
EDITORIAL COMMENT

In this issue of the Panamerican Journal of Trauma, we have the privilege to publish an exceptional manuscript "REBOA Consensus: the Panamerican Experience" by Drs. Parra, Brenner, Rasmussen, Orlas, DeRezende, Scalea and Ordonez.

The uniqueness of this manuscript has many forms:

Scientific Value

Endovascular aortic balloon occlusion (REBOA) is a novel strategy that is changing trauma resuscitation. As with any new strategy, it is under growing critical evaluation, while few surgeons in the world have ever floated one of these balloons. This manuscript was written by surgeons that are establishing this resuscitation strategy and are counted among those with the largest clinical experience with REBOA in trauma. In this manuscript, these world experts present their experience alongside the most current evidence, putting forward guidelines on REBOA utilization.

Realization of a bold idea for the Panamerican Congress and the Journal (PAJTCCES)

The PTS is undergoing structural changes according to the strategic planning done in Panama in 2017. Major structural changes were planned for the annual Congress in Cartagena in 2018. First, the PTS took on the entire planning and financial risk in partnership with the Colombian Association of Surgery. Second, the PTS decided to test innovating approaches to the format of the meeting. The plan was to replace standard lectures by interactive sessions where the attendees of the Congress were invited to participate and do so actively.

One innovation was the "Consensus sessions", 10 sessions in total, where experts from the entire American continent (obligatory representation from Latin and North Americas) would work together before the Congress to prepare the session on the designed topic. Then at the Congress, the invited group of experts would discuss the topic in an open way and invite the congress attendees' participation to share their wealth of knowledge and experience. The Session should end with agreeable (or consensus) guidelines that could be applied to all nations of the American continent. Finally, after the Congress, the experts were expected to write the discussions and the guidelines as a manuscript to be published in the Panamerican Journal of Trauma.

The present manuscript is the concretization of these bold ideas, which were dependent on the participation of the members of the Society. The success depended on each expert (before, during and after the Congress) and the Society members to come to Cartagena and participate in the sessions. The 2018 Congress could have failed if the PTS members (experts and attendees) had not been committed to the Congress and the Society. The Cartagena Congress, however, revealed the strength of our Society, which is rooted in the commitment of our members. The end result is that over 1.500 professionals from 22 different countries attended Congress in Colombia and made it one of the most successful Congresses in PTS history. Furthermore, the Journal has an excellent manuscript to publish.

The manuscript by Drs. Parra, Brenner, Rasmussen, Orlas, DeRezende, Scalea and Ordonez is possibly only the first of a brief series of similar publications. Other colleagues are in the process of finalizing their consensus manuscripts. Dr Yeh recently circulated questionnaires to the members of the PTS as part of completing the work he is leading on Rescue Surgery. We look forward to publishing other guideline manuscripts soon.

The REBOA consensus manuscript reveals the best of the PTS: the competence of our members and the readiness to work together from across the continent. The manuscript also exposes the strengths of our Journal that could be renowned for publishing consensus guidelines, developed by many colleagues and designed for implementation in many nations.

Sandro Rizoli
Associate Editor
PAJTCCES

Rao Ivatury
Editor-in-Chief
PAJTCCES