



#### Sherif Awad (UK)

Sherif Awad is Consultant Bariatric & Laparoscopic Surgeon and Clinical Lead for the East-Midlands Bariatric & Metabolic Institute (EMBMI) based at Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Derby, United Kingdom. He is also Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham. He read medicine at the University of St. Andrews/Manchester and qualified in 2001.

His surgical training was undertaken in Manchester, the East-Midlands, and London. He completed his PhD into the metabolic and cellular effects of preoperative carbohydrate that are used in Enhanced Recovery Programs.

His research was awarded numerous international and national research prizes and medals. He has over 50 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters and delivered over 40 international presentations. He has co-authored international guidelines on enhanced recovery after bariatric surgery.

Sherif enjoys change management activities and has led the transformation of the Bariatric Unit in Derby into an acclaimed Centre offering high-volume, fasttrack bariatric surgery.



### **Benoît Plaud** (France)

Professor Benoît Plaud, MD, PhD, is currently professor and chair of anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine department at the University Hospital Paris-Diderot, Saint-Louis. He is the national academic director of the French Anaesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine Residency Program.

Professor Plaud has been editor-in-chief of *Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine* journal (the official scientific journal of the French society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine) and board member of the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*.

He completed his medical course and residency in anaesthesiology and surgical intensive care at the University of Paris. Professor Plaud has been head of University Department of Anaesthesiology in Caen and in Paris at the Adolph de Rothschild Foundation (private hospital).

Besides clinical activities, management of operating room, and teaching, he has been involved in research works on the pharmacology of neuromuscular blocking agents for more than 25 years. In this setting, he was visiting professor at the University of Montreal in the department of Professor François Donati.



### Manfred Blobner (Germany)

Professor Doctor Manfred Blobner is Senior Consultant and Vice Director of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, School of Medicine, Technical University of Munich.

During the last 26 years at the department he inaugurated and chaired seven clinical and experimental research groups which became independent under his former assistants and followers and are still working in their respective fields successfully. He still keeps the lead of the research group on Neuromuscular Physiology and Pharmacology. He is author of 148 manuscripts published in international journals (WOS h-index is 27). He is chief investigator of ESA CTN's POPULAR study.



#### **Thomas Fuchs-Buder** (France)

Thomas Fuchs-Buder, MD, PhD, is a professor of anesthesia and critical care at the University Hospital, Nancy. He is the director of the OR department and head of ambulatory anesthesia.

Dr. Fuchs-Buder studied medicine in Giessen, Germany, and Geneva, Switzerland, and earned his medical degree at the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen. He completed his doctoral thesis at the University of Geneva and continued his training in anesthesia and critical care at the Geneva University Hospital.

Dr. Fuchs-Buder is coeditor of the *European Journal of Anaesthesiology*, chair of the research committee of the European Society of Anaesthesia (ESA), and author of the chapter, "Neuromuscular Monitoring" in *Miller's Anesthesia* (9th edition).

His research interests include the pharmacology and physiology of neuromuscular transmission.



### Franca Melfi (Italy)

Franca Melfi is Professor of Thoracic Surgery at the Medical School of the University of Pisa and Chair of Robotic Multidisciplinary Centre for Surgery - Thoracic MIS and Robotic Surgery at the University Hospital of Pisa.

Educated in Italy, she continued her university studies at Medical School of the University of Pisa where she received her MD degree and completed her residency in General Thoracic Surgery.

#### Franca Melfi Continued

Franca Melfi is currently involved in several research projects at the University of Pisa, in cooperation with other clinical institutions and active author of scientific publications. In 2005, along with a group of professional women, she founded the ONG Association AIDA space after AIDA (Women Association against Lung Cancer) with the intent to share experience relative to neoplastic lung pathology in women, to disseminate information, mentor young trainees, transfer data within the context of programmes and social initiatives of pragmatic intervention. Working within this Association, she has been carrying on the research program regarding Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) and K-Ras Mutations in Adenocarcinoma of the lung, in cooperation with the Oncological Institute of Tuscany (ITT) and other European institutions. She is presently focusing her research work on the application of high-technology in surgery (Robotic Surgery), focusing on lung cancer, and mediastinum surgery for the standardization of the procedures.

In addition to being Professor of Thoracic Surgery, she is also an authorized European Tutor and Proctor for robotic thoracic procedures. Furthermore, she focuses her teaching activity on telementoring and cross-Europe-tutoring using the latest technologies available in thoracic surgery.

She is author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, in addition to authoring a variety of book chapters focused on Thoracic Robotic Surgery.



### Philippe Richebé (Canada)

Philippe Richebé, MD, PhD, DESAR, is Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at University of Montreal. He is the Director of the Research Committee of this department. He is also part of the organization committee of the Anesthesia Society of Quebec (AAQ) meeting and the President of the FARQ (Foundation for Anesthesia and Intensive Care of Quebec). He was trained and worked in Europe the in the USA, where he spent 5 years at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, as Associate Professor. In 2014 he moved to Montreal to his new position as Professor in the department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

His PhD was in Neurosciences and Neuropharmacology, and he has worked for more than 20 years on perioperative pain management, opioid-induced hypersensitivity, nociception monitoring during surgery, and now on the impact of deep neuromuscular blockade on perioperative pain and postoperative patients' recovery.

He is now conducting an independent investigator-initiated trial in collaboration with the company Merck Canada on this latter topic.

He has published more than 90 articles and reviews in peer-reviewed journals and also more than 15 book chapters. He has given more than 100 invited lectures at a national and international level.



#### Jacob Rosenberg (Denmark)

Jacob Rosenberg, MD, DSc, is a professor and chief surgeon at Herlev Hospital and University of Copenhagen in Denmark. He received his medical degree and doctor of science degree (DSc) from the University of Copenhagen.

Professor Rosenberg has authored or co-authored nearly 847 publications, including 766 scientific articles, 53 book chapters, and 28 textbooks, and has delivered several hundred scientific lectures internationally and within Denmark, and has a current H-index of 71.. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, US.

Professor Rosenberg has been editor-in-chief for *Ugeskrift for Læger* and the *Danish Medical Journal*. He was also a member of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) for 7 years and is past president of The Royal Copenhagen Medical Society.

Scientifically, he has worked for years in the crossroad between anesthesia and surgery and always with a focus on patient outcome.



### Massimiliano Sorbello (Italy)

Born on September 10, 1973, in Catania, Italy, where he graduated as Medical Doctor in 1998 and became anesthesiologist in 2002, Massimiliano Sorbello is an airway enthusiastic anesthesiologist working in a large University hospital in Catania, with amazing views between Mount Etna, the Mediterranean Sea, and centuries of history.

He has been working in different specialties in Operatory Room and in ICU, and he is also in charge of Airway Management teaching programs in postgraduate School in Anesthesia and Intensive Care of many Italian universities. He is past chair of the Italian national Society of Anesthesia Airway Management research group and he is chair of the European Society of Anaesthesiologists (ESA) Subcommitee 11 (Respiration and airway management) and President-elect of the European Airway Management Society. He has served as speaker in many congresses, workshops, and scientific meetings in Italy and worldwide, where he enjoys in meeting international airway experts and friends and enthusiastic people with whom to share knowledge and experiences. He is part of many international committees, including the ASA Difficult Airway Management guidelines task force and the PUMA (project for universal management of the airway) project.

He is also author or co-author of many scientific papers, books, websites, modules, and e-learning platforms.

When he is not working or sitting in front of his Mac, you could find him traveling or diving down deep in his beloved Mediterranean Sea.