ESTES Visceral Trauma Fellowship

Introduction

In up to 40% of multiply injured patients an abdominal trauma is present. Management of the sequelae of these injuries and understanding the importance of the timing and titration of surgery in the multiply injured patient with severe abdominal trauma is the “cornerstone” in the patient’s care. Even conservative treatment has gained more and more relevance, the knowledge in diagnostics and treatment in these critical patients is essential for proper trauma care. Due to the limited number of penetrating trauma in Europe and the increase of conservative treatments, the experience for trauma residents in Europe needs to be substantially increased.

Goals and Objectives of the Fellowship

The goals and objectives of the abdominal trauma fellowship are to help advance the trauma surgeon’s understanding of the treatment of severely injured polytraumatized patients with significant abdominal and thoracic injuries. This includes understanding of the treatment of multiply injured patients in a critical care setting and the timing and titration of necessary thoraco-abdominal surgery. In particular, the fellow should gain a broad range of experience in the operative and non-operative management of blunt and penetrating abdominal trauma.

The goals and objectives of the fellowship will include

- Evaluation of injured patients both isolated and polytraumatized with significant abdominal injuries.
- Performing a thorough abdominal examination of the injured patient.
- Order appropriate studies and imaging of injured patients.
- Create a treatment plan for each patient as they arrive.
- Carry out the treatment plan in a competent manner.
• Get familiar with the operative and nonoperative management of potentially life threatening intraabdominal injuries.

• To perform urgent surgical procedures in patient care such as resuscitative emergency thoracotomy and laparotomy, as well as performing thoracic and abdominal damage control procedures.

• To get familiar with the surgical critical care management of severely injured patients with abdominal trauma.

• To learn to appropriately diagnose and manage the abdominal complications that occur in the multiply injured patient.

**Fellow Responsibilities**

The trauma fellow will be responsible in assisting the chief resident in evaluating all patients that attend the trauma clinic and will be involved in all aspects of the care in the trauma patients including pre-, intra- and postoperative management. The fellow will be under the direct supervision of the trauma faculty. Discussion of the surgical case with the attending preoperatively, intraoperatively and postoperatively will be a critical part of the education process.

**Visiting Institution and Duration of the Fellowship**

The fellowship is planned as a 3-6-month program involving patient care in a high volume level I trauma centre in South Africa (Johannesburg / Cape Town).

- Chris Hanni Baragwanath Hospital
- University Hospital of Johannesburg

**Research Activities and Presentations**

In addition to the clinical activities, fellows should be involved in clinical research activities focusing on trauma management, finally resulting in 1 to 2 peer-reviewed publications.

The fellow will be obliged to give a presentation about his clinical and scientific work at the annual European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES) congress. In
addition, the fellow should be able to give presentations about his own clinical or research work to the colleagues of the host institution. Thus, the transfer of knowledge and information between both partners will be promoted. A report about the fellowship should be submitted to the ESTES office within 1 month after the conclusion of the fellowship for its publication in the EJTES. This report and presentation will be forwarded to further sponsoring national societies of ESTES.

Selection of Fellows

Every year, 2 or more members of the ESTES, depending of the additional support of National Societies, will be awarded with the Visceral Trauma Fellowship. Applicants should be close to completion of their residency or just have finished their education in the field of orthopaedics / trauma. The applicant should pose sufficient language skills (must speak English fluently). In addition, the applicant should be member of ESTES and reference of his department, that he will be continuing his career in trauma surgery thereafter to complete the speciality.

The ESTES or Society Grant for the Visceral Trauma Fellowship is EUR 5000,00. The money is meant to cover the costs for the journey, accommodation and the living. The visiting institution will not be able to pay a salary, additional support from the home institution might be possible.

Deadline for Submission of a Fellowship application is 1. Juli and 1. January, with an informal application to the ESTES Office in Vienna. The funding will be decided by the Executive Board of ESTES, in cases of national support, a proposal of the funding national society will be requested.