



**SICOT Declaration of Rio de Janeiro**  
on  
**International Campaign against Bone and Joint Infections**  
*Rio de Janeiro, November 2014*



Infections of bones and joints are still the major threat in orthopaedic surgery. Despite continuous development in medicine there is an ongoing increase of musculoskeletal infections worldwide, leading to amputation, lifelong disability or even death in millions of cases each year. Appropriate treatment is considered interminable and expensive with costs often unaffordable in developing countries. Infections globally constitute a substantial economic burden on patients, physicians, hospitals, healthcare systems, and the human society as a whole.

Facing the challenges related to Musculoskeletal Infections (MSI), SICOT, the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, has established its own Infections Committee consisting of representatives from countries around the globe and supported by Scientific Associations like the European Bone and Joint Infection Society, the largest Society in that field. Specialized orthopaedic surgeons have invested great efforts to implement strategies that may minimize the disastrous effects of MSI. Treatment of MSI has developed to a highly sophisticated discipline requiring special training for expertise and skill as well as a solid infrastructure. During the foundation meeting the situation in various countries has been analyzed and possible improvements have been identified. In many countries the true incidence of MSI is unknown, as there is no or only a rudimentary reporting system available. Education on preventing, diagnosing and treating MSI is not established in most countries, since there mainly are no standardized procedures and often a lack of required tools. Concentration of skills and resources in dedicated centers of excellence appears advisable for improving quality of supply and reducing occurring costs, however, it has been organized only in very few countries so far.

The International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology – SICOT – urges international organizations and national authorities to take all necessary measures to improve conditions in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of orthopaedic infections in their countries. Suggestions for further improvement may include support of national study groups, organization of education, and training courses as well as provision of adequate tools. Health authorities are encouraged to establish specialised centres of excellence whereas SICOT is ready to provide respective proposals or certification whenever deemed to be desirable.

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