

Oral Abstracts

Cierny & Mader Lecture

[O51] CROSSING BORDERS IN BONE AND JOINT INFECTION MANAGEMENT

Carlo Romano¹

¹Centre for Reconstructive Surgery and Osteoarticular Infections, Istituto Ortopedico IRCCS Galeazzi – Milano - Italy

Bone and joint infection has been a neglected field for years. Seemingly unpredictable results, anticipated bad prognosis, lack of standards, relatively low-incidence or even denial of septic complications, all contributed to relegate this condition in a largely unexplored territory. Adventuring here then required to a few pioneers in last decades to cross borders and frontiers, many of which still stand in front of us...

1. **There is a land out there...** A very first border is to acknowledge the problem, avoiding superficial or blaming attitudes and, thus changing the way physicians, institutions, industry, patients and mass media may think.
2. **.. an unexplored land.** The next frontier are our dogmas and beliefs, the challenge of which will eventually really lead us to knowledge.
3. **Looking for new pathways and companions.** Lateral thinking and sharing experience with other disciplines, while staying focused on our target, will allow us to cross the third border.
4. **Tool kit for explorers.** To explore this land you need to be well equipped for complex and sometimes risky procedures: a tool kit that needs continuous training and update.
5. **Building bridges.** Crossing the fifth border requires the ability to favor translational research and to lower barriers to new technologies, with an approach similar to that adopted for “rare diseases”.
6. **Write down the map.** Crossing borders is worthless, if you don’t write down the map. Take your time to set the standards, share and validate protocols, tracing the way for the next explorer to come.
7. **Honor previous explorers.** Remember those that became “stars” and those who remained unknown, but yet gave their silent contribution to cross the next frontier.
8. **World is big, you are small.** Then cross the final border: your self-confidence. Bacteria were before you and will be after you, so... remain humble.