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## **My dear colleagues,**

We are happy to reach the second issue of 2013. According to a decision taken by the TOD General Assembly, our journal will no longer be published in print, and it will only be available electronically. As we were waiting for this decision, the April 2013 issue was prepared with a delay, and is now published electronically.

The TOD Administrative Board was changed at the TOD General Assembly, and for the first time in the history of TOD, a neurologist, Prof. Dr. Serdar Kahraman, was elected as the Head. The other Administrative Board members are named below. I congratulate all the Administrative Board members on electing TOD Head Prof. Dr. Serdar Kahraman, and wish them success in all their endeavors.

### **TOD Administrative Board:**

**Head:** Serdar KAHRAMAN

**2.Head:** Ömer AKÇALI

**General Secretary:** Alpaslan ŞENKÖYLÜ

**Accountant:** Çağatay ÖZTÜRK

**Members:** Haluk BERK, Hakan CANER, Uygur ER, Esat KITER, Deniz KONYA, Halil İbrahim SEÇER

There are six research articles and five case studies, in total, in this issue. The first article is a clinical study analyzing whether the distal fusion level affects life quality. The second study analyzes the correlation between the application of lumbar short fusion and neighboring segment instability. The third study reports the results of adding anterior fusion to cervical anterior discectomy. In the fourth study, successful results of the IDET technique are reported. The fifth study analyzes the results of the application of kyphoplasty to osteoporotic vertebral breaks. The sixth and final article is a case series including five cases of pyogenic sacroiliitis. I think that all these studies will greatly interest our readers.

In this issue, there are also five case studies. In the first case presentation, a Brown-Séquad complication that developed in a patient with kyphoscoliosis is presented. The second study discusses a case of delayed Brucellosis spondylodiscitis, and the third is a case of a hydatid cyst.

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The fourth is a thoracic calcified synovial cyst case leading to myelopathy. The final case presentation is related to a patient with sequestrum of a lumbar disc leading to cauda equina.

Our “*Frontiers of Spinal Surgery*” section continues in this issue with the history of minimally invasive spine surgery. Surgeon Mehmet Şimşek and Prof. Dr. Sait Naderi prepared this article. This article provides a quite comprehensive history and will interest people dealing with this subject.

Important spinal surgery meetings have been conducted since January 2013. The first was the second of the Experience and Evidence meetings, which was conducted at Ankara Limak Hotel from 15–16 March. “Sagittal Balance Master” training was performed on 31 March in Izmir. The X. Turkish Spinal Surgery Congress was performed under the presidency of Prof. Dr. Necdet Altun and Prof. Dr. Şükrü Çağlar from 17–20 April. All three meetings were successful and beneficial.

The Marmara Spinal Group meetings continued. Degenerative spinal problems were discussed, with the contribution of two Italian guests, at a meeting chaired by Prof. Dr. Ufuk Aydın in Bursa in February. Scheuermann’s Kyphosis was discussed at Istanbul Training and Research Hospital in March. “Spondylolisthesis Diagnosis and Treatment” was discussed thoroughly in a panel with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çağatay Öztürk, Prof. Dr. Yetkin Söyüncü and myself (Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman Benli), chaired by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tezer, at Hisar Intercontinental Hospital on 10 April 2013. Finally, presentations on “Congenital Kyphosis” and “Sagittal Balance Measurement” were performed by Surgeon Yunus Atıcı and Surgeon M. Akif Albayrak, respectively, at Balta Limanı Training and Research Hospital on 15 May 2013. The final meeting this year will be conducted at the American Hospital, and “Cervical Degenerative Diseases” will be discussed. Prof. Dr. Cüneyt Şar will chair the meeting.

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 to the questions included in this issue should be sent to the addresses [cutku@ada.net.tr](mailto:cutku@ada.net.tr) or [admin@jtss.org.tr](mailto:admin@jtss.org.tr), which are also indicated on the page that includes the questions. Answers received will be sent by us to the relevant secretariat in TOTBİD TOTEK.

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

**Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman BENLİ**  
JTSS Editor Assistant