



## Course Director's Report

DSTC™ Workshop on Visceral Trauma  
September 28-29, 2020

MUSEC™ Ultrasound for Emergency Surgeons  
September 30, 2020

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

### Workshop on Visceral Trauma

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 and distinguished international DSTC™ faculty members: Mark W. Bowyer, Uniformed Services University & Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, USA; Elias Degiannis, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Abe Fingerhut, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, Poissy-Paris, France; Hayato Kurihara, Humanitas Hospital, Milan, Italy; Selman Uranues, Medical University of Graz, Austria.

This yearly course with its long tradition and excellent reputation was fully subscribed, with 40 participants.

### *Evaluation*

The participants were requested to fill out two IATSIC evaluation forms, one for the lectures, and one for the course as a whole. The return rate for the forms was 92%. The vast majority of participants (89%) were aged between 30 and 49 years; 58% had had 5 or more years of formal training in surgery. It was gratifying to the faculty

to work at a high level with such a qualified group. The lectures, graded from 1 (only fair) to 3 (very good), achieved an excellent average score of 2.67 (range 2.4-3.0).

Before the DST course, 94% of attendees were unconfident or confident in only some cases, while after the course, 45% felt confident and competent in most and 55% in some areas of major trauma, meaning that the majority of the participants took a major step forward in just two days; this was also reflected in the fact that 85% found that the DSTC was very beneficial or indispensable to them. As the best features, 92% named the animal lab, and 72% the experienced instructors. One hundred percent would recommend the course to others and 85% would take a repeat course.

There were no serious criticisms but as usual, there were suggestions that time was too short, especially for the labs.

We again used the Asset videos for the cadaver labs. They assured that every participant was able to do the same set of structured exercises, providing a high degree of uniform instruction.

The attendees were attentive and hardworking, aiming more for perfection of technique rather than speed. All in all, it was a congenial group, with everyone – attendees, faculty, veterinary anesthesiologists and OR orderlies – working well together in a spirit of cooperation and with the full support of the administrative staff behind the scenes.

## 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 and received highest marks from the participants.

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 with new material, such as the Asset videos, which were introduced two years ago. Looking forward, simulation cadavers may become available in the foreseeable future and could be expected to revolutionize cadaver labs. As to the animal labs, we adhere strictly to all EU and Austrian regulations, laws, and guidelines that apply.

The duration of the course is a perennial issue and as a response to requests for a longer course, we again offered an optional one-day Modular Ultrasound ESTES Course™ (MUSEC™) following the DSTC™ workshop. Approximately half of the DSTC™ attendees took advantage of this opportunity to improve existing skills or practice new ones with a diagnostic and treatment modality that is becoming increasingly relevant in trauma surgery.

We are grateful that the good cooperation with our supporting professional societies is continuing to move us in the right direction.