

**Report on the 25th European Congress of Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)
& 8th World Trauma Congress (WTC) – Stockholm, Sweden.**

Attending the ESTES 2026 Congress in Stockholm has been a truly enriching experience at a pivotal moment in my professional journey, shortly after completing my specialization in General and Emergency Surgery at San Camillo Forlanini Hospital in Rome, one of the main trauma centers in the city.

Receiving the ESTES Congress Grant represented not only a valuable opportunity for scientific update, but also a meaningful recognition at the beginning of my career. I am sincerely grateful to ESTES and to the sponsoring society for their support.

I had the opportunity to actively contribute to the congress with a short oral presentation “*To close or not to close: that is the ‘abdominal’ question. the art of knowing when not to close: single-center retrospective analysis of open abdomen in no trauma patient*” focused on the role of the open abdomen as a strategic approach in critically ill non-trauma patients. The key message of my work emphasized the importance of timely closure and the use of dynamic negative pressure systems in achieving effective source control in septic patients, with a potential reduction in mechanical ventilation days and overall morbidity. The discussion that followed was extremely stimulating and offered valuable perspectives from international experts.

In addition, I collaborated on two e-poster presentations, further contributing to the scientific exchange that characterizes this congress.

Beyond my personal contributions, what stood out most during the meeting was the strong emphasis on teamwork and the multidisciplinary approach in trauma care. This aspect resonated deeply with my daily clinical experience and reinforced my belief that optimal patient outcomes rely on effective collaboration across specialties.

Several sessions highlighted the critical importance of structured and high-quality data collection in trauma and emergency surgery. This recurring theme strongly influenced my future research perspective. I am now motivated to expand my work on the open abdomen to trauma patients, with the goal of developing a prospective, potentially multicenter study based on a robust and standardized data collection system. Additionally, I am interested in exploring the management of acute diverticulitis, comparing open, laparoscopic, and robotic approaches in order to better define optimal surgical strategies.

Among the most impactful moments of the congress were also the sessions dedicated to burnout and gender equity in surgery. These discussions provided important insights into the challenges faced by modern surgeons and emphasized the need to build a more sustainable and inclusive working environment.

I also participated in the hands-on “Complication Management in Trauma Surgery” workshop organized by Baxter, which offered practical training and realistic scenarios that strengthened my clinical decision-making in complex situations.

On a personal note, this experience was made even more meaningful by sharing it with

colleagues who have played a fundamental role in my training: Matteo Nardi, Rosaria Mancuso, Stefano Manfroni, and Gabriele Ricci. Having the opportunity to attend the congress together with mentors who have guided me throughout my formative years added great value to the experience.

As a young specialist, I would like to highlight how crucial it is to find senior colleagues who are willing to teach, to share their knowledge, and to invest time and patience in the growth of younger surgeons. Beyond techniques and knowledge, this is what truly shapes our professional identity and, ultimately, our approach to patient care.

ECTES 2026 has not only enriched my scientific knowledge but also strengthened my motivation to pursue both clinical excellence and academic development in trauma and emergency surgery. I am confident that this experience will have a lasting impact on my future career.

I would like to thank ESTES and the sponsoring society once again for their generous support.

Sincerely,

Chiara Scorziello,

UOC Chirurgia Generale, D'urgenza e delle Nuove Tecnologie.

Azienda Ospedaliera San Camillo Forlanini Rome, Italy.