

## Course Director's Report

DSTC  
September **22-23**, 2022

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

October 19, 2022

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, Michael Thalhammer and four international DSTC faculty members: Juan Asensio, Director of Trauma Center & Trauma Program Department of Surgery Creighton University School of Medicine Omaha, Nebraska, USA; Abe Fingerhut, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, Poissy-Paris, France; Alan Biloslavo, General Surgery Department University of Trieste, Italy; Eduardo Smith Singares, Medical Director for Trauma & Emergency Surgery, Elson S Floyd College of Medicine Washington State University, Richland, Washington, USA.

This year's second course was subscribed, with 25 participants from 5 countries, (Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Latvia and Portugal), with the largest contingent coming from Italy. There were 12 women and 13 men.

### *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 2.72 out of a maximum of 3.0, a very commendable result indicating that they communicated their messages effectively. In general, the participants were very accomplished surgeons, with 68% having 3 to 4 years of training, and four participants having achieved the rank of consultant. About 68 % were between the ages of 30 and 39.

At the outset, 88% were not confident at all, or confident only in some cases of major trauma, while at the conclusion of the workshop, 40% were confident in most or all areas and 56 % in some areas of major trauma. Reporting their overall experience, 96% found that DSTC was very beneficial or indispensable. In line with the trend over recent years, participants found that the best features of the course were the animal and cadaver labs (96%), experienced instructors (72%), and case discussions and

interactive presentations (100%). We again used the Asset videos for the cadaver lab, which enables tutors and participants to work with standardized, uniform exercises.

All participants (100%) stated they would recommend the course to others, and 88% would take a DSTC™ course again. This was summed up by a remark made by a participant: “Courses like this should be part of a surgical residency.” That of course would be the ideal solution. With the exception of the University of Padua, we are not there yet and maybe we never will be, but for 27 years, we have taken our small steps in what we consider to be the right direction toward optimal care for major trauma patients whose very lives depend on the skills and dedication of the doctors in charge.

### Conclusions

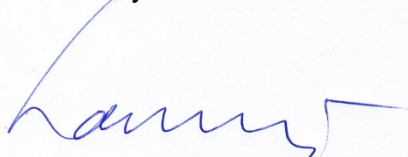
Surgical techniques on fresh cadavers as well as hemostasis and emergency operations on anesthetized animals are a unique hands-on educational opportunity in Europe. They received highest marks from the participants, probably not only for their scientific quality but also for cost effectiveness, with 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 on September 20-21, 2023 in Graz.

Sincerely,



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



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