



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

Association sans but lucratif (ASBL)

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

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## Message from the President and the President-Elect

Dear ESTES members,  
Dear friends,

Europe, and the world, are currently experiencing a particularly challenging pandemic by the new SARS-CoV-2 virus, causing the viral disease COVID-19. In many countries, such as Italy and Spain, we have witnessed stories of overwhelmed health resources, as the death toll continues to rise. And as news of spread to other countries is expected, the medical community holds its breath, in expectation of the worst-case scenario.

However, from many places a message of resilience and hope emerges, as many trauma and emergency surgeons have been actively engaged in the management of patients with COVID-19. They are joining their internal medicine, infectious disease, anesthesiology and critical care specialist colleagues, offering what best a surgeon can give in a crisis: a well-trained, highly motivated physician, proficient in clinical and resuscitation skills, speaking the language of emergency medicine and able to work in a team. Not only are surgeons at the frontline of the fight against this disease, but they also are maintaining high standards of care in the surgical treatment of trauma and nontrauma patients, providing them with the best of their skills and knowledge, with the possible available resources.

All this is happening while healthcare workers are at a particular risk of contagion, especially those engaged in managing critically ill COVID-19 patients, and particularly if requiring emergency surgery. This has put an added emotional strain on these brave physicians, nurses and other technicians, especially given the already restricted social isolation most countries have adopted. This means that they continue their heroic fight, even though in their minds they fear for their families and friends, whom they can hardly see or sometimes even speak to. As such, the ESTES current and incoming presidents, on behalf of the entire executive board, would like to express our solidarity to all the members of our society with a message of hope. This fight is by all, for all and together we will see this through. We have no doubt that our society will have grown stronger after this crisis has subsided and we will resume our scientific and educational activities in the future, uniting the trauma and emergency surgery community of Europe in a spirit of warmth and friendship.

To all ESTES members, and their families, please be safe.

Carlos Mesquita, President  
Radko Komadina, President Elect



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### Announcements

#### Upcoming related congresses & courses

**International Student's Championships in Trauma Management Simulation**

July 3–5, 2020  
Wroclaw, Poland

**1st Triennial Meeting IOTA 2020**

December 2–4, 2020  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**56. Jahrestagung der ÖGU “Wirbelsäule”**

October 1–3, 2020  
Salzburg, Austria

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

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**European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery**

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