

## Acknowledgements

The present studies were carried out during the period 1979-1983 in the Orthopaedic Hospital, Århus, while I was serving first as junior registrar, then as research assistant, and later as senior registrar. The experimental investigations were performed in its Laboratory of Biomechanics on preparations of lower limbs collected from a large number of Danish hospitals. My thanks are due to all those who supplied me with the specimens. Without their help, the job would have taken an inordinately long time.

For technical assistance during the initial phases of my study I am greatly indebted to Jørgen Gormsen, engineer, then of the Technological Institute of Jutland. In its later stages Kurt Andersen, engineer, Computer Science Department, University of Århus, has been of invaluable help in reconstructing the apparatus and establishing the computer processing of the measuring results.

Moreover, I would like to thank the technical personnel of the Engineering Department of the

Orthopaedic Hospital for assistance in constructing and putting up the apparatus and the X-ray Department for photographic assistance.

To my co-authors of the previous publications I am grateful for their collaboration and for many valuable discussions, and to Anna la Cour for linguistic assistance.

Lastly, my thanks go to Professor Otto Snepfen, M.D., to whom I owe a debt of deep gratitude for his inspiring interest in the project and for the advice and guidance he has afforded me throughout.

Towards defraying the expenses of the project I have received grants from the Fogh Foundation, the Guildal Foundation, the Foundation for Classic Clinical Research in the University of Århus, the Orthopaedic-surgical Research Foundation in Århus, Professor Ejvind Thomasen's Fund, the National Danish Association Against Rheumatic Diseases, J. No. 233-366, and the Danish Medical Research Council, project No. 12-2109.

Århus, November 1984.

*Ove Rasmussen*