



## 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

Dear colleagues, esteemed surgeons,

The year since the congress in Prague 2019 has sped past us, and then in the midst of the preparations for this year's congress in Oslo, the COVID-19 pandemic happened. Philosophers forecast that life with the new coronavirus during and after the pandemic will be significantly different than what we were used to before. It also had a strong impact on how our organization operates and has completely thwarted all of our plans for the year!

Since the very first ESTES congress, which took place in Budapest in 2008, we have managed to hold one every year. The novel coronavirus has forced us to postpone the Oslo congress, where I would hold this speech, for a year and hope that by April 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic will be over.

I started out as an orthopaedic traumatologist and our association ETS (European Trauma Society) held its final congress in 2006 in Ljubljana, before deciding to merge with EATES (European Association of Trauma and Emergency Surgery), which then went on to hold its final congress one year later in Graz. This led to the formation of the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES), which has the potential to become the biggest association of surgeons in Europe.

One of our founding fathers and former presidents Ari Leppaniemi loved to paraphrase the former US politician Kissinger to make ESTES the "European telephone number" for trauma and emergency surgery. But, Europe is a diverse association of different countries. Each one brings its own experience and develops its healthcare system in accordance with its desires and abilities. ESTES should be a forum for ensuring minimum professional standards for an efficient transfer of knowledge and skills to each member state. It aims to offer consensually adopted knowledge and expertise for care of patients requiring surgical care or care for an injury demanding emergency action. ESTES is an interdisciplinary forum of diverse experts comprising a team that provides care to emergency surgical patients. It is a living tissue, changing constantly, expanding and growing professionally alongside new developments in science, research, new operative methods and techniques.

ESTES focuses on topical current issues through its work in its expert sections that cover the full spectrum of emergency surgery, including interdisciplinary polytrauma care, skeletal trauma and sports medicine, visceral trauma, surgical infections, as well as disaster and military surgery. Transfer of new knowledge is expedited by the educational committee, and we are considering a new section on children's trauma, while the biggest challenge we have identified lying ahead is the problem of the aging global population with an epidemic of geriatric trauma and emergent surgical diseases.

European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery

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ESTES now has a very varied membership: most members from ETS came from national traumatological associations, while at EATES most were individual. We want the number of individual members to grow, and to accomplish that we need to make our organization attractive, open it for new ideas and initiatives, make it light and transparent, with easy access to the chairs of the sections, committees and boards, so that a well-functioning democratic mechanism constantly encourages the European forum for fast and effective exchange of ideas and know-how between emergency surgeons and traumatologists.

The novel coronavirus left an indelible mark on the year. It forced us to reorganize into COVID-19 surgery as fast as possible, prepare recommendations, cooperate in different forums for exchanging experience, and publish recommendations and guidelines. The novel coronavirus changed our established way of communicating. We began working from home with video-assisted meetings and expert conferences. We have prepared scenarios for video and hybrid conferences and a congress, and we have a plan on how to attract the industry and exhibitors. ESTES shall not yield to a virus!

The Oslo 2020 congress was fully prepared when the coronavirus forced us to postpone it for a year. I thank our Norwegian colleagues and the organizational committee to be willing to take on double stress, one year longer than regular congress preparations.

I thank all members, sections, committees, the ESTES Advisory Council and the Executive Board for the honour to address you and I am looking forward to the next year of shared work to make our ESTES into the central European expert organization for trauma and emergency surgery.

Radko Komadina  
ESTES President



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### Announcements

#### Upcoming related congresses & courses

**Definitive Surgery for Trauma Care – DSTC™**  
September 28–29, 2020  
Graz, Austria

**MUSEC – Modular UltraSound ESTES Course**  
September 30, 2020  
Graz, Austria

**Emergency Surgery Course – ESC**  
October 1–2, 2020  
Graz, Austria

**56. Jahrestagung der ÖGU “Wirbelsäule”**  
October 1–3, 2020  
Salzburg, Austria

**1st Triennial Meeting IOTA 2020**  
December 2–4, 2020  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

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

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