



Osteosynthesis &
Trauma Care Foundation

OTC FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dear friends:

It is an honor for me to spearhead this newsletter as president of the General Assembly of OTC Foundation. As a specialist in Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery I am aware of the constant need for training. The fundamental pillars of this training for any physician, must include clinical practice, teaching, research, and economic management

As you likely know, OTC is a non-profit foundation whose objective is the advancement of evidence based osteosynthesis and trauma care, done through the promotion and support of education, research and improvements in clinical practice around the world.

As the year draws to a close and I reflect back on 2023, I am pleased to recognize that the OTC has met our goals. The various chapters around the world have carried out many training activities, including accredited courses and other educational events (e.g. webinars), symposia, forums. I encourage you to read about the activities carried out by the 19 local OTC chapters around the world elsewhere in the this newsletter. All local OTC chapters have organized courses to train surgeons in every stage of practice and experience from beginner, advanced, to expert. The OTCF Research Committee vetted grant applications and awarded four grants to advance orthopaedic science and then met just last month to move on to the next cycle of research endeavors.

Thanks to the invaluable help and constant trust of Stryker, our main grantor, we have been able to overcome the current difficulties caused by inflation and growing bureaucracy in teaching and research. Increased transparency and close interaction with our Stryker colleagues, as well as a fundamental respect for the code of conduct of our own internal management has been crucial to this relationship.

This year we celebrated our General Assembly on June 15 in Madrid, where the presidential handover took place. After two years of impeccable leadership and unmatched commitment, Dr. Oliver Trapp handed over the presidency to me. Dr. Trapp leaves the OTCF in an extremely stable, even enviable position that will be very difficult to surpass. Dr. Trapp assumed the position of immediate past president. Dr. Stefan Clockaerts was introduced as Incoming President, who will succeed my term and assume the presidency in 2025. Dr. Michael Edwards, the out-going immediate past president has now completed his six year term in the presidential line, but will begin a new term as a member of the Board of Trustees, which we anticipate will continue to ensure the well-being of the Foundation. Prof. Dr. Brink then introduced the nominee for the Honorary Award for 2023. Dr. Michael Ullman was the recipient of this year's award owing to his innovative surgical skills and longtime devotion to the Foundation.

This year we decided to overlap the Leadership Forum with a "Basic Osteosynthesis Skills Course" organized by OTC Spain. Thanks to this initiative, almost 100 Spanish residents were able to benefit from an activity of a very high educational level where, among other topics, a global vision was given of multidisciplinary management of multiple trauma patients, organization in disaster situations, international cooperation activities and treatment of extreme patients, and controversies in the treatment of proximal femur fractures were debated. A separate session was held on the differences in orthopaedic residency around the world, given by representatives of ten of the chapters. It proved very interesting to hear about the similarities and differences in orthopaedic training around the world. This session led to the publication of a paper in later this Summer in the journal *Injury*.

As we did in Spain, so we also did in Italy. It was decided to synchronize the Italian OTC "Lower Limb Fracture Course", organized by OTC Italia in Rome on November 16 (chaired by Drs. R. Erasmo, F. Pallotta & E. Vaienti) with the OTCF mid-term research meeting. The educational level was very high and advanced and more basic topics were covered, so that it was useful to both doctors in training and senior consultants. The next day, the Research Committee meeting took place with the annual Hot Topic being Fracture Related Infection. Over 20 participants from various professional backgrounds and from all over the globe presented novel and cutting-edge treatments in the diagnosis and treatment of the scourge of infection. Increasingly, online course formats such as webinars are being implemented as training innovations, often in collaboration between local chapters. Just a few days ago, on November 29, a webinar on "Acetabular Fractures in Elderly Patients" was held jointly with OTC South Africa and OTC Spain, organized by Professor Sithombo Maqungo with over 100 participants. Given the success of these activities and their high efficiency, next month on January 27, there will be a collaboration between OTC Spain and the US FOT chapter, on another problem of increasing relevance, periprosthetic fractures.

I would like to thank and congratulate the boards of directors of the national chapters for their selfless and unconditional support, showing a passion for teaching that leads to the development and growing of our Foundation. I am proud to make special mention of Maria Luisa Bertrand, who took on the presidency of OTC Spain a few months ago, who serves a perfect example of the capabilities and effectiveness of women in a specialty which, unfortunately, still does not have the gender diversity that society deserves.

Next year, which will begin in just a few weeks, is full of unique opportunities to continue growing and to position our foundation even more as leaders in the training and research in orthopaedic trauma. From the different committees, with the unconditional help of Margot Hamm, Esther van Lieshout and Melanie Kall, we will keep on working very hard, so that the

General Assembly and Leadership Forum, that will be held in Stockholm, and the Mid-term Meeting, that will be held in Cape Town, will be of great utility to our scientific society and achieve our ultimate goal of benefiting our patients.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dr. Francisco Chana Rodríguez

OTCF President

NEWS FROM RESEARCH COMMITTEE (RECO)

ReCo convened its 39th meeting on June 13 in Madrid (Spain) and its 40th meeting on November 17 in Rome (Italy). ReCo reported a summary of its work to the Executive Board and General Assembly for the year 2023. Highlights included:

- Evaluation of 6 full research proposals, from which four research grants were awarded for a total of approximately \$160,000.
- Spanish translation of the textbook on Clinical Research Coordination, which was published in 2020, is available online (<https://orthosurgery.ucsf.edu/research/resources/coordinacion-de-la-investigacion-clinica-un-manual-para-coordinadores-de>).
- The hot topic workshop on “Fracture-Related Infections” took place on November 16-17, 2023 in Rome. There were 21 presentations by experts in infection research and clinical care. The presentations of the workshop will serve as the basis for the OTC/ReCo annual research supplement in Injury, which is targeted for publication in November 2024.
- Based on the Rome workshop, the following hot topics were identified for the next research grants call for proposals:
 - 1) Diagnostics; including pre-, intra-, and post-operative methodologies
 - 2) Therapeutics strategies; including optimization of host factors, biomaterials, coatings, phages, local antimicrobial therapies, and alternative approaches such as vaccines
 - 3) Data sets; including big data, omics, and high dimensional data collection for clinical outcomes; and pre-clinical model database for basic research on infection
 - 4) Classification system
 - 5) Clinical trials or registries feasible to study FRIs.Details on how to apply including deadlines, policies and an application form will be available on OTCF website soon (www.otcfoundation.org; research; research grants).
- The annual Injury supplement emerging from the hot topic workshop in November 2022 has been published: OTC Supplement 2023: Clinical Research Changing Clinical Practice (Guest Editors: Volker Alt, Peter Augat, and Hamish Simpson), Injury 2023;54(Suppl 5). All manuscripts are available in Open Access ([https://www.injuryjournal.com/issue/S0020-1383\(23\)X0016-3](https://www.injuryjournal.com/issue/S0020-1383(23)X0016-3))

ReCo is looking forward to 2024, with the expectation of two meetings, June 11, 2024 in Stockholm (Sweden) for its 41th meeting, and November 7-8, 2024 in South Africa for the hot topic workshop “Penetrating Injuries” and its 42th meeting.

Prof. Theodore Miclau, Chairman Research Committee

Prof. Esther Van Lieshout, Scientific Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE OTCF EDUCATION TASK FORCE

In December 2022, I concluded my OTCF Christmas message with the optimistic aspiration, inspired by John Lennon's song, that by 2023, we could declare „War is over.“ However, another year has passed, and regrettably, a new conflict has just begun. Let's look forward to 2024 with hope for a more favorable outlook.

On a positive note, in the realm of trauma education, the constraints of COVID have been entirely left behind, allowing OTC trauma education to resume. As promised last year, we initiated a questionnaire to assess the status of our OTC educational activities worldwide. Many OTC chapters diligently filled in the digital evaluation forms - thanks a million for your efforts! Although we still need to cross-check the data outcomes with you, it's evident that from 2021 to 2023, all OTC chapters collectively educated over 8500 medical professionals. This is a remarkable achievement and a source of pride for us and for our grantor. Special commendations go to OTC Japan, OTC Germany, AIOD Strasbourg, and OTC Spain, each training more than 1000 participants in the past three years.

Looking ahead to 2024, despite facing challenging financial headwinds, we aim to maintain these numbers and uphold our renowned high standards of education. In addition, we aim to further develop our education methodology. One part of this is to connect to the residents and participants in our courses.

At the OTCF meeting this year in Madrid, preliminary results of the worldwide questionnaire were presented and during the Education Taskforce session, we focused on challenges for future trauma education. A notable concern highlighted was the widening gap between the older generation (Generation X and the Boomers) and the younger generation (Generation Z: the Zoomers) in trauma training. The attitudes toward work and training of the younger generation significantly differ from the old „work hard“ ethic. Reflecting and speaking out against inappropriate behavior is a new and often misunderstood aspect, leading to disbelief and demotivation for both trainees and trainers.

Following this discussion, it's evident that this issue is a worldwide phenomenon. The OTCF education taskforce has committed itself to explore this matter.

During the last education taskforce meeting in Rome, we decided to invite experts to enlighten us on the new ways of thinking and work ethos. Through interviews and discussions with the younger generation, we aim to „Connect the Boomers to the Zoomers.“ We anticipate making this session available to you in the summer of 2024 in Stockholm.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are committed to achieving existing milestones, including the promotion of faculty exchange, online evaluation forms, and leveled trauma education. We will also prepare for a new course director meeting in 2025, covering exciting topics, including the use of artificial intelligence and its impact on trauma education.

In 2024, there is still much work to be done, and fortunately, I am not alone. This work will be carried out with the dedicated assistance of all our taskforce members: Taco Blokhuis, Rikke Thornger, Melanie Kall, Jesus Gomes, Filip Stockmans, and Alessandro Are. I am delighted to announce that Alessandro Are will be the incoming OTC Education taskforce president in 2024. At the end of 2024, I hope to pass on the chair to him for a „Buon anno!“

Dr. Micha Holla

Chair of the OTCF Education Task Force

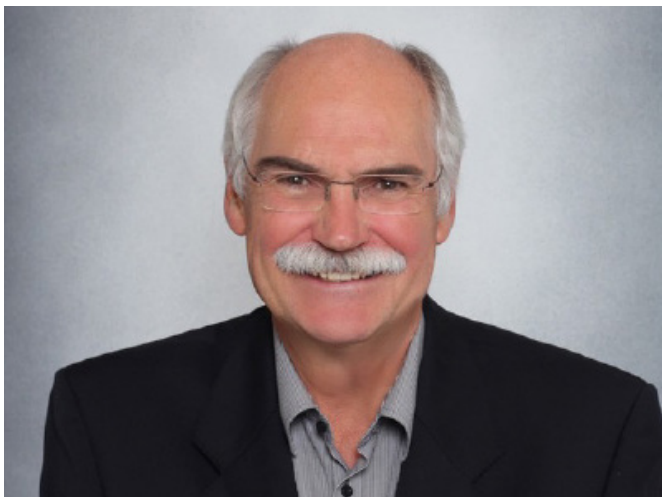
TRIBUTE TO VOLKER BÜHREN

Prof. Dr. Volker Bühren

On August 17, 2023, the OTC family had to say goodbye to Prof. Dr. Volker Bühren. He passed away after a fulminant sepsis during a trip to London. We laid an OTC wreath at his funeral on 22.9.2023.

With Volker, the OTC has lost a permanent supporter who has shaped the development of the OTC nationally and internationally since its foundation in 2007, first as a member of the Executive Committee and later as a member of the Board of Trustees (BOT). We will all remember him as a scientist, doctor and, above all, as a fatherly friend, and we will miss him very much.

In a joint meeting of the BOT and EB during the midterm meeting on 16.11.2023 in Rome, we unanimously agreed that



we would like to pay special tribute to Volker Bühren for his outstanding commitment to the OTC. We have therefore decided to refer to the OTC Foundation Award as the „Volker Bühren Award“ in future. The „Volker Bühren Award“ will be presented for the first time during the AGM 2024 in Stockholm. In this way, Volker Bühren will remain a role model for us. We will remember him fondly

and strive to further the fortunes of the OTC in his spirit.
Rest in peace Volker!

Dr. Oliver Trapp
OTCF Past President

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

AADO

As the President of the Asian Association for Dynamic Osteosynthesis (AADO), I would like to share a recap of some activities in 2023 and a glimpse of our plans for the coming year. In 2023, AADO was proud to organize two separate 2-day workshops dedicated to fracture fixation with cadavers. These workshops provided surgeons with invaluable hands-on experience. The first workshop concentrated on upper limb trauma, offering participants the chance to delve deeper into the complexities of this anatomical area. The second workshop, on the other hand, was centred around lower limb trauma, allowing surgeons to refine their skills and

techniques specific to this region.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have ambitious plans and anticipate to organize a basic and an advanced cadaveric workshop. These workshops aim to provide both new and experienced surgeons with practical training, encompassing basic techniques as well as advanced procedures. As we forge ahead, we remain committed to progress in trauma care through research and education.

Dr. Ronald Man Yeung Wong
President
Asian Association for Dynamic Osteosynthesis

AIOD Strasbourg

This year again, continuing its training policy on locked nailing techniques, AIOD Strasbourg welcomed 295 surgeons (including 64 women – a figure constantly increasing over the years), coming from 23 different countries. If the distribution by country shows a predominance of European countries (243), we also welcomed colleagues from South America (38) and the Middle East (14) during 10 theoretical and practical teaching sessions.



For many years now, I have been coordinating these days which take place at the University Hospital Center of Strasbourg/Hautepierre2 for the theoretical part (but also for the live broadcast of the interventions from the operating theaters) and Institute of Anatomy for the practical part.

In 2023, the best international nailing specialists, and eminent members of the various chapters of the OTC, participated in the sessions alongside members of the Strasbourg team. So, we welcomed:

- Domenico Tigani, OTC Italy, who shared with us his experience of the ADAPT System
- Christos Garnavos, Past President of OTC Hellas, who shared his extensive experience in nailing and particularly tips for reducing complex fractures at both the femoral and proximal tibial levels
- Francisco Chana, actual President of the OTC Foundation, who spoke on the fascinating subject of new technologies in education
- Michael Edwards, from the OTC Netherlands, who addressed the subject of permissive weight bearing of patients after osteosynthesis and treatment algorithm for fracture related infections in long bones
- Taco Blockhuis, President OTC Netherlands, who addressed the subject of treatment of nonunions
- Yvan Arlettaz, President OTC Switzerland, presented his point of view regarding the state of the art of distal targeting systems and the augmented osteosynthesis for fragility fractures

- Oliver Trapp, Past President OTC Foundation, shared his experience treating complex subtrochanteric fractures as well as distal femur fractures.

All these speakers also participated in practical workshops organized at the Institute of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine, which allowed young surgeons to be in contact with them and to be able to press them with questions. These Strasbourg training days remain a must and are very appreciated by the participants as evidenced by the excellent results of the evaluations carried out systematically after each course.



We have decided to repeat this experience for the year 2024, and thus to perpetuate the Strasbourg tradition of teaching locked nailing techniques started at the end of the 1970s! AIOD Strasbourg wishes to all its OTC sisters around the world a wonderful Christmas time and a good start into 2024.

Dr. Gilbert Taglang,
President AIOD Strasbourg

Austria

The Austrian chapter has come into action in 2022. Since then, OTC Austria has started a webinar series in trauma care for Juniors, which takes place once a month, hosted by Georg Matiasich from Schladming, Austria and which will be continued in 2024. More than 50 people attend these webinars which take place mostly in the evening, so that participants will have the opportunity to join the webinars after their shift in the hospital.

Also, OTC Austria had its first symposia in Salzburg with the topic „Challenges in geriatric trauma“. This event was well attended and will be continued next year in Graz or Salzburg.

Furthermore, OTC Austria will organize a pelvic course on acetabulum fractures with pre-fractured specimens at the university of Salzburg and will be hosted by Ernst Müller from Klagenfurt and Thomas Freude from Salzburg.

The OTC Austria team is highly motivated to implement trauma education in Austria as a new partner in trauma education. The General Assembly is supposed to take place during the ÖGU in Salzburg in October 2024.



In cooperation with OTC Germany, OTC Austria successfully held the 9th Trauma Course in Alpbach - 5 days, ~ 80 participants, in May which will be continued in 2024. we also organized the 1st geriatric trauma symposium – 1 day, 37 participants in November in Salzburg.

We also present a monthly webinar on basics in trauma care for juniors, which will be continu-



ed in 2024. In addition we plan a two day hands-on-course on acetabular fractures with pre-fractured specimen in March in Salzburg, the 10th Trauma course in Alpbach in May in cooperation with OTC Germany and the 2nd geriatric trauma symposium in October or November in Graz.

Dr. Ernst Josef Müller, President OTC Austria
Dr. Georg Mattiassich, Vice-President OTC Austria

Belgium

2023, year 3 since the kickoff of the Belgian OTC Chapter.

This year, we organized a cadaveric course in collaboration with our new facility partner ORSI at Melle, which was fully booked and highly appreciated by the participants.

In October, we had our OTCI Starter Course 'Closed Reduction of fractures and Casting Techniques for the 3rd time. This course is a collaboration with the Belgian Universities. Each year we organize it a different campus. After the first editions in KU Leuven, UZ Brussel, this edition took place at the French speaking University in Brussels, UCL. We reached a participation rate of 50!

In December, we are planning our OTC IV Webinar on Complications in upper extremity. Looking ahead for 2024, the plans are ambitious: we will set up different cadaveric



courses: the OTCII Hip course, OTCIV Pelvic course including speakers from the Netherlands, OTCII Foot and ankle meeting, and another edition of our OTCI Starter Course. The latter will take place in Antwerp this time. The board of OTC Belgium wishes all members of the OTC community a Merry Christmas and a happy New year.

On behalf of OTC Belgium
Stefan Clockaerts

2023 has been a good year for the FOT and we are excited for the coming year!

- In 2023 FOT steadily, but prudently increased our membership to over 100 members for the first time. We have consistently sought a committed, active membership rather than just an increase in numbers.
- The FOT Research Committee has recently finished reviewing research grant applications and we are in the process of sending out grant offers to the 8 successful researchers. Completed projects will be presented at one of our future Annual Meetings. We anticipate that these projects, will like so many before them, be presented at other meetings and published as well.
- This year we have held three fully subscribed resident dissection courses: an upper extremity course in Las Vegas, a lower extremity course in Philadelphia and a pelvis and acetabulum course in Tampa. Our Board is discussing increasing both the number of courses and the number of participants per course in 2024 to accommodate the increasing demand for these outstanding courses taught by our tireless membership faculty.
- Our annual meeting was held in February 2023 with a well-received one day scientific program. We are in the final throes of organizing the next Annual Meeting for March 2024.
- The FOT Humanitarian Committee has helped organize Grand Rounds speakers for Haitian orthopaedic residents in 2023 and will again in 2024.
- Our Education Committee gearing up for our first joint webinar with the Spanish chapter of the OTCF in January 2024.



Dr. Robert Dunbar,
President FOT

OTC France

1st PRACTICAL COURSE in BASIC TRAUMATOLOGY

Paris, on September 18th and 19th 2023

The OTC France Board Members decided in 2023 to organize one course dedicated to Residents. This training, accredited by the CFCOT (French College of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeons) gathered 9 French Experts, mostly OTC Members but not only, and 44 participants coming from all parts of France. That first experience met a great success! Results of the satisfaction survey were very positive and motivating for the Teachers and our faithful Grantor. 9 indications have been taught. Residents were much happy to attend short theoretical sessions followed by practical workshops on cadavers in small groups of maximum 5 junior surgeons.

ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT COURSE in TRAUMATOLOGY

Tours, on October 6th to 8th 2023

The annual improvement course took place in Tours from October 6th to 8th 2023. As usual,

the atmosphere has been studious and very friendly at the same time.

16 distinguished speakers and 2 guest speakers have provided lectures and animated workshops sessions around 4 main topics (foot trauma, removal of the material, damage control in lower limb and diaphyseal humerus) for 93 senior surgeons, mainly members of the Association. Feedbacks were good! The OTC France Board will soon start to work on the program for 2024.



The OTC France Board Members and myself are wishing to all OTC Chapters Members of the World a Merry Christmas time as well as success, happiness and good health for the up-coming New Year!

Prof. Thierry Bégué,
President OTC France

OTC Germany

OTC Germany has been very active with the organization of leveled trauma education in the past year. As the pandemic is now over, the board, our faculty as well as our customers are more than happy that we are back to business as usual.

Our flagship courses like the Sylt-Course for example were fully booked in April and in September. So was the Trauma Course in Alpbach. These courses with the duration of one entire week welcome 75-90 participants. There is a great mix of lectures and sawbone workshops accompanied by experts and sales representatives from our Sponsor, Stryker.

Beyond that OTC Germany is organizing intermediate and expert courses in all anatomic fields of the human extremities. Starting the year with an elbow course with prefabricated specimen at the University of Cologne it has become clear that this educational concept takes trauma education to another level and gained a lot of popularity. Working in small groups with experienced instructors leads to great feedback in the course evaluation which motivates both participants and faculty involved.

Furthermore, OTC Germany offers courses in pelvic surgery, foot and ankle surgery, hand surgery, arthroscopy, pediatrics as well as spine surgery. A course on surgical options of access to fractures of lower extremities has just premiered at the university in Erlangen. Mostly young surgeons as well as experienced trauma and spine surgeons are targeted by OTC Germany courses. These courses are taking place in hospitals or anatomy/pathology institutes with human body donations.

Aside from that there is an extensive offer for nursing staff working in the OR. OTC Germany is convinced that the structures of all parties involved in patient recovery should be taken into focus. Therefore, there are also courses which include sawbone workshops and lectures about

patient positioning, sterilization, staff management and much more. As a result, this strengthens the interaction between surgeons and the OR team.



During the DKOU in Berlin in October, OTC Germany as well as the OTC Foundation were privileged to organize scientific sessions during the congress which helps to strengthen the OTC network and to draw the attention to this very special international institution. Depending on financial support and commitments by our sponsor OTC Germany is driven

to maintain the educational level, the number of courses and to extend the educational program referring to the demand of our clients.

As we have implemented a lot of features and adaptations to the program as a result from either the pandemic as well due to time and personnel issues of our participants, OTC Germany courses can be attended online, on-demand and in presence. Some courses offer the possibility to attend the theoretical parts online and to have more time to spend in workshops. All courses are CME accredited.

Beyond that OTC Germany produces a podcast series in German language targeting young surgeons that have just started their career. We are happy to announce that around 600 participants and 250 faculty members were part of our educational program this year.



Let's keep up the well implemented standard and off to many more course to come.

The OTC Germany course program can be found on www.otc-akademie.de.

OTC Germany wants to thank all participants, faculty members as well as our sponsor to make things happen.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Dr. Martin Lewandowski, President OTC Germany

Dr. Oliver Trapp, Vice President OTC Germany

Hellas

OTC Hellas chapter organized on 17-18 March 2023 a course about „advanced concepts of intramedullary nailing“. The former president Dr. O. Trapp was our guest of honor. The course took place in Athens and had great success. It included practice on saw bones, lectures from distinguished colleagues and cases discussions.

The annual course of 2024 will take place in Athens on 12-13 April, and we still organize it, so more information will be available next month.

Dr. Christina Arnaoutoglou,
President of OTC Hellas

OTC Netherlands

The Dutch OTC chapter provides leveled courses for participants with a high level of interaction between experienced faculty and participants. The courses are mandatory for residents in the orthopedic and surgical training (basic surgical treatment of fractures) and for residents who specialize in (orthopedic) trauma surgery (more than basic surgical treatment of fractures). Agreements and accreditation for these courses are in place with the Dutch National Societies for Surgery and Orthopedics. In addition, a basic course for non-surgical treatment of fractures provides training for a variety of residents active in the emergency department. A more advanced course is provided for pediatric fractures. This course is provided every second year, alternated with the pediatric fracture course from the AO foundation. This course is also mandatory for the residents specializing in trauma.

The courses were almost fully booked in 2023. In total, 86 participants were in the courses: 30 for the non-surgical training, 26 for the basic surgical course and 28 for the more than basic surgical course. The rating of the courses, as provided by the participants in the evaluation forms, was high for all courses, with a mean of 4.6 on a five-point scale. Due to budgetary changes, we have increased the fee for participant in 2023 for the first time in many years. Moreover, for the same reason we have not been able to provide the pediatric fracture course. We aim to provide the pediatric course in 2024, but the negotiations are at this point still ongoing. The other courses will be provided in the same way as in 2023.

The board and education committee of the Dutch chapter have both seen substantial changes in 2023. We are very grateful to senior partners who have handed over their duties: Micha Holla, Martin Heetveld (both board members) and Michael Edwards (chairman), and welcome new members to the education committee (Tomas Winkelhorst, Pieter van Driel and Jan Ten Bosch) and to the board (Peer van der Zwaal and Taco Blokhuis as the new chairman). With this enthusiastic team we will organize the mentioned courses in 2024, educating young doctors and thereby improving trauma care!

On behalf of the board of the OTC Netherlands
Dr. Taco Blokhuis

OTC Nordics

Ukrainian surgeons trained in trauma surgery at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden.

In September 2023, an OTC Nordic course on upper extremity trauma was arranged at KAT- the dissection lab in the basement of Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Mölndal Gothenburg one of the very few places in the Sweden where doctors can train surgery on cadavers. The course was administered by Gothenburg University, arranged by OTC and the Departments of orthopaedics and handsurgery. The specimens were supplied by the Department of anatomy. From the anterior side you can see the ligament, explains Dr. Arun Patel consultant in orthopaedic surgery, at one of the tables. Notice how wide it is. The dissections are performed on Swedish donated bodies, and courses on hand- and on foot-surgery are regularly arranged here.



This course focuses on upper extremity trauma, and the participants get to practice different approaches to all parts of the shoulder, elbow, forearm and wrist. Among the Scandinavian surgeons there are three doctors from Ukraine.

At home, we don't have the opportunity to practice on real bodies, says Ivan Savka, doctor at the hospital in Turiisk. Today I have learned techniques that I have never used before. It is very useful knowledge in my work. The war not only means that the doctors have more to do, but their work has also become more difficult.



Arms and legs are most often hurt in a battle. Fractures often go hand in hand with other injuries, explains Ivan. For example, crushed tissue and burns.

Infections are also a bigger problem for injured soldiers than for civilians, says Oresta Yedynak from Kovel. They are both more common and more aggressive. It is probably because the environment out in the field is so unclean.

Although both Ivan and Oresta work in hospitals in western Ukraine, far from the front, they regularly encounter victims of the war. Not infrequently, the injured are sent on to hospitals further into the country.

The other day I met a patient who had finished treatment. I told him that now he could go home, says Oresta. He only replied: I have no home anymore. The Ukrainian doctors' presence at the course is financed by Sahlgrenska International Care, as part of its aid work.

However, the invitation comes from dr Christian Glamheden of KLM, Christian Doctors and Medical Students.



Dr Michael Ullman, president of OTC Nordic, was instrumental in creating the surgical training lab. "Cut & Learn". He is also responsible for the course.

This is the first time we arrange a course with this particular set-up, he says. The faculty consist of orthopaedic and hand trauma surgeons.

For an orthopaedic surgeon, a course like this is pure gold.

No one wants to be operated by a surgeon who has never performed such an operation before. I wish I had had this opportunity as a young surgeon myself, says Michael Ullman

Text: Benedikta Cavallin Translated by OTC
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Spain

Ready, Steady ... Go!

In OTC Spain We are so glad about 2023, a year of changes, difficulties and new challenges that OTC has faced with great enthusiasm.

In this year the Spanish chapter has reached almost 1000 members, being again the first scientific society in Spain in trauma and the third in traumatology and orthopaedic surgery. And to increase our Latin American connections, Francisco Chana with the OTC-S chapter ruled on-line the “Centro American and Caribbean Master of Trauma Pathology”.

This year began with our basic course in Seville within the training program that accredits third-year residents of Spain, with 120 attendees. The format of this course was based on small groups where case discussions, 3D planning and osteosynthesis in plastic models.



After the summer, OTC Spain actively participated in the SECOT (Spanish Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology) national annual congress held in Salamanca, where we were offered the main auditorium to present three sessions. These sessions have been positioned in the top five of the congress (over again!).

But the strongest part of the year was a great dare: we tried to mix our basic second course of the year with the Course Director by OTC Foundation... and we did it. The organization was very complex, we had to insert our 2nd basic course for 135 attendees inside a huge event like the Course Director conducted by OTCF and Edu Task Force. The rating scales for all these activities have been extremely high.

For the next year we have new exciting tasks, to recover our advanced courses of osteosynthesis with cadavers, and prepare our new edition of OTC-TV broadcast to the whole OTC family with a lot of surprises. We hope to see you soon.

At OTC Spain we are ready, steady and marching already!

Dr. Jesús Gómez Vallejo
President OTC Spain

OTC South Africa

The OTC South African Chapter was officially formed in 2022 and we are grateful for the opportunity to join the amazing network of global surgeons and scientists. On 29 November 2023 we hosted our international webinar on ‘Acetabular Fractures in the elderly’ with Francisco Chana (Spain) and Sithombo Maqungo (South Africa) as our speakers. The webinar was well attended and enjoyed by all based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received. Throughout the year we held 3 monthly online meetings hosted in collaboration with South African Orthopaedic Trauma Society. These are hosted by various institutions and individuals around the country on a rotation basis. The high quality of the cases presented, and the discussion is

always very stimulating and thought provoking. I would like to thank all who have volunteered to present, and I would like to extend an invitation to those who are keen to get involved to please reach out to OTC South Africa. We have exciting educational activities in the pipeline for 2024, both in person and virtual, so watch this space!

We look forward to hosting the OTC EB/BOT/ReCo mid-term meeting in Cape Town from 06-08 November 2024. We wish all OTC members worldwide and our sister chapters a restful and joyous festive period and we look forward to re-engaging in the new year.

Regards,

Prof. Sithombo Maqungo
President OTC South Africa

OTC South Pacific

OTC South Pacific has had an enjoyable and successful year to date. November sees the next instalment in an ongoing pelvic & acetabular webinar series entitled “Paediatric P&A Injuries, Pipkin Fractures and Native Hip Dislocations. Never Say Goodbye to the Hip!” Eagle-eyed readers may recognise the cheeky Clint Eastwood movie reference in the title, which is included in all pelvic & acetabular webinar titles*.

Earlier this year, OTC South Pacific ran two very successful cadaveric courses with excellent feedback, including a 2-day Upper Limb Fracture Management Course in Melbourne, Australia and a Hip Fracture Management Course in Sydney, Australia. These courses – aimed at orthopaedic registrars and junior consultants – involved a mixture of lectures, interactive case-based discussions and hands-on cadaveric workshops, which always prove very popular with delegates.

Rapidly rising costs are proving very challenging and the 2024 course program isn't finalised due to budgetary constraints. The desired plan of the Management Committee to run an External Fixation Course (non-cadaveric) in Brisbane in March, followed by an Advanced Foot & Ankle Cadaveric Course in Melbourne in August, and a Masters Pelvic & Acetabular Course in Sydney in November is subject to approval



of a much larger Stryker grant than previous years, which is not going to be forthcoming.



Synergies with Stryker courses will be explored, to ameliorate the costs moving forwards. We would like to send seasonal greetings to all our OTC colleagues across the world and wish you all a very happy and successful 2024.

Warm Regards,

Professor Ton Tran President, OTC South Pacific

*Past webinars included: 'Pelvic and Acetabular Fracture Case Discussions: Cases During Covid – Changeling Times!'; 'Acetabular fractures – Every Which Way But Lost'; and 'Pelvic Fractures – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'.

Prof. Ton Tran President,

OTC South Pacific

NEWS FROM STRYKER

Dear OTC partners and friends,

As we reach the end of 2023, we would like to thank you all for your ongoing partnership and passion to advance trauma education and research.

After multiple years of Covid-19 impact on the health care systems globally and transforming the way we work and live, 2023 finally brought us back to more “normal” ways of working and educating. However, the macro environment no doubt continues to challenge all of us to adapt, which may be uncomfortable at times but can lead to exciting opportunities to explore new avenues and technologies.

We are proud of the strong partnership between the OTC Foundation, OTC chapters and Stryker. Earlier this year we signed a 3-year Partnership Agreement with the OTC Foundation to continue building on our work together on a global level. Under this framework, the Stryker team and OTC Foundation Executive Committee will continue discussions on how we can further cultivate our collaboration to advance osteosynthesis and trauma care, and make health-care better for patients around the world.

We heard feedback from many of you at the June AGM about how we can improve collaboration on local education. We will continue to work on ensuring alignment (and not competition) between Stryker and OTC education strategy and proposing recommendations to streamline the educational grant application process as much as possible, within compliance guidelines. In Europe, we have launched a new website to promote our Trauma & Extremities education program, including the OTC Foundation as one of our partners: TEACH Europe website. Planning for 2024 is in full swing, and as always we encourage active discussion and alignment between local OTC chapters and the regional Stryker teams. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

We enter the holiday season with a very positive outlook to the future and look forward to meeting at the courses and AGM throughout 2024. Most importantly, we wish you and your families a healthy and joyful holiday season.

Markus Ochs

Vice President & General Manager, Stryker

Trauma & Extremities, Europe

OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Please mark your diary:

- General Assembly and Leadership Forum in Stockholm, June 12th to 14th, 2024
- EB/BOT/ReCo mid-term meeting in Cape Town, November 7th to 9th, 2024

OTC Foundation

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