

## Editorial

It was about a year ago when we first started to talk about creating an official organ for SIGASCOT, which might serve as the scientific voice of the association. To tell the truth, the idea initially met with some skepticism on the part of the Executive Committee, as it certainly seemed a very ambitious undertaking whose realization would be difficult for a number of reasons. First of all, because the creation of a new journal demands a clear vision and shared commitment from numerous individuals, who are convinced of the value of the project and willing to devote themselves to it wholeheartedly, especially in its start-up phase; furthermore, and even more importantly, these “dreamers” must have the ability to convey their enthusiasm to a sizeable number of people (readers and authors), whose support can help the journal to grow until it reaches a point at which it has acquired sufficient visibility and scientific credibility to be able to sustain itself. In other words, it is not enough simply to have a good idea; it is crucial to have an idea that is considered valid by others, too, who are then willing to pull together to ensure that this “idea” becomes an “object”, in this case, a journal.

Another objectively tricky aspect was the specific objective that this new journal should pursue, or rather the scientific sector in which it should be inserted. Basically we wanted to be sure that we would be able to create a publication that was not going to overlap with other existing products on the market. We thus started to think hard about the aims and content of the journal, and about what it might be called.

A “name” is a powerful tool for recognizing and defining a person, a living being, an object, or a concept. A “name”, through its phonetic structure, semantics and semiotics, conveys a message; it is a symbol that holds the key to the interpretation and the most profound expression of an idea. An idea, if it is to take shape, must have a name. But what name could best encapsulate our idea? When questions are too complicated, the best way to answer them is to break them down into simpler ones. Thus, we asked ourselves the simple question: “what does SIGASCOT actually deal with?” The answer was, of course, “the knee, arthroscopy, sport, cartilage and orthopedic technologies”. But again, this was too complex, given that a name must be universal, carry a strong symbolic meaning, and be something everyone can readily recognize and identify with.

The word “symbol” derives from the Latin *symbolum* and, in turn, from the Greek *συμβολον* *súmbolon* (sign) which, in its turn, derives from the verb *symbollo*, whose roots *συμ-* (sym-, “together”) and *βολο* (bol, “cast”), may roughly be taken to mean the “putting together” of two separate parts. But what word could possibly unite all the different elements represented in the acronym SIGASCOT? In the end, we realized that, come to think of it, knee surgery, arthroscopic surgery, sports traumatology, and the study of cartilage and orthopedic technologies do have a common denominator, something specific that links them: namely, joints, or rather the treatment of joint disorders to be precise. And what are joints in anatomical terms if not structures serving to “put together”, or “unite”, two separate parts, two skeletal segments? In short, “putting together” or “uniting” was a concept that continued to emerge, becoming, like a karma, a beginning and end unto itself: “joint”, understood as “union”, is both the cause and effect of its own symbolic representation. Incidentally, “union to spread knowledge” is also the motto of SIGASCOT, almost as though the idea for this name existed even before the name itself did.

I am therefore very proud to present this first issue of JOINTS, a journal created through the shared enthusiasm and selfless sacrifice of a great many people in order to bring together and disseminate current knowledge on the treatment of joints, those noble and complex structures whose principal task is to “unite”.

**Giuseppe Milano**  
Editor-in-Chief

