

## Course Director's Report

DSTC  
September **23-24**, 2024

Surgical Research, Department of Surgery  
Medical University of Graz  
Graz, Austria

October 10, 2024

This workshop was accredited by the International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC) as a Definitive Surgical Trauma Care™ course (DSTC™) and took place under the auspices of the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES). It was also approved by the Austrian Medical Association for CME, and was registered by the **European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)**.

The aim of the course was to provide participants with the tools to diagnose and manage severely injured patients using both traditional standard-of-care principles and cutting-edge, forward moving practices. The two-day workshop comprised theory sessions in the mornings and cadaver and pig labs on alternate afternoons. The faculty included senior staff from the Medical University of Graz: Selman Uranues, Philipp Stiegler and five international DSTC faculty members: Alan Biloslavo, MD, University of Trieste, Italy; Hayato Kurihara, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, University of Milan, Italy; George C. Velmahos, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; Mark W. Bowyer, Uniformed Services University & Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, USA; Abe Fingerhut, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, Poissy-Paris, France; and Mary Stuever, MD, US-Hospital Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

This yearly course as well was fully subscribed, with 37 participants from 5 countries, (Austria, Australia, Italy, The Netherlands and United Arab Emirates), with the largest contingents coming from Italy and The Netherlands. Out of 37 participants 18 were female.

### Evaluation

The participants were requested to fill out two IATSIC evaluation forms, one for the lectures, and one for the course as a whole.

For their lectures, the faculty received an average score of 2.70 out of a maximum of 3.0, a very commendable result indicating that they got their messages across effectively. In general, the participants were very accomplished surgeons, with 63 % having 3 or more years of training, and 20 % having 5 or more years of training. 77 % were between the ages of 30 and 39, 17 % were between 20 and 29.

In line with the trend over recent years, participants found that the best features of the course were the cadaver and animal labs, experienced instructors, and case presentations with interactive discussions.

100 % would recommend the course to others, and 71 % would take a DSTC™ course again.

## Conclusions

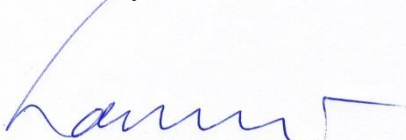
Surgical techniques on fresh cadavers as well as hemostasis and emergency operations on anesthetized animals are a unique hands-on educational opportunity in Europe. They received the highest assessments from the participants, probably not only for their scientific quality but also in terms of cost effectiveness with one of the lowest registration fees worldwide.

The trauma workshop is well established and very much in demand. At present, there seem to be no serious problems, but the organizers are always attentive to changing needs and make every effort to update the course content as new techniques and technologies emerge.

We are grateful that the good cooperation with our supporting professional societies is continuing to move us in the right direction. We very much appreciate faculty's efforts for coming to Graz to share their knowledge, skills and experience with a highly motivated group of learners who assess that they made real progress in a short time.

We look forward to having next year's DSTC in September 2025 in Graz.

Sincerely,



Selman Uranues, MD, FACS  
*Symposium Director DSTC™*



Philipp Stiegler, MD, FEBS  
*Head, Surgical Research*