

The 12th National Congress of the Romanian Association for Endoscopic Surgery, the 25th Annual Conference of the European Society of Surgery, the 14th Romanian National Symposium of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery and the 4th Romanian National Symposium of Robotic Surgery

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Last year we were honored to host in Bucharest the International Joint Meeting of the Romanian Association for Endoscopic Surgery (RAES) and the European Society of Surgery (ESS) between 31st of October – 3rd of November, at Crowne Plaza Hotel and Ramada Plaza Bucharest. The meeting comprised four important scientific events: The 12th National Congress of the Romanian Association for Endoscopic Surgery, for the first time in Romania the 25th Annual Conference of the European Society of Surgery, the 14th Romanian National Symposium of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery and the 4th Romanian National Symposium of Robotic Surgery.

The Congress was co-chaired by Victor Tomulescu (President of the RAES-ESS 2023).

International Joint Meeting), Ciprian Duță (President of the ESS) and Răzvan Popescu (President of the RAES) and the main theme was “Reshaping MIS through education”, underlining the focus of the RAES of being a strong promoter of surgical education. The scientific programme was intense, with 4 pre-congress courses, one course for students, all hands-on, 22 sessions, 2 plenary sessions, one roundtable, many oral and video presentations, e-posters, and corporate symposia. The meeting attracted a large number of participants, 514, surgeons, residents, and students, and we were delighted to see a large affluence of young surgeons. 120 speakers, from 24 countries, contributed to the

success of the event, along with 26 partners and exhibitors, and 12 media partners.

On 31st of October four pre-congress courses were held simultaneously in two locations, Crowne Plaza Hotel and Ramada Plaza Hotel, and they were fully booked.

The first course was “Anastomoses in laparoscopic surgery – sutures, knots, mechanical sutures”, having as directors Valeriu Șurlin (Craiova), Florin Turcu (Bucharest) and Ionuț Hutopilă (Bucharest). Designed for senior residents and young specialists, this hands-on course facilitated the improvement of surgical skills for basic needle manipulation, intra corporeal knot, running suture on biological tissue and linear stapling anastomosis. All the tasks were explained and supervised by the course directors and expert trainers.

The second course was “Abdominal ultrasound for surgeons”, having as course directors Călin Tiu (Câmpina) and Andreas Melzer (Leipzig, Germany), expressing an increasing interest for surgeons in having abilities in ultrasound exploration. The attendees were able to experience the examination of various intraabdominal organs and large vessels, also to understand the concept of FAST.

The third course was “Basics in laparoscopic surgery”, with Valentin Calu (Bucharest) and Florin Iordache (Bucharest) directing the course. Intended for young residents, it had a solid theoretical part with presentations delivered by experts, and a hands-on part, where the participants were able to learn and improve their basic surgical skills in MIS.

The fourth course was “Robotic surgery”, chaired by Victor Tomulescu (Bucharest) and Ovidiu Precup (Bucharest). The theory covered various aspects regarding robotic surgery - system presentation, moving, connecting, and starting of the system, overview of reusable accessories, disposables and instruments, draping of the system and docking configuration, port placement philosophy. The hands-on training session offered the participants the opportunity to practice training on the daVinci XI console, on experimental models, live tissue, dissection, suturing and third arm traction and contra traction.

The following days of the Congress exhibited

a huge interest for the participants, offering a dense and extremely well-constructed scientific programme, with presentations delivered in two halls simultaneously.

On Wednesday, 1st of November, Session I A – Video session, opened the Congress, having as Chairpersons Valentin Calu (Bucharest, Romania), Kenneth Campbell (Dundee, United Kingdom), and Bogdan-Valeriu Marțian (Bucharest, Romania), and summed up experts in MIS, presenting difficult procedures performed by laparoscopy: Minimal access para-aortic node dissection in colorectal cancer - Kenneth Campbell (Dundee, United Kingdom), Pure laparoscopic right hemihepatectomy without the use of ultrasonic dissector: case presentation - Florin Botea (Bucharest, Romania), Intraoperative complications in laparoscopic colorectal resections – worst case scenarios - Florin Grama (Bucharest, Romania), Robotic rectal resection – how I do it - Dorin-Eugen Popa (Linköping, Sweden), The advantages of robotic approach in challenging cases in thoracic surgery Felix Dobrițoiu (Bucharest, Romania), Thoracoscopic radical dissection of the esophagus for cancer Vasile Bințișan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy en-bloc with splenectomy for PanNET – video - Mihaela-Cristina Mișcă (Bucharest, Romania), Robotic surgery for median arcuate ligament syndrome - Bogdan-Valeriu Marțian (Bucharest, Romania), Laparoscopic resection of a retroperitoneal tumor – case report - Valentin Calu (Bucharest, Romania).

The following session in Hall 1 was dedicated to endocrine surgery. Chaired by Adrian Miron (Bucharest, Romania), Luc Arthur Michel (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), and Guido Gasparri (Turin, Italy), it included very interesting presentations covering the topic, such as: Risk assessment and training in laparoscopic transperitoneal adrenalectomy - Adrian Miron (Bucharest, Romania), Surgery for secondary and tertiary (renal) hyperparathyroidism: indications and technique - Guido Gasparri (Turin, Italy), Adrenals surgery: tips and tricks – nuts and bolts - Luc Arthur Michel (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), Emergency total thyroidectomy due to nontraumatic disease – experience

of an academic surgical unit - Giuliana Rachele Puglisi (Bari, Italy), Minimally invasive adrenalectomy – single center experience - Aleksandar Zlatarov (Varna, Bulgaria), Laparoscopic adrenalectomy: benefits, technique and complications - Sohaib Ahmed (Târgu Mureș, Romania).

In Hall 2, the morning started with Session I B – Abdominal wall surgery, organized in partnership with the Romanian Hernia Club, conducted by Dan Ulmeanu (Bucharest, Romania), Victor Radu (Bucharest, Romania) and Octavian Arnăutu (Bucharest, Romania). The delivered presentations were welcomed by the participants - Laparoscopic versus robotic approach in retromuscular repair of ventral hernias - Victor Radu (Bucharest, Romania), Recurrent groin hernias – still big challenge for surgeons - Giorgi Giorgobiani, Anzor Kvashilava (Tbilisi, Georgia), Laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair. Tips and tricks and difficult cases - Mark Coleman (Plymouth, United Kingdom), Outcome of inguinal hernia surgery done laparoscopically - retrospective analysis of 15 years Faris Dawood (Gladstone, Australia), Incarcerated Spiegel hernia with ovary – laparoscopic treatment – case report - Costin Duțu (Bucharest, Romania), Surgical treatment of incisional hernias – "open" surgery versus the laparoscopic technique - Bogdan Stelian Mastalier-Manolescu (Bucharest, Romania), Spiegelian Hernias, which approach: open, TAPP or step? - Marius Bica (Craiova, Romania), Electromyography as criteria of inguinal hernia repair result - Valerii Kryshen (Dnipro, Ukraine), Trocar-site incisional hernia postlaparoscopy literature review and case report study - Iuliana Dogaru (Constanța, Romania).

The following session was focused on education and was chaired by Mark Coleman (Plymouth, United Kingdom) - Co-Director Lapco International Consultancy and National Clinical Lead for the Lapco National Training Program for laparoscopic colorectal surgery, Valeriu Șurlin (Craiova, Romania) and Victor Tomulescu (Bucharest, Romania) – General Secretary of the RAES and LapCo Romania Coordinator. Aiming for ways for achieving the best results in MIS through education, the

speakers shared their expertise on various topics, such as: When to start basic laparoscopic education to obtain satisfactory results - Włodzimierz Majewski (Szczecin, Poland), Update on the Lapco programme - Mark Coleman (Plymouth, United Kingdom), Lapco Romania – Structurate training in laparoscopic colorectal surgery” - Victor Tomulescu (Bucharest, Romania), Modern training methods and factors influencing the acquisition of skills in robotic surgery - Turgay Kalinov (Varna, Bulgaria), Minimally invasive surgery training program for residents - Alexandru Ilie-Ene (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Genetic testing for gastrointestinal cancers - Andreea Cătană (Cluj-Napoca, Romania). During this session certificates of graduation of Lapco Romania Programme were presented to Valentin Calu, Valeriu Șurlin, Gerald Filip, Bogdan Smeu and Zoltan Kover, for having successfully completed the training path in laparoscopic colorectal surgery in LapCo Romania Programme.

During the morning, at Ramada Plaza Hotel, was held the Course of Basic Surgical Skills for Students, conducted by Bogdan Diaconescu (Bucharest, Romania). After the theoretical part, the future surgeons had the opportunity to practice hands-on continuous and interrupted suture, different type of knots, and exercise with laparoscopic instruments.

At noon, introduced by Victor Tomulescu, Olivia Sgarbură (Montpellier, France) delivered an excellent presentation - Education in surgery – a paradigm adjustment slalom, during “Corneliu Dragomirescu” Plenary lecture, in front of a large audience.

The Congress continued in Hall 1 with two sessions focused on colorectal surgery. Session III A – Colorectal surgery I, with chairpersons: Michel Adamina (Winterthur, Switzerland), Oana Stănciulea (Bucharest, Romania) and Antoni Szczepanik (Krakow, Poland), included presentations from renowned experts: Laparoscopic coloproctectomy for UC in patient with PSC waiting for liver transplant, Aleš Tomažič (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Surgery for Crohn's disease – current recommendations and European guidelines - Michel Adamina (Winterthur, Switzerland), Surgery for inflammatory bowel disease – when, where and how?

- Oana Stănciulea (Bucharest, Romania), Laparoscopic left colectomy with IMA preservation for diverticular disease: results from a multicentric study - Umberto Bracale (Naples, Italy), Minimally invasive techniques in the treatment of acute diverticulitis - Antoni Szczepanik (Krakow, Poland), Role of laparoscopy in acute abdominal conditions - Rossen Madjov (Varna, Bulgaria), Laparoscopic errors and stapling failures in relation to minimally invasive surgery - Tom Cecil (Basingstoke, United Kingdom), Bowel endometriosis – Bucharest Endometriosis Centre experience - Tanita Stancu (Bucharest, Romania).

After the break, the second session dedicated to colorectal surgery was chaired by Alberto Arezzo (Turin, Italy) and Florin Grama (Bucharest, Romania), and continued to keep alive the interest of the attendees with presentations as: Strategies for organ-sparing treatment - Alberto Arezzo (Turin, Italy), Transanal total mesorectal excision for cancer – a practical guide - Michel Adamina (Winterthur, Switzerland), Robotic CME - Kenneth Campbell (Dundee, United Kingdom), Rectal cancer surgery in the UK - Mark Coleman (Plymouth, United Kingdom), TTSS, standard coloanal or delayed coloanal anastomosis – how to choose? - Florin Grama (Bucharest, Romania), Robotic low anterior resection - Ion Zeca (Colmar, France), Peritoneal carcinomatosis of colorectal origin CRS+HIPEC - František Antoš, Petr Bartoška (Bulovka, Czech Republic).

The afternoon programme in Hall 2 gathered experts in MIS for Upper GI diseases. Chaired by Florin Turcu (Bucharest, Romania), György Lázár (Szeged, Hungary) and Fulger Lazăr (Timișoara, Romania) and focused on benign diseases, this session included interesting oral and video presentations: Giant esophageal epiphrenic diverticulum – how to avoid disaster when laparoscopic transhiatal resection is neither safe - Dragan Gunjic (Belgrade, Serbia), Transhiatal laparoscopic treatment of epiphrenic oesophageal diverticulum - György Lázár (Szeged, Hungary), Laparoscopic treatment of giant hiatal hernia with mesh reinforcement - Suren Stepanyan (Yerevan, Armenia), The use of resorbable meshes for hiatal hernias repair - Victor Diaconu (Bucharest, Romania), Review

& Long-term results of reinforcement of hiatal hernia repair - Cristian Boru (Rome, Italy), Laparoscopic surgery for hiatal hernia - Turgay Kalinov (Varna, Bulgaria), New perspective in the treatment of Boerhaave syndrome: a novel minimal invasive approach and literature review - Raluca Apostu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Epiphrenic esophageal diverticula – a therapeutic challenge - Mădălina-Georgiana Mitrea-Tocitu (Bucharest, Romania), Voluminous diaphragmatic hernia with upside-down incarcerated stomach - Octavian Arnăutu (Bucharest, Romania).

The last session of the day was a RAES-ESS Joint Session and was focused on Advances in oncologic surgery. Having as chairpersons Tom Cecil (Basingstoke, United Kingdom), Ferdinando Cafiero (Genoa, Italy) and Olivia Sgarbură (Montpellier, France), the session started with the Special conference ESS - The birth and the first twenty-five years of the European Society of Surgery, delivered by Luc Arthur Michel (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) and Carmel Lino Cutajar (Madliena, Malta). The following presentations were dedicated to peritoneal malignancies: More than 20 years' experience in the treatment of pseudomyxoma peritonei by cytoreductive surgery + HIPEC - František Antoš, Petr Bartoška (Bulovka, Czech Republic), Malignant peritoneal mesothelioma – the challenge of an orphan disease - Olivia Sgarbura (Montpellier, France), Multi-visceral small bowel transplantation for end stage pseudomyxoma - Tom Cecil (Basingstoke, United Kingdom), Management of peritoneal carcinomatosis of colorectal cancer - Cem Terzi (Izmir, Turkey), Controversies for the surgical management of peritoneal malignancy. An up-to-date debate - Adrian Bartoș (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Current management of melanoma - Ferdinando Cafiero (Genoa, Italy).

At the end of the day, we all attended the RAES-ESS International Joint Meeting Official Opening Ceremony. After the welcome messages from the Presidents of the Congress, a special moment was dedicated to honoring the Past Presidents of the RAES and their activity. The Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Prof. Alberto Arezzo in appreciation of his dedicated efforts and significant contributions

to the field of minimally invasive surgery. Two lectures completed this special moment - EAES curriculum and quality in surgery - Alberto Arezzo (Turin, Italy) and Reflections on medical error - Arthur Godfrey Felice (Msida, Malta).

Thursday, 2nd of November, was as busy and interesting as the previous one. It started in Hall 1 with Session V A – Solid organ minimally invasive surgery, moderated by Traian Dumitrașcu (Bucharest, Romania), L. Michael Brunt (Washington, U.S.A.), and Adrian Bartoș (Cluj-Napoca, Romania). The presentations covered difficult situations as: Minimally invasive pancreatic surgery – from laparoscopic distal pancreatectomy to robotic duodeno-pancreatectomy - Aleš Tomažič (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Minimally invasive pancreatectomies: the challenge of the facts through a Romanian perspective - Traian Dumitrașcu (Bucharest, Romania), Splenectomy for hematologic disorders of the spleen - L. Michael Brunt (Washington, U.S.A.), Minimally invasive techniques: percutaneous, laparoscopic, endoscopic – could they treat safely and effectively the cystic echinococcosis? - Bogdan Stelian Mastalier-Manolescu (Bucharest, Romania), Minimally invasive approach for distal pancreatic tumors: laparoscopy versus robotic surgery - Adrian Bartoș (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Laparoscopic living donor hepatectomy - Iulian Moșteanu (Bucharest, Romania), Different techniques to perform Pringle maneuver in laparoscopic and robotic liver surgery – technical notes - Silvia Malerba (Bari, Italy), Tranpleurodiaphragmatic approach for segment VIII liver hydatid cyst: role and place - Valeriu Șurlin (Craiova, Romania), Liver abscess caused by acute cholecystitis treated by laparoscopic vs open approach - Adnan Al Aloul (Râmnicu-Sărat, Romania).

In Hall 2 the morning started with Session V B – Biliary and emergency surgery, having as chairpersons: Florin Iordache (Bucharest, Romania), Rossen Madjov (Varna, Bulgaria) and Ciprian Duță (Timișoara, Romania). After the Special conference - Acute care surgery in the US, delivered by Pascal Fuschuber (San Francisco, U.S.A.), followed the presentations of interest for the audience: Therapeutic experience in elderly patients with biliary

diseases - Rossen Madjov (Varna, Bulgaria), Where is the gallbladder? - Dušan Leško (Kosice, Slovakia), Securing the base of the appendix during laparoscopic appendectomy - Samir Delibegovic (Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Diagnostic and therapeutic trends in acute appendicitis – a paradigm change - Florin Iordache (Bucharest, Romania), Multidisciplinary treatment of sarcoma - Matteo Mascherini (Genoa, Italy), The use of Indocyanine Green (ICG) for common bile duct (CBD) identification during cholecystectomy - David Andraș (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Laparoscopic REDO cholecystectomy for NEO-cholecyst. Myth or truth? - Dan Brebu (Timișoara, Romania), Laparoscopy for management of nontraumatic acute abdomen - Adrian Cotîrleț (Moinești, Romania).

The FUSE Workshop (Exhibition area, Primavera Hall), conducted by a very enthusiastic team of trainers: Bogdan Smeu (Bucharest, Romania), Bogdan Dumbravă (Bucharest, Romania) and Clarisa Bîrlog (Bucharest, Romania), attracted a lot of participants who were instructed about the proper use of surgical energy and made aware of the potential accidents that can occur due to incorrect techniques.

One of the most visited sessions during the Congress was SAGES Safe Chole Program – Minimizing complications during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Chaired by Cătălin Copăescu (Bucharest, Romania), it included very interesting presentations such as: The Safe Chole program - L. Michael Brunt (Washington, U.S.A.), Technical steps to prevent biliary and vascular injury - L. Michael Brunt (Washington, U.S.A.), The difficult cholecystectomy - Federico Serrot (Palm Beach Gardens, U.S.A.) and Management of bile duct injury - Pascal Fuschuber (San Francisco, U.S.A.).

In Hall 2 the roundtable dedicated to endoscopy was held. Conducted by Adrian Săftoiu (Bucharest, Romania), Răzvan Popescu (Constanța, Romania), Cristian Gheorghe (Bucharest, Romania) and Marcel Tanțău (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), the session covered various situations encountered in interventional endoscopy: Endoscopic papillectomy vs surgical ampullectomy for ampullary neoplasia -

Cristian Gheorghe (Bucharest, Romania), Minimally invasive approach after ERCP complications - Răzvan Popescu (Constanța, Romania), Basic endoscopy teaching for laparoscopic basic hands-on courses – looking to the future of endoscopic surgery - Włodzimierz Majewski (Szczecin, Poland), Stop the bleeding – endoscopic management of postoperative anastomotic site hemorrhage in colorectal surgery - Bogdan Dumbravă (Bucharest, Romania), Endoscopic R0 resections of digestive tube lesions - Marcel Tanțău (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

At the middle of the day, “Sergiu Duca” Plenary Lecture was introduced by Călin Tiu (Câmpina, Romania) and delivered by Andreas Melzer (Leipzig, Germany), with a conference about the journey from minimal invasive surgery to non-invasive surgery.

As an expression of RAES' interest in the development of young surgeons, the Young ARCE Committee was created, chaired by Clarisa Bîrlog with a very enthusiastic team. They had their first session, together with the Young EAES, „The present belongs to the connected surgeons”. Moderated by Clarisa Bîrlog (Bucharest, Romania), Daniel Felsenreich (Vienna, Austria) and Draga-Maria Mandi (Bucharest, Romania), the session included well received presentations: Social media for surgeons - Cristian Boru (Rome, Italy), Academic surgery – a career pathway - Piers Boshier (London, United Kingdom), Creating a society for young surgeons from the scratch – the Italian Model - Emanuele Botteri (Brescia, Italy), Where should I begin – opportunities for surgical training in Romania and abroad - Horea Bocșe (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Surgical training in non-technical skills - Clarisa Bîrlog (Bucharest, Romania), Young IFSO - Bariatric surgery and scientific work for young surgeons - Daniel Felsenreich (Vienna, Austria), Choosing the hardest subspecialty – learning curves and personal life perspectives - Marta Botti (Pavia, Italy), Future of surgery and digitalization - Pietro Mascagni (Strasbourg, France). During this session Diplomas for Excellent Contribution, in acknowledgment of their commendable dedication and emerging impact in the domain

of minimally invasive surgery, were presented to Clarisa Bîrlog, Emanuele Botteri and Marta Botti. Also, Diplomas for Rising Star Awards, in recognition of their great accomplishments and promising future in the field of minimally invasive surgery, were presented to Horea Bocșe, Piers Boshier, Daniel Felsenreich, Draga-Maria Mandi and Pietro Mascagni.

In Hall 2 a great session focused on Upper GI cancers was chaired by Cătălin Copăescu (Bucharest, Romania), Umberto Bracale (Naples, Italy) and Federico Serrot (Palm Beach Gardens, U.S.A.). Renowned experts shared their expertise during the session, delivering the following presentations: Laparoscopic approach for locally advanced gastric cancer: is it always the best choice? - Umberto Bracale (Naples, Italy), Updates in robotic foregut surgery - Federico Serrot (Palm Beach Gardens, U.S.A.), Minimally invasive radical gastrectomy for cancer – standard of care in the era of precision medicine - Dragan Gunjic (Belgrade, Serbia), Robotic D2 plus lymphadenectomy in gastric cancer - Giusto Pignata (Brescia, Italy), Minimally invasive options in the treatment of thoracic esophageal cancer - Silviu Constantinoiu (Bucharest, Romania), Robotic D2 total gastrectomy - Bogdan-Valeriu Marțian (Bucharest, Romania), The minimally invasive approach to adenocarcinoma of the esophagogastric junction – the experience of the "Sf. Maria" General and Esophageal Surgery Clinic - Rodica Bîrlă (Bucharest, Romania).

During the coffee break the second part of the FUSE workshop was held.

The day ended in hall 1 with another session aimed on colorectal surgery, moderated by Dorin-Eugen Popa (Linköping, Sweden), Adrian Hotineanu (Chișinău, Republic of Moldova) and Tamaz Gvenetadze (Tbilisi, Georgia). The audience received interesting and up-to-date information through presentations: Intra-operative neuromonitoring in rectal surgery - Antoni Szczepanik (Krakow, Poland), Swedish model for treating colo-rectal cancer - Dorin-Eugen Popa (Linköping, Sweden), Management of locally advanced rectal cancer - Cem Terzi (Izmir, Turkey), Synchronous metastatic colorectal cancer in the liver. Laparoscopic,

open and combined approach. The safety and feasibility of the approach - Adrian Hotineanu (Chişinău, Republic of Moldova), Low tie of IMA combined with central lymph node dissection for laparoscopic low resection of rectal cancer. Is it worth the effort? - Vasile Binţinţan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Laparoscopic management of synchronous colonic tumors - Mihaela-Cristina Mişcă (Bucharest, Romania), Applications of NIR-ICG fluorescence in colon cancer surgery - Vlad Făgărăşan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Treatment of perineal hernia developed after the Quénu-Miles operation - Tamaz Gvenetadze (Tbilisi, Georgia), Management of local-invasive colorectal cancer complicated by intestinal obstruction - Valerii Kryshen (Dnipro, Ukraine).

The last session of the day in Hall 2 was the SMIT Session, already a tradition in RAES Congresses. Conducted by Călin Tiu (Câmpina, Romania), Andreas Melzer (Leipzig, Germany) and Francisco Miguel Sanchez Margallo (Cáceres, Spain), this part brought in front of the audience, as always, the latest developments in surgical technology: Advances in imaging guided robotics - Andreas Melzer (Leipzig, Germany), 30 years of experience in minimally invasive surgical innovation: Collaborations with Romania - Francisco Miguel Sanchez Margallo (Cáceres, Spain), Mixed Reality in medical Education based on Interactive Applications (MIREIA) - Juan Alberto Sanchez Margallo (Cáceres, Spain), The liability of surgeons in the case of robotic surgery - Raluca Nanu, Florian Nanu (Bucharest, Romania), The obvious increase in surgeons' interest in ultrasound correlated with the appearance of a generation of high performance pocket-ultrasound machines - Călin Tiu (Câmpina, Romania).

At the end of the day the RAES General Assembly was held. After the reports about the activity of the society, Răzvan Popescu stepped down as a President, passing the torch to Dan Ulmeanu, who will act as President for the next two years. Elections were held for the 2025 – 2027 mandate, Victor Tomulescu was elected as President of RAES, and Valentin Calu, as General Secretary.

On Friday, the 3rd of November, the last day

of the Congress was The National Symposium of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, organized in partnership with The Romanian Society for Metabolic Surgery. Divided into three parts, all in Hall I, the symposium attracted a large number of surgeons, because of the increasing interest and practice in this domain.

Part I, Interdisciplinary management of patients with obesity, was chaired by Florinela Cătoi-Galea (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Alfonso Barbarisi (Naples, Italy) and Daniel Felsenreich (Vienna, Austria). After the official opening delivered by Cătălin Copăescu (Bucharest, Romania), the speakers addressed the topic with excellent skills: Latest development of anti-obesity drugs - Florinela Cătoi-Galea (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), 2022 IFSO-ASMBS Guidelines for Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery RSMS Guidelines - Ciprian Duţă (Timişoara, Romania), Is there a weight limit for intragastric balloons? - Simona Filip (Bucharest, Romania), The minimally invasive approach to the treatment of severe obesity through endoscopic gastroplasty - Gabriele De Sena (Naples, Italy), Trends and safety of bariatric revisional surgery in Italy: multi-center, prospective, observational study - Cristian Boru (Rome, Italy), Reflux and hiatal hernias in one anastomosis gastric bypass - Daniel Felsenreich (Vienna, Austria), Hypovitaminosis after bariatric surgery: frequency, mechanisms, and supplementation - Luigi Schiavo (Salerno, Italy).

Part II, Outcomes of BMS, conducted by Bogdan Smeu (Bucharest, Romania), Luigi Schiavo (Salerno, Italy) and Cristian Boru (Rome, Italy), continued the series of presentations: Correlation of pre and post operatory values of adiponectine with il-6 and tnf- α inflammatory markers in patients affected by severe obesity - Gabriel Verdeş (Timişoara, Romania), Thromboprophylaxis in bariatric surgery – actual guidelines and clinical impact - Doina Dimulescu (Bucharest, Romania), Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for predicting post-sleeve gastrectomy outcomes - Bogdan Smeu (Bucharest, Romania), Re Sleeve – Long term results (Five years +) - Simona Filip (Bucharest, Romania), Cholelithiasis for a benign obstructive jaundice in a gastric bypass

patient - Silviu-Tiberiu Makkai-Popa (Braşov, Romania), Gut microbiota and metabolic status shift 1 year after laparoscopic Ren-Y vs. One anastomosis gastric bypass. Results of a multicenter RCT - Cristian Boru (Rome, Italy), Sarcopenia after bariatric surgery: is protein the answer to prevention? - Luigi Schiavo (Salerno, Italy), Gastric sleeve redo after endosleeve - Ionuț Hutopilă (Bucharest, Romania), Gastric sleeve in a case of total situs inversus - Alexandru Velici (Bucharest, Romania).

Last, but not least, part III was as appealing as the previous ones to the audience. The interactive session "RSMS Cup", a premiere format for our congresses, challenged bariatric teams from different regions and it was moderated by Cătălin Copăescu and Rubin Munteanu. This year the "RSMS Cup" was won by the team from Moldova: Ivan Cucu, Ion Cotoneț, Natalia Lisnic, Irina Lisnic, Tatiana Malcova and Dumitru Cazacu. The second part of the last session was focused on the management of complications and challenging cases, and moderated by Ciprian Duță (Timișoara, Romania) and Gabriele De Sena (Naples, Italy), the last session showed difficult situations during bariatric surgery: Hiatal hernia repair during sleeve gastrectomy – intraoperative pitfalls and incidents - Ionuț Hutopilă (Bucharest, Romania), Intraoperative incidents in bariatric surgery – A highway to disaster - Răzvan Popescu (Constanța, Romania), Management of intraoperative complications during to conversion of sleeve gastrectomy to SASI-S – video presentation - Bogdana Bănescu (Bucharest, Romania), Rare complication after bariatric revisional surgery – gastric remnant and duodenal invagination - Diana Stănescu (Bucharest, Romania), Laparoscopic pancreaticoduodenectomy after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass – case report - Silviu-Tiberiu Makkai-Popa (Braşov, Romania).

The Symposium was closed with the RSMS General Assembly.

In hall II, during the last day of the Congress, there were three sessions.

The urology video session, chaired by Nicolae Crişan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and Dan Rădăvoi (Bucharest, Romania), showed the high level of expertise achieved in MIS in

urology, proved by video presentations: Interaortocaval retroperitoneal lymphadenectomy by laparoscopic 3D approach - Maximilian Buzoianu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), 3D Laparoscopic radical nephrectomy for a renal tumor with thrombus extension in the renal vein - Ionuț-Andrei Furcoiu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), 3D Laparoscopic partial nephrectomy for a renal tumor in contact with the renal pedicle - Ionuț-Andrei Furcoiu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), MRI-US fusion transrectal prostate biopsy: targeting anterior lesions - Teodora Telecan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

The next session was focused on endometriosis. Moderated by Voicu Simedrea (Timișoara, Romania), Elvira Bratilă (Bucharest, Romania) and Rubin Munteanu (Bucharest, Romania), this part succeeded to prove the challenges the surgeon has to face during the treatment of this disease: Radicality concept in deep endometriosis surgery – how much is too much? - Voicu Simedrea (Timișoara, Romania), The place of robotic surgery in endometriosis and adenomyosis - Elvira Bratilă (Bucharest, Romania), Ileon and cecum endometriosis – tips and tricks - Rubin Munteanu (Bucharest, Romania), Challenges in ovarian endometrioma surgery - Ionuț-Adrian Ion (Bucharest, Romania), Intraoperative assessment of digestive anastomosis in endometriosis surgery - Gabriel Verdeș (Timișoara, Romania).

The last session of the day in this hall was Varia. Conducted by Vasile Bințișan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and Bogdan Diaconescu (Bucharest, Romania), it included interesting presentations on various topics, as: Transanal endoscopic resection of rectal tumors. Our experience - Vasile Bințișan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Genetic landscapes of colorectal cancer: from heredity to tumor biology - Anca-Teodora Neacșu (Bucharest, Romania), Laparoscopic curative splenic flexure resection with inferior mesenteric vein preservation – case report and literature review - Silviu-Tiberiu Makkai-Popa (Braşov, Romania), Necessity meets affordability: financing and cost-effectiveness in the age of advanced surgical innovation for colorectal cancer - Ionuț Negoi (Bucharest, Romania), Identification of the ureter during mesenteric dissection for

minimally invasive left colectomy – anatomic landmarks and step by step procedure - David Andraş (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Functional outcomes after laparoscopic versus robotic-assisted rectal resection - Loredana Bărbulescu (Bucharest, Romania), Role of ICG for ureteral perfusion assessment during robotic radical cystoprostatectomy with intracorporeal Bricker urinary diversion - Teodora Telecan (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Mesh infection after TAPP for inguinal hernia – case report - Doru Moga (Sibiu, Romania), Pudendal neuralgia – a common cause of pelvic pain - Anda-Iustina Sîmbotin (Bucharest, Romania).

The closing ceremony concluded this successful international scientific event.

Throughout the Congress in the exhibition area a video-marathon was accessible to participants, where all accepted videos and e-posters were broadcast continuously.

All our foreign guests, attending as speakers and adding value to this scientific event, received a Diploma for Outstanding Contribution, in recognition of their outstanding professional endeavors and invaluable advancements in the field of minimally invasive surgery.

The most valuable presentations were awarded by the organizing Committee, as follows:

A. e-Posters Awards:

- Third Prize - The third prize consists of complimentary registration for the RAES Congress in 2025 – presented for:

1. The preliminary part of the consensus for laparoscopy in trauma - Tiberiu-Bogdan Giumba (Bucharest, Romania).
2. The impact of diabetes on postoperative survival in patients with colorectal cancer - Nicoleta Leopa (Constanța, Romania).
3. Combined endoscopic and surgical management for acute fistula after laparoscopic gastric sleeve insures

patient's survival - Radu-Răzvan Scurtu (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

- Best e-Poster presentation - The first prize consists of complimentary registration for the EAES 2024 Congress. – awarded for:

Ureteral and bowel deep infiltrating endometriosis – surgical management of a challenging case - Sabrina-Florentina Florea (Bucharest, Romania)

B. “Corneliu Dragomirescu” special Award

The special prize was awarded for the best oral presentation delivered by a doctor under the age of 40. The prize consists of complimentary registration for a course organized by RAES in 2024, at choice.

Laparoscopic REDO cholecystectomy for NEO-cholecyst Myth or truth? - Dan Brebu (Timișoara, Romania)

C. “Adrian Lobonțiu” special Award for new technologies in surgery

The special prize was awarded for the best video presentation delivered by a doctor under the age of 40. The prize consists of a €2500 scholarship for a course abroad.

Laparoscopic adrenalectomy: benefits, technique, and complications - Sohaib Ahmed (Târgu Mureș, Romania).

We can conclude that the International Joint Meeting of the Romanian Association for Endoscopic Surgery (RAES) and the European Society of Surgery (ESS) was a success, with a very good feed-back from the participants and raising the standards for future congresses.

This year RAES continues its activity with the Symposium on Innovation on Surgery, organized by the EAES, hosted in Bucharest by Cătălin Copăescu, 22nd – 24th of February 2024, and, in the fall, the 15th Romanian National Symposium of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery and the 5th Romanian National Symposium of Robotic Surgery.