

# The PULSE



NEWSletter SEPTEMBER 2022

## 26th EACMFS CONGRESS

27-30 September 2022

PreCongress day: 26 September

MADRID - SPAIN



Building the future through innovation



European Association for  
Cranio - Maxillo - Facial Surgery

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## NEWSletter SEPTEMBER 2022

Editor-in-Chief  
Graphic Designer

Javier González Lagunas  
María Montesinos

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### Secretariat

Mrs Jill McFarland  
Secretariat Administrator

EACMFS Secretariat  
PO Box 85  
Midhurst GU29 9WS  
West Sussex. UK  
telephone: +44 (0)1730 810951  
email: [secretariat@eacmfs.org](mailto:secretariat@eacmfs.org)  
web: <https://www.eacmfs.org>





JULIO ACERO SANZ  
President EACMFS

# Message from **MADRID**

## **Dear Colleagues and Friends**

This is an especially moving column for me, being the last message that I write as President of EACMFS. A big part of my life has been dedicated to international service in Maxillofacial Surgery, with a special commitment to training since I started my duty as the EACMFS Education Officer in 2003.

May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Executive Committee, the EACMFS Secretariat, the Council and the whole membership for their permanent support. Despite the difficult circumstances, many new projects have been developed during this period. We had the goal of keeping the Association aligned with the evolution of new times, including the modernization of this Newsletter, the Social Media, the creation of a new educational platform, the development of new alliances with the Industry and the launching of new training opportunities like the hybrid Head-and-Neck Surgery Course.

Most of the milestones achieved during my two years term as President of EACMFS are reviewed in the interview that Javier Gonzalez-Lagunas includes in this issue. Please have a close reading

of the article to take advantage of all the opportunities that EACMFS provides to members.

This newsletter will be in your hands just before the 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Association for Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery (Palacio Municipal de Congresos de Madrid, September 27-30<sup>th</sup>, 2022), under the motto "Building the future through Innovation". The Scientific Program will offer a first-class program reviewing the full scope of Oral and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery through the participation of outstanding speakers representing the best of our speciality. I am sure that our Congress will be a memorable landmark: finally, a face-to-face meeting of colleagues and friends coming to Madrid from all over Europe and the rest of the globe, after the hard Covid-19 pandemic that has hit our life during the last two years. Besides the scientific program, we would also like to invite you to enjoy the amazing social program and the attractions of the great city of Madrid. We will be honoured to welcome all of you to our thrilling city!

Thank you my friends for all the support that you have given to me. I will always remain at your disposal.



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# BARCELONA calling

## Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa

published *Il Gattopardo* in 1958 as a chronicle of stormy times in Sicilian life. The Prince of Salina decides to break tradition to secure the influence of his family, and in a conversation with his nephew he pronounces the now famous clear-sighted quote: "If we want everything to stay as it is, everything has to change".

EACMFS is undoubtedly the leader of education for maxillofacial surgeons in Europe. Our biennial Congress is a landmark for knowledge transfer in our speciality. Our journal is top ranked. We have a well established educational program (both live and online). But the competition with stakeholders is fierce, and change and adaptation are required if we want to stay in the groove.

We are now closing the tenure of Professor Julio Acero with a new format of our newsletter. We will continue including updated information on the activities of the association, with columns of our officers that will advance the new projects of EACMFS. We are also presenting in-depth interviews or conversations with European leaders of opinion. And we are in debt with member of EACMFS, that for years have given support to our congresses, courses and

educational activities. We will be opening our windows, and listen to their proposals, projects and wishes.

In this first issue of the new period of the newsletter we will dedicate an important number of pages to interview our current president, who will present a comprehensive account of his two years in office. The Madrid Congress is just a stone's throw away, and we also want to transmit our enthusiasm to members. We asked our young surgeon's representative to send a wish list to the association. And finally, we decided to pay tribute to maxillofacial surgeons working in extreme conditions in Ukraine.

This is the first issue, and the newsletter is subject to change. We would be delighted to receive your comments and suggestions. We will also ask for your collaboration and support not only for this newsletter but also for our other thrilling project: the EACMFS education platform.

Stay tuned.

1

John Lowry  
Educations  
Session

24

Masterclasses

22

Keybote  
Lectures

19

Sessions  
organized by  
Guest Societies

4

Sessions  
Controversies

7

Sessions Europe  
Embraces  
America-Asia



3

Workshops

**European Association for  
Cranio - Maxillo - Facial Surgery**

44

Symposia

1

Photo Course-  
Theoretical  
and Practical

1

Symposium  
Latino-  
Americano

58

Sessions-  
Free Papers





MANLIO GALIÈ

Senior President (Elect)



# Greetings from **FERRARA**

## Dear Colleagues and Friends

As President Elect I am delighted to be able to welcome you to our future Congresses in Madrid 2022, Rome 2024, and Athens 2026.

The next 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS Congress 2022 in Madrid is behind the corner and I am sure our President, my dear friend Julio Acero, will set up an unforgettable cultural and scientific event.

Following the tradition of previous meetings the EACMFS 26<sup>th</sup> Madrid offers a stimulating scientific programme and a great opportunity to meet with colleagues, learn about new developments in our specialty and experience the wonderful hospitality and scenery of Madrid.

I look forward to meeting you in Madrid for the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS Congress under the Presidency of Julio Acero that will represent a new rebirth after the pandemic.

Best wishes



## European Association for Cranio - Maxillo - Facial Surgery

# EACMFS POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM CADAVER WORKSHOP

**POST CONGRESS COURSE 30th SEPTEMBER – 1st OCTOBER, 2022**

Institute of Anatomy, Medical School, Autonomous University  
Calle del Arzobispo Morcillo 4, Madrid, Spain

- Two-day hands-on Cadaver Workshop on fresh frozen anatomical specimens
- Designed to teach essential and advanced operative techniques in head and neck surgery including surgical oncology procedures and flap harvesting

### WORKSHOP TOPICS

TRACHEOSTOMY  
NECK DISSECTION  
FACIAL NERVE DISSECTION - PAROTIDECTOMY  
MANDIBULOTOMY - PARAPHARYNGEAL  
SPACE DISSECTION

CORONAL APPROACH  
PREAURICULAR APPROACH  
ORBITO-ZYGOMATIC APPROACH  
RADIAL FOREARM FLAP  
FIBULA FLAP

### COURSE DIRECTORS



**J. Acero**

Professor and Head of OMF  
Department, Ramon y Cajal &  
Puerta de Hierro Univ Hospital,  
Spain



**C. Perisanidis**

Professor and Head of OMF  
Department, Evangelismos Univ  
Hospital, Greece

#### Faculty:

J. Acero  
C. Perisanidis  
N. Kalavrezos  
S. Prabhu  
A. Gulati

R. Fernandes  
N. Papadogeorgakis  
E. Sánchez-Jauregui  
F. Almeida  
F. Clasca

**Registration Fee: 1,900 EUROS**

**Places are limited and available on a 'first come first served basis'**

**This course has been accredited by EACCME® for a maximum of 16 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**

**Please email the Secretariat on: [clairejoffe@eacmfs.org](mailto:clairejoffe@eacmfs.org) to book your place!**

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GROUP





# The **ATHENS** report

## **Dear Colleagues and Friends**

We look forward to seeing you in the stunning city of Madrid to celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS Congress from 26-30 September 2022. Keynotes, scientific symposiums, debates, and a variety of thrilling social happenings are all promised to provide an exceptional experience.

We have developed an exciting scientific program dedicated to “Aesthetic Considerations in Craniomaxillofacial Surgery” for the John Lowry Trainee Training Session to be held the pre-Congress Day on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. And don't forget to attend the networking event for trainees on a beautiful rooftop in Madrid right after John Lowry's session.

On Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at the EACMFS College of Postgraduate Education Meeting, we will discuss EACMFS past and future educational programs with prominent pioneers in the field of surgical education. At this meeting, direct contributions of EACMFS to scientific events throughout Europe will be discussed, as we continue to receive a large number of requests for scientific support of national meetings. Furthermore, information about our novel EACMFS Postgraduate Program “Head and Neck Surgery: Oncology” as well as our widely popular European Lecture Series will be provided. We welcome your feedback and new ideas for the future of OMFS education.

We are confident that the 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS Congress will be a true international event because it will provide Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon all across the world the chance to not only share cutting-edge information but also to make new friends, meet old ones, and enjoy the social program in the charming city of Madrid.

I'm excited to see everyone in Madrid soon!

Best wishes

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European Association for  
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## John Lowry Education Session

### Aesthetic Considerations in Craniomaxillofacial Surgery

Monday 26th September • 13.30-18.00h



13:30-13:45h

**Welcome address, introduction of faculty, course objectives**

*Julio Acero, EACMFS President (Spain)*

*Christos Perisanidis, EACMFS Education and Training Officer (Greece)*



13:45-14:15h

**Facial Feminization Surgery (FFS)**

*Luis Capitan (Spain)*



15:30-16:00h

**Preservation rhinoplasty**

*Abraham Montes de Oca (Mexico)*



14:15-14:45h

**Aesthetic considerations in  
Orthognathic Surgery**

*Johan Reyneke (South Africa)*



16:00--16:30h

**Face and neck lifting**

*Jean-Paul Meningaud (France)*



14:45-15:15h

**Patient specific facial implants**

*Maurice Mommaerts (Belgium)*



16:30-17:00h

**Oculoplastic surgery:**

**Upper and lower blepharoplasty**

*Michael Grant (US)*

15:15-15:30h

**Break**

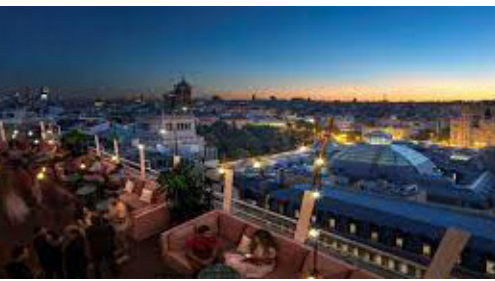


17:00-18:00h

**European trainee business meeting**

*Martin Rachwalski (Germany)*

*Francesco Lemma (Italy)*



Do not miss to attend the Trainees Networking Get Together  
at Casa Suecia Rooftop  
on Monday Sept 26th from 8.00pm  
Information available at  
[www.eacmfs-congress.com](http://www.eacmfs-congress.com)





NICHOLAS KALAVREZOS

Secretary General & Junior President (Elect)

# LONDON minutes

## Dear Friends and Colleagues

It is my privilege to contact you few days just before our 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS conference in Madrid and I would wish that some of these few thoughts outline below could be used as a platform for further discussion during our conference:

The 26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS conference comes arguably at a critical time and at times of change not only in Europe but on a global scale.

We are just coming out of the COVID 19 pandemic facing the reality of a major conflict in the eastern part of the continent due to the invasion of Ukraine. There is an indirect impact on the funding for provision of healthcare and certainly there will be an impact in education and the Congress organisation in the foreseeable future.

From my perspective I can only see the need for further closer cooperation on the global scientific level as we are facing the same scientific and healthcare challenges regardless of national boundaries.

It is also our duty in EACMFS to facilitate and enable the communication on national and regional level as well as the expansion of our international scientific representation bringing various OMFS scientific associations from all corners of the world in EACMFS Madrid 22.

Therefore the agenda for Madrid 22 but also further afield for Rome 24 and Athens 26 will strive to achieve few common characteristics around the themes of:

- “Inclusivity”: by bringing several OMFS scientific associations from across the world together in a global OMFS scientific event.

There are 19 symposia organised by various Europeans and International guest societies while the unprecedented number of seven sessions organised by joint European-Asian and American OMFS Associations is a clear testament to this goal.

- “Team leadership”: by incorporating activities of “allied” specialities and “targeted” parallel sponsored symposia.

It is our strong belief that OMFS should have a pivotal leading role in facilitating education in all facets of the head and neck hence the need for consideration of the needs of all members from private practitioners to hospital and academic surgeons.

Moreover, our work cannot be delivered without our teams: in the office, the hospital, the community services; those teams include our dental colleagues, our nurses our therapists and so on and so on.

- “Fostering the Youth” incentive: by having the most dynamic John Lowry session and certainly the highest number of applicants for our various scientific scholarships.

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and despite the increasing cost of living I would like to make a plea to all of our trainees, to all of our juniors: please make use of the EACMFS platform for scientific travelling, obtaining

new experiences, seeing different ways of management and consider “lateral” thinking.

This is the best way for achieving scientific independence and certainly the way forward for the forthcoming leaders of the thriving OMFS of the future!

- “Bridging the gender gap”: Surgery in general-and OMFS could not be an exception- has traditionally been a male dominated speciality.

It is true that despite recent improvements the number of female colleagues in keynote positions during our conferences has not been as high as we would like to see.

This is also changing: there will be a minimum increase of our female colleagues representation as keynote lecturers of 5% per conference for the next 3 EACMFS.

We aim that by the end of the decade we will be much closer to an -almost- equal gender representation cultivating our conferences with the dynamism of our female OMFS colleagues.

Therefore allow me to make a second plea: please encourage all colleagues and especially our trainees to become members OMFS. This indeed would be the best way of a successful and thriving speciality. I'm sure that EAMFS Madrid 26 will be a milestone to this direction!

Kind regards



# European Lecture Sessions 22-23 COMING SOON

**EACMFS is delighted to offer its membership the opportunity to enjoy a new season of weblectures.** All you need is the internet. These are live lectures lasting 45 minutes and you will have the opportunity to interact with the speakers for 15 mins via live messaging portal immediately after the lecture.

**One European CME credit (ECMEC®s) per webinar** from the September 1st 2022 (to be eligible attendance for the complete lecture is required).

**Two CME points recognised** (Akademie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Mund-, Kiefer- und Gesichtschirurgie)

**Non-members are welcome to attend the live weblectures:** Please enter 'EACMFS' in the membership number field on the registration page. Please note, however, that only members will be able to claim one European CME credit.





# TWO YEARS WITH PROF. JULIO ACERO

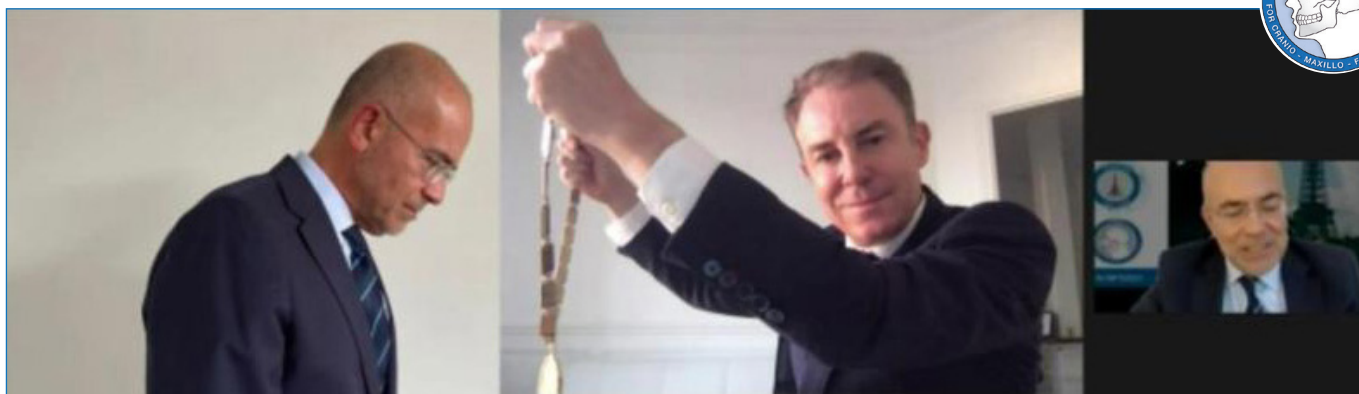
By Javier González Lagunas



**H**ello Julio, I cannot recall any EACMFS presidency that has faced as much external pressure as yours. You started your tenure in September 2020, a few months after the COVID-19 crisis started. Can you give us your insight of those difficult times?

They were very difficult times, indeed. Since the beginning of the uncertain evolution pandemic, Jean-Paul Meningaud's Executive Committee had to make important decisions, such as maintaining the official life of the association despite the global situation, or convening an online meeting of the Council and the General Assembly in September 2020, just when my presidency began. Simultaneously, it was a unanimous decision of the Executive Committee to postpone the Congress that had to be held in Paris, giving July 2021 as a new date. It was a completely new situation. The inauguration of the new Executive Committee and the presidency had to take place without the meeting that traditionally takes place in our congresses, without personal contact other than a cold online meeting. As an anecdote, Jean-Paul Meningaud took a picture with the chain in his hands and I took another picture in Madrid bowing my head and we made the composition for a virtual change of chain. We continued the first few months without the possibility of in-person meetings, although we made up for it with very intense activity from the Executive Committee with multiple online meetings, monitoring the





evolution of the pandemic. Hard decisions had to be made and we started new projects without direct contact of officers. We tried to maintain communication with our members and keep them informed about the new projects. One advantage was that the EACMFS had pioneered the use of electronic media for communication with its members and education, so it was not that difficult for us to adapt.

#### You had to work hand with hand with Jean Paul with the Paris congress. How was it?

The Congress that was scheduled in Paris in 2020 was postponed and had to take place during my presidency. Jean-Paul Meningaud and his team and the Local Organizing committee continued to work with us. We maintained a very close relationship by telephone, multiple online meetings, etc., monitoring the evolution of the pandemic, also frequently meeting with the entire Executive Committee. At last, what was scheduled as a hybrid meeting, had to be transformed into a fully virtual format. We had to adapt the entire program to the new format with the help of our Organizing Technical Secretary directed by Guillem Torres. It was a great effort and demonstrated the ability of the association to adapt and work together on a short run. Personally, the only trip I made during the pandemic period was on July 14, 2020, to Paris to join Jean-Paul and carry out the inauguration of the Congress together, an event that was broadcasted online to the entire society.

It was our first meeting and he took the opportunity to give me the presidential chain in his own house. Today, I want to acknowledge the great effort made by Professor Meningaud and congratulate him

for the magnificent collaboration and the result of his work in preparing the Congress

#### That was the first time an European congress was held online....

Yes, and I hope it will be the last. Considering our previous experience in online education, we had already planned to broadcast a session of the Madrid Congress online, as an E-congress. This event would allow access to those colleagues who cannot travel to Madrid. An entire online congress loses its glitter. There is no direct interpersonal contact, no exchange of information, no personal networking during the Congress and social events. Likewise, the activity of the industry was greatly affected as it was a virtual exhibition with little exchange with the attendees in what is always a very important part of our congresses, especially the presentation of new resources for surgeons.



### How did the ELS series helped our association to keep the bond with our members?

As I said before, the EACMFS has been a trailblazer in online education long before the pandemic started. ELS was fundamental in this particular aspect. Once again, my recognition to Satheesh Prabhu, pioneer and head of the ELS, as well as to our Education Officer, Christos Perisanidis for having maintained and reinforced this program in times of pandemic, which has meant a continuous educational link with our members.

### It was not only COVID. When we started to see the light, the Ukraine invasion arrived. Even though EACMFS is a scientific association, politics are unavoidably present. How could we handle that difficult situation?

These have been very tough times and we continued to work to overcome them in very difficult circumstances. As a scientific society and reference of the specialty in Europe, EACMFS is an association of individual members and respecting each one of them, we promote the collaboration and scientific exchange in the field of our specialty. We stand against all forms of violence and war, especially in our continent. The Executive Committee elaborated a memorandum against this situation. Likewise, many requests for help were received that tried to be answered adequately. We believe that our specialty was an example among the different professional and scientific institutions in providing humanitarian aid requested by those colleagues who are suffering. Our special recognition to KLS, who officially announced the donation of surgical material through the EACMFS. We also want to highlight the broadcast of a special series of online conferences dedicated to the management of war wounds within the ELS. We express our deepest wish that peace will soon be achieved again in Europe.

### There is another important issue that has been unnoticed, but that was extremely important for the specialty in Europe.



Prof. Jean-Paul Meningaud, Prof. Manlio Galie, Prof. Julio Acero and Dr. Nicholas Kalavrezos.

### The approval of the European Training Requirements and the political conflicts with other specialties, can you give us some insight on that?

This has been one more of the issues of great importance that arose during this hard period. With the limitation/impossibility of meetings and interpersonal contacts, we received the alarming news that the UEMS had rejected the ETR (European Training Requirements) proposal that was presented by the UEMS Section of our specialty. On the other side, ETRs related to other specialties included many concepts corresponding to Oral and Craniomaxillofacial surgery. We detected very aggressive actions by another specialty towards ours at national level in many European countries. It was a great movement for this Board of Directors to incorporate Frank Holzle as a liaison officer with the UEMS, a very committed person who informed the Executive Committee of such a serious situation. We reacted immediately in support of our section of the UEMS informing all Councilors, so action could be taken at



the national level in support of our guides. We received massive cooperation that finally lead to the approval of the ETRs a few months ago in Limassol (Cyprus). With satisfaction we can say that during this period a very positive cooperation of the EACMFS with the OMFS section of the UEMS has been established, signing a memorandum of understanding. Our congratulations to Patrick Maggenis and Hans Peter Ulrich for their work at UEMS.

**Despite the difficulties, the Executive Committee. under your leadership did succeed to start new projects. I can recall three of them, the head and neck surgery fellowship, the newsletter and the educational platform. How did those ideas arise? Why those particular projects?**

As Chair of the EACMFS, I have always thought the president should not only devote the two years tenure to prepare a congress, but also to contribute with improvements that meet member's needs, starting new projects that allow the progress of the association. We also wanted to update the structure of EACMFS for the future. It has been many years dedicated to serving society first as responsible for education and understanding the needs of the members, especially the youngest. From there came the ideas for the new projects that,

despite the adverse conditions, we have successfully carried out.

### **Let's focus on all of them. First the Head and Neck Surgery course**

This project is included among the new ideas for expanding the supply of educational and training services of the association. Having detected the interest of many young colleagues in completing their training in different areas of the specialty, the Executive Committee decided to implement a postgraduate course in Head and Neck Surgery. This project has turned out to be an impressive success despite having had very little time to develop it. Only in late September of 2021 we had the first face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council. It was held in Madrid, and the postgraduate program in Head and Neck Surgery was finally approved.

It is a hybrid program with a series of online theoretical modules together with a visit to a surgical reference center, and finally a cadaver course that will be held during the Madrid Congress. Although we had little time, and the announcement was made during Christmas, we received more than 40 requests from young colleagues from all over Europe, who wanted to attend the 12-persons course. The course is an absolute success. I thank our Education

Officer, Christos Perisanidis, as well as the scientific directors of the various modules and Reference Centers for their work on this project and we hope that similar courses can be developed in the future in other areas of the specialty.

### **Then the Newsletter....**

A very important project indeed, together with the increase of our presence on social media and a thorough revision and updating of our website. The project is framed in my personal concern to maintain the best



communication with our members and to offer a space for the expression of problems and better knowledge of the reality of the specialty in the different areas of Europe. My very special recognition to Javier González Lagunas for the incredible effort he is making in this regard.

**And last but not least, the educational platform.**

Recognition that also extends to Javier's work as Media Officer in the creation of the new educational platform of the EACMFS in which content from the different areas of the specialty will be offered integrally, including training videos, an online conference library, etc. We think that just as personal meetings are essential, they should be complemented in today's digital world by a good platform with dynamic content that serves our members.

**We cannot forget the EACMFS congress, whose organization absorbs so much time and energy. What should we expect in Madrid?**

First of all, I want to highlight the great difficulty of maintaining the official life of EACMFS and the calendar of congresses with the celebration of the 26<sup>th</sup> Congress in Madrid in September 2022 after having postponed the Congress in Paris. Normally, the preparation of a European Congress is based on some fundamentals such as reservation of conference centre and contacts that are made during the previous Congress with potential speakers, industry and other stakeholders. It normally takes two years to prepare for the next one.

In our case, this time lapse did not exist. Fully respecting the 25<sup>th</sup> Congress that was held in July 2021, in a record time of 10 months we have been able to prepare an outstanding program. I want to acknowledge the intense work of an excellent organizing committee, highlighting the work of the General Secretary Dr. Fernando Almeida and the President of the Scientific Committee Dr. Javier González-Lagunas, with the full support of a great Scientific Committee, the Executive Committee, especially the Secretary of EACMFS, as well as the entire technical team by Torres Pardo.



Prof Julio Acero doing internships.



I would like to thank everyone for their work and the support provided by all the members of the association to prepare an extraordinary scientific program, with top speakers covering the full scope of the specialty. Along with the different sessions of the main program, participants will share their experiences in more than 700 abstract presentations. A great social program and a meeting with the Industry at the Exhibition area have also been designed. We are looking forward for a meeting in the attractive city of Madrid, that will hopefully be a milestone in the history of the EACMFS.

**We are seeing a new scenario in our relationship with the industry: how do you see the future in this particular aspect?**

We have always thought that honest cooperation between industry and specialists is key to the progress of surgery as well as to the development of educational projects. Indeed, the circumstances are complex due to the financial crisis following the pandemic, but imaginative formulas must be sought. During our presidency, the European Society proposed a cooperation and partnership program to the different companies most involved in our specialty, which has finally materialized through a historic agreement with the company KLS-Martin.

**This is teamwork of course, how was the work with the members of your Executive Committee?**



Dr. Javier Gonzalez-Lagunas,  
Prof. Julio Acero and  
Dr. Fernando Almeida.

My Executive Committee has been the "Dream Team". An excellent group at all levels, as I have been mentioning throughout this interview, excellent joint work with the Secretary of EACMFS, especially with our Secretary General, my friend Nick Kalavrezos, our assistant Secretary and future Secretary General Satheesh Prabhu, and my dear Jill McFarland as well as with all the Officers. Each of the officers have played decisive roles in their areas of interest (Education, Media, and UEMS). It should be noted the work accomplished by Ash Gulati as treasurer, streamlining the accounts of EACMFS and setting solid pillars for a modern Foundation, the basis for the development of educational projects. In short, the teamwork has been fantastic, we have increased the number of online meetings, and there has been an intense discussion of all the new projects and



EACMFS Officers at  
Madrid, venue of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Congress.



problems that have arisen. I want to express my appreciation to all members of the Executive Committee.

**And what will you do now, which are your new professional and personal projects?**

My life has always been a succession of projects that emerge from an essential principle that is to serve our patients and our specialty, Oral and Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery. In addition to my intense work in my department at the Hospitals Ramon y Cajal and Puerta de Hierro and as Professor at the University, I will continue collaborating as Past President, serving the European Association with my advice and working on those endeavors in which I am required to do so, such as postgraduate program projects or the coordination of international scholarships at IAOMS. Probably after the presidency, I will have more time available to collaborate again in humanitarian activities, perhaps serving

the new section that we have created in the society for international cooperation.

**Mr. President, I give you some extra space for your final comment. And, thank you again for your commitment with the specialty and with EACMFS**

Thanks to you Javier for granting me this interview where I could share, extensively but at the same time summarized, the large number of projects that we have developed during my Presidency of EACMFS. It is a special moment for me to finish the Chair after so many years dedicated to the European Association. I especially remember all the years spent serving as Educational Officer and the many dear friends I made throughout Europe. I am the one who has to give thanks for all the opportunities I have had and I hope that during the Madrid Congress I will be able to express this gratitude to all participating delegates.

# MADRID is waiting for you...

WELCOME to the  
EACMFS Congress 2022





# ORGANIZING THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS WITH JULIO

By Fernando Almeida



Dr. Fernando Almeida.

First of all, I want to introduce myself. I am a Consultant of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal in Madrid and my boss is.... Prof. Julio Acero. You might think that after working with him for more than 10 years side by side and spending many hours together I knew him perfectly. That's what I thought as well but, no, life is full of surprises. I will give you a short report of my life during the last year.

Back in June 2021, Dr Acero made a proposal that I just could not reject: to help him in the organization of the EACMFS Congress to be held in Madrid during the last week of September 2022. I was appointed Secretary General. I accepted without hesitation, and without giving a second thought about the consequences that this decision would have in my daily life. Hehehe. As you know, the pandemic forced the association to postpone the Paris congress to July 2021. We decided to wait until the Paris congress was over to start working with ours. Then came the month of August and the summertime holidays, which took us to September. We had just ten months to organize a European Congress! Well, we finally did it. But I will give you some more details.

A good friend of mine told me once that Prof. Acero works like the Transiberian railway: they might face earthquakes,



snow, rain, hail, and storms... but the train always arrives at its destination. This is a powerful simile to Julio. Everything he sets out to do, no matter the thousands of circumstances and adverse facts against him, he achieves them. I have constantly experienced that while organizing this congress.

In the last months, I have been copied in more than a thousand personal e-mails sent by Julio to the most prestigious international speakers. Not to mention the companies, the technical issues, the town hall, the social events, and problems with visas. The last message could easily arrive at 5:30AM, which ended with a "see you later" because at 8:00AM he was in time and in good shape in the hospital, ready for surgery. But the surgery did not start because, while the anesthesiologist was putting the patient to sleep and the residents were preparing the surgical fields, we would take some time to organize one more session. There was always time to organize one more session.

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Prof. Acero works like the Transiberian railway: they might face earthquakes, snow, rain, hail, and storms... but the train always arrives at its destination.

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Then weekends came and I thought "well, it is time to relax", but that never happened. Sunday morning was devoted to continuing to organize and close issues of the scientific program. I have learned and I learn every day many things from him, but I was surprised by his organizational skills. A core principle in his life is that nothing should be left for later. If you think of someone to give a lecture, you contact him immediately. Do not put off till tomorrow what you can do today. But nobody is perfect. Julio's time framework runs differently: a 10 minutes meeting with him really means at least 60 minutes of conversations and friendly discussion.

But joking apart and on a more serious note, I have to say that working with Julio on this particular project has been a thrilling experience. Learning from him how to organize a European Congress has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you, Julio, for giving me this opportunity and for the laughs,



Prof. Julio Acero and Dr. Fernando Almeida.

lots of them, that we have spent together organizing the congress. And two of your favourite quotes are already a part of my life: "Just do it" and "Impossible is nothing."

*Dear Julio, congratulations on the conference, my friend!*









# UKRAINE: MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS IN STATE OF WAR

An interview with Oleg Kovtuniak

Since the disruption of peace that took place in late February, EACMFS has firmly expressed its full, clear and unconditional support to the people of Ukraine. In this short paper we want to pay a tribute to all colleagues delivering surgical care under such extremely difficult conditions.





Signs of destruction of civil buildings in Ukraine.

**Tell us about your practice and your professional career, what kind of practice did you have before the Russian invasion.**

My name is Oleg Kovtuniak and I am the chief of Maxillofacial Surgery department. My professional career started in September 1992 in the Military Medical Clinical Center of the Western Region as a Maxillofacial Surgeon, where I worked till 2006. From 2006 to 2020, I practiced in Lviv border guard hospital. Since 2020 my new workplace is the Clinical Municipal Communal Emergency Hospital as chief of the Maxillofacial Surgery Department. Before the Russian invasion, a wide range of procedures of our specialty: Osteosynthesis of maxillofacial skeleton with miniplates and reconstructive plates, removal of

benign tumors, inflammatory processes of maxillofacial area, orthognathic surgery and also reconstructive surgery of the soft tissues.

**How many units of Maxillofacial Surgery were available in Ukraine? Are they all functioning? How seriously affected them?**

Before war started, there were near 30 maxillofacial departments in Ukraine, but now it's hard for me to say an accurate number and how much is damaged, but even in the occupied territory some of them are still working.

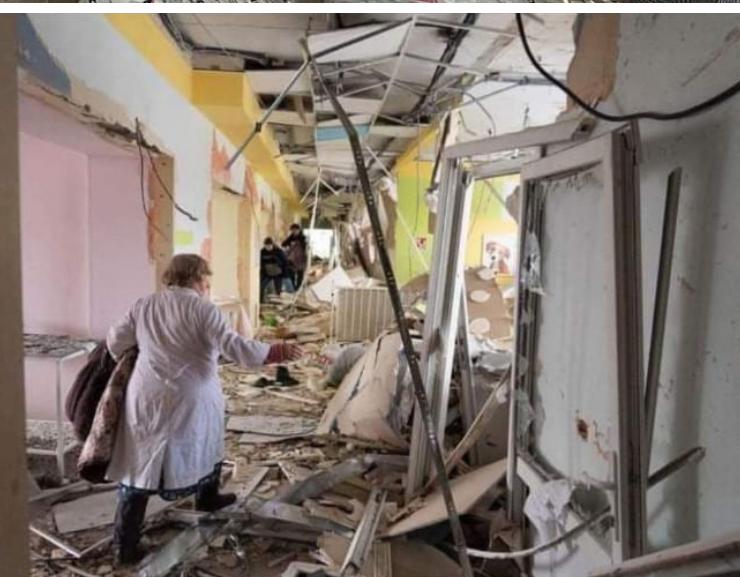
**Do you have military units of maxillofacial surgery?**

Yes, we have.





Volunteers organizing donations of surgical material.



The results of bombings in hospital wards.

Dental practices destroyed after attacks on civilian buildings.



**When did it all change, and how abruptly did it happen?**

In 2014 we had the first cases of military explosion and gun trauma, but it was in February 2022 when the number and severity of cases increased.

**What is normal day in maxillofacial surgery unit in Ukraine today?**

**How other pathologies have been affected war, specially cancer patients?**

Our day started at 8-00 am, morning conference about work of department for 24-hours, after that we are making an observation and changing dress wounds of our patients, also in same time our surgeons operate patients, writing medical documentation and also communicating with maxillofacial surgeons from other districts of country talking about their cases and patients .



Dr. Pavel Shmidt, Dr. Igor Fedirko and Dr. Segiy Kozlovskiy, maxillofacial surgeons working in Ukraine.

**Do you have some kind of network to transport patients from the areas most affected by the war, to areas that are apparently safer?**

**We have seen images of destruction of hospitals, how seriously affected is the health service network?**

Perhaps because of the union of all citizens and government, today we have an efficient network that allow the transportation of patients from different areas of our country. I believe that in all possible situations we have been able to find solutions to help each other.

Our national health service network is damaged, but it still working.

**Can you give as some figures? Which percentage of casualties area civilians an which percentage as military? Tell us about pediatric trauma.**

Only in our unit of maxillofacial surgery there were 19 military explosion and gunshots casualties, 15 civilians, and 5 children between 8 and 15 years old. All this patients were hospitalised with trauma of hard and soft tissues of maxillofacial area.

**From a more technical perspective which kind of injuries are you seeing the most? Which are the greatest challenges that you face?**

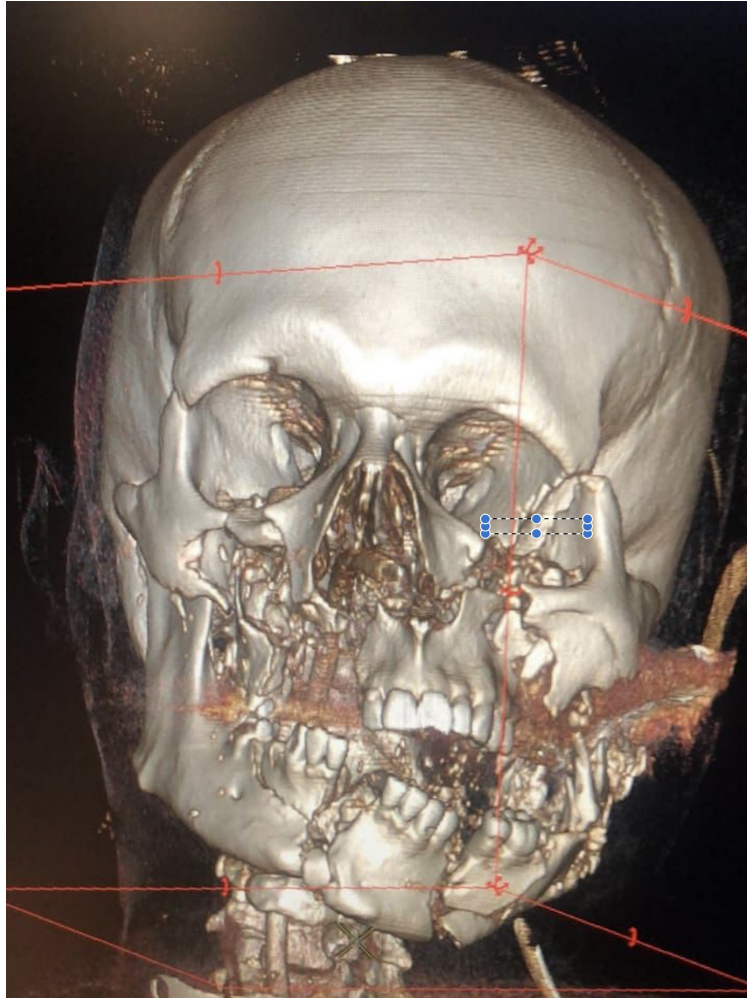
The most common injuries are combined fractures of upper and lower jaws, orbit, and a big numbers of defects of the soft and hard tissues of the face. The greatest challenge is facial trauma combined with severe injuries of other body areas.

**Which are you needs? What do you need the most: human workforce, osteosynthesis material, consumables?**

Today we need help in microvascular reconstruction of the maxillofacial region, miniplates, reconstructive plates, screws, IMF screws, as well as Erich arch bars, and ligatures for arch bars fixation.

**Is the logistic chain to receive medical goods function properly? We understand the secrecy is a must in situation like that.**

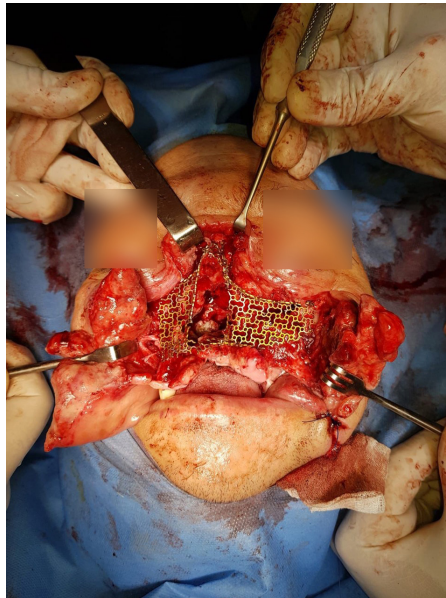
Yes, logistic is working well and we haven't any problems in that.



01.

Gunshot wounds with severe displacement and avulsion of soft and hard tissues of the middle and lower thirds of the face.





02.

Bony reconstruction of the middle third of the face with titanium mesh. Soft tissue closure with local flaps.

This paper has been possible thanks to a group of Ukrainian surgeons who agreed to share their cases and life experience with us. Our acknowledgment to **DRS. OLEG KOVTUNYAK, IGOR FEDIRKO, VICTOR MAZUR, MIKOLA SINYUK**, all of them working in tough conditions in Ukraine. Also our personal recognition to **DR. SIMONAS GRYBAUSKAS** and **DR. MYRON UHRYN**, for helping us to make contact with this group of outstanding surgeons.

03.

War casualties: massive soft and hard tissue loss after gunshot wounds.



European Association for  
Cranio - Maxillo - Facial Surgery



UKRAINE SUPPORT

Ukraine is calling for help. Volunteer maxillofacial surgeons needed!

Due to the high volume of war related maxillofacial injuries, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons are invited to the central part of Ukraine to work on rotation as volunteers. OMS specialists are in high demand, especially those having experience in primary and secondary management of ballistic facial injuries. If you are interested, please send a message to the Secretariat at - [secretariat@eacmfs.org](mailto:secretariat@eacmfs.org)



# THE DISASTERS OF WAR

By Javier González-Lagunas

**F**rancisco de Goya is one of the most well known artists of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, whose influence has expanded until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century's avant-garde.

Well known as a court painter, Museo del Prado is the best place in the world to admire his legacy. While in Madrid for the EACMFS meeting, take advantage of your the free time to visit this blue-chip museum.

One of his better known works is a series of 82 prints created between 1810 and 1820, and named as *Los desastres de la Guerra* (The disasters of War). Art historians consider them as a protest to the French invasion of Spain in 1808 and the subsequent Peninsular War. Ugly scenes with death, tortures and casualties: a raw expression of the brutality and atrocities related to war.

Two hundred years later, after a turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> century, history repeats itself, this time in Eastern Europe, and those etchings come back to our mind. But this time, the harshness of the combats is not coming from the pictorial representation of an artist, but from the pictures and videos taken by civilian testimonies.

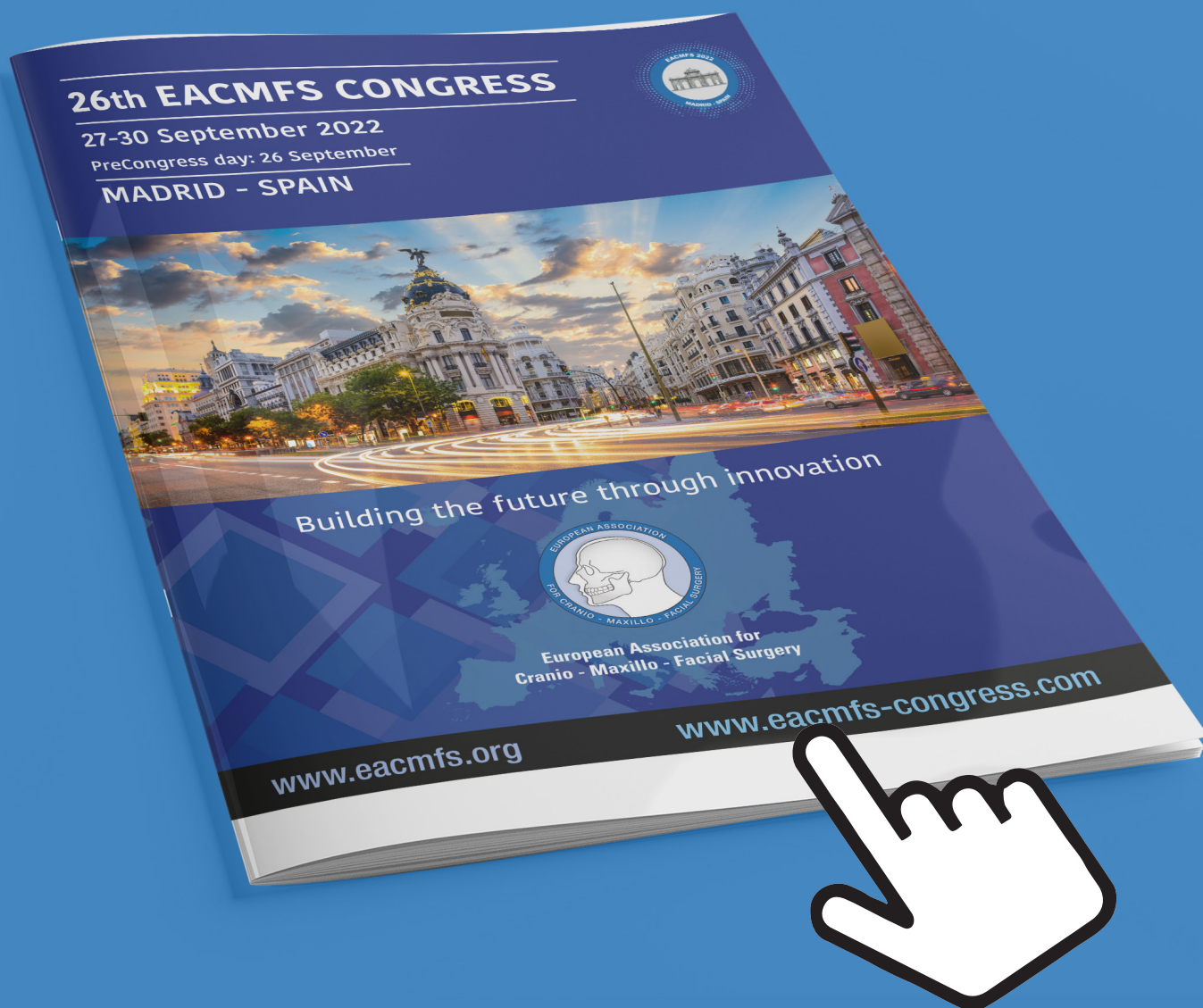
War, as seen from the distance of Western Europe, seems to be a series of tactical military maneuvers that vaguely translate in a change of geographical borders, into a lack of supply of gas, or a break in the supply chain of cereals. Economic recession seems to be just around the corner. But those rich countries problems are hiding the real drama that the citizens of Ukraine are suffering now. Doctors working in the field can give first hand testimony of the consequences of indiscriminate military violence on innocent civilians.

I want to acknowledge the group of Ukrainian surgeons that have contributed to this issue of our newsletter, not only for finding time to answer our questions and share their experience with us, but also for the tremendous field work they are doing in tough conditions. Cases that many surgeons in Europe would rarely face in a lifetime.

I would have liked to start this new period of the EACMFS newsletter with a more jolly issue, celebrating the decline of COVID-19 pandemia. But reality is stubborn. There is a military operation in Eastern Europe, that is affecting the life and future of millions of people. The policy of burying one's head in the sand will not help. It will not help Ukraine and nor it will help Europe. Having a yellow and blue flag in your social media is definitely not enough.



*Los desastres de la guerra*, plate No. 30, (1<sup>st</sup> edition, Madrid: Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, 1863).



Access to all the information of the  
**26<sup>th</sup> EACMFS CONGRESS**

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PO Box 85. Midhurst GU29 9WS. West Sussex. UK