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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear colleagues, members, and friends!

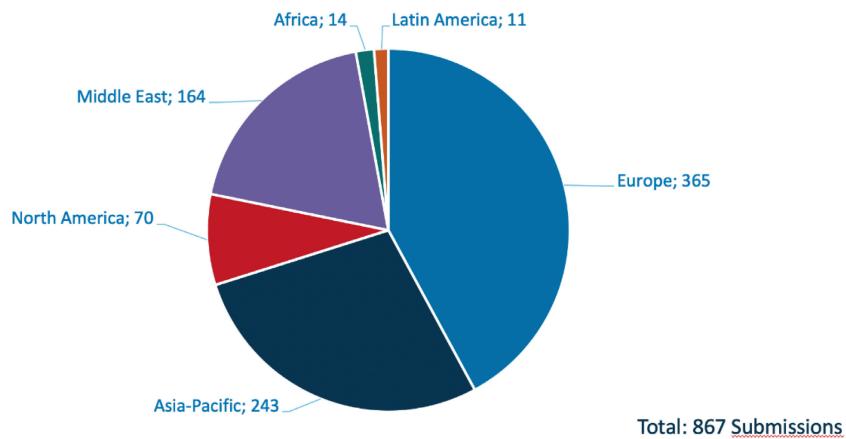
Another year has passed and I would like to thank all of you, who are still helping us to fulfill our aim to open an interdisciplinary forum that allows for scientific exchange between basic and clinical science related to pathophysiology, diagnostics, and treatment of traumatized patients and related techniques and procedures. No matter if it is as a reviewer, author or editor, your expertise and academic contributions are building the core of the *European Journal for Trauma and Emergency Surgery*. I would especially like to welcome our two new associate editors: Shahin Mohseni and Victor de Ridder.

Due to the changes of ISI criteria, the impact factor is still struggling a bit and slightly dropped to 2.1 (2022) over the last year. However, the number of full-article downloads are steadily and tremendously rising to more than a half million papers in 2023. Furthermore, the volume of the issues has normalized again and we were able to print all of the older papers, which makes it now possible, to publish new manuscripts much earlier. In addition, the turnaround time has decreased again and it takes an average of only 34 days until the submitting author receives a first decision, so that we have our finger on the pulse of the time. Interestingly, the *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery* has been meanwhile accepted worldwide by authors and readers, as you can see in the figure.

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Geographical Diversity Submissions by Continent (2022)



Speaking of current topics, I am excited to present to you the project that John H. Barker has been working on: Together with the Dutch artist Maria Kojck they want to point out the immense waste which is produced in an emergency room or in hospitals in general. As we all know, this is a highly sensitive and complex topic which nonetheless needs our attention. Therefore the artistic video presentation “ER24/1!” wants to “heighten our awareness leaving us with impressions that cause us to reflect, debate, and act.” (van Ee, E.P.J.XW., Barker, N.D.J. & Barker, J.H. *ER24/1! : The greatest emergency of our time. Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg (2023)*. Please read and distribute this exceptional article, which can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00068-023-02314-9>).



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In other aspects, we are still assembling the collections for which I actively want to motivate you again to contact us if you are interested in moderating such collections. Collections easily show the papers in our journal of a certain topic, which can be explained shortly by one of our society or board members. Please use this option and check at <https://link.springer.com/journal/68/collections>. The same is true for anyone who is willing to be on the Advisory Board or wants be a guest editor for a special issue. Interesting topics can be suggested to me, at best with possible authors for review or original articles. Thereafter, we take care of further process. All these measures are very important in order to increase our impact factor in the long run, as the citation numbers of the last two years are therefor of utmost importance. Please always think to check if relevant articles in the *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery* of recent years can be included in your manuscripts submitted elsewhere.

Lastly, I would like to announce that within the next few months, SpringerNature will host the platform at the new Springer Editorial System, called SNAPP (<https://www.springernature.com/de/snapp>). We will inform you once we start with the system for the journal, but the Editorial Manager will be used until all circulating papers have been decided.

Yours sincerely,

Ingo Marzi

Editor-in-Chief

European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery

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Report of ESTES Congress Grant Winner Julie Manon



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European Congress Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ECTES) Report

1. “WHAT IS IT ?” – ESTES CONGRESS

The 22nd ESTES (European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery) congress was held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from May 7th to 9th, 2023. I had the privilege to attend thanks to a travel grant sponsored by the DGU (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Unfallchirurgie – German Society of Trauma Surgery). Ljubljana is the charming capital city of Slovenia with its rich heritage at the crossroads of Slavic, Germanic and Romanic cultures. Ljubljana Castle, perched atop a hill, as well as the iconic Triple Bridge and Dragon Bridge stand as symbols of the city and its welcoming population (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Dragon Bridge crossing the Ljubljanica river

This city provided an ideal setting for this gathering of worldwide professionals from various disciplines, including general, abdominal, thoracic, orthopedic, and trauma surgeons, as well as representatives from the army and industry. The congress unequivocally served as the ideal platform for enhancing trauma and emergency surgery care.

2. “WHAT TO DO ?” – OVERVIEW OF SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

This annual congress presented a prime opportunity to refine our skills, fortify pathways, enhance decision-making abilities, and foster effective team communication.

A wide range of sessions were organized, including poster sessions, quick oral talks, free paper sessions, lectures, and workshops. These opportunities allowed us to achieve multiple goals: a time to learn from educational lectures, a place to communicate at our level and share our research, and a time to engage in small group discussions on specific topics.

- *To learn*

The sessions covered a wide range of topics, and as an orthopedic surgeon, I particularly appreciated those focused on musculoskeletal problems. However, I also found value in sessions that provided a transversal perspective, fostering the transfer of knowledge. I gained insights into new concepts and pathologic conditions such as ARLIC (Arterial Access-Related Limb Ischemic Complications) following REBOA (Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta), which can be associated with unstable pelvis fractures, severe shock, and the administration of TXA (tranexamic acid; Laverty et al., 2022). Recognizing and managing such complications as quick as possible is crucial, even if they are unusual.

- *To communicate*

We had the opportunity to present two oral talks during the congress, titled “Astronaut’s fast learning to treat a tibial shaft fracture: a Mars analogue simulation” and “In vivo decellularized massive bone allograft: Preliminary results on a large preclinical animal model”. These presentations allowed me to share our research and receive expert opinions on our work.

- To share

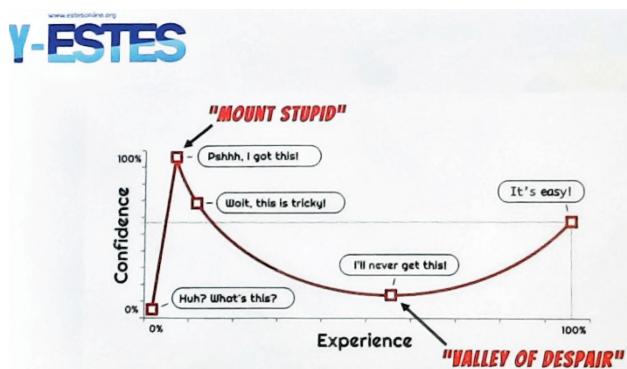


Figure 2. The learning curve of confidence for a surgery resident

3. “WHO I AM ?” – MY PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND SCIENTIFIC WORKS

First, I hold master's degrees in Physiotherapy and in Medicine from the Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain) in 2013 and 2018, respectively. Alongside my degrees, I have completed various university certificates in areas such as taping, basic and advanced trauma life support, animal experiments, radiation protection, microsurgery, and statistics/data science. As a resident in Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, my current focus is on several scientific projects, including my PhD thesis on bone and soft tissue reconstruction.

Briefly, my research interests encompass the healing of massive bone grafts in critical-size bone defects, ranging from fundamental mechanisms to preclinical studies (Manon et al., 2022, 2023; Rougier et al., 2022). I am also interested in the fracture risk of astronauts and the treatment of long bone fractures in challenging environments such as developing countries and space (Kouassi et al., 2019; Manon et al., 2019, 2020). For this purpose, in 2022, I was enrolled as an analogue astronaut in a Mars simulation mission conducted at the Mars Desert Research Station (UT, USA) (Fig. 3) (Saint-Guillain et al., 2023). Emergency and Trauma Surgery is an area that greatly interests me due to its reliance on teamwork and collaboration.

4. “WHICH TAKEAWAYS ?” – MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

During the congress, we engaged in discussions that have led to an exciting opportunity to participate in a forthcoming multicenter study on the treatment of trimalleolar fractures in Belgium. I had the privilege of meeting and exchanging ideas with the principal investigators, laying the foundation for this collaboration.

The key message I took away was the importance of the mentor–mentee relationship in professional development, as well as the value of networking with surgeons from diverse European countries who bring different perspectives on organizing their practices, emergency rooms, and healthcare systems.

In emergency surgery, an interdisciplinary approach is crucial for orthopedic surgeons, as it enables comprehensive patient care that considers not only the orthopedic injury but also potential associated injuries in other systems (Fig. 4). Collaborating with other specialties such as trauma surgery, internal medicine, and anesthesiology ensures a holistic assessment, optimized treatment plans, and improved patient outcomes by considering the broader medical context and potential complications beyond the scope of orthopedics.

A noteworthy session was the Young-ESTES Workshop titled “Batman & Robin – Mastering Mentorship,” held on the morning of May 9th. This workshop brought mentors and mentees together to discuss the best approaches for fostering a strong mentor-mentee relationship: The best way to grow. The importance of this bond in nurturing personal and professional growth, building confidence (Fig. 2), and gaining valuable insights was emphasized (Götz et al., 2023).



Figure 3. Profile picture from the Mars Analog Research Simulation

“From science to practice : from colleagues to friends”

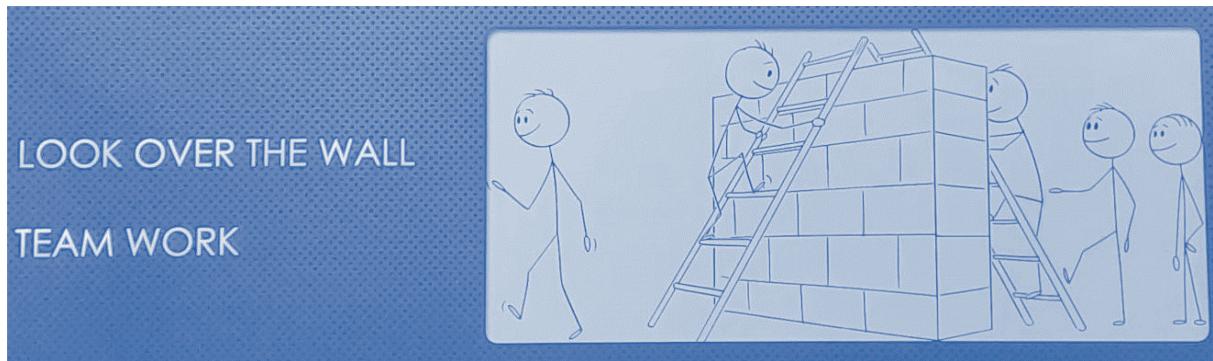


Figure 4. One takehome message that we have to keep in mind in our further everyday practice

5. CONCLUSION

This congress was an invaluable experience for my professional growth and advancement in surgical medicine and emergency care. The importance of interdisciplinary collaboration was underscored, emphasizing the need for comprehensive patient management. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have attended this congress and extend my heartfelt appreciation for the enriching experience it has provided.

I would like to extend my congratulations to my both fellow award winners (Fig. 5). I had the opportunity to listen to Daniela who made an excellent presentation on REBOA. I am also thankful for the chance to write and present this report after this amazing congress.



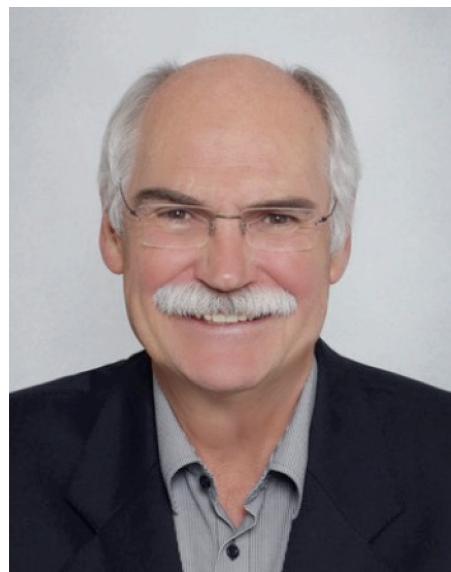
Figure 5. Awarding of congress grants at the opening ceremony

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Obituary for Prof. Dr. Volker Bühren



On August 17, 2023, we lost one of the most esteemed and brilliant surgeons in German trauma surgery, Prof. Dr. Volker Bühren. He passed away prematurely at age 70, suddenly and unexpectedly following a brief yet severe illness. He was not only a pivotal figure in trauma surgery in Germany and an honorary member of the German Trauma Society, but he also held significant positions in the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery, among other prestigious societies. He devoted years to supporting the *European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery*, notably as the section editor for spine trauma—a field in which he authored a standard reference book.

His life was characterized by an impressive surgical and clinical resume. It began in 1971 with his medical studies in Hannover, where he took his initial steps in surgery. He then furthered his surgical and academic endeavors in Homburg/Saar, ultimately serving as the acting director of the Trauma Department. A pivotal phase of his professional journey spanned 25 years, from 1993–2018, as the medical director of ‘Unfallklinik’ in Murnau in Bavaria. During this period, the hospital evolved remarkably, solidifying its position as one of the premier trauma clinics in Germany.

Volker Bühren was an exceptionally dedicated surgeon, driven by the goal of providing the best outcomes for his patients. This commitment led him to set high standards of care and to pioneer numerous innovative surgical techniques, including perfected methods of intramedullary nailing. Volker Bühren’s ethos revolved around being an academic surgeon, melding extraordinary operative skills with an unwavering focus on advancing surgical practices. For a surgeon of his stature, scientific accomplishments were not just defined by publications and novel surgical methodologies but also by medical and technical advancements. His international acclaim is evident from the myriad of patients he treated from around the globe and the hundreds of lectures he delivered at international conferences worldwide.

In Volker Bühren, we mourn the loss of one of the foremost trauma surgeons and a stalwart representative of our specialist community, renowned both nationally and internationally. He was a beacon of creativity and vision. We will forever remember him as an exemplary surgeon and a wonderful individual. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife and family.

Announcements

Upcoming related congresses & courses

ECTES 2024

April 28–30, 2024

Lisbon, Portugal

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

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