



EAC 2018 - The TEAMS edition: A sneak peek from a resident's point of view



'If you want to change the world - don't talk to the big boss, change always comes from the bottom.'

These were Massimiliano Sorbello's welcoming words to the group of trainees gathering at the European Airway Management Congress (EAC) in Catania this December. A group of residents from across the globe, all keen to learn more about the management of difficult airways - the future. How did we get there? (See Fig. 1)

The weeks leading up to the European Airway Management Congress, held from December 4th to 7th, have been busy for everyone involved, particularly for the residents of TEAMS - the Trainees of the European Airway Management Society. The eight of us had been making plans to travel to the wonderful city of Catania to participate in the EAC before the year ended, desperately wanting to be part of this great community. Before that however, we had to rearrange and swap shifts, organise travel and accommodation, get involved in social media (follow @TraineesEAMS on twitter to stay up-to-date) and agree on details during many, many video-meetings. We were excited to meet so many experts in the field of airway management and we were excited to finally all meet in person.

Seeing the need to involve the younger generation at their annual congress, the European Airway Management Society had been generous to offer us, today's residents, the opportunity to

host a trainee session at EAC 2018. TEAMS had been introduced previously in a correspondence in Trends in Anaesthesia and Critical Care [1], yet, this would have been our first official appearance and a chance to meet our fellow residents from across Europe. We were excited ... and nervous!

Since we were all arriving last minute, we were going to have a brief brainstorm at the conference centre and although we had only known each other through a screen, little sparks of joy and enthusiasm immediately flashed through the lobby as we all huddled around the reception desk. A little unsure of what we should do first, one of us recognised the future host of the World Airway Management Meeting, Hans Huitink, on his way to the Teach the Airway Teacher course and we were quick to tag along. We were invited to be observers on the fantastic TAT course on Tuesday afternoon and got a lot of brilliant tips and ideas from eager and eloquent young teachers as well as experienced, yet still enthusiastic, professors. We were encouraged to take part in most of the activities and are convinced that the course delegates will return to their departments with a bouquet of new ideas and hands-on tips to improve their teaching skills. We are very grateful for that wonderful opportunity and are looking forward to participating in a full Teach the Airway Teacher course soon.

Of course the extravagant host of EAC 2018, Massimiliano - the shoes! - Sorbello, was busy entertaining delegates and speakers and making everyone feel welcome, including us residents. No matter how rushed he was to get to the next meeting, he would always spare a minute to find a solution for our worries.

The conference was a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, since the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming. It is a good bunch of people, those airway people.

As trainees we were invited to contribute on multiple occasions: There were poster sessions to co-chair and we could learn how to host a session and make a presenter feel comfortable with only a few introductory words, inviting them to tell us about their research. There were talks to co-chair and this time it was a bit more serious since we could not hide between the presenters and curious listeners. No, this time we were seated next to the chair and the presenter on the podium. Palpitations anyone? Again, a positive experience to closely observe and learn from an experienced chair and speaker. We were lucky to feel welcome and encouraged to share your questions and small contributions. On top of that, there were workshops to help out with and this was as hands-on for us as for any of the delegates, full of generous tips and tricks from experts on how to deal with a myriad of airway 'gadgets' and a great opportunity to practice what we had learned at the TAT course.



Fig. 1. The residents of TEAMS. From left to right FRONT row: Sabine Nabecker, Gaia Faccio, Aydan Okuyucu; from left to right BACK row: Tatjana Dill, Luis Hurtado, Manuel Kotarlic, Gustavo Norte; missing: Lucy Stacey.

Thursday was our big day. The Trainees' session, as previously mentioned our first official appearance as a group and our first reach-out to fellow residents. We were nervous and very excited at the same time. Would anyone even join us while world-famous experts were elaborating the optimal management of difficult airways in the room next door? We were pleasantly surprised to find the small conference room filled with a bunch of curious young doctors, all passionate about airway management. Massimiliano Sorbello welcomed everyone and encouraged us to be brave, have fun and share our ideas. During the very interactive session we collected many ideas from the attendees. We will follow up those thoughts, look forward to collaborate in future international projects and hope to share some of it with you soon.

We would like to thank the European Airway Management Society, in particular, Robert Greif, Massimiliano Sorbello and Hans Huitink, for the kind invitation to actively participate in this wonderful conference. We are very humbled to be part of EAMS as a committee and to represent trainees from across Europe and we are looking forward to many new collaborations and projects in the new year. We will see you all in Amsterdam for WAMM 2019!

Wishing you all a joyful New Year! - TEAMS.

If you would like to contact TEAMS, please send us an e-mail (traineesams@gmail.com) or keep in touch via twitter @TraineesEAMS.

Reference

- [1] K.T. Saracoglu, et al., EAMS corner, Trends in Anaesthesia and critical Care, Trends Anaesth. Crit. Care 20 (2018) 55–56. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tacc.2018.04.008>.

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