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**Message from the General Secretary**

Dear colleagues and friends!

First, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year and hope that all your personal and professional plans will be realised.

This will be the last time that I send you an editorial as general secretary. My office will end at ECTES 2023 in Ljubljana. I want to thank you all for your support and maybe this is the right moment to look back. In the last six years, many things happened. In 2018, we had to change our professional congress organizer. Conventus took over the task from Mondial. They organized a successful congress in Prague, but thereafter, the situation changed completely. ECTES 2020 had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2021 we organized a web-based congress, the so-called ECTES week. Luckily in 2022 we could organize an in-person congress in Oslo. We are not back to normal but I hope it will be in-person again in the following years, and we are looking forward to our next congress in Ljubljana from 7–9 May 2023. The organizing committee is busy preparing a very interesting scientific and social program.

The pandemic creates more problems than the organizing of our congress. It was not until autumn 2021 that we could meet each other physically. The executive board meetings and the general assembly had to be web-based. We have to thank Manuela Walland, our association manager, for preparing these meetings very carefully. All elections at the general assembly were well organized. In the last year, the meetings became more and more normal again.

Because of the pandemic our society went through the biggest crisis in its history, but in the end we survived. We now have a stronger presence on the internet and social media. We started in 2020 with ESTES webinars. Our vice president Jonathan Tilsed organized very interesting webinars together with Alan Biloslavo, Hayato Kurihara, Diego Mariani and Mauro Zago. Furthermore a social media group has been established and we are more visible on social media.

The *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery* is on its way to becoming one of the leading journals in Europe. The impact factor is rising, and increasing numbers of articles were submitted over the last year compared to previous years. In addition to our congress, the *EJTES* is a very influential product of our society. We have to thank Ingo Marzi, the editor-in-chief and his whole team for their enormous work they have done over the last few years.

In 2022 we organized guest symposia at the EFORT in Lisbon, DKOU in Berlin, and the IOTA in Amsterdam. After the pandemic it is important to continue the collaboration with these societies.

After a recent survey showing that our members wanted more opportunities to participate, we established a working group for the revision of our bylaws. At the general assembly in Oslo our members voted for the revision of our society and section bylaws. Now the sections chairs participate in the executive board meetings.

We are continually working towards equal representation at ESTES. Inger Schipper started an initiative to encourage a more active role of our female colleagues in the society. The first step was a symposium at ECTES 2022 in Oslo about this topic. We are also trying to engage

more with young members. Hayato Kurihara our current president started this initiative together with Inger. There will be special events for young colleagues at the ECTES in Ljubljana.

To summarize many things have been achieved. We are a very active society and survived the recent pandemic quite well. In the following years we have to go on with the revision of our congress organizing rules. The tasks of the congress president, ESTES president, the scientific and local organizing committee must be defined again. We have to work on our image and profile and should be the first point of call for topics in traumatology and acute surgery in Europe. This is only possible with active members who share their ideas with each other.

I am sure that our society will become more and more important. Once again thank you very much for your trust and support in the last few years. My special thanks go to Manuela Walland. Her role as association manager of our society is a key factor in our success. I always end with a quote of Henry Kissinger adapted by Ari Lippaniaemi: "ESTES must become the telephone number for trauma and emergency surgery in Europe", but now I want to change to an adapted quote by John F. Kennedy: "don't ask what ESTES can do for you but ask what you can do for ESTES".

We need your support as an active member of our society. See you all in May in Ljubljana.

Klaus Wendt  
General Secretary

## Announcements

### Upcoming related congresses & courses

**The Italian Chapter of Endovascular Resuscitation:  
TRAUMA AND BEYOND**

January 18–19, 2023  
Milan, Italy

**MUSEC Course**

January 23, 2023  
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

**ESC–Emergency Surgery Course**

March 20–21, 2023  
Graz, Austria

**ECTES 2023**

May 7–9, 2023  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**7<sup>th</sup> E.S.T.R.O.T. Congress**

**From Bench to Patient Bedside: Latest Advances and  
Innovations in Tissue Regeneration and Repair**  
July 3–5, 2023  
Frankfurt, Germany

**DSTC–Definitive Surgical Trauma Care**

September 18–19, 2023  
Graz, Austria

**DSTC–Definitive Surgical Trauma Care**

September 25–26, 2023  
Graz, Austria

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