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## Preface by P.M. Rommens on behalf of the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)

The second edition of the book *Damage Control Management in the Polytrauma Patient*, edited by Pape, Peitzman, Rotondo, and Giannoudis, is a milestone publication for the European surgical community. It answers to a real need for modern, high-quality trauma care in most European countries.

Thanks to many new member countries, the European Union (EU) has grown rapidly during the last decades. The unification process is a complex task and will go on for several more generations. Harmonization of medical care – for us of special interest is the care of the emergency surgical patient – is one of many topics on the to-do list of the EU. Looking at incidence of accidents, organization of trauma care and mortality after trauma in the member countries of the EU, we are confronted with most diverse facts and figures. Quality of road infrastructure, of motorcycles and motorcars, and density of population are very different from country to country. Prevention of accidents by limit of speed, obligation to wear a helmet or security belt, restriction of alcohol consumption, and the implementation of these regulations by intense control is also very variable. Due to continuing industrial and social development, the number of motorcycles and motorcars has grown quickly. The consequence is that the incidence of heavy traffic accidents is still raising and the *polytrauma patient* continues to be sad and daily reality.

In contrast with this, regional organization of trauma care, establishment of trauma centers, basic and postgraduate training of medical and paramedical staff involved in trauma care have not evolved parallel with the increasing challenge.

The European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES) is an umbrella organization of national societies of trauma and/or emergency surgery. Thirty-two European societies are institutional members and more than 500 surgeons are individual members. The vision of ESTES is enhancing and harmonizing the care of the critical ill surgical patient. Different sections have been founded to realize these goals: skeletal trauma and sports medicine, visceral trauma, disaster and military surgery, emergency surgery, and polytrauma. The last section is a compilation of the most important European guidelines on primary and secondary care of the severely injured.

This publication is an important instrument for all medical and paramedical care providers, who are involved in the management of the polytrauma patient. It gives a comprehensive overview of modern organization and evidence-based principles of care of the severely injured. Several eminent ESTES members have contributed as chapter editors. We therefore are very

happy to endorse this publication with our logo and recommend it to a European readership of emergency physicians, anesthetists, general surgeons, (orthopedic) trauma surgeons, and rehabilitation staff. We very much hope that this work will be accepted as a guide for treatment in the different settings of trauma care all over Europe. With these different realities, we should not overlook our common and unique goals of treatment: the polytrauma patient should survive, independent of the country, the place and the time of his/her accident, he or she should suffer the least morbidity, and have the best rehabilitation and recovery possible. This book gives theoretical background as well as practical evidence for good polytrauma care. We congratulate the editors to this initiative, also, ESTES is grateful for being involved in sharing their knowledge and wish the second edition of the book *Damage Control Management in the Polytrauma Patient* good acceptance and distribution.

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Damage Control Management in the Polytrauma Patient

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