



**Jørgen REIMERS** (6.2.1931 – 24.3.2008, Copenhagen, Denmark)  
 EPOS Founder (1982)  
 5<sup>th</sup> EPOS President (1991 – 1992)

After acceptance of his medical doctor thesis [1] from Copenhagen University, Jørgen Reimers received the highest academic title in Denmark: Dr.med. In the preface of his thesis [3], he thanked W.J.W. Sharrard he visited in 1970 “*whose consistent application of the principles of muscle imbalance and the deforming forces has been an inspiration for so many orthopaedic surgeons*”. He also expressed his recognition to John Sharrard, and then Robert B. Salter, Norris Carroll, John Hall and Mercer Rang he visited in 1971, and he wrote: “(they had) *a view of the dynamics of the hip* (which was) *not generally accepted at that time*”. He retired from National Hospital, Childrens Orthopaedics, in 2000.

### Contribution to EPOS:

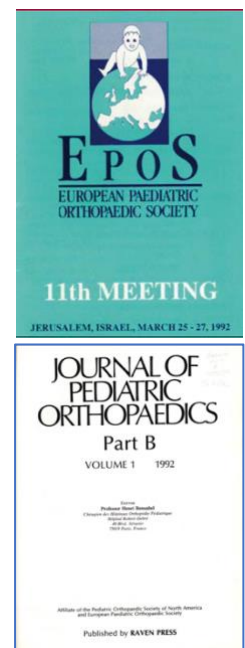
Dr Reimers belongs to the group of the 13 European surgeons who founded EPOS in Paris, Hôpital Bretonneau, on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1982.

In 1989 during the General Assembly of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Helsinki (local host: Soini Ryöppy), Dr Reimers was elected Vice-President. In 1991, during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Paris at the Hotel Lutetia (local host: Henri Bensahel), he succeeded to Henri Bensahel and became the 5<sup>th</sup> President of EPOS. The executive board was as follow: Jørgen Reimers (President), José Cañadell (Vice-President), Henri Bensahel (Past-President), Alain Diméglio (General Secretary), André Kaelin (Treasurer), Maurice Bergoin, Anthony Catterall, Franz Grill and Nando de Sanctis (Advisors).

The fourth EPOS Seminar was hold in Geneva on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 1992 with André Kaelin. The topic was “pelvis and femoral osteotomies”.

Under Jørgen Reimers’ presidency, two EPOS annual meetings were organized:

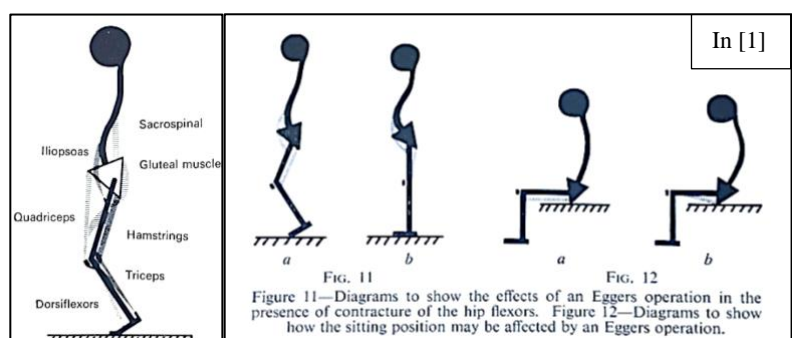
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held in Jerusalem, Israel, at Laromme Hotel on the 25-27<sup>th</sup> of March 1992 (local host: Viktor Bialik). Thirty-nine abstracts were accepted and discussed. 118 participants attended. The first issue of the EPOS newsletter was presented by Nando de Sanctis. During the General Assembly, Jan van der Eijken was elected as the new General Secretary, and some articles of the Statutes were revised to bring them up to date.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was organized by Franz Grill in Vienna, Austria at the Parkhotel Schönbrunn on the 25-27<sup>th</sup> March 1993. Participants came from 27 European countries, and also from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, and the United States of America. The main topic was the “adolescent hip joint”, and the results of a questionnaire sent to EPOS members were presented by Franz Grill. The general assembly elected a new board: José Cañadell (President), Klaus Parsch (Vice-President), Jørgen Reimers (Past-President), Jan van der Eijken (General Secretary), Erica Lamprecht (Treasurer), Gérard Bollini, Franz Grill, José Mesquita Montes (Advisors).



In 1991, Henri Bensahel created a specific European Journal of Paediatric Orthopaedics, the B-version of the Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics. The first issue was published on January 1992.

### Contribution to Paediatric Orthopaedics

In 1973, J Reimers demonstrated the relationships between the muscles of the lower limbs, their role in sagittal balance and the deleterious effect of spastic muscles. He illustrated his points with attractive teaching drawings, and various examples of muscles contractures were described: isolated contracture of the hip flexors, knee flexors, triceps surae, and combined muscles [1].



A year later, Dr Reimers published the results of a prospective study of 60 CP patients with hamstring contracture. Of the three surgical methods, proximal lengthening at or near the ischial tuberosity (when fixed flexion of the knee does not exceed 5 degrees, due to the location of the short head biceps femoris muscle) had advantages over distal lengthening and the Egger’s procedure [2].

Dr Reimers is known as the father of the “hip migration index”. His medical thesis, 100 pages published in 1980, is dedicated to the stability of the hip, to the balance between the abductors and the adductor muscles.

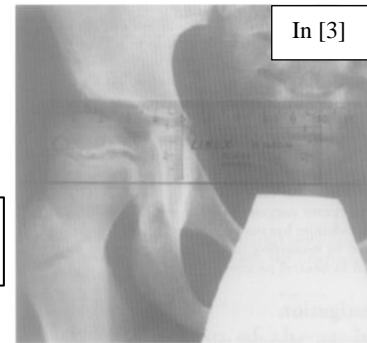


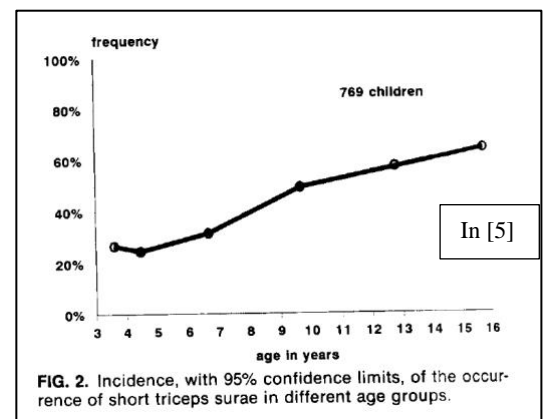
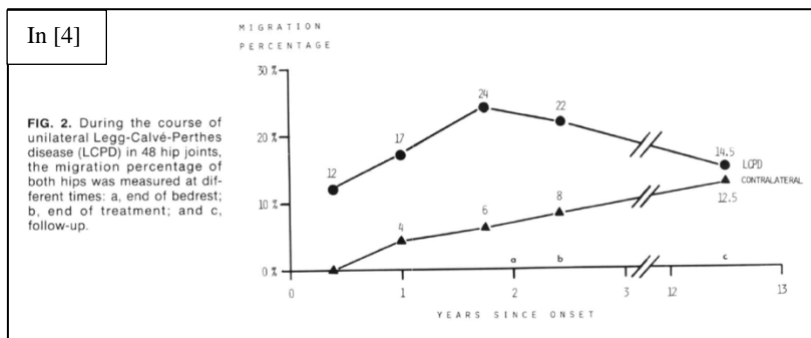
Figure 4. Measuring the migration percentage by means of a transparent ruler with transverse lines.

In order to emphasize the dynamic element in the placing of the articular head, the term »Migration Percentage« (MP) is used, from an idea suggested by Mercer Rang (1975), indicating how large a part of the femoral head has migrated external to Perkins' line.

In the first part of this monumental publication, Reimers describes all lines and angles of the hip coxometry, defines the migration index and its relationship with the coverage of the femoral head (CE angle).

Then, he compares the spontaneous migration of the normal hip versus the cerebral palsy hip. The following chapters are dedicated to the results of the surgical procedures on the muscles around the hip as resection, elongation. A short discussion and a conclusion end each chapter. The work is perfect, clear, meticulous, well-done [3].

The hip was not only assessed in cerebral palsy and myelomeningocele, but also in Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease. In a cohort of 48 patients, Jørgen Reimers demonstrated that, after a period of lateral migration of the femoral head during the first months of the disease, the coverage of the head was quite similar in LCP and contralateral normal hip at long term follow-up [4].



In 1995, Dr Reimers studied the length of the triceps surae muscle in 759 children. The proportion of children with a unilateral or bilateral short triceps increased from 24% to 62% between the ages of 3 and 17 years. In the oldest age group, all the flat feet had a short triceps surae [5].

## Hobbies

During each gala dinner, Jørgen used to find to cry a great “hip hip hourra” to thank and honor the local hosts.

## Top 5 references

1. Reimers J. Static and dynamic problems in spastic cerebral palsy. J Bone Joint Surg Br. 1973; 55: 822-7.
2. Reimers J. Contracture of the hamstrings in spastic cerebral palsy. A study of three methods of operative correction. J Bone Joint Surg Br. 1974; 56: 102-9.
3. Reimers J. The stability of the hip in children. A radiological study of the results of muscle surgery in cerebral palsy. Acta Orthop Scand Suppl. 1980; 184: 1-100.
4. Reimers J. Incidence of full containment of the femoral head after Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease and in the “normal” hip. J Pediatr Orthop. 1985; 5: 199-201.
5. Reimers J, Pedersen B, Brodersen A. Foot deformity and the length of the triceps surae in Danish children between 3 and 17 years old. J Pediatr Orthop B. 1995; 4: 71-3.

Jørgen Reimers and Vibeke Irving (coll. K Parsch)  
Both have three sons: Martin (1958), Jesper (1960), Carsten (1965)



Thanks to Bjarne Møller-Madsen  
Pierre Lascombes – EPOS Historian