



# Finnish Trauma Association

## Suomen Traumatologiyhdistys (STY)



### History of our society

Finnish Trauma Association was founded in 1997 and officially registered in 2000. Founding members were Eero Hirvensalo, Seppo Honkonen, Pentti Kallio, Jan Lindahl, Kimmo Vihtonen and Erkki Tukiainen.

During the 1990's it had become obvious that also in Finland there was a major need for dedicated traumaorthopaedic surgeons to lead the treatment of polytrauma patients, to take care of the complex fractures and to supervise the management of simple fractures as well.

### Aims of the society

Finnish Trauma Association was founded to maintain and develop the traumatologic knowledge, skills and attitudes of the Finnish surgeons from all the surgical specialities. To achieve the aim, the society arranges meetings and courses, promotes research and educational activities. The society also awards yearly travel grants for visits to trauma surgery units and trainings abroad to encourage Finnish doctors to gain better skills in traumasurgery.

### Development throughout the years

After the first few starting years the society reached a sufficient number of actively working members. The real takeoff was the first National Trauma Congress in Helsinki 2004. Along with the annual Trauma Courses the finances of the society were stabilized and further activities were planned. When subsequent congresses have been consecutively arranged in all other University Hospitals in Finland (Oulu, Tampere, Turku, Kuopio) and in some central hospitals as well, the society has deserved nationwide reliability and acceptance.

In 2010 Finnish Trauma Association was accepted as an institutional member of ESTES. This opened important opportunities and international connections to our society.

In 2011, European Trauma Course (ETC) was implemented in Finland by the Finnish Trauma Association. In less than a decade, it has become one of the most popular courses in Finland among registrars and consultants of different surgical specialities, emergency medicine and anesthesiology.

In 2011 the first Definitive Surgical Trauma Care & Definitive Anaesthetic Trauma Care (DSTC&DATC) course was held in Finland. The course gained immediate success among surgeons and anesthesiologists nationwide.

In 2013 the society co-organized the International Surgical Week (ISW), the annual world congress of the International Society of Surgery (ISS), which was held in Helsinki.

In 2018 the first Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET) course was held in Finland together with the American College of Surgeons. After two successful courses new premises are now being searched to continue the story of ASSET in Finland.

### Membership

In the beginning new members were invited to the society according to the recommendations by members. Later on, the membership was opened and our new contemporary rules state, that a member has to be a licensed doctor who is interested in traumatology; no recommendations are needed, there are no limitations of specialties and registrars are welcome as well.

At the end of 2022, the society had 203 members. The majority of the members are registrars and specialists of orthopaedics and traumatology, but the society is growing its popularity among doctors in all surgical specialities.

### Yearly reiterating activities

The National Trauma Congress

- annual educational three-day meeting
- scientific program includes both general trauma and orthopaedic trauma topics

The National Traumamaster Course

- "experts meet experts" –type of two-day meeting, with about 20 invited dedicated trauma surgeons from the major hospitals around Finland to discuss and teach each other and maintain active relations

European Trauma Course (ETC)

- standardized three-day trauma simulation course
- organized four times a year

Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) & Definitive Anaesthetic Trauma Care (DATC)

- standardized three-day hands-on traumasurgical course
- organized one to two times a year, together with the International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC)

### Website

[www.traumasurgery.fi](http://www.traumasurgery.fi)



### Institutional member delegate

Dr. Anna Kerola  
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Institutional member of the  
European Society for Trauma  
& Emergency Surgery