



OTC Foundation
Emmenholzweg 1
CH 4528 Zuchwil
Switzerland
www.otcfoundation.org

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| <p style="text-align: center;">INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTC PROGRAMS MID YEAR 2009</p> |
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A. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The general direction for the development of the 2009 program was outlined by the Grantee-Grantor Meeting in Paris, November 1-2, 2009. On this basis the grant budget and work program 2009 was established and accepted by the Grantor.

The 2009 grant was set at the level of CHF 2'606'880 or USD 2'306'360. This means a reduction of CHF 600'000 from the 2008 grant budget. Due to severe organizational restructuring, this reduction was achieved by curtailing the fixed operating costs, including staff reduction and operational costs. Program funds were maintained.

The personnel structure at the TCI was streamlined in accordance with the program tasks 2009. There are now two fixed-term employees in Nice, sharing the education program and related administrative needs.

The cost center in Zuchwil continues to administer the finances of OTC and the record keeping of all transactions and contracts with HCPs and collaborating centers. Internal procedures have been put into operation, which are now commensurate with the AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals. Relevant compliance procedures and check lists have been introduced by the Chair of the Board of Trustees (BoT) and all staff trained in their application.

After the departure of the Executive Director at the end of 2008, the operational management and program implementation oversight has been assumed by the Chair of BoT and the Research Manager until such time when the director's position will be refilled.

The Executive Committee (ExCo) had several telephone conferences to discuss program matters and to oversee the search for a new ExDir. To this end the OTC webmaster subscribed the foundation to the WEBEX system which is now used for all telephone and video conferences of committees and weekly staff discussions.

Major efforts went into the development of a comprehensive database for OTC, covering program and administrative information and procedures, as well as contact addresses of the OTC chapters and other country-based information .

B. EDUCATION PROGRAM

The application of the AdvaMed guidelines by the Grantor, and its restrictions on funding participants of third-party events, changed completely the program of indication-based education courses, the International Trauma Symposia, and OTC chapter meetings at the TCI. Those are now all convened as Stryker meetings.

The OTC program of education events in 2009 is therefore now focusing on:

- Leadership Forum (LF), June 25-26
- Cadaveric Course on hand and distal radius, at Strasbourg, October 27-28
- Nurses and OP Staff Course at Strasbourg, December 2-4

In light of the restrictions on events, new and expanding emphasis is being placed during 2009 on the development of OTC-branded E-learning mechanisms and tools. The following has been initiated:

- Transmission of faculty lectures at OTC educational events (courses and LF) via Vindico into the Trauma Section of the Hyperguide (started in 2008 already).
- Roadmap Project for systematic inclusion of indication based educational and audio-visual material into the Hyperguide has been designed in 2008 and is now being implemented by Prof. KS Leung with the South-Pacific Chapter.
- Image Data Base and OP techniques are being derived from existing material and included in indication-based entry points on the OTC website (Grantor in-kind contribution given in 2009 for this) – ongoing project
- WEBEX system for OTC established and used on trial and learning basis for EXCO conferences and staff meetings and committees, to be later used for web based OTC education modules.

C. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A broad-based system offering fellowships to surgeons and researchers has been initiated in 2008, and has evolved to a cornerstone of the OTC program. Major achievements are:

- Network of 5 host centers established and operational to receive surgeons in training and surgeons in practice as Fellows for education and training
- 4 education fellowships were placed so far in 2009, and 5 more are approved for 2009 with the search for a suitable host center in progress
- 2 more educational fellowships are pending approval, and 3 are earmarked for implementation in early 2010

- One clinical research fellow currently on a six-months clinical research fellowship at McMaster University, Canada
- One biomechanical research fellow currently in operation, with one more approved and up to 3 more budgeted in 2009.

D. PUBLICATION PROGRAM

The textbook "Clinical Research for Surgeons" is now in storage at the Zuchwil center. It constitutes the authoritative course syllabus for a series of OTC clinical research courses and symposia, and it is also available free of charge to OTC surgeons upon request.

An OTC Supplement to the Journal of Orthopedic Trauma (JOT) has been commissioned in late 2008 and the manuscripts are being edited at present. The title is "Osteobiologics: Current Best Evidence", and the articles are based upon the LF 2007 lectures. Negotiations with the editing house are underway to have it published with the November/December issue of JOT.

Negotiations are also underway to have the surgeons in the OTC Chapters subscribe to the JOT. It is planned to have the JOT as the OTC house journal with regular OTC contributions, news and advertisements of events, grants, fellowships and courses.

E. RESEARCH PROGRAM

The three components of the research program (basic, biomechanical, clinical research) have been successfully integrated into one coherent program with the Research Committee (RECO) as the core scientific and organizational body. Three regular annual meetings of the committee are scheduled.

For 2009 research grants there were 48 pre-proposals which led to the submission of 18 full proposals. At the 13th RECO Meeting in Las Vegas in February the granting process was finalized with 8 research grants and 3 young investigators' grants being awarded for 2009.

The 2010 research grants process has been started with the announcement of the themes to be studied. As a new "hot topic" was included "Numerical methods in trauma surgery". Pre-proposals were due by May 15. A total of 37 Research Grant pre-proposals and 14 Young Investigators Grant pre-proposals were received. They will be analyzed and decided upon at the 14th RECO Meeting at TCI, Nice, on June 24.

A biomechanical research symposium entitled "Numerical Modeling and Trauma Care Workshop" was held on June 14-16 at Cambridge, MA. Participation was upon invitation only. A total of 24 persons attended. In order to allow for research grants 2010 in that subject area, the deadline for related submissions was extended to July 15.

The OTC Research Book 2009 was prepared by the RECO scientific coordinator and all members. It contains a listing of all research grant studies since 2005, and a more detailed description of selected outstanding research studies, and also a list of publications which emanated from the program. The book was presented at the 14th session of RECO in Nice.

Clinical research courses are a newly added focus of the program. The following constitute the 2009 program:

- OTC Hellas Clinical Research Symposium, Athens, March 28, with two faculty provided by OTC
- North American Clinical and Basic Research Course, Toronto, scheduled for 16-18 September

For 2010 RECO agreed that the clinical and basic course be repeated for European participants, to be organized by the UK chapter in cooperation with OTC and RECO members as faculty.

The RECO chairman has prepared a comprehensive OTC research strategy for presentation and discussion at the 14th session of RECO in Nice. Topics include research methodology, courses, research subjects, hot topics, etc.

F. WHAT NEXT?

In spite of the unresolved CEO problem, the staff of OTC have initiated the 2009 programs and brought several initiatives on their way, as demonstrated by this interim report. Those scheduled for the next two quarters have been planned and preparations put into motion. The open issues and "construction sites" can be enumerated as follows.

Basic issues and governance:

- Development of a coherent OTC strategy, in the form of a business plan, for the next few years, with presentation and discussion by EXCO and at the 2009 AGM
- Outreach to the OTC Chapters to create a viable and interactive global network of national entities and HCP communities in the trauma area
- Further assessment of the impact of the AdvaMed Code of Ethics on the work of OTC in general, on the education program, and on the relation grantor-grantee
- Designation of a new CEO immediately following the AGM/LF in June
- Search for and establishment of a unified headquarters for the OTC Foundation with shortened internal management and communication linkages, necessitated by the closure of the TCI in Nice

Education program restructuring:

- Continuation and strengthening of the successful fellowship program
- Expanding the cadaveric education courses to more indications
- Bringing the E-learning components together into a consistent program
- Reconsidering the role of the present Education Committee and developing a mechanism which includes the E-learning requirements

Research program strengthening:

- Preparation of a consolidated OTC research strategy (in preparation by RECO chairman)
- Strengthening the educational components of the research program
- Expanding the role of RECO within OTC, i.e. making use of the individual and collective knowledge base assembled in this committee