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Message from the General Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends,

First, I wish you a happy and healthy new year and hope that all your personal and professional plans will be realized. Last year I started my editorial with the message that we were facing the COVID-19 pandemic and that is still the case. After all the national vaccination programs we hoped that we would defeat COVID-19 at the end of 2021 but this was wishful thinking. New mutations as the Omicron variant are again threatening national health care systems. Nevertheless we employed many activities during 2021. First of all we organized a very successful ESTES week in April. During the span of one week we could follow every late afternoon and evening two very interesting sessions organized by our sections. I thank Tina Gaarder, our steadfast congress president, and her team for the preparation and coordination of this event. Furthermore we went on with our ESTES webinars. Every fortnight you can follow very interesting webinars. Here Jonathan Tilsed is the moderator and technical support comes from Diego Mariani. In 2021 we were again present at congresses of societies that we have been collaborating with for many years. In June we organized a session for the web-based EFORT congress about damage control strategies in polytrauma. In October we were at last able to organize a physical session about geriatric trauma at the German Congress of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (DKOU) in Berlin. At the congress we had our first physical meeting of the executive board in 2 years.

At that moment we thought that life would become normal again but as mentioned earlier this was not the case. Now Tina Gaarder and our president Inger Schipper are together with the scientific committee busy preparing for our congress from 24 – 26 April 2022 in Oslo. We hope that we will have a physical congress where we can meet again. For the organizing team and our PCO Conventus this is a very hard job. Even the near future is uncertain and it is very difficult to get in contact with the sponsoring industry. After this editorial is published we hope to know more about how to go on in 2022.

For several years now, there has been a discussion about how to increase ESTES member participation in our society and the last revision of our bylaws is 5 years ago. Thus we established a working group to look at our bylaws. In this working group Inger Schipper, Jonathan Tilsed, Roberto Faccincani and I participated as executive board members, Frank Hildebrand and Henrique Alexandrino as national delegates and Richard Kdolsky and Itamar Ashkenazi as sections chairs. A concept to revise the society and section bylaws was sent to the executive board and advisory council. Both gave their comments and the concepts will be sent to all members for further comment. After discussing these comments the executive board will ask the members at the next general assembly in April to approve the revisions.

ESTES European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)
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Furthermore we decided to participate in the Nightingale project. This is a scientific project funded by the European Commission which is aimed at improving the medical response in mass casualty incidents and disasters. There are 23 international partners participating in this project. From our side Roberto Faccincani and Manuela Walland, our association manager, are coordinating this project. With our contribution we want to become more visible as a European Union scientific society. As mentioned in former years ESTES must become the “telephone number” of trauma and emergency surgery in Europe. We are the society which takes a holistic approach of trauma and acute surgery.

As you can see despite all the problems associated with COVID we are active in many areas in Europe and we hope that we can meet you again soon. If it is possible the executive board looks forward to seeing you in April at ECTES 2022 in Oslo, Norway.

Klaus Wendt
ESTES General Secretary

Announcements

Upcoming related congresses & courses

ESC – Emergency Surgery Course

March 21-22, 2022

Graz, Austria

ESC – Emergency Surgery Course

April 22-23, 2022

Oslo, Norway

**ECTES – European Congress for Trauma and
Emergency Surgery**

April 24-26, 2022

Oslo, Norway

More congresses and courses to be found in the **ESTES events calendar** at
www.estesonline.org

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