



European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)

www.estesonline.org

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Message from the Vice President

A Year of Opportunities and Challenges

Slovenia, a Central European country of two million inhabitants on the southern side of the Alps, participates in ESTES with two national professional organizations: The Society of Trauma Surgeons and the Surgical Society of Slovenia, both affiliated with the Slovenian Medical Association. Similar to traumatologists in the neighbouring Central European countries, we also treat patients with holistically severe trauma, with more than 90% of our surgeries dealing with bone fractures. There is no specialization in emergency surgery in Slovenia. Fellow general surgeons, who mainly deal with abdominal surgery, participate in the treatment of severely injured patients in the capacity of a consultant surgeon with comprehensive trauma treatment. The situation in many European countries is completely different. Bone fractures are treated by orthopaedic surgeons, and injuries to internal organs by stopping bleeding and contamination are treated by emergency surgeons from general surgery departments. ESTES thus brings together heterogeneous members of various professional organizations, usually two from each European country, who are usually oriented predominantly toward orthopaedic traumatology and general surgical emergency. The colourful composition represents a comparative advantage of our professional organization as it enables the holistic treatment of severe injuries of the body core and skeleton and represents a professional and scientific forum for the exchange of different views in treating a common patient.

A truly incredible year is behind us. In the period between April 2020 and April 2021, in addition to our primary job of dealing with severely injured and urgent surgical conditions, we also addressed new organizational, professional and logistical aspects in the changed circumstances arising from the COVID-19 epidemic. We initially moved ECTES from 2020 to 2021, naively believing that, after a year, we would have survived the pandemic and be looking forward to our live meeting in Oslo next month. It turned out that our expectations were premature and so we put Plan B into action and turned ECTES 2021 into a virtual weekly meeting of ESTES activities. We currently hope to meet in 2022 in the good old tried and tested manner at a live congress.

Among the victims of the virus are members of ESTES, Europe's largest trauma-emergency-medical surgical family. They include authors of articles for 2020, who prepared their articles, research reports, review lectures, and interesting case reports of limited duration for the Congress. After a year or two, professional and scientific reports are rendered obsolete by the rapid development of science and clinical practice. Therefore, in the middle of May 2020, we started working on the possibility of a hybrid expert meeting, which pushed us into a simultaneous financial risk together with PCO Conventus, with whom we contractually collaborate. We have decided to overcome the COVID-19 crisis together in a partnership. To keep ESTES in good shape, we have developed webinars every 14 days with a lot of work done by Jonathan Tilsed and his colleagues in the working group.

ESTES did not die! On the contrary! ESTES has become stronger during the crisis. In the normal times, before the pandemic, the Executive Board (EB) met once in spring at the annual ECTES and once in autumn. In the crisis year, we started to meet monthly via Zoom



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and even more often during the start and peak of the global health crisis. The landmark EB meeting, in my view, took place on 7 July 2020. We prepared for the ESTES Belgium and ESTES Austria virtual assemblies, and decided to start a professional exchange of views through webinars. We also made the decision to continue working with Conventus.

We first had our virtual assembly through Zoom on 19 December 2020, where we voted in accordance with our Statute. In September 2020, we decided to go through with Plan B, the virtual week ESTES 2021, under the slogan “We are taking responsibility”. We have gained a wealth of much-needed experience through webinars with Jonathan’s working group, which prepares content at two-week intervals. Based on this experience, I sincerely look forward to a successful ESTES 2021 Activity Week!

COVID-19 has had an invigorating effect on the functioning of ESTES:

- Under its influence, we have published recommendations on how to perform surgical activities during an epidemic.
- We connected with colleagues from other international professional sister organizations (AAST, EFORT, International OTA, Global Trauma Systems Study, European Trauma Systems, ETC).
- We decided to start projects such as the Gender Equality in Surgery project, the European Summer School for Emergency and Trauma Surgery, which will take place every year in a different European Academic Centre. ESTES might soon become a research institution capable of applying for European research projects and the like.

European North, European South, European East, European West—each part of Europe has its own development specifics and historical development with different development policies. The heterogeneous European structure is connected by our organization in a forum that enables the holistic treatment of seriously injured patients and patients requiring emergency surgery. Gathered around the same table are surgeons skilled in spine surgery, joint prosthetics, colorectal cancer, acute abdomen, surgical infections, mass casualty incidents, and so on. We respect the differences that unite us, and at the same time, represent the strong connective tissue of our organization. That is why I see the passing year as one of opportunities and development challenges for ESTES.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my EB colleagues, particularly the General Secretary and my dear friend Klaus Wendt, and my colleagues in the EAC, in particular Chairman Roberto Faccincani, whose assistance has been invaluable. Thank you. ESTES truly has the future potential to be the telephone number to call for trauma and emergency surgery, as one of ESTES’ founders, Ari Leppäniemi, so vividly put it.

Radko Komadina
ESTES Past President



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Announcements

Upcoming related congresses & courses

**International Conference on Emergency Surgery—
ICEM21**

June 8–12, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Eurasian Orthopedic Forum (EOF)—2021

June 25–26, 2021
Moscow, Russian Federation

Pisa Workshop of Acute Care Surgery and Trauma

Hemodynamically unstable patients in pending
cardiac arrest: resuscitative thoracotomy and REBOA
June 25, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Polytraumaversorgung—das Zürcher Paradigma

September 16–17, 2021
Zurich, Switzerland

Pisa Workshop of Acute Care Surgery and Trauma

Intra-abdominal infections: long course vs. short
course antibiotic therapy
September 24, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

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