



To all members of EATES and ETS

Dear Friends!

The recent congress in Graz May 23-26, the first joint congress organised in collaboration between ETS and EATES, became a historical landmark for European Trauma- and Emergency Surgery: During this congress, the decision was made to merge these two societies into one and *the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES) was founded on May 25, 2007.*

This process was initiated already in 2004 with discussions between the Boards of the two societies in connection to the EATES Congress in Rotterdam, continuing at the ETS congress in Ljubljana and the EATES congress in Malmö, at a joint Board meeting in Graz January this year and finally before and during the Graz Congress. These discussions have been held in a very friendly and positive atmosphere, and minor points of potentially diverging interests have been solved in a constructive way. As a consequence of this, the merging process could be finalised earlier than initially anticipated.

So, what are the consequences of this merge for the members of the two former societies? First, merging of societies is something that should be done to a much bigger extent – there are too many societies today, too many meetings and too much competition instead of collaboration. This will be a very strong society with more than 3000 members, covering the whole of Europe and with great potential to significantly influence the European development of trauma- and emergency surgery with regard to organisation, education and training, development and research. One strong society also has a better possibility to get a political impact within the health care sector with regard to the promotion of these fields. It also increases the possibilities to organise attractive meetings, and to attract sponsorship.

In addition to these general advantages, both societies have additional potential advantages in this process: EATES brings into the new society the field of Emergency Surgery, which to an increasing extent today is promoted together with Trauma into one entity with advantages for both fields. EATES also brings into the new society a strong international network of great benefit for future development. ETS, on the other hand, brings in the important connection with the major national trauma societies, and also a large number of members based on institutional membership, and of course the profile of skeletal trauma surgery which is stronger represented in ETS than in EATES.

Considering all this together, the conditions for making the new society strong and successful in promoting these fields in Europe seem to be the very best.

Now, what will happen practically? Both the old societies will be dissolved and the new society registered during this year (the site of registration is not finally determined but will be decided by the interim board). The interim board, which will lead the society until the Budapest Congress May 2008, consists of the boards of two former societies working together. The two Presidents and the two Secretary Generals of the merging societies will have the function as an Executive working group, administrating the dissolution of the old societies and registration of the new one. A new common board for the society will be elected in Budapest and proposals for candidates to that board are welcome.

The bylaws for the new Society are already finalised and agreed upon by the two boards in collaboration and are available at the website of the Society, www.estesonline.org, which will be continuously updated for your information.

ETS has previously had almost exclusively institutional membership, whereas EATES has only individual membership. ESTES will have both, but the aim is to work for an increasing number of individual members.

Both kinds of membership give advantages: Reduced congress fee, reduced price for subscription to the official journal of the society, European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery, and authorisation to vote at the General Assembly.

However, individual membership gives more advantages: The journal totally free of charge, bigger reduction of registration fee (compensating a large part of the membership fee) and possibility to be an active member of one of the sections within the society. We hope that many of you who are now institutional members will consider registering as individual members, increasing your personal involvement and making the society even stronger. You can find information how to do this on the website.

We are proud and honoured to have had the opportunity to contribute to this historical step for European Trauma-and Emergency Surgery and wish all of you welcome in our new society!

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