

Summary AM Lyon

(written by Alexandra Gratl on behalf of the EVST Council)

Looking back at the 31st Annual Meeting of the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS) with the view of trainees is a quite rewarding task as this Annual Meeting has been one of the most teaching and innovating meetings held for a long time. Taking place in the charming city of Lyon from 19th to 22nd of September 2017, it was not only the exquisite food from this city that made the event something special. Already from the programme one could recognize at the first glance the will to be innovative and to develop the meeting further. Based on the good old strategy of several symposia on contemporary issues and recently published guidelines the scientific sessions have been changed totally. With the introduction of the ESVS academy, participants now had the opportunity to join a large amount of different workshops, which made the meeting much more interesting for trainees.

Scientific Sessions:

The meeting started with so-called „Fast-Track Sessions «in which a total of 160 abstracts were presented by authors. The 44 papers with the highest votes from a scientific jury were selected to present their papers at the scientific sessions taking place throughout the rest of the meeting. By a short talk on current issues or new developments within the topic held by an expert, the audience started up-to-date for the presentations of the selected papers. A limitation of this new structure of the scientific sessions was that the topics of the presentations not always conformed with the title of the sessions, potentially leading to a bit of a confusion for the listeners. But in total this new method provided the possibility to present their work at this meeting to a lot more young researchers with the possibility to optimize the concept in some details for the future.

As another scientific highlight of the meeting, the Prize Session has to be mentioned. From all submitted abstracts, that have been in total more than 600, the 9 abstracts with the highest votes of the reviewers, were invited to present their papers to compete for the prize of the best presentation. With her talk on a nationwide cohort study concerning endovascular treatment of acute lower limb ischemia, Dr. Oliva Grip from Sweden persuaded the jury to hand her the prize for the best presentation. In her paper she concluded that in patients with acute lower limb ischemia endovascular treatment leads to a better outcome compared to open surgery. The prize was given to her by the president of the ESVS, Prof. Martin Björck from Sweden, in front of a great audience at the welcome dinner.

Honorary Lectures:

For this year Volodos Honorary Lecture, Prof. Peter Gloviczki from the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was invited. With an inspiring talk about “Innovations and the Hippocratic Oath”, he told us about the developments and innovations in modern medicine and about the importance of ethical principles in vascular surgery. For his achievements he was awarded with a golden vascular clamp, handed over by Prof. Martin Björck and Prof. Sebastian Debus. Prof Janet Powell held the second honorary lecture which was given her name. Prof Powell has been an advocate of evidence based medicine and has worked hard to implement this in the vascular society. For

her great achievements, she was honoured. In her lecture she described the rise of evidence based vascular surgery and concluded that she no longer felt like standing out on a limb.

ESVS Academy:

In a dimension never seen before, the European Training Committee (ETC) lead by Prof. Jonas Eiberg from Denmark, introduced the ESVS Academy to the Annual Meeting of the ESVS. With a new concept of „mini-workshops“, in total 35 workshops treating a broad variety of topics of the wide field of vascular surgery and 9 seminars with a focus on leadership abilities, were offered. With this concept and with the help of industrial partners, the organizers provided affordable hands-on workshops to improve diagnostic as well as endovascular or open surgical skills. Whereas in endovascular workshops the participants had the possibility to practice EVAR, TEVAR and FEVAR by really seeing what they are doing, workshops about open surgical skills gave the opportunity to practise things that trainees or young consultants might have assisted to their professors several times but never have done it by themselves, such as reimplanting a renal artery into a graft in case of open reconstruction of a thoracoabdominal aneurysm. These skills were taught by a high number of very enthusiastic experts, who tried to answer every question and showed their tips and tricks to the participants.

EVST Sessions:

By organizing an interactive case session on the treatment of the left subclavian artery, the European Vascular Surgeons in Training (EVST) invited experts to discuss selected cases. Together with the audience, indication and treatment options of the left subclavian artery were discussed heavily and ended up in a diverse teaching lesson.

To summarize, through the view of trainees, the 31st Annual Meeting of the ESVS gave us the opportunity to listen to experts and hear everything about actual guidelines and current issues as well as it gave young researchers the possibility to present their work to a great amount of colleagues. With the huge offer of well-organized hands-on workshops the meeting gave us the impression that the Society is trying to give more focus on the education of young vascular surgeons. With this conclusion we are looking forward to the upcoming meeting in Valencia next year.

For more information visit www.esvs.org or contact info@esvs.org