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Editorial of the Advisory Council Chair

Three years ago, I was honoured to be appointed as Chair of ESTES Advisory Council (EAC). I must admit that I was unsure on how I would deal with such a crowded council and navigate the differences between the so called two souls of our Society.

Furthermore, after a few meetings I realized that coming from different specialties was not our main peculiarity. I met delegates from 37 countries, with their own health care and trauma systems, coming from strong or small societies that belong to ESTES looking for different objectives. ESTES, as all European institutions, cannot ignore diversity. On the contrary, it enriches our society, and we shall make the most of it.

Having first-hand information about the current situation of Trauma and Emergency Surgery all over Europe is the main strength of ESTES to promote the best practices and care to our patients.

During the last term I tried to create an open space of confidence, where all voices would be listened and respected equally. A Council where we can share knowledge and experience to overcome the upcoming challenges.

But in the era of accountability, it's time for me to analyse what I accomplished from the proposals of my candidacy letter with the valuable support of Guy Putzeys, EAC Vice Chair, and all National Delegates and Section's Boards:

- "Creating a European Network for Trauma and Emergency Surgery education, promoting exchange of knowledge between each nation experience and European observer ships for our trainees":

We established bimonthly meetings to keep frequent and fluent communication and since 2023 the sections reported their activities once a year to the council and got the feedback from the EAC. During my appointment we welcomed to the Council new and reshaped transverse Committees and Sections that understood from the very beginning the importance and unique opportunity of being connected to most of the Trauma and Emergency Surgery Societies in Europe. I should stress the great work of the Young ESTES community, they dynamized the EAC since their constitution and developed a mentorship survey and programme that will lead, in a short future, to an European network of mentees that may support the career of young surgeons.

- "Promoting European investigation projects in Trauma and Emergency Surgery proposed or supported by ESTES, its Sections or any of our Institutions":

Since the creation of the Research Committee, ESTES raised the quality of its investigation projects, and we got the opportunity to disseminate wellappreciated studies all over Europe.

Most significantly, in the last year the EAC started working in its first own project. The “ESTES Appropriateness Consensus on the management of the severely injured patient” will mark an important milestone, fostering cohesion and development across the council.

- “Promoting equity and diversity through Trauma and Emergency Surgery practitioners and academics”: Following the first steps of Inger Schipper and Christine Gaarner with the ESTES Gender Equity Task Force and the significant support of the board with the lead of Frank Hildebrand, ESTES and its Advisory Council brought up equity and diversity to all its activities and projects. ESTES is realizing, gradually, the importance of pushing forward equity and diversity not as a matter of fairness but as a need to keep and attract talent to our society.

Therefore, I believe that after these years the EAC evolved to a dynamic forum with an increasing sense of purpose into ESTES. In the next years we will face many new challenges that may lead to a radical change of the surgical community, health care systems and surgery itself, and the EAC is ready to support and guide ESTES through them.

One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say, with the intend not to reply but to understand and learn. This was my main premise to lead the Advisory Council during these three years and my best legacy to my successor.

Cristina Rey Valcárcel

Chair of ESTES Advisory Council

Congress Grant Report

My name is Daniel Pastor Altaba and I am a young surgeon specialised in General and Digestive Surgery from Madrid, Spain.

I started my training as a surgeon in May 2014 at “Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre” in Madrid. It is a tertiary care level hospital that serves a population of approximately 550,000 inhabitants of the southern area of the city of Madrid. It is also a referral hospital for other smaller hospitals in outlying towns. For this reason, the volume of patients is high. In addition, the hospital’s surgical service covers all areas of pathology, including organ transplantation and the care of high complexity trauma patients. This allowed me, during my residency years, to rotate through all sections and experience the work of each one.

From the offset of my career, I was interested in trauma and emergency surgery. Given the high volume of emergency care at the hospital, exposure to emergency surgery during my residency was always very high. During those years, I completed several training courses in emergency and trauma pathology, most notably ATLS and DSTC.

In 2018 I had the opportunity to undertake a three-month stay at the trauma unit of the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Johannesburg. I was fortunate enough to work alongside Prof. Frank Plani and his team and the experience there was incredible. Being the third largest hospital in the world, the largest in Africa and being located in the Soweto region of Johannesburg, the volume of trauma patients seen on a daily basis is extremely high. The experience and professional level of its surgeons is unquestionable so the learning during those months was enormous.

After completing my specialist training, I had the opportunity to continue working at the same hospital in Madrid. Since my start as a specialist surgeon, I have been part of the abdominal wall section, performing minimally invasive surgery and complex abdominal wall reconstruction. Since 2021, I have also been part of the endocrine surgery section. In 2022 the trauma and emergency surgery section of the hospital was created. It is one of only seven trauma and emergency surgery units certified in Spain by the Spanish Association of Surgeons, and the only one in Madrid. Since its creation, I have been part of this unit, so a large part of my activity has to do with the care of this type of patient.

From the beginning of my training as a resident and throughout my years as a specialist, I have written several papers and communications for different congresses, most of them at a national level. I have also collaborated in the writing of several chapters for some books and journal articles on various topics related to the speciality.

Furthermore, since my early days as a medical student, I have felt a special interest in the knowledge of different cultures and a vocation for helping others. This inspired me to participate in various international cooperation projects in Africa and Latin America. Building on this interest, ten years ago I founded, in collaboration with other partners, an association that organises cultural immersive trips to different parts of the world. We are currently preparing a health cooperation project in Cameroon with said association.

This interest in collaboration, cultural exchange and knowledge is perfectly summarised in the values that I believe an international congress such as ECTES represents. Hence my interest in participating.

I was able to attend this edition of ECTES thanks to the ALTEC-funded grant. As the main author, I presented a poster entitled ‘Severe duodenal trauma. How should I proceed during a damage control surgery?’. I was also co-author of five other communications.

I have attended various insightful lectures covering different topics, mainly on visceral trauma and emergency abdominal surgery, which are the topics I find most useful for my daily work. I also really enjoyed the talks about disaster management and war injuries care.

Having had the opportunity to listen and learn from widely recognised specialists such as Prof. Demetriades, Raul Coimbra, Alberto García, Juan Carlos Puyana, among others, has been an enriching experience.

Additionally, I have been able to exchange opinions with other professionals in the field from not only other European countries but also from countries as far away as the USA, South Africa, Brazil and Japan. It could therefore be said that ECTES, more than a European congress, is a worldwide congress.

In conclusion, my experience in Lisbon has increased my interest in all these topics. Moreover, I believe that the learning acquired during these days will be very useful in my daily work. I am sure that I will continue to be part of such a pluralistic organisation as ESTES, and to attend its congresses as much as possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Pastor Altaba'.

Daniel Pastor Altaba, M.D.
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More congresses and courses to be found in the **ESTES events calendar** at
www.estesonline.org

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Announcements

Upcoming related congresses & courses

DSTC – Definitive Surgical Trauma Care Course
September 16–17, 2024
Graz, Austria

DSTC – Definitive Surgical Trauma Care Course
September 23–24, 2024
Graz, Austria

Interdisciplinary Polytraumacourse 2024
October 3–4, 2024
Zurich, Switzerland

**60. ÖGU & 5. ÖGOut Jahrestagung 2024 –
“Akutfälle in der Traumatologie und Orthopädie”**
October 3–5, 2024
Salzburg, Austria

MUSEC
October 18–19, 2024
Sevilla, Spain

**First SSES Congress of Trauma and Emergency
Surgery**
November 22–24, 2024
Belgrade, Serbia

**ECTES: 24th European Congress of Trauma and
Emergency Surgery**
April 13–15, 2025
Aachen, Germany

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