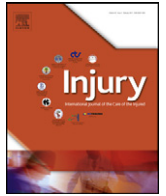




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The history of Croatian Trauma Society – A brief overview

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ABSTRACT

Croatian Trauma Society (CTS) has a 51 year of history and tradition. This article represents a brief overview from the times when it was founded, June 30, 1961 till the present time. It tells us about the idea how, where and when the “Section for Traumatology” was founded, its activities and influence not only to promote patient trauma care but initiation of other societies dealing with traumatized patients as well, including the evolution of the CTS itself. The authors thank to all the contributors that made this article possible.

Article/review/editorial

The idea of founding Croatian Trauma Society (CTS) was born within the walls of University Clinic of Traumatology in Zagreb, Croatia. Led by ideas of Prof. Miroslav Grujic, CTS was founded on June 30th, 1961 as a special “Section for Traumatology” (Section) within the Croatian Medical Association (CMA). Prof. Miroslav Grujic, at that time the director of University Clinic for Traumatology was elected as a Section president. Since the very beginning, the Section took care of traumatology development within the general surgery speciality in order to improve traumatized patient care. The activity of the Section was important in order to develop a high level of trauma care all over Croatia. Thus the Section members participated in developing the AO principles not only in Croatia but also in the region of former Yugoslavia as well within the development of traumatized patient care in general. Since the early days of the AO, Croatian surgeons participated in its variety of activities. In 1968, the first AO Course in former Yugoslavia was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was also the second-ever AO Course to be held outside of Swiss borders, 27 out of 74 participants were from Croatia. The first AO meeting held within Croatian borders was organised by Prof. Kresimir Korzinek on April 7, 1981 at the University Orthopedic Hospital in Zagreb. That event was followed by a number of AO Courses which were held on a yearly basis and the AO Principles came to be accepted by a vast number of Croatian orthopedic and trauma surgeons. Education for nurses was met through the AO ORP Courses held in 1982, 1991, and 1995. Besides the fact that Prof. Korzinek translated the first edition of AO manual from German into Croatian,¹ under the editorship of Prof. Janko Hancevic, and Prof. B. Smiljanic from the Zagreb University Clinics, a series of eleven books called “Traumatology in modern medicine”² as well as other books^{3,4} were published from which the majority of trauma surgeons from Croatia, Slovenia and former Yugoslavia learned for

the board examinations and broadened their knowledge in trauma field.

After Prof. Vikic, Prof. Janko Hancevic was elected to be the last president of “Section for Traumatology” within the CMA (from 1989 to 1992); from 1992 “Section for Traumatology” within the CMA was renamed into Croatian Trauma Society (CTS) and Prof. Janko Hancevic was elected to be the first president (1992–2003). During that time, Traumatology as a separate subspeciality was introduced by the ministry of health department in the year 2000. Yearly meetings with trauma topics were held and also AO education continued on regular basis under the leadership of Prof. Korzinek and Ass. Prof. Boris Lah.

First Trauma Congress in Croatia was held in 2003 with significant international participation, also in 2006 and 2009, under the chairmanship of past presidents Prof. Gojko Buljat and later Dr. Ante Muljagic.

Thanks to the CTS members great enthusiasm, hard work and good organisation, the AO’s 50th anniversary year saw the establishment of the AOAlumni – Chapter Croatia in February 9, 2008. At the first AOTrauma Croatia Chapter meeting held in the University Clinic for Traumatology in Zagreb, Croatia, Bore Bakota was elected chairman; Ante Muljagic (President of CTS at the time) and Tedi Cicvaric co-chairmen; Mario Starsinic, general secretary; and Ivan Dobric, treasurer. Since its establishment the Chapter has undertaken a lot of activities: from publishing the official web page on the AO Portal to participating in symposia, organisation of 2–3 AO courses every year in Croatia on English and Croatian language, AO European Courses and Board Meetings, AO Trustees Meetings, AO Davos Courses and various AO teaching programmes for trainers and chairmen. From March 2009, the University Clinic for Traumatology, Zagreb is the AO Fellowship Host Clinic, giving fellows from former Yugoslavian countries and all other countries around the globe an opportunity to learn AO philosophy and practice fracture treatment in the biggest trauma hospital in Croatia.

Thanks to the CTS member activities, Croatian Urgent Medicine and Surgery Association was also formed in 2007 and as CTS, it is also an institutional member of European Society for Traumatology and Emergency Surgery. Under the presidency of Boris Hreckovski it organises many educational international activities such as Medical Response to Major Incidents courses, International Trauma Life Support courses, NATO mass casualty conferences etc. Boris Hreckovski together with Zoran Rajkovic and other CTS members are actively participating in the International College of Surgeons activities as Croatian Chapter as well.

In the last decade, CTS has especially encouraged all its members to actively participate in ESTES, EFFORT, SICOT and BTS activities and events and many more as well.

Since the year 2000, when traumatology became an independent subspecialty within the general surgery speciality, the majority of CTS members are general surgeons with the subspecialty of traumatology. Last year, CTS celebrated a 50 year anniversary and a new speciality of orthopaedics and traumatology was introduced in 2011 by the authority of Croatian ministry department of health. We all hope that it will equalize the Croatian surgeon licensing standards according to the International for the benefit of even better patient care.

Since the last elections, November 26, 2011, CTS board members are:

President: Prof. Tedi Cicvaric, MD, PhD, F.I.C.S.

Vice president: Prof. Slavko Davila MD, PhD.

Second vice president: Mario Staresinic, MD, PhD.

General secretary: Bore Bakota, MD, F.I.C.S.

Treasurer: Tomislav Vlahovic, MD.

Other board members: Prof. Božidar Sebecic MD, PhD, Dragan Djurdjevic, MD, MSc, Prim. Breda Gustincic, MD, Ivan Dobric, MD, PhD, Jasa Pavic, MD, Prim. Marijan Cesarec, MD, Prim. Zoran Rajkovic, MD, F.I.C.S., Mirko Grgurev, MD.

At present, the majority of CTS members are subspecialists in traumatology, but also specialists in general surgery, orthopaedics, paediatric surgery, physical therapy, physiatry and radiology as well. All specialists involved in the care of trauma patients in Croatia are full members of CTS. The present number of members exceeds 150.

CTS is Institutional member of the European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery (ESTES), its next congress is planned to be in autumn 2013. CTS website is <http://www.htd.com.hr>.

We would like to thank, once again, all our CTS members and senior members as well as to our friends from the Injury journal and AO family, especially to Prof. Peter Giannoudis for their advice and support over the past years. We sincerely hope that the Croatian Trauma Society will be at least as successful and active as other Societies within the Injury family in promoting the patient trauma care; this is not an easy task, but it is a challenge we are confident of meeting.

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