



European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)

www.estesonline.org

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Message from the President

Time for change! What to expect?

Dear ESTES member, dear readers of the *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery*,

“Oh, no! Here we go again,” is what you probably think, if you read the title of this editorial; a new president that thinks she can change the standards and activities that have been ours for so long. And I guess that you are right. But look at it from the positive side. Every new appointment of a president and designation of the executive board members brings new energy to our society, and at the same time is a moment for evaluation of how we, ESTES, are doing, and especially how we could improve.

I thank Radko Komadina for handing over the presidency to me and for keeping ESTES in good health! I am proud and honored to be the president of ESTES for the upcoming year. At this stage it is good to emphasize that neither the president of your society, nor the Executive Board, can realize the changes without *your* support or wish for changes. And some of you have been crying out very loud that there should be changes. I strongly oppose that everything that has been done until now has been for the better of some and not for the good of all, or the society, as suggested by some. But I do agree that our society may need some updates and new vibes because ESTES needs to grow further, grow bigger, and grow more dynamic and diverse. So we need to keep the good elements and build on that. The good elements obviously include the outstanding annual conference, ECTES. What a fabulous virtual congress 2021 we had! So good to see many of you, albeit in digital format. Thank you so much Tina Gaarder and your organizing team! We hope and assume to organize a live edition next year at a fantastic venue in Oslo.

Another point that ESTES is proud of is the *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery*, our scientific journal that has managed to ensure a very respectable and still rising impact factor of 2.2 over the years. And then we have the tantalizing ESTES webinars that have pulled us through the pandemic, the challenging courses organized by sections, and the generic platform that we provide for exchange of knowledge and networking. All great components of ESTES!

So, what is there to change if we have all that?

Well, if we aim to sustain and to grow as society, we do need to give more attention to our successors, the young generation, the residents and the students. Currently they do not have any forum or specific place within ESTES. Wouldn't it be great to have an annually rotating Trauma and Emergency Surgery Summer School? Or to have a resident-executive board member? Or to welcome a separate section under the ESTES umbrella called Young ESTES, where they can meet, exchange knowledge, organize activities, and inspire us with their ideas? The introduction of the ESTES Summer School, the European Summer School for Emergency Surgery and Trauma, may give a first impulse to that target group, guided by the ESTES educational committee. Meanwhile we will start engaging this next generation in more and various ways.



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The other group that needs to be involved more, are our female colleagues. Gender inequity in trauma and emergency surgery is not an opinion; it is a fact. We are surrounded by ambitious, high potential female surgeons who are ready to help us within ESTES as speakers, committee members, role models and mentors. But we fail to involve them. Therefore, this year the gender equity initiative will start, for which we invite all ESTES members, male and female, to participate.

Also scientifically we will open up and become involved in and supportive of European scientific projects. For the first time, ESTES will participate in a Horizon 2020 EU project. ESTES will participate in the aspirational Nightingale project, an EU-funded project on the organization of prehospital care. You will find more information about this project on the website.

At www.estesonline.org you can also read about the ESTES sections. They presented their goals for 2021/2022 during ECTES 2021 and in their section meetings, to which you are all welcomed. Several sections of ESTES have appointed new board members, with new ideas and initiatives. You may expect them to reach out to you with their programs. Please be ready to participate!

About our website, and communication in general, a promising ESTES communication strategy has been launched, and it will be implemented starting this month. The ambition is to make ESTES the number one European contact for all members engaged in trauma and emergency surgery—via any means of communication. So yes, you may expect to hear more and more often about what is going on in European trauma and emergency surgery, by means of social media, the website and newsletters. And we will be happy to include you all, for input and discussion.

Optimizing care for trauma patients and patients that require emergency surgery is a continuum. And for that continuum we will need growing engagement from you, our present members, and from new members. That is why we invite you all to become an *active* ESTES member and to participate in at least one of the existing or new initiatives if you do not already do so. Let us know that you are there and ready to engage in ESTES!

Meanwhile, I wish you a lot of pleasure and inspiration reading this journal and I hope we can all meet each other again soon at one of the courses or conferences, somewhere in Europe, leaving the sequelae from this horrible pandemic behind us. So stay well, stay healthy, and stay inspired!

Inger Schipper
ESTES President



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ESTES Emergency Surgery Section Meeting Minutes 30 April 2021, 10:00 CEST Virtual Meeting

Attendance: 18 members

Participants: Hayato Kurihara (HK), Ari Leppanniemi (AL), Simone Giudici (SG), Isidro Martinez Casas (IM), Luca Fattori (LF), Lukasz Krajnik (LK), Andrei Mihailescu (AM), Olga Rutka (OR), Carlos Yanez (CY), Beat Schnuriger (BS), Shahin Mohseni (SM), Jorge Pereira (JP) and Michael Sugrue (MS). There were also five members present but identified as “iPhone Guest.”
Secretariat: Manuela Walland (MW).

Chair: Jorge Pereira (JP), Portugal

Co-Chair: Michael Sugrue (MS), Ireland

Agenda

1. Opening

JP welcomed the participants and thanked them for their availability.

2. Presentation of the actual committee member situation

Active Members of the Section in March 2021: 240; in July 2020: 520 JP showed some concern regarding the evolution of the number of Section members and stated that the fact should be remembered when programming further Section activities.

The Chair and co-Chair will step down, as they were elected in 2019, and the term is two years. Regarding the Committee’s composition, Luca Fattori and Stefan Schulz-Drost (SS) end their 3-year period. According to the bylaws, another 3-year mandate is possible if they are willing to proceed. To this end, JP previously inquired by e-mail about their availability to continue. LF answered affirmatively. There was no response from SS. The remaining elements of the Committee maintain their positions since they were elected less than three years ago.

Committee 2021/2022

Chair: to be elected

Vice-Chair: to be elected

Committee members:

Gary Bass (IR) 2020

Beat Schnuriger (SUI) 2020

Shahin Mohseni (SWE) 2020

Henrique Alexandrino (PT) 2020

Andrei Mihailescu (UK) 2019

Rifat Latifi (USA) 2019

Luca Fattori (IT) 2018–to be replaced

Stefan Schulz-Drost (GER) 2018–to be replaced



3. Summary of activities developed

a. Seven proposals were made for the Oslo ECTES, five accepted, and two postponed. After cancellation of ECTES 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and the subsequent decision to postpone the Congress to the following year, the proposals and sessions remained in the new program:

- i. Acute Cholecystitis—Time to Review Our Practice
- ii. Complicated Acute Appendicitis—Get Real
- iii. Bundles of Care in Emergency Surgery
- iv. Diverticular Disease—Controversies in Emergency Surgery
- v. Improving Laparotomy Outcomes

However, Oslo was postponed again, and in 2021 the ESTES virtual week was organized, taking place online from April 25–30. The program kept some of the proposals, and ESS participated in the organization of 2 sessions:

- **Improving Laparotomy Outcomes**, with the participation of Jonathan Tilsed (UK) and AM as moderators and CY, HK, Bruno Pereira (Brasil), Tina Gaarder (Norway), MS, and GB as speakers.

- **Complicated Acute Appendicitis—Get Real**, with the participation of Cristina Varcárcel (Spain) and Rifat Latifi (USA) as moderators and Matti Tolonen (Finland), IM, SM, Maria Gaard (Norway), Hanne Heid (Norway), and Jonathan Tilsed (UK) as speakers.

b. Simultaneously, according to the plan to prepare the scientific program of the Congress one year ahead, talks began in 2019 for the Program of ECTES Ljubljana, now postponed. Seven proposals were made but not yet discussed:

- i. Emergency Surgery Quiz
- ii. Battle Session: Acute Appendicitis: What is the Best Practice?
- iii. Stomas in Emergency Surgery—The Right Way to Do It
- iv. Things That We Don't Learn in Medical School—NOTSS
- v. Nightmare Fistulas
- vi. Small Bowel Adhesions in the 21st Century
- vii. Patient Optimization for Emergency Surgery

c. The Snapshot on Acute Appendicitis is near the deadline for patient enrollment, coordinated by committee member SM. It will finish on 31 May 2021.

d. Noteworthy are the scientific productions and documents made and published during 2020 and early 2021, associated with the Section as a result of the European Snapshot Audit on complicated calculous biliary disease:

1. Patterns of prevalence and contemporary clinical management strategies in complicated acute biliary calculous disease: an ESTES' snapshot audit' of practice (*European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery*, July 7, 2020; DOI: 10.1007/s00068-020-01433-x)
2. Self-reported and actual adherence to the Tokyo guidelines in the European Snapshot Audit of complicated calculous biliary disease (*BJS*, open May 17, 2020; DOI: 10.1002/bjs5.50294)
3. Patients over 65 Years with Acute Complicated Calculous Biliary Disease are Treated Differently—Results and Insights from the ESTES Snapshot Audit (*World Journal of Surgery*, April 3, 2021; DOI: 10.1007/s00268-021-06052-0)

e. In 2020, a new online education initiative took place in the format of Webinars, roughly once a month. The ESS suggested the following topics:

- i. Postoperative abdominal sepsis
- ii. Soft-tissue infections
- iii. Acute severe pancreatitis—when is it definitely for surgical treatment?
- iv. Cholecystostomy for severe cholecystitis in high-risk patients—is it worth it?
- v. Update on ultrasound for emergency surgeons—where do we stand?
- vi. To do or not to do ... Cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis in the elderly

The Webinar was aired in September 2020 concerning topic vi. in the list.



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4. Election of the Chair and Vice-chair for the next two years

MS was the only person presenting his candidacy to Chair, and SM the only one for co-Chair. Both showed interest in continuing to work on behalf of ESTES, and Emergency Surgery in general. MS presented a summary program which he intends to develop, with the following items:

- i. Establishment EGS registry minimum dataset
- ii. Practice guidelines in key EGS conditions
- iii. Key outcome indicators—a position paper
- iv. Patient advocacy group
- v. Support individual committee members' projects in EGS
- vi. Broaden interinstitutional collaboration (WSES, ASGBI, AAST, etc.)
- vii. New educational avenues

SM stated his commitment to the group and his support in developing data gathering and educational sharing. He also showed interest in developing strategies encouraging higher participation of younger and female members in the Section's activities. Nobody else showed intention to run for this role. AL said that there is no need for a formal election when there is only one candidacy for each position. So JP asked if there was somebody against the election of MS and SM for Chair and co-Chair, respectively. There were no objections. HK showed his support to the candidates and agreed with AL. So MS and SM were formally recognized as the proposals of the Section to the Executive Board as Chair and co-Chair for the next two year period.

5. Election of Committee members

At this point, there were three vacant places in the Committee: Those from the members finishing their 3-year term and that of SM, now co-Chair. LF presented his will to keep his position. SM suggested OR and CY, pointing out their commitment and academic interest in medical education and EGS in particular. OR had to leave the meeting because she was on call, but SM stated that she is willing and committed to become a member of the ESS Committee. HK seconded SM's suggestion. HK added that besides having Committee members and being elected to it, as anybody can, there is a need to attract the younger generation of surgeons. He thinks that the only way to attract them is by keeping them involved. ECTES always has many residents worldwide, but they never get involved nor are invited to participate. HK suggested that the Committee add a resident as a member or a residents' representative. He believes that this issue has never been discussed in previous meetings. SM supported the idea adding that he introduced the topic discussed in an Advisory Council meeting. He thinks that this person should have a position as adjunct and thus be able to participate in the formal section meetings but not having same voting rights as the Committee members. This person should also have one of the Committee members as mentor. This gives them an opportunity to become familiar with ESTES and EES for the future. IM stated that the Section needs to grow. Committee members should be very active in online education like webinars and other social media to attract the young surgeons and residents and bring them to the Section's activities. Secondly, IM believes that the near communication between the Chair, co-Chair, and the Committee members should extend to all members of ESTES, not only the Section Members. IM says that the Section cannot lose the opportunity. Social media should be used to attract young surgeons to the Section's activities, academic or otherwise. JP agreed and gave an example of the Portuguese Surgical Society, which has a Residents' Committee and a representative of that group on the Board with voting capabilities. Every year in the National Congress, they are responsible for organizing one Session. However, JP stated that maybe this shouldn't begin within one Section but involve all sections and even the Executive Board. CY thanked SM and HK for the support given for his candidacy and feels honored with the suggestion. CY agreed with IM regarding the need to increase the use of social media to spread ESTES view and has been working hard to do so. HK said that the topic of attracting residents and young surgeons to ESTES has been discussed before. He recalled that in 2019 during a meeting, Luke Leenen was very clear in this matter. Luke Leenen was against the suggestion. He added that if the Society wants to attract young people, it should not create Committees but rather involve them in the Society's activities. HK said that a committee of young surgeons will always feel something apart. He referred that one resident is present in the meeting because he told him to be present, to be involved.



Otherwise, he wouldn't have participated. AM said that he is in favor of the idea of each Section having a resident. Those residents could gather in a Committee of their own. MS thanked CY and OR for their candidacy. He added that the involvement of residents is a fantastic idea. His suggestion is to have a group of 6 or 7 residents, supported by Committee members, who would work together and create their working ethics. They should be members of ESTES. For that, the membership fee for residents should be more attractive so they can be part of the group. For a resident, participating in a Section is of curricular interest, and they are willing. SM said that the issue of starting a resident section in ESTES, is complex and is outside the Section's duties. The Section can present the idea as a motion. However, it cannot build it without the sanctioning of the Advisory Council, Executive Board, and so on... SM is favorable to the idea that a resident should have a spot. The resident could be invited, mentored by a Section member, grow and learn how it works. When ready, they will be invited to become formal members of the Committee. SM thinks that the best way is to have two residents participating in the Section activities, involving them in ongoing projects. When they became Attendees, they will be asked to join the Section, knowing already what their role will be. Statutorily the sections can not create a new section. IM proposed to suggest to Jonathan Tilsed the inclusion in the webinars a query about the attending surgeons to know if any residents are participating, which he thinks is the case. Using the Zoom platform, he suggested that the Section should meet more frequently (for example, every two months) to be more active and participate in more projects. It is up to the new Committee to decide. HK suggested a Webinar meeting for residents and, maybe, organized by them. It is not necessary to have a particular relation to ESTES (like being members). IM agreed and gave an example of the Spanish Surgical Association that has a weekly webinar for residents, tutored by a senior, and it works very well. MS wants to decide how residents should be involved with the Section. He agreed on using webinars, but there are other ways to do so. IM said that the Section should involve them in its' activities as SM suggested. MS suggested opening the next ESS meeting to the residents and asked if it is possible to do so. HK agreed with MS. He suggested an underlined note of appreciation in the meeting's invitations for residents' participation. HK asked SG his opinion since he is a resident. SG said that participation is very important for them, even without being part of the Board or Committee. It is a way for residents to know how the Society works and participate in Society's activities. Residents can bring new ideas for new projects, and that way, the Section also wins. JP asked the participants what the strategy would be to invite residents and if nonmembers of ESTES residents should also be invited. CY pointed out the importance of engaging residents in active research, which is important for their curriculum and academic careers. CY was favorable to extend the invitation to nonmembers of ESTES.

MS committed himself to draw up a working plan within a week for discussion among Committee members.

The meeting followed with the election of the three new Committee members. As with the previous election, nobody presented any objection to the election of the three proposed candidates. Thus, LF, CY, and OR were formally elected as the new members of the ESS Committee presented to the EB.

6. Information

a. SM: Update on the Snapshot on acute appendicitis:

- 68 centers from Europe, Asia, and USA participating;
- 2600 cases uploaded (some centers have collected cases but have not uploaded them yet);
- Estimate of 3000 patients;
- Probably some data will be out in 2021.

b. MS stressed the importance of these kinds of studies and had some suggestions for future discussion. MS would like to involve junior residents in this research, as already stated before. MS presented laparotomy closure as a topic example and stated this matter should be discussed afterward.

c. HK asked MS about the registry he proposed concerning the way to start. MS started by thanking the cooperation from HK in Italy, IM in Spain, and Henrique Alexandrino in Portugal. He says that in the beginning, the registry was done on RedCap, but he thinks, however, although being a good research tool, RedCap does not allow the generation of reports, so he moved to MySQL, which is more user friendly. MS plans to run the registry through ESTES rather than individually, and it will be available through ESTES. He applied for IAT funding



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and is awaiting an answer. There won't be a specific cost for users, but there is a need for maintenance. The database will be in Donegal, but each participating center will have access to its data at any time.

Adjusting a proper minimum dataset will need several workshops and, in time, the registry will improve. HK said that once ESTES introduces the registry, national societies should also expand the registry in their countries. MS supported the idea.

7. Closure

JP thanked the members of the ESS for their cooperation over these last years, first as co-Chair and subsequently as Chair. JP congratulated MS and SM for their election as well as the three new Committee members (LF, CY, OR). The meeting was closed.

The current composition of the ESS Committee is as follows:

Chair: Michael Sugrue (IR)

Vice-Chair: Shahin Mohseni (SWE)

Committee members:

Gary Bass (IR)

Carlos Yanez (SP)

Beat Schnuriger (SW)

Henrique Alexandrino (PT)

Luca Fattori (IT)

Olga Rutka (UK)

Andrei Mihailescu (UK)

Rifat Latifi (USA)

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ESTES Disaster and Military Surgery Section Meeting Minutes

05 May 2021, 19:00 CEST

Virtual Meeting

Notes:

10 members attended the whole meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening and welcome

2. Election of recording secretary – Itamar Ashkenazi volunteered, no one objected

3. Approval of the agenda

4. Report on 2020–2021 section activities

ECTES 2020 was cancelled and ECTES 2021 considerably reduced (from 6 to 2 sessions). In the spring of 2020, at the time that ECTES 2020 was cancelled, the chairmanship of the section had prepared a proposal for sessions and possible speakers for both Oslo's ECTES 2020 and Ljubljana ECTES 2021. Some of the content was used for the virtual ECTES 2021 congress.

The section was also involved in two ESTES webinars. The “Beirut Port Blast” webinar was attended by a very large group and it lasted a little over 2 hours with almost full attendance. A second webinar was held together with Aitor from the Polytrauma section on the management of complex soft tissue injuries, both in the abdomen and the extremities.

Comments offered by the members:

- Though the virtual platform has its advantages, physical meetings are more attractive.
- The recorded lectures had an artificial “movie-like” experience that did not allow any flexibility.
- Even though the congress was held in the afternoons, it might be that attendance was low since members were forced to be involved with their everyday work in their hospitals.
- Even if physical congresses are to be held again soon, we still should consider using the virtual format for invited lectures that are “out of the box” (by non-surgeons). This could diminish costs significantly.
- More webinars are scheduled and members of the section are encouraged to propose topics, whether in the realm of the disaster and military surgery or in other ESTES-related topics.
- Carlos Yanez introduced the “Stop the bleeding” program with which he is involved. Carlos suggested using this topic for both a webinar and the OSLO congress next year.
- Carlos Yanez also explained that in his region, there is a significant effort concerning the “Stop the bleeding” program that is shared by civilian organizations and the military. Military–civilian cooperation is a topic that should be expanded in both webinars and the congresses.

5. Introducing the section regulations

Itamar Ashkenazi presented that during the discussions in the bylaws committee, he found out that ESTES in 2009 formulated regulations for the different sections, including the Disaster and Military Surgery section (see PDF document available from the ESTES secretariat). The chairmanship of the section was not aware that these regulations even existed. The regulations were presented. The main gap between what is practiced today and what exists in these regulations is the lack of a section committee. Two issues were discussed: what is the



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purpose of this committee and what should be its composition? Sten Lennquist, who was the founding President of ESTES and also the founder of the section explained the purpose of this committee. The committee allows wider representation of members within the section leadership. It allows more people to be engaged. The committee can take upon itself responsibility for different tasks beyond the ECTES program, such as writing guidelines, organizing focused issues for the journal, supporting courses or any other initiative that is relevant to the section. As much as what should be its composition, taking into account the diversity of people and organizations involved, the emphasis was placed on having people who are willing to be engaged. It was decided that the section should try and reform the section committee with a secretary to serve as its moderator. The next section's meeting will be dedicated to forming of this committee and discussion of possible topics to be handled by this committee.

6. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (2021–2023)

Simon Herman, who for the last two years served as vice-chair was elected as the section's chairman for 2021–2023.

Carl Montan, who has been a member of the section for many years, was elected as the section's vice-chairman for 2021–2023.

During the elections it was decided that the section requires a secretary who will help form the section's committee. Carlos Yanez was elected to serve as the section's secretary for 2021–2023.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Bylaws committee—the activity of the bylaws committee was briefly mentioned.

b. Other:

- Tanja Hoffmann briefly explained the REBEL project with which she is involved. This is an educational program dealing with trauma.
- Roberto Faccincani briefly explained the sections possible involvement in an EU-funded Nightingale project about to be discussed in the executive board.

8. Closing remarks



ESTES Polytrauma Section Meeting Minutes
05 May 2021, 18:00 CEST
Virtual Meeting

Update / feedback ESTES week

All participants had a very good impression

New Website

The website was discussed and a few important suggestions were made, which will be incorporated.

Upcoming course Zurich September 16–17, 2021

The programme was discussed and currently it is planned to do the course with all available modules, including ER teaching, ward rounds and the pelvic clamp practical exercise. The participation of ESTES members will be continued and reinforced. There will be a satellite session, as suggested by Prof. Schipper, to discuss the topic of Trauma Systems in Europe (see below)

New project ideas

I. Schipper has a team working on a project about Trauma Systems in Europe. This will be one of the three new topics. D. Mariani suggested to work on a guideline for the management of pelvic fractures. All agree that this may be helpful. The existing project about major fractures will be continued.

Webinars

All agree that the two new projects would serve as an excellent topic for a webinar.



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Announcements

Upcoming related congresses & courses

10th Interdisciplinary Course POLYTRAUMA CARE

September 16–17, 2021
Zurich, Switzerland

DSTC—Definitive Surgical Trauma Care

September 20–21, 2021
Graz, Austria

MUSEC Course

September 22, 2021
Graz, Austria

Pisa Workshop of Acute Care Surgery and Trauma

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

57. ÖGU & 2. ÖGOuT Jahrestagung

October 7–9, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Pisa Workshop of Acute Care Surgery and Trauma

Severe thoracic trauma and flail chest: rib plating vs. conservative management
October 29, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

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