

## **Trauma leagues: A novel option to attract medical students to a surgical career**

**By:** Professor Dr. Gustavo Pereira Fraga, MD

“When the opportunity to submit a proposal to the WS-2018 course came up, the Division of Trauma Surgery prepared a Trauma-orientated course, but focusing on the medical student’s point of view, since Trauma is already subject of study in every country and there are excellent capacitated professional throughout the world to approach the different themes of this disease.

An adopted strategy by the Division to show this different view about Trauma was to utilize the theme “Trauma Leagues, a novel option to attract medical students to a surgical career”, from an article contained in a Master’s Degree thesis published by our institution on World Journal of Surgery, this year’s February.

A one-week schedule was prepared so medical students from other countries could experience and know the reality of Trauma, followed by members of the UNICAMP Trauma League (graduation medical students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> years). This way, the interaction between the Brazilian students and the foreign ones would be an experience exchange, not only academic, but cultural as well. The Trauma course received 24 foreign students’ inscriptions (27% of the total 89 inscriptions).

The five days dedicated to this course on July worked as a great exchange of experiences with important moments. In each day, a different theme was approached, in a way which Dr. Gustavo P. Fraga, the Division of Trauma Surgery coordinator, presented the UNICAMP Trauma League experience, a genuinely Brazilian creation from 1992, along with Professor Dr. Mario Mantovani; Dr. Thiago R. A. Calderan, former Trauma League member and its current coordinator, presented the League’s activities performed in accordance with the pillars teaching-research-extension; Dr. Bruno M. Pereira, the discipline’s assisting doctor, showed the experience of the Trauma Surgeon and the importance of critical patient care; and Dr. Alcir E. Dorigatti, currently trauma surgery resident and former Trauma League president, answered all questions on how to create a Trauma League and its extension programs.

The seven Trauma course participating students, from Colombia, England and Ireland – together with League members Ana Paula da Silva Rios, Diego Mazzoli Gutierrez, Fernanda Cristina dos Santos, Igor Augusto Cocielli Gonçalves, Isaque Miguel Pires and João Pedro Barbosa Paludetto – participated in the clinical cases discussion presented by the Trauma Surgery residents, the Trauma Surgery meeting spoken in English, the televised medical discussion with other countries and performed a simulated Trauma intervention, in the Emergency Simulation Room, at the SMS’s Abilities Lab – UNICAMP.

The students got the see different hospital areas that encompass the care of a Trauma patient, since the admission at the Reference Emergency Unit (our E.R.) to the Surgical Center (our O.R.), the Trauma ICU and the Trauma Ward. In addition to this, they also visited the Radiology service, under the guidance of former Trauma League member and currently radiology resident Dr. Cristiano Novack and the Blood Bank, Cell Processing Lab and UNICAMP Hemocenter, guided by Dr. Angela M. Luzo, Medical

Director of the Transfusion Service and Dr. Bruno D. Benites. The students also experienced the P.A.R.T.Y. prevention and extension program, presented by the League alongside its partners: EMDEC (our Municipal Traffic Authority, represented by institutional director, Guilherme Damasceno), SAMU Campinas (our Emergency Medical Service, with Nurse Ana Paula) e Highway Military Police (with Police Sergeant Anderson Pieroni), with some of the presentations being translated into English by the local students, with the special voluntary participation of Irahay Tedesco Jr. (mostly known just as Junior), one of our former trauma patients, currently in physical rehabilitation.

Outward activities were also done, with guided visits to local Pre-Hospital Trauma Care units, such as SAMU Campinas, with the students being welcomed by the SAMU General Coordinator, Dr. Elisangela Nonato and the nurses Ana Paula and Valdir, and the State Police Air Service base, being able to see how the rescue helicopter (callsign "Eagle") works, with the help of Flight Nurse Private Sousa and the medical context of aerial rescue presented by Dr. Ricardo Vanzetto.

Cultural activities were also organized by the League members, who took the foreign students to see typical Brazilian traditions, such as some of our foods "tapioca" and "brigadeiro", at the local fair that is regularly hosted at the campus, a pizza and meat festival, and a night party, to enjoy our world famous cocktail called "caipirinha". In addition to this, they also got the chance to enjoy watching some FIFA World Cup games together, including the Colombia vs. England game, which shook our hospital cantina in a Tuesday afternoon.

The current Trauma League president, Ana Paula Rios, who participated as a guide, said "[she] didn't imagine that she would enjoy the activities so much, as well as the experience sharing with the foreign students, having liked it a lot and already missing it."

Mohamed Elbuzidi, student from King's College London (also known as King's), thanked all involved, considering that everyone, professors, residents and students, received him with great care, "in a way in which [he] was treated as part of the family". Having traveled all this huge distance, even without speaking the local language, was an extremely rewarding experience.

Daniel Mejia, one of the Colombian students, also praised all activities and considered that "there were many productive moments" and is thinking about creating and developing a Trauma League in his town, Cali.

With these words, we are sure that our objectives have been met, showing the background of trauma care, sharing experiences and presenting a bit of our local reality and culture.

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participating students:

Daniel Esteban Mejia –University of the Valley. Cali, Colombia.

Danika M. C. Crooks - Trinity College. Dublin, Ireland.

Juan Esteban P. Echeverry – Colombia National University. Bogota, Colombia.

Julieth Buell – Colombia National University. Bogota, Colombia.

Maria Camila R. Tincon – Society of Jesus's Javerian Pontifical University. Bogota, Colombia.

Mohamed Elbuzidi – King's College London. London, England.

Natalia Suta – Colombia National University. Bogota, Colombia.