Research grants

The AOSpine Latin America Grants Program is currently supporting three projects in the region – two of them beginning in 2011, and one in 2012. All projects have been receiving regular stipends from the organization to develop cutting-edge research in spine surgery in Latin America. These projects – both basic science and clinical studies – were awarded the grant after a meticulous selection process conducted by the AOSLA Selection Committee:

1- Percutaneous therapy in rats submitted to medullar trauma - Brazil

**Objective**: To evaluate the effect of mesenchymal stem cells obtained from human adipose tissue on the cauda equina of rats submitted to thoracic spinal cord contusion injury. The analysis will provide a comparison of the results related to functional recovery after spinal cord injury between percutaneous injection of stem cells in the medullar cone, and the results of previous studies performed by the group, in which the injection of stem cells was used directly into the lesion site.

**Principal Investigator:**

Christiano Simões  
Felicio Rocho Hospital  
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2- Evaluation of the role of phospho-calcium metabolism in the risk of pseudoarthrosis in patients operated from lumbar degenerative scoliosis - Argentina

**Objective**: To evaluate the phospho-calcium metabolism in a group of patients submitted to surgical correction of degenerative lumbar scoliosis. The study will relate this data to the presence and characteristics of pseudoarthrosis.

**Principal Investigator:**

Juan Pablo Guyot  
Hospital Universitario Fundación Favaloro, Buenos Aires, Argentina
3- Analysis of the efficacy of hyperbaric therapy and physical activity for motricity, histological and oxidative damage, and infertility in a rachimedullar trauma model - Brazil

**Objective:** To determine the effectiveness and the best parameters for THB and AF to promote neurological recovery and fertility. The project will be conducted in four phases: evaluation of the effectiveness of THB and AF and their optimal application parameters; evaluation of the effectiveness of AF associated with BD; evaluation of the fertility of rats after the TRM; and evaluation of the effectiveness of THB in sperm mobility and fertility.

**Abstracts publications:** 2
**Manuscripts Publications:** 2

**Principal Investigator:**

Asdrubal Falavigna  
Caxias do Sul University  
Caxias do Sul, Brazil

**Contact information:**

Juan González  
Operations Project Manager  
AOSpine Latin America  
jgonzalez@aospine.org