Press Release

2014 Grammer European Spine Journal Award

Brand-new scientific findings are once again being heralded in 2014: a Canadian research group has identified gene clusters that can malfunction and cause adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS).

Amberg, October 1, 2014 – What gives our spine the strength it needs to function properly in everyday life? Each year, spine researchers address this and similar questions at the largest European spine congress, “Eurospine”. This year it will take place in Lyon, France on October 1-3, 2014 (detailed information is available at www.eurospine2014.eu). More than 3,000 physicians, biomechanics specialists and biologists are expected to attend in order to share and discuss the latest findings in their fields of endeavor. At the event, the Grammer European Spine Journal Award will be bestowed for the 15th time. The world's spine research accolade with the largest purse, each year it is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements in basic and applied research and science. This sought-after prize is sponsored by leading seat manufacturer Grammer AG and the prestigious European Spine Journal. A jury of experts comprising editors and members of the journal's scientific advisory council chooses the best paper published in it during the preceding year.

Scoliosis is one of the oldest known diseases. There was already awareness of it in ancient times, and it continues to be a widespread problem today. This year, the award will go to a Canadian research group headed by Florina Moldovan und Khaled Fendri for major new insights in the study of scoliosis.

The causes of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) are still poorly understood. It has been suspected that the disease can result from a malfunction of certain genes.* These researchers therefore set out to shed light on this matter. They studied spine tissue samples to determine whether there is a difference in gene function in the cells of scoliosis patients compared to healthy test subjects. And in fact, the scientists identified certain gene clusters whose genetic information is expressed...
differently in scoliosis patients than in healthy individuals. This is a first step toward solving the puzzle. Work will now continue to examine these results in greater detail.

From Science to Practice

Spine research is one of the important investment focuses of Grammer AG. It ensures that Grammer seats are developed in keeping with cutting-edge scientific insights.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Wilke is one of the leading minds in spine research. He and his fellow researchers have set milestones in identifying how our spines are stressed by sitting, thus also driving major advances in the development of better seats. He advises Grammer AG on the latest scientific insights. At Grammer, relevant findings are channeled directly into developing seats that maximize comfort and ergonomics for vehicle operators.

Complete information on all previous award winners and on the topics of Ergomechanics®, Design for Use, and Application Comfort is available at:


Company Profile

Grammer AG, Amberg, Germany, is specialized in the development and production of components and systems for automotive interiors as well as driver and passenger seats for offroad vehicles (tractors, construction machinery, forklifts), trucks, buses and trains. Our Seating Systems division comprises the truck and offroad seat segments as well as train and bus seating. In the Automotive division, we supply headrests, armrests and center console systems to premium automakers and automotive system suppliers.

Grammer is represented in 19 countries worldwide with a workforce of more than 10,000 employees across its 29 subsidiaries.

Grammer shares are listed in the SDAX segment of the German Stock Exchange, and are traded on the Munich and Frankfurt stock exchanges, via the Xetra electronic trading platform and on the OTC markets of the Stuttgart, Berlin and Hamburg stock exchanges.