



On behalf of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma's Board of Directors, our Executive Director Christine Eme, and the EAST administrative staff, welcome to Walt Disney World and our 31st Scientific Assembly!

Walt Disney once said "You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality." The parallels between our meeting and Walt's statement are astounding: every year we plan our meeting, but it takes all of our members to make it a reality.

Dr. Matthew Martin and the Annual Scientific Assembly Committee have worked tirelessly to select the most interesting scientific abstracts (from a record 383 submitted), to expand your knowledge base and to best improve the care of your patients. Dr. Cynthia Talley and the Career Development Committee will continue to offer EAST's most unique "programming," through their annual Resident and Fellows Workshop, the Oriens Award, their career networking events, and the Leadership Development Workshop. We will continue our annual outreach effort, through the Injury Control and Violence Prevention Committee's B-Con training for Disney employees. Drs. Bob Barraco and Nicole Stassen have worked tirelessly to "amp up" the annual Dodgeball Tournament. Dr. Jennifer Knight and the Social Media Management Committee will be reporting to the world.....and the list goes on.

While it has taken countless hours to "design and create" our Annual Assembly, it takes your participation to "make the dream a reality." It is each and every one of you that will help to create that famous "magic," which happens at our meeting. The camaraderie, the friendship, the mentorship, the shared experiences, and the shared ideas all make our meeting so special and EAST so unique.

As I finish serving my year as President, it only seems appropriate to say "thank you" for allowing me to serve you. The only way that I can think to do so would be to borrow from Fielding Yost, the famous University of Michigan football coach. Yost coached at Michigan from 1901-1926, retiring with a record of 165-29-10. At his retirement banquet, he uttered what is to me, the perfect sentiment for this moment. I will borrow from Yost's retirement speech, substituting "EAST" for "Michigan":

"My heart is so full at this moment, and I am so overcome by the rush of memories that I fear I could say little more. But do let me reiterate...the spirit of EAST. It is based upon a deathless loyalty to EAST and all her ways; and enthusiasm that makes it second nature of EAST members to spread the gospel of their organization to the world's distant outposts; a conviction that nowhere is there a better organization, in any way, than this EAST of ours."

Fielding Yost, I do apologize for stealing your sentiments, but I could not have expressed my feelings any better. Have fun, "y'all," and thank you for the providing me with the opportunity to serve you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Crookes MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce A. Crookes, MD, FACS
President, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma