My general objective as a member of the Board of Trauma and Emergency Surgery of the Spanish Surgical Association for the scholarship awarded was to help improve trauma care both in the city of Zaragoza and in Spain. From the clinical standpoint, I programmed two one-week visits to Level One Trauma Centers for observer rotation purposes: the Memorial Hermann in Houston, Texas (October 14th through 17th), and the Los Angeles County Hospital (LAC + USC), in California (October 21st through 25th). Also, in Texas, I made time to participate in the AABB/THOR Massive Hemorrhage Workshop held in San Antonio on October 18th. I concluded my program by participating in the different activities at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, held in San Francisco between October 27th and 30th.

My visit to the “Red Duke Trauma Center” at the Memorial Hermann Hospital, Houston, developed under the mentorship of Bryan Cotton MD, FACS, who gave me a tour through the facilities (including the emergency department, the operating rooms, the surgical intensive care unit or SICU, and the helipad for medical transfer.) During this one-week rotation, I learned about their clinical practice guidelines for resuscitation program and the use of whole blood for the severe trauma patients with hypotension. I visited the OR on several occasions, as an observer, where I was able to see their trauma set up and task assignment. I also went along with the team every time there was a trauma-team-activation call from the emergency department. There I could witness their action daily.

I attended the daily handover of patients and discussed the patient’s status in the SICU, with particular emphasis on the patients admitted the day before. I also went to the M&M (morbidity and mortality) session with the active participation of trauma fellows and resident students, where trauma complicated cases were discussed regarding issues such as management, complication causes, and treatment options for the several cases presented. I also was at a conference given by Dr. Cotton at Houston’s MD Anderson Cancer Center, related to future research projects on resuscitation damage control. Additionally, I had the opportunity to spend some valuable time after the daily clinical activities at the TMC Library, where I got online access to a vast number of e-books, journals, and other publications, using a temporary ID.
Before leaving Texas, I traveled to San Antonio (Friday 10/18), where experts from around the world got together the Trauma Oxygenation and Hemostasis Research (THOR) workshop as a part of the AABB Congress. **Whole Blood Transfusion Program** was presented during the event as the ideal resuscitation product for cases of severe bleeding. It counted with the participation of Dr. Jennifer Gurney, who discussed several aspects of its use in military scenarios as well as the future of synthetic blood with oxygen-carrying capacities. Particular emphasis, with tips and advice, was given on how to start a Whole Blood Transfusion Program in other communities, using the model in practice in San Antonio, Texas, as an example.

From Texas, I went to Los Angeles, California. The LAC + USC Hospital / Level 1 Trauma Center was selected for the second observation rotation week. There, I was hosted by Professor Demetriades and by other Trauma Department members, from whom I had an excellent opportunity to learn about Trauma Teamwork Management and its corresponding activation protocols as used at ALC. I got so impressed by their teaching spirit and the high-quality standards exhibited that I plan to set forward this model of trauma care in my department in Zaragoza. There I was able to participate in the daily handovers, morning teaching sessions, trauma team activation calls, and emergency OR. In afternoon sessions, I saw how the patients’ plans of care were updated, and strategies set forward to optimize their treatment. I had, additionally, the opportunity to visit the fresh cadaver dissection lab, where I participated, along with the trauma fellow, exposure practices, and surgical techniques. Another enriching activity was the session with the research fellows of the department because it let me learn about their work strategies toward future departmental research projects.

Dr. Bryan Cotton, MD, FACS and Dr. Carlos Yánez, MD, FACS in the Memorial Hermann Emergency Department.
Dr. Elizabeth Benjamin MD, FACS, Dr. Carlos Yánez MD, FACS and Dr. Demetrio Demetriades MD, FACS in the Trauma and Acute Care Department of the LAC Hospital.
From Los Angeles, I went to San Francisco to participate in the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, held at the Moscone Convention Center. On Sunday, 10/27, I assisted to the **Annual Update on Trauma** pre-congress course, conducted by Dr. Kenji Inaba, which consisted of a handy and condensed set of lectures with updating concepts and aspects regarding trauma care. Later that evening, started the meeting formally, with the President’s Reception for New Fellows. The next day (Monday 10/28), I was escorted, along with the others, by Dr. Herbert Garcia (Panama) and Dr. Jeremy Kauffman (USA) to the opening ceremony of the CV American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. Later, I attended the International Reception. I presented an E-Poster on “**Extremity Tourniquet Workshop Evaluation during the XI Spanish Medical Education Congress.**” During this event, I had the opportunity to meet and share with international fellows from around the world. It was an excellent opportunity for networking and planning for future projects.

**Annual Trauma Update Course with Dr. Kenji Inaba MD, FACS from LAC + USC.**
Uploading the e-Poster at the Moscone Convention Center speaker ready room.

On Tuesday, 10/29, at the International Relations Committee Meeting, I was introduced to the Committee members. It was a fantastic opportunity for me to meet and share experiences with so many other highly qualified surgeons, invited scholars from around the world. For me, this was one of the most gratifying aspects of the meeting. I had the opportunity to attend the Stop the Bleed “Bleeding Control Course” version 2.0, where I received updates of the course. Very useful since I am a Stop the Bleed Ambassador, and as such, coordinate the course at the University of Zaragoza and Aragon’s public health system (SALUD). In the afternoon, I attended the International Scholars & Travelers Luncheon honoring the Class of 2019, and, during the evening, went to the Governors Reception and Dinner. On Wednesday, 10/30, I participated in the International Scholars and Travelers 2019, where I presented the session “Educational Programs in Zaragoza, Spain”.

International Guest Scholars Class of 2019.
Stop the Bleeding Course and Course poster with Dr. Lenworth Jacobs, MD, FACS.

Governors Reception and Dinner with Dr. Valerie W Rusch, MD, FACS (ACS President).

I recognize that some of the acquired experience is worth highlighting, such as the updates in current practice for resuscitation, and the use of whole in massive bleeding. Regarding trauma care in the emergency and OR, the experience of Trauma Team Activation protocols and Trauma team dynamics learned at Los Angeles County
Hospital in California will be handy. And last but not least important, the opportunity to interact with so many other health care professionals from the United States and all over the world. I return home updated and with a full set of new ideas to implement in my daily practice.

Dr. Carlos Yáñez Benítez, MD, MSc, FACS
International guest scholar of 2019
General and GI Surgery
Acute Care and Trauma Surgery
Zaragoza, Spain