

Musculoskeletal Awards 2009

Physiotherapist Receives Horoszowski Memorial Award at WFH Musculoskeletal Congress



Sébastien Lobet

Sébastien Lobet, a physiotherapist with the Hematology and Physical Medicine department of Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc in Brussels, Belgium, received the Horoszowski Memorial Award at the 11th Musculoskeletal Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, in April, for best scientific presentation.

Mr. Lobet was awarded the prestigious award for his work on demonstrating the metabolic effects of multi-joint damage on walking. His study provides a new approach to the long-term assessment of patients with chronic joint disease, and reinforces the importance of multidisciplinary and comprehensive care for people with hemophilia.

Joint damage in patients with hemophilia is particularly complex. It affects several joints simultaneously and to varying degrees. The ankle is generally severely affected by bleeding, and joint damage of this kind causes extreme disability and pain in patients. To date, however, the actual effects of ankle joint damage on its function

have not been studied or assessed in sufficient detail. For the moment, joint damage assessment in patients with hemophilia is founded on clinical ratings and radiology scores. Such scores do not accurately reflect reality, however, as they consider joints at rest — not moving joints. And yet, the limits of static assessment are quite clear. Two patients with hemophilia and with ankles that present the same way on x-rays may walk very differently. One may be unable to put his ankle on the floor because it is blocked and he also has knee trouble; whereas the other may have a perfectly satisfactory gait because there are no lesions in the other lower-limb joints.

With the help of both patients with hemophilia and the research infrastructure of the physical medicine and rehabilitation unit of Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Mr. Lobet tested the effects of isolated ankle damage on walking. The study created three-dimensional models of walking hemophilic patients. The first results demonstrate how important it is to give rehabilitation research a major role, and highlight the vital role played by physiotherapists and multidisciplinary teams in treating patients with hemophilia.

Orthopedist Receives Pietrogrande Prize at WFH Musculoskeletal Congress



Jerome Wiedel

Dr. Jerome Wiedel, orthopedist with the Mountain States Regional Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center in Denver, U.S.A., was awarded the Pietrogrande Prize for his notable contributions to furthering the mission and goals of the Musculoskeletal Committee of the WFH. This

prize is named after Dr. Vincenzo Pietrogrande, orthopedic surgeon and first chairman of the Musculoskeletal Committee

Dr. Wiedel has been an active member of the international hemophilia community for more than 25 years. He organized one of the first musculoskeletal meetings in Colorado, U.S.A., in the mid-eighties, where he counted the WFH founder, Frank Schnabel, among his participants. He served as chairman of the Musculoskeletal

Committee seven years ago and has always been an active member of the group.

Dr. Wiedel also has a distinguished medical record. He was one of the first orthopedists to perform total joint replacements and arthroscopic procedures in the hemophilia population. Throughout his long career, he dealt with some of the most severe complications, including inhibitors and infection, yet always kept his patients and his team in mind. When the hemophilia world was devastated by the HIV infection, he continued to treat patients and to provide surgical options in what was considered a high risk population at the time. From the beginning, Dr. Wiedel also included physiotherapy as an active part of both pre-operative and post-operative management of his orthopedic patients. If his team was concerned that a patient was not ready for surgical intervention, it was postponed until the right time. As a result, he has had very good outcomes with most of his orthopedic procedures.