

# SICOT contribution to natural disaster assistance: the pre-requisite

Maurice Hinsenkamp<sup>1</sup>

Received: 30 April 2015 / Accepted: 1 May 2015 / Published online: 17 July 2015  
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Since the mobilisation of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie (SICOT) orthopaedic surgeons after the earthquake in Muzafarad in 2005, SICOT considers it part of its duty to contribute to improving the knowledge of civilian surgeons on the very specific and unusual context of natural disasters [1].

We started the collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in 2006 to allow volunteering orthopaedic surgeons to be involved in MSF missions. After the earthquake in Haiti, we held a symposium, during our Congress in Göteborg in 2010, on the debriefing of the Haiti intervention.

Since then, at every SICOT World Congress, we have had a symposium on Natural Disasters focussing on a specific topic. In 2011, it was on amputation [2–6]; in 2012, on triage [7–11]; in 2013, on external fixation [12–15]; and in 2014, on pre-requisites [16–18]. The papers hereafter were presented during this last symposium. The topic in 2015 during the SICOT World Congress in Guangzhou will be on infection.

As the formation and training to practice orthopaedic surgery in these conditions is usually not well catered for in the current academic cursus, and is hopefully not a full-time occupation, SICOT tries to share the experience of those who were in the field during these missions through the annual publication of these presentations in *International Orthopaedics*.

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✉ Maurice Hinsenkamp  
mhinsenk@ulb.ac.be

<sup>1</sup> Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Hôpital Erasme, Université Libre de Bruxelles - ULB, Route de Lennik 808, Brussels B-1070, Belgium

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