

Job description

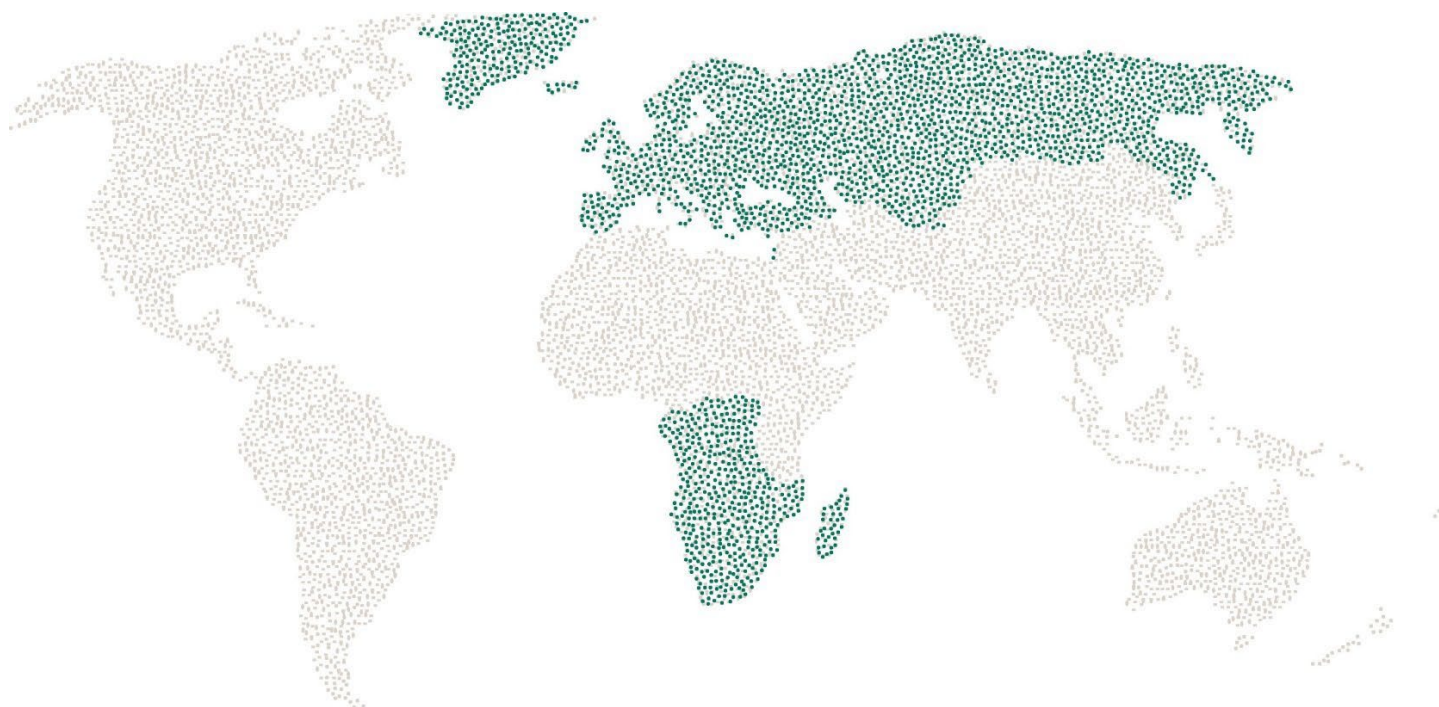
AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Education Officer

AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa is looking for:

highly motivated individuals of regional repute and excellent scientific and clinical recognition. Applicants need to be able to work in a multicultural environment with no regional travel restrictions. They are expected to have the vision to contribute to the entire AO Spine organization and to help us set new standards and position AO Spine as a global leader in spine surgery and education. The Education Officer also serves as a full member of the AO Spine Education Commission and is expected to contribute actively to global education strategy, governance, curriculum development, quality improvement, and cross-regional implementation.

AO Spine is seeking nominations and reapplications for the following position:

Position	AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Education Officer
Territory	Europe and Southern Africa Region
Reporting to	AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Chairperson
Term	Single term of three years as Education Officer.
Officer Elect term	July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028
Start date	July 1, 2028
End date	June 30, 2031



Responsibilities

- Jointly lead all education activities on the regional board
- Position AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa as the leading provider of world-class spine surgery education and the education gold standard
- Ensure AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa education sets the standard globally in content, through the AO Spine curriculum, and in delivery, through faculty development
- Understand the educational needs of spine surgeons across Europe and Southern Africa
- Inspire the development of innovative educational programs and services to meet identified needs
- Ensure education is at the core of all activities throughout the region
- Engage colleagues throughout Europe and Southern Africa in education, including as faculty
- Be an outstanding ambassador for AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Education and the AO Spine curriculum
- Inspire European and Southern African spine surgeons to contribute to AO Spine education
- Represent and promote the region at all times
- Ensure consistent quality and brand management in all educational activities
- Partner with other AO Spine regions and stakeholders to deliver world-class education
- Serve as a full and active member of the AO Spine Education Commission, contributing to collective decisions and acting in the best interests of AO Spine education globally, beyond the interests of the region alone
- Contribute to the development, prioritization, implementation, and regular review of the global AO Spine education strategy and portfolio
- Provide regional expertise and evidence to inform global curriculum, program, faculty development, educational innovation, quality, and evaluation decisions
- Champion the adoption and consistent implementation of globally agreed curricula, educational standards, quality frameworks, and faculty development approaches within Europe and Southern Africa
- Promote cross-regional collaboration, sharing of best practices, scalable innovation, and efficient use of global educational resources
- Identify regional insights, risks, and emerging needs with global relevance and bring them proactively to the AO Spine Education Commission
- Ensure effective two-way communication and accountability between the AO Spine Education Commission and the regional board, including timely reporting on decisions, progress, challenges, and outcomes
- Support the monitoring of educational impact through agreed data, learner outcomes, quality indicators, and evidence, and use the findings to drive continuous improvement regionally and globally
- Participate consistently and well prepared in Education Commission meetings, workshops, task forces, and assigned work between meetings, and take ownership of agreed global deliverables
- Represent AO Spine Education, when delegated, in relevant global governance forums and with internal or external partners

Requirements

- Member of AO Spine
- Eligible candidates:
 - Current and past AO Spine Council Officers
 - Past AO Spine Regional Board Members, with one additional position possible two years after the end of term
- Practicing surgeon for whom at least 75% of practice is spine surgery
- Recognized as an outstanding educator
- Experienced faculty member at AO Spine educational events, including experience as an event chairperson and completion of AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Training for Chairpersons
- Excellent understanding of the educational needs of European and Southern African spine surgeons
- Strong academic and professional networks throughout Europe and Southern Africa

- Good understanding of, and interest in, world-class medical education, including best practices and innovations in the field
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and contribute constructively to global, multidisciplinary governance and decision-making
- Ability to balance regional priorities with global organizational goals and to build consensus across regions, cultures, specialties, and stakeholder groups
- Experience with curriculum development or implementation, educational quality assurance, program evaluation, faculty development, or educational innovation
- Commitment to evidence-informed education, measurable outcomes, and continuous improvement
- Outstanding networker and partnership builder
- Exceptional communicator and listener, at ease in multicultural environments
- Good project management skills and a record of delivering agreed actions within timelines
- Fluent in English
- Passionate about developing AO Spine education regionally and globally
- Willing to represent and support the educational interests of all European and Southern African members and to develop educational programs for the entire region
- Willing and committed to devote the time required for both regional board duties and active AO Spine Education Commission membership, including preparation, meetings, task-force work, and follow-through between meetings
- Able and willing to travel internationally and participate across time zones as required

Accountability and expected contribution

- Maintain regular alignment with the AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa Chairperson, Regional Manager, regional board and relevant regional education operational teams.
- As a member of the AO Spine Education Commission, maintain regular alignment with the Chair of the AO Spine Education Commission and the Global Education Manager on global priorities, assigned responsibilities, deliverables and follow-up actions.
- Provide the regional board with structured updates following Education Commission meetings and ensure that agreed global decisions and actions are translated into regional plans and implementation.
- Provide the Chair of the AO Spine Education Commission and the Global Education Manager with relevant regional perspectives, progress updates, implementation challenges, risks and outcomes to inform global education planning and decision-making.
- Contribute substantively to assigned global workstreams and demonstrate progress against agreed objectives, timelines and deliverables.
- Escalate significant issues or barriers that may affect regional implementation or the achievement of global education objectives in a timely manner.
- Declare and manage potential conflicts of interest and uphold AO Foundation governance, compliance, confidentiality and code-of-conduct requirements.

AO Spine International

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