WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR in SALZBURG

In collaboration with The Medical University of Vienna

"Trauma and Emergency Surgery"

15 January – 21 January, 2017
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Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows
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As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

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Soumitra R. Eachempati, MD, FACS (Course Director) is the Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit since 2010 and the Chief of Trauma Services at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York Weill Cornell Center. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Eachempati, who is board certified in both general surgery and surgical critical care, pursues multiple research interests in topics pertinent to abdominal surgery, critical care and trauma, with a particular focus on clinical management of emergently and critically ill surgical patients. Dr. Eachempati received his MD degree from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, completing his general surgery internship and residency at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. As a resident he received multiple awards for teaching excellence, and was selected to participate in an educational project in Hanoi, Vietnam, teaching Vietnamese surgeons new techniques in laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Eachempati then completed a fellowship in surgical critical care at Duke University Hospital, publishing multiple studies in critical care and trauma surgery. He remained at Duke for another year on the faculty before joining NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. He has numerous publications in the area of trauma, critical care, and emergency surgery. He was promoted to a full Professor in Surgery and Public Health in 2010 in the Department of Surgery. He is currently the President of the New York State Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

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Harald K. Widhalm, MD (Co-Course Director) is a 38-year old trauma surgeon who has finished his final year of residency in 2011 within the Trauma Surgery Department of the Medical University of Vienna. He has been actively involved together with other colleagues in founding the largest center for the diagnosis and treatment of cartilage lesions and in building up an outpatient clinic specialized in knee, hip and ankle cartilage pathologies. Besides working in the outpatient clinic for cartilage lesions, Dr. Widhalm was also very involved in numerous research projects, such as evaluation of cartilage lesions in morbidly obese children and adolescents. Another project he was working on deals with imaging of the knee with 7 Tesla MRI and Sodium Imaging. Currently he is working in the Sports medicine field on biomechanical research studies including anterior cruciate ligament injuries and treatment strategies. At the department in Vienna he is working for several years in the outpatient speciality clinic for cartilage lesions, for sports and for head injuries. Moreover Harald Widhalm is responsible for documentation of polytraumatized patients and he is chairing the navigation operation devices as well as the bone bank concerns.

From 2013 to 2014, Harald K Widhalm was elected by the Arthroscopic Association (AGA) for working as a research fellow at the University of Pittsburgh (USA) in the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports medicine, leaded by world famous Prof.Dr.Freddie H. Fu. Beside that he has had in the past, the opportunity to gain valuable work and visit colleagues at Ann Arbor University, Michigan as well as at Janeway Child Health Centre, St.John’s, Newfoundland and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. During his time within these organizations, he very much appreciated both the work ethic and dedication of his professional colleagues. In June 2016 Dr.Widhalm successfully passed the habilitation in trauma surgery at the Medical University of Vienna with the topic: “New MRI images for visualization of cartilage lesions in the knee:” He is currently working as trauma surgeon at the Medical University of Vienna. Besides working in the hospital he likes doing sports, like playing tennis, sailing, swimming, or in winter skiing. As an offset he is also enjoying going to museums, classical concerts or operas, or reading a book.

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Michael Hüpfl, MD is a graduate of the Medical University of Vienna, and he completed his training as an emergency physician in 1995. After 1 year of working in a prehospital setting, he became chief physician of St. John Ambulance Service Vienna until 2014. He completed his training as anesthesiologist and intensivist at the hospital of the Order of St John and the Medical University of Vienna in 2001. During these years, Dr. Hüpfl played a major role in the implementation of early defibrillation by automatic external defibrillators in emergency service and for the public use. His clinical and research focus is resuscitation, trauma and emergency medicine. He built up a medical simulation team in the Department of Anesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Therapy with a focus on crisis resource management. Dr. Hüpfl is member of the Executive Board of the European Trauma Course Austria and the Course Management Committee of ETC in Europe, and as a Course Director of the European Pediatric Life Support Courses, he is working on the improvement of the European emergency education programs.

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Roman Kosir, MD, PhD: During my childhood in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, I often walked around the city hospital, observing the blue lights behind the windows of operating theatres. I had similar feelings of attraction when I heard an ambulance rushing with an emergency case. The eternal wish to know what was behind those windows and to know how life can be saved probably influenced my decision to enter medical school and later to become a trauma surgeon.

In my residency program, I was given an opportunity to join one of the most well known groups of trauma surgeons worldwide, in Houston, Texas, as a surgical critical care fellow for one year. During my stay in the US, I became involved with the research of Acute Lower Extremity Compartment Syndrome in Critically Ill trauma patients. Beside that, my biggest professional commitments are trauma systems, initial approach to critically injured trauma patients, quality control and medical education. By completing surgical residency in Slovenia and education in the US, I became the first officially trained trauma surgeon in critical care in Slovenia and got employed as attending trauma surgeon in the Department of Traumatology, University Clinical Center, Maribor. In this period of life I make a constant effort to share time between my professional life and my family; wife and three children aged 17, 15 and 12. There is hardly any time left for tennis, mountain biking, swimming, hiking, and skiing, the sports I enjoy the most.

My extensive and ever growing knowledge in these areas has led me to gain the position of Chief of Emergency Center in Maribor, Slovenia. University Clinical Center Maribor has established a new Trauma/Emergency Center and my biggest professional priority is to play a pivotal role in this important project. This is also my lifelong commitment and ultimate professional goal, and this project is was completed in 2016 for the whole country, where 55 million euro has been spent for 10 new emergency/trauma centres. One of the major steps in education has been completed in 2010 with official implementation of Advanced Trauma Life Support in Slovenia. With my dedication to care of trauma/emergency patients I have a major influence on the care of the injured in Slovenia and it is a big privilege for me to be your teacher.

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Martin Reschl, MD is a resident at the University of Vienna at the Department of Traumasurgery. Dr. Reschl grew up in the southeast part of Austria in the Burgenland. After finishing his primary and secondary school, he moved to Vienna for studying medicine at the Medical University of Vienna. He graduated in 2013 and started his residency at the Hospital Schwarzach. After 4 month Dr. Reschl moved back to the Medical University of Vienna at the Department of Surgery. Since 2014 he is a resident at the Department of Traumasurgery. Dr. Reschl’s research interests include fracture healing, ligamentous knee injuries and traumatic spine injuries. The focus of the recent research is on the knee joint, especially on the patellofemoral joint after luxation of the patella. In terms of the fracture healing, Dr Reschl focus is on the RANKL and Sclerostin pathway and their comparison between children and adult fracture healing. Currently Dr. Reschl works and lives in Vienna.

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Paul Stampfl, MD is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulder surgery. He grew up in Upper Austria and completed his college at the Collegium Aloisianum. He graduated from Medical School of Vienna and completed his residency at the University of Vienna, Department of Traumatology. He was an early member of the shoulder team. This included surgical training and scientific work.

Dr. Stampfl’s research interests include anatomy, radiologic diagnostics of the acromioclavicular joint. This is associated with optimization of existing operative techniques and developing new techniques. The publications include the first detailed diagnostic tools for detecting injuries of the intra-articular disc of the acromioclavicular joint.

Dr. Stampfl is currently a member of the competence center for joint surgery at the “Neue Wiener Privatklinik”.

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S. Rob Todd received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin in 1992. He then matriculated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine with a Doctorate of Medicine in 1996. He remained in the Texas Tech University system where he completed his General Surgery residency in 2001. He followed that with a Fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care from Oregon Health & Science University in 2003. During fellowship, his research focused on hemorrhagic shock and its' resuscitation.

In August of 2003, he joined The University of Texas Medical School at Houston as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery. His primary clinical responsibilities included trauma surgery, surgical critical care, and emergency general surgery (Acute Care Surgery). In August of 2006, he joined The Methodist Hospital as an Acute Care Surgeon where he was the Medical Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit and the Associate Program Director of the Residency in General Surgery. He was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. His research focus was on surgical sepsis and surgical education. In 2011, he was recruited to New York University School of Medicine as an Acute Care Surgeon where he served as the Chief of Trauma and Emergency Surgery for Bellevue Hospital Center. His research focus was blood product utilization in the surgical population. Dr. Todd was recruited to Baylor College of Medicine in 2014, where he currently serves as Professor of Surgery and is the Chief of General Surgery and Trauma at the Ben Taub Hospital. Additionally, he is the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program Director and the Medical Director of the Trauma Surgical Intensive Care Unit at the Ben Taub Hospital.

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"Emergency Trauma and Surgery"

15 January – 21 January, 2017

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Schloss Arenberg had the pleasure of hosting yet another seminar in Trauma & Emergency Surgery. Fellows from 28 different countries came to gather in Salzburg to learn about most recent advances within this field. Course Director Soumitra Eachempati, Professor of Surgery & Professor of Public Health at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York, USA, and Co Course Director Richard Kdolsky, Associate Professor at the Department of Traumatology at the Medical University Vienna, Austria led this week’s seminar. Together with their expert faculty they prepared a seminar full of learning and improvement.

The faculty organized and facilitated a week with challenging yet impactful lectures, covering a wide range of subjects within Trauma & Emergency Surgery. Lectures comprising topics like “Damage Control Surgery”, “Abdominal Compartment Syndrome”, “The Management of Peri-Articular Fractures”, and “Solid Organ Injuries” were held during the mornings. On Monday afternoon the fellows were offered a workshop in “How to Present a Case”, followed by case presentation from the faculty. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoon the participants were given the opportunity to submit a special case from their home countries. These presentations led to thoughtful discussion amongst faculty and fellows and also allowed doctors to gain some valuable insight into the distinct challenges faced by other doctors around the world.

In addition to the seminar’s great educational merit, it also provided faculty and fellows with the chance to enjoy themselves and the wonderful setting around them. Wednesday afternoon, faculty and fellows enjoyed the free time exploring the city. On Thursday evening everybody was treated by a private chamber music concert at the Grand Hall at Schloss Arenberg. Two dedicated young pianists from the “Mozarteum” Salzburg played works from great composers like J.S. Bach, L. v. Beethoven, and F. Liszt.

Friday evening’s exquisite Graduation Dinner saw the participants cheerfully chatting with one another. From the vivid and friendly atmosphere of the week’s close, it was clear that the ties formed over the course of the week would continue beyond Schloss Arenberg as the participants move forward with their professions and their lives.
15 January, Sunday evening. I had very impressive journey by train from Munich to Salzburg – looking wonderful landscape from the window and thinking about seminar... It was my second visit after 6 years to this beautiful town, everything in white. With taxi I easily came to magnificent Schloss Arenberg. After welcome reception we were introduced to each other and I discovered that out of 38 seminar participants we were just 5 girls. We all enjoyed very tasty dinner and the atmosphere in Schloss Arenberg was friendly as usual.

16 January, Monday. I Woke up at 6:30, had breakfast with my colleagues Zuzana and Dinka and at 8 o’clock our first seminar day started. First of all the director of the course Dr. Soumitra R. Eachempati introduced the aim and goals of whole seminar. The seminar schedule has changed due to some problems which Dr. S. Rob Todd had to face on the border. Thanks to the good work of faculty and the administrational staff we have got a new schedule very soon. At the beginning we had a pre-seminar test. The first lection of Dr. Roman Kosir was very interesting: Initial management, Priorities and Triage, Decision making in the “Golden Hour”. After break Dr. Soumitra R. Eachempati gave us lecture about Penetrating Trauma and Thoracic Trauma. For me, as a general surgeon, it was very impressive. I liked although Dr. Roman Kosir’s second presentation about “How to Present a Case”

Tasty Lunch was accompanied with interesting conversation around the table, where Arber and Herve joined our trio as well.

After the lunch the fellows started presentation of their cases. I should admit, I was disappointed not to be able to present my PPT because the radiology image errors (I couldn’t download images from the CD I brought from Georgia), which was the key point of my presentation.

After dinner Zuzane offered us – me and Dinka to go to the historical center of Salzburg, which we did. We went up to the hill to the “Hohensalzburg” Fortress- and this was very spectacular, like in fairy tale. After the dinner I went to the library, where I found a full collection of “The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE”-s 2014-2015, and many other medical books. I began to read and went to bed late.

17 January, Tuesday. Both lectures “The Management of Critically Ill Patients” and “Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections” by Dr. Soumitra R. Eachempati, I found very interesting.

The next lectures of Dr. Roman Kosir “The management of the Open Abdomen” and “Neck Injuries” helped me to better understand abdominal compartment syndrome.

Lunch was followed by case presentations. After the end of the seminar day, our group went to see the old town. The day was finished in Armenian Lounge under cheerful conversation.

18 January, Wednesday. Group photo with Faculty. I have noted that this 60 min. lectures does not put us to sleep – interactive and exciting way to teach. Almost whole day was about brain and spine trauma, periarticular fractures and Ligament Injuries.
The lecture on ligament injuries was presented by Paul Stampf and gave us more theoretical information. I can share my opinion, that it was very smart to combine two types of specialist in one course – general surgeons and traumatologists.

The lectures of Dr. Harald K. Widhaim “Management of Spine Trauma” and “Traumatic Brain Injuries” were really important for me and seemed to complete each other.

This day we had free afternoon and it was a good chance to go to Museums.

To end the days in Armenian Lounge became a good tradition for our group.

19 January, Thursday. It started as usual at 6:30 am. “Disaster and Mass Casualty Management” and “Working in Teams in Primary Survey” by Michael Hüpfel were pearls of this day- It was very dynamic and interactive.

After the case presentations and end of the seminar day we went to see the Mirabell Palace and Gardens and the Kapuzinerberg.

For the evening we were invited to chamber music concert in Schloss Arenberg’s Grand Hall. It was very impressive evening with two excellent pianists: Heghine Rapyan and Min-Hao Tsai.

My sincere gratitude to the organizers!!!

20 January, Friday. The last lectures on “Hepatobiliary Emergencies”, “Non-Operative Management of Spleen and Liver Injuries” and “Strangulated Small Bowel Obstruction” were given by Dr. S. Rob Todd and were also very informative and interesting.

A Graduation Dinner despite the solemnity was a little bit sad. For this short period we all participants have become good friends to each other.

Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky as usual had an impressive speech. He also made a real show at the award ceremony.

Tomorrow is departure. We are going back to our families, our work places and daily problems...

I’m pretty sure I will use this gained knowledge in my daily work and also share among with my colleagues.

Thanks a lot to the faculty and administrative staff of Schloss Arenberg for this wonderful week!!!