



Osteosynthesis &  
Trauma Care Foundation

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2012**



**EDUCATION + RESEARCH + EVENTS**

**OTC Foundation; Emmenholzweg 1, CH-4528 Zuchwil, Switzerland**

# 1. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

## OTC FOUNDATION STRATEGY

The vision to become a global network of surgeons and scientists was approved in 2009 by the governing bodies.

To strengthen the global OTC alliance between the foundation and the chapters, a global web platform was created and initiated with several newly affiliated chapters.

## OTCF COMMITTEES: STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS

### Board of Trustees (BOT)

Chairman: Emanuel Zloczower  
Members: Sonia Cronin (Education and Humanitarian)  
Peter van den Hazel (Research)  
Volker Bühren (Clinical Practice)

Two meetings were held, a first one on February 6, 2012, in San Francisco, and the second one preceding the AGM in Berlin, on June 20, 2012. Additionally, several telephone conferences between BOT and the Executive Committee were held, as well as monthly meetings between the Chair BOT and the Manager, Research and Education.

### Executive Committee (EXCO)

Chairman: Melvin Rosenwasser, USA  
Members: Enrique Guerado, Spain  
Emil Schemitsch, Canada  
Peter Patka, Netherlands  
Yoshinobu Watanabe, Japan

Two EXCO meetings were held in 2012. The first meeting was conducted jointly with BOT on February 6, 2012, in San Francisco, and the second one in conjunction with the AGM and LF in Berlin, June 20, 2012. The second meeting was convened to discuss program matters, grantor relations and the critical funding situation of the foundation.

### Education Committee (EDCO)

Chairman: Gilbert Taglang, France  
Members: Jean-Marc Féron, France  
Tom Lyon, USA  
Ning Tang, Hong Kong  
Mellick Chehade, Australia

One EDCO meeting was held in 2012 within the framework of EXCO in Berlin on June 20, 2012.

### Research Committee (RECO)

Chairman: Theodore Miclau, USA  
Members: Peter Augat, Germany  
Hamish Simpson, UK  
Louis Wing Hoi Cheung  
Volker Alt, Germany  
Esther van Lieshout, Netherlands (Scientific Coordinator)

Two RECO meetings were held in 2012. The first one in Berlin on June 20, 2012, and the second one immediately following the workshop in Boston on December 4, 2012.

#### **Nominating Committee (NOMCO)**

Members: Christopher Born, USA  
Wolfgang Roth, Germany  
Kwok Sui Leung, Hong Kong

No meeting was held in 2012.

#### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

This meeting was held in Berlin, June 21, 2012, and attended by presidents of 17 chapters and representatives from 17 countries. The global OTC alliance now encompasses 21 country chapters with more than 2'400 members; more details are given under item 6 of this report.

Themes addressed included past and future plans surrounding education, research and humanitarian activities. In particular, future expected tasks and responsibilities of OTCF and the chapters, as well as of the grantor, were presented and discussed.

## **2. EDUCATION PROGRAM**

By end 2011 it was decided by the grantor that education courses will in future be conducted at country level. This will allow for a more direct response to the particular training needs of each country, and will also be more cost-effective with lower travel expenses. As a consequence, the 2012 grant budget for OTCF did not provide for international training courses while education at chapter level continued being funded by the grantor. However, chapter presidents voiced their interest in continued OTCF education activities and the need for enhanced support to their national training courses.

#### **Leadership Forum (LF), Berlin, June 21-22, 2012**

The LF followed immediately the AGM and brought together health care professionals, surgeons, scientists, and managers from 17 countries. Under the chairmanship of Prof. Melvin Rosenwasser, 10 faculty members lectured under the following themes:

- Fractures around the elbow
- Case presentation: "A case I learned a lot"
- Pearls of OTC: From the past to the future
- Case presentation: "A case I learned a lot"

The AGM/LF event was hosted and administratively supported by AIOD Germany and its staff. A total of about 50 participants attended the LF presentations and discussions.

#### **Nurses and OP Staff Course, Strasbourg, December 5-7, 2012**

One course was held, organized by AIOD Strasbourg in association with OTC Foundation, chaired by Dr. Gilbert Taglang. The course was supported by 14 staff and 19 presenters, with a total of 107 participants, including 3 from Hong Kong.

The course was highly appreciated by OP staff for its excellent structure and considered as a learning opportunity with the possibility of improving their skills during hands-on workshops.

### **Education Fellowships**

The education fellowship process has been restructured and simplified. Out of 23 applicants 10 were awarded a fellowship of which 9 materialized in the end. Results were evaluated and analyzed by the program chair Prof. Jean-Marc Féron as the responsible EDCO member. The successful fellows came from the following seven countries: India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Nigeria, Chile, Iraq. This result complied with the request of EXCO for 10 annual fellowship awards.

### **Fellowship Host Centers**

Contracts with 4 host centers were continued. They form the basic implementation structure for the fellowship program and the target is that they host between 2 to 3 fellows each per year, leading to a maximum capacity of 12 fellowships annually for the program. Descriptions are given on the OTCF website for the host centers:

- AIOD Strasbourg, France, under Gilbert Taglang
- BGU Trauma Center Murnau, Germany, under Volker Bühren
- Columbia University New York, USA, under Melvin Rosenwasser
- Costa del Sol Malaga, Spain, under Enrique Guerado

### **E-learning**

This activity was put on hold since the linkage with Hyperguide no longer exists. Various avenues for resuming this important area were explored by EDCO members, and will be taken up again in the coming periods.

## **3. RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The three components of the research program (basic, biomechanical, clinical research) have been implemented within one combined program. Emphasis was shifted towards translational research. The Research Committee (RECO) is overseeing the scientific program and makes decisions on the approval of research grants.

### **OTC Research Grants**

Reorientation of the research program necessitated strategic discussions of the future grant program at the RECO meeting in June. It was agreed to offer no grants in 2012 but rather publish the new grant program in December 2012 for a new round of annual applications and grant awards during the first half of 2013.

There were still 20 grant projects from the years 2008 to 2011 in operation and pending completion. Clinical studies in particular are often taking more than the standard two years to accomplish. Final reports are reviewed by RECO as they come in.

### **Methodology Textbook on Experimental Research**

The book project launched in 2011 was put into full operation with two editors and additional seven section editors on board. More than 50 chapter authors were recruited in 2012 and their tasks assigned. The contract with the publisher was signed and a timetable established which should lead to publication in 2014. Editorial panel meetings, including all RECO members, were held on June 20 in Berlin, and on December 2 in Boston.

### **OTC Scientific Research Symposia**

The Second OTCF Workshop on Functional Assessment of Fracture Healing was held in Boston, December 2-4, 2012. Chairman Peter Augat, Germany, and Co-chairman Michael Bottlang, USA, brought together a group of 22 orthopedic surgeons and biomechanical scientists from 8 countries to address the persistent subjectivity and variability in clinical assessment of fracture healing. The objective was to define clinical methods and to review novel approaches in clinical trials and practices.

It was decided to bring the results of the workshops in 2011 and 2012 together into a supplement issue of the journal "Injury" with the participants contributing their specialized inputs from the workshops. Publication is scheduled for early 2014.

### **OTC Clinical Research Courses**

One course was held September 3 to 4, 2012 in Aarhus, Denmark, hosted by the OTC Chapter Denmark. Chaired by Prof. Ole Brink, five international faculty taught more than 30 participants. Future courses will be held at chapter level upon request, with OTCF providing experienced faculty.

## **4. HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM**

A final humanitarian mission of the Fundacion Bangassou to the Central African Republic was supported by OTCF. This mission took place in November/December 2012.

Humanitarian activities are no longer included in the grant support of the foundation, and missions will only be undertaken in specific cases. Humanitarian missions have been undertaken by FOT to Haiti, based upon regional cooperation.

## **5. PUBLICATIONS**

The third textbook on "Advanced Concepts in Clinical Research" was published just prior to, and presented at the LF in Berlin in June 2012.

A fourth textbook is in preparation by the research program (see above). Publication is expected in early 2014.

The series of research supplements will be resumed with the journal "Injury" (see above under research).

## **6. OTC CHAPTERS**

There are now 17 independent OTC chapters which form the Global OTC Alliance.

The new web platform was designed to facilitate interaction between the chapters and the members. In June 2012 the website was transferred to a new system and server which is easier to handle. Further work on the web linkages with chapters was deferred to 2013.

In preparation of the discussions at the AGM in Berlin, June 2012, the status of chapters was reviewed by means of a questionnaire. 13 chapters provided information on their structure, funding sources, membership, and programs. The results indicated that the prime focus of chapters is on education, including basic and advanced courses, and cadaver and fragility fracture courses.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION**

### **General Developments**

The collaboration with the OTC Foundation was reassessed by the grantor and a revised 2012 grant budget for support of OTCF activities agreed upon. Thus funding continues, albeit at a reduced level, with emphasis on global coordination and support of chapter activities, and on the research program. This development led to the unfortunate release of staff members, and continuation under a basic administrative management.

### **Foundation Staffing**

OTCF activities were conducted throughout the year 2012 by a Manager, Research and Education, with focus on:

- Global events (AGM/LF)
- Fellowship program
- Research program
- Budget oversight

### **Office Developments**

The reduced funding situation made closure of the Bern office by the end of the year 2011 inevitable. In February 2012 the administrative center of the OTC Foundation was therefore moved back to the cost center in Zuchwil. This included also transfer of the computer center to Zuchwil where all services were then collocated.

Richard Helmer  
General Manager  
April 30, 2013