

## Course Director's Report

DSTC  
September **18-19**, 2023

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

October 31, 2023

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: Thorsten Hauer, MD, Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Berlin, Germany; Mark W. Bowyer, Uniformed Services University & Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, USA; Abe Fingerhut, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, Poissy-Paris, France; Hayato Kurihara, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, University of Milan, Italy; George C. Velhams, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; and Casey M. Luckhurst, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA

This yearly course with its long tradition and excellent reputation was fully subscribed, with 40 participants from 13 countries, (Austria, The Netherlands, Denmark, Tschech Republik, Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia and Norway), with the largest contingents coming from Slovenia and The Netherlands. Nine participants 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 2.77 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 25% having 3 or more years of training, and 53 % achieved the rank of consultant. 81 % were between the ages of 30 and 39.

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 86 % would take a DSTC™ course again. This was summed up by a remark made by a participant: "The best course I visited yet! Keep on the good work"!

### Conclusions

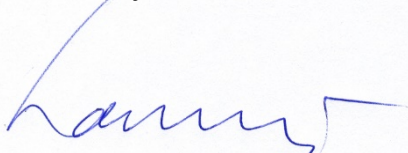
Surgical techniques on fresh cadavers as well as hemostasis and emergency operations on anesthetized animals are a unique hands-on educational opportunity in Europe. They received the highest assessments from the participants, probably not only for their scientific quality but also in terms of cost effectiveness 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, 2024 in Graz.

Sincerely,



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



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