Kahraman, who is our Organization Head, and the Administrative Board members for deeming me worthy for this job. I would like you to know that I will do my best to carry this flag to higher levels, which I have taken from Prof. Dr. Emin Alıcı with the support of the Turkish Spinal Surgery family as well as the members and the editorial board. Hereby, **I express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Emin Alıcı, who is the founder of the Turkish Spinal Organization and its formal media outlet JTSS, and I wish him health and a long life.**

For the editorial assistance of our journal, the following people were appointed:

Prof. Dr. Sait NADERİ Prof. Dr. Ömer AKÇALI

Prof. Dr. Alpaslan ŞENKÖYLÜ

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Uygur ER

Hereby, I express my gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Necdet ALTUN**, who is my elder brother and who I am proud to work with, for his support until today.

Our editorial board consists of:

Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman Benli (Editor)

Prof. Dr. Sait NADERİ (Editör Assist.)

Prof. Dr. Ömer AKÇALI (Editör Assist.)

Prof. Dr. Alpaslan ŞENKÖYLÜ (Editor Assist.)

Assoc. Dr. Uygur ER (Editör Assist.)

Assoc. Dr. Deniz KONYA

Assoc. Dr. Çağatay ÖZTÜRK

Assoc. Dr. Serkan BİLGİÇ

Assist. Dr. Mehmet AYDOĞAN

Surgeon Mehmet Bülent BALİOĞLU.

As you know, **our journal, The Journal of Turkish Spinal Surgery (JTSS), is included in the TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM Turkish Medicine Series. Our fundamental goal is to increase the quality of our journal and become listed in international indexes such as SCI Expanded and PubMed.** For this purpose, we will send invitations to the Scientific Board of our journal to our foreign colleagues with high international impact factors. We will begin publishing the entire journal in English. We will go and conduct meetings personally in the centers running those indexes at the beginning of next year. Also, both on the Turkish Spine website and the JTSS website, we will provide full text access to 15 high impact factor journals for free.

In this issue, there are six research articles, four case presentations and one review. The first study is an anatomical study that analyzes the volumes of vertebral hemangiomas. The second is a clinical study analyzing the role of fat tissue grafts in epidural fibrosis commonly seen after discectomy. In the third study, the results of surgical treatment administered for spinal stenosis are reported. In the fourth study, the relationship between spinal stenosis and carpal tunnel is discussed.

The final study includes results after lumbar microdiscectomy, and this study is particularly important as those cases received intervention by orthopedists. I think that all those studies will greatly interest our readers.

There are four case presentations in this issue. The first presents cauda equina syndrome that formed in a case of schwannoma who developed intratumoral bleeding. The second case is a patient with meningomyelocele who received posterior vertebral resection. In this case presentation there is a detailed discussion with a comprehensive literature search, as well as the results of the case. In the last two case studies, cases with a diagnosis of hydatid cysts are presented.

In this issue, there is also a Review, which is a detailed study of intraspinal abnormalities.

In our “*Frontiers of Spinal Surgery*” section this issue, we discuss **Victor Augusta Menard**. Menard was the founder of the institute in Berk Sur Mer, one of the most important centers for spinal surgery in France, where I had the chance to be, and he made significant studies on Pott disease. Prof. Dr. Esat Kiter prepared the article, as usual. We thank him very much.

Marmara Spinal Group meetings were conducted in May and June and have entered the holiday period. They will begin again with an intense programme under the presidency of Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tezer. The **regulatory board** of the meetings was reformed. The regulatory board constitutes:

Prof. Dr. Mehmet TEZER (Head)

Prof. Dr. Cüneyt ŞAR

Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman BENLİ

Prof. Dr. Alpaslan ŞENKÖYLÜ

Assoc. Dr. Çağatay ÖZTÜRK

Assist. Dr. Mehmet AYDOĞAN (Secretary).

We also wish to present our deepest thanks to Prof. Dr. Serdar Kahraman, the Head of Turkish Spinal Organization, for his support for our meetings.

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

We wish health, success, peace and comfort to the Turkish Spinal Surgery family, and we present our deepest respects.

Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman BENLİ

JTSS Editor