



**Message from the EAST President
Elliott R. Haut, MD, PhD, FACS**

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Ever since attending my first EAST Annual Scientific Assembly over fifteen years ago, I knew the organization was going to be my academic home in trauma surgery. The casual welcoming atmosphere of the meeting encouraged everyone to talk, share ideas and discuss the high-quality science being presented. Even as a fellow, I felt comfortable going up to people I didn't know and starting a conversation.

EAST's core values align perfectly with my own personal mission statement- prioritizing coaching and mentoring the next generation of trauma surgeons and surgical scientists. One of EAST's signature offerings is our mentoring program which has linked over 100 pairs of mentors and mentees, changing the landscape of trauma surgery leadership nationally. One of the very first official EAST mentees, Paula Ferrada, just joined the EAST Board of Directors.

Many people have asked me about my plan for EAST during my presidential year. I usually reply that the organization is in excellent shape and my first goal is not to mess that up. We have strong collaborative relationships with other associations that we are strengthening and expanding. For example, be on the lookout for new alignments with groups including the American Burn Association. EAST volunteers and staff do such amazing things some of which are not as well known as they should be. Another goal this year will be to publicly highlight the outstanding work of our committees and task forces. Expect to see communications from EAST to ensure our members know about all these great offerings to enhance and drive our mission.

My role this year as President is to represent our organization, play to our strengths and promote EAST around the world. The first opportunity was at the recent Medical Summit on Firearm Injury Prevention sponsored by the American College of Surgeons in collaboration with nearly 50 organizations. EAST's mission shined with members Drs. Stephanie Bonne, Joe Sakran, and Ronny Stewart giving impassioned talks, and I summarized EAST's accomplishments in the field. I will make sure to disseminate the official meeting proceedings as they are completed over the coming months.

Thank you for the opportunity, honor, and privilege to be the 2019 EAST President. Please contact me any time via email (ehaut1@jhmi.edu) or Twitter ([@elliottthaut](https://twitter.com/elliottthaut)) about EAST related matters.