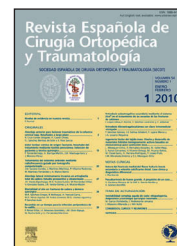


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Paediatric orthopaedics

Ortopedia infantil

In the current issue of our journal, in the section on Education, there is an article and a debate about the present state of paediatric orthopaedics in Spain and Europe. It is written by Tomás Epeldegui, Chairman of the Orthopaedic Department at *Hospital Nacional Infantil del Niño Jesús* in Madrid, and formerly president of the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society. The two Updates in this same issue address matters related to that area. M. J. Bell, an old friend with whom I was conversing about his patient care activity in Sheffield, told me that he was devoting 3 days a week to Orthopaedics (no "first name") and 2 days to reconstructive surgery—because "Orthopaedics, more so if we go by Nicolas Andry's definition, is Paediatric Orthopaedics." There is no reason to go to any extremes, perhaps, but nor should we forget where the orthopaedic surgeon's work is most valued: in making the skeleton grow properly, as in scoliosis, congenital hip dislocation—now known as developmental dysplasia of the hip for certain medical-legal reasons—and clubfoot, as well as fractures in children, where we appreciate the important process of adaptive remodelling.

Earlier this year, the recently deceased Prof. Munuera was informing us of the current situation regarding training in our specialty, covering both compulsory training and the structuring of training in specific areas. Included in these

areas, within our specialty and for the first time, would be paediatric orthopaedics, hand surgery, and spinal surgery, once they complete the formalities required in the Royal Decree plan, which is currently still in the talking stages. Other areas of specialization will surely require more lengthy processing. But there is an unquestionable trend toward specialists devoting themselves to specific areas and patient care services being organized into units.

Paediatric orthopaedics, like the spine and hand—specialties already well established, even though lacking the official recognition that would enable a certain profile to be recruited for patient care positions in the public healthcare system—does have a lengthy track record, with outstanding specialists in our country, some of whom have a high profile on the international scene. Here at RECOT [*Spanish Journal of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology*], we believe that this process must continue to be sustained through ongoing publication of the experiences of specialists, to whom we offer our pages.

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