Author’s response to reviews

Title: Trauma Surgery Associations and Societies: Which Organizations Match Your Goals?

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Version: 2 Date: 22 May 2014

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for your kind and detailed reviews of our manuscript. We have addressed each of the reviewer’s comments and suggestions in the attached edited draft. All changes have been highlighted in yellow. More specifically:

Reviewer #1:

1. We have added a detailed section on ESTES to the manuscript (Pages 8-9). Thank you for identifying this omission.
2. Thank you. We have listed JAST (and website).
3. Thank you. We have also listed ESICM (and website).
4. We have added the websites for these new society additions to the manuscript within the reference list.

Reviewer #2:

1. Thank you. We have added detail regarding the impressive German society for trauma surgery under the global category (Pages 9-10).
2. We have altered the section heading to “Large global trauma surgery organizations”, as well as added ESTES and the German Society to the already present IATSSC and PTS. This is in addition to adding the Japanese society as per reviewer #1. Thank you so much for broadening the scope of this section.
3. Thank you for your comment. We have widely expanded the section discussing guidance with regard to which societies to join for a given surgeon
While this remains a deeply personal choice, we have provided some specific suggestions. We have also enhanced Table 1 which addresses this issue as well.

Reviewer #3:

1. Thank you for your addition to the introduction. We have expanded this section based on your guiding comments (Pages 2-3). We have also elaborated on the importance of the AAST as indicated below.

Thank you for this comment. We have shortened the TAC vignette to better match its relative size and role (Page 6). We have also added the number of TAC members to the manuscript.

2. We have enhanced the “global trauma organizations” section based on both yours and the other reviewers’ comments (Pages 7-10). More specifically, we have included 2 large European organizations, as well as the Japanese association. Thank you so much for pointing out the omission of both ESTES and the GSTS. Both of these are clearly leaders in the field and have now been properly described and included (Pages 8-10).

3. Thank you. We have also added additional societies from Europe, Japan and Turkey within the manuscript (Pages 7-11).

4. We have tweaked the website addresses of the societies to deliver the reader to the most appropriate page within their site. As you note, these historical vignettes are particularly helpful. Thank you.

5. The content within Table 1 has been updated, elaborated and enlarged to be more specific and directive. We now believe it is an improved link with the final section of the manuscript (Text…page 11). Thank you so much for your direction.

6. Thank you. We have enhanced the AAST vignette to include many of the comments that you made with reference to this visionary association (Pages 3-4). We have also enhanced the directives and advice within Table 1 as mentioned. This table now pairs with the discussion much better.

7. Thank you for this addition to the IATSIC vignette. We have added it to the IATSIC section (Page 8).

8. I am pleased to report that all authors were deeply involved in the creation/writing of their tasked sections. More specifically, numerous previous presidents were asked to provide an initial draft of their association(s) within the context of a template to maintain consistency. They each supplied the elements of their societies that they felt were the most relevant and important to the aims of the manuscript.

Thank you again for all your suggested edits and improvements. We believe it has strengthened the manuscript substantially.

Chad Ball, on behalf of all coauthors.