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**Message from the Vice President**

I had the honour to serve as president of the society during its 10th anniversary year in 2017. This was a great milestone for a society born from the merger of two organisations: the European Association for Trauma & Emergency Surgery (EATES) and the European Trauma Society (ETS). The official history on the ESTES website suggests that the two societies each had a different focus: ETS on treatment and EATES on organisation and delivery. However, both are integral to the perfect patient pathway to which we all subscribe. In the first ten years the society had made great strides towards integrating its component parts into a whole that was greater than simply their sum. ESTES has continued to advance the field of trauma and emergency surgery through cooperation and collaboration since then and to lay the groundwork for the future. Thanks to the pandemic, much of the past two years has blurred into one so this is a good opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved and how we plan to meet the challenges that lie ahead. In fact, 2022 will be the society's 15th anniversary.

The ESTES gender equity initiative, spearheaded by the president, Inger Schipper, is a welcome, if overdue initiative with which I hope everyone will engage. I believe that—unless you can accept that women are significantly less capable than men—you should not be content with an organisation in which women are underrepresented. The larger the organisation, the closer the gender balance should be to 50:50 at all levels. If it is not the case, then the organisation is probably operating disproportionately in the shallow end of the talent pool.

The NIGHTINGALE project is a European Commission funded initiative that takes its name from an Italian-born woman who did more to reduce the mortality of surgical patients than most of us will ever achieve. This is essentially a consortium which includes research organisations, developers, technology companies and end users, and aims to revolutionise pre-hospital and mass casualty care. Compared to other branches of medicine, this has seen few changes over the years. Horses may have been replaced by motorised vehicles, but there is little in today's practice that Dominique Larrey would not recognise from the system he established more than 200 years ago. One of the cornerstones of this project is to develop a process and equipment that can be used in both civilian and military environments. The ESTES Disaster and Military section is a unique collaborative forum where those involved in military and humanitarian missions can come together and learn from each other. This forum has enabled ESTES to play a significant role in the project.

The Emergency Surgery Course is the fruit of a close collaboration between ESTES and the AAST that has taken off in the USA and has been highly successful in Europe. Thanks to a great effort from members of both societies, the course manual has been completely re-written and is due to be published in the autumn.

# **ESTES European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)**

[www.estesonline.org](http://www.estesonline.org)

ESTES was one of the four founder members of the European Trauma Course (ETC) and has worked collaboratively with the European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM), the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA) and the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) to develop it. The ETC is now taught in more than 20 countries worldwide. Although the number of courses was reduced during the earlier part of the pandemic, it is now reaching pre-pandemic levels with over 2,000 candidates a year being taught the important non-technical skills and crew resource management techniques essential for working as a team in a modern emergency room. A successful online revalidation course has been launched to meet the requirements of several national training and licensing bodies and the incorporation of new bylaws will put ETC's governing body in the hands of those who deliver the course.

Together with the ESAIC (as the ESA has been known since 2020) and the ERC, ESTES has been working on guidelines for the management of cardiac arrest in the operating room. While this is thankfully a rare event, the operating room is an alien environment to most members of the traditional "crash team". In a closely monitored patient, treatment can be initiated immediately by the team already assembled. These guidelines are due to be published soon.

Since 2017 we have faced many challenges. It has been tough in so many ways, but I believe that ESTES has emerged stronger as a result. In 2017 the fledgling Advisory Council was becoming well established under the masterly guidance of its first chair, Mauro Zago. The outstanding performance of Roberto Faccincani, who is completing his term of office as chair this year, has seen the Advisory Council develop further into a collaborative forum since its first meeting. The bar has been set high for his successor, but the council members rightly have every confidence that Cristina Rey will be more than equal to the task.

The webinar team has continued to facilitate the delivery of a fantastic series of educational and informative events that have been driven by the Sections. There have been more than 30 webinars covering a range of topics from major incidents and mass casualty events to emergency general surgery, and specialist orthopaedic trauma to polytrauma. There have also been sessions dedicated to specific issues affecting paediatric and geriatric patients in trauma and emergency surgery. Many of these can be seen on the ESTES YouTube channel.

A year ago, I wrote that if we are more likely to remember how a meeting makes us feel than what was actually said, the digital world is a poorer alternative. Christine Gaarder, originally the 2020 Congress chair, has overseen the preparation of three ECTES congresses which have been postponed, cancelled and held online. The 2022 ECTES will be held in person and there are no longer any pandemic restrictions for international travel to Oslo. This means that we will not only have the opportunity to listen to 125 internationally renowned speakers from around the world, take part in interactive discussions with 250 presentations, critique 78 research papers and discuss 278 posters with their authors, we will also be able to celebrate. There will, of course, be a great social programme too. Further details can be found at <https://www.estes-congress.org>.

I look forward to meeting you in person in Oslo at the 2022 ECTES and I know that Prof. Gaarder does too!

Jonathan Tilsed  
ESTES Vice President

## Announcements

### Upcoming related congresses & courses

**ATLS – ECTES Pre-Congress Course 2022**

April 20–22, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**ESC – Emergency Surgery Course**

April 22–23, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**MUSEC – ESTES Pre-Congress Course 2022**

April 22–23, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**Polytrauma Course**

April 22–23, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

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

April 24–26, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**MRMI – ECTES Post-Congress Course**

April 26–29, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**DSTC – ECTES Post-Congress Course**

April 27–29, 2022  
Oslo, Norway

**11<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Course Polytrauma Care**

October 6–7, 2022  
Zurich, Switzerland

More congresses and courses to be found in the **ESTES events calendar** at  
[www.estesonline.org](http://www.estesonline.org)