



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

OTC NEWSLETTER December 2020



Michael Edwards
President OTC Foundation

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear OTC-members,

The year 2020 is coming to an end. Normally this time of the year it's a hectic race to finish all the necessary tasks and chores before the end of the year, before the beginning of a well-deserved vacation. Time to spend with family and loved ones around the Christmas table. Not this year, most European countries are in severe lockdown. Travel is prohibited, family dinners are restricted to 2-3 guests and many of us have colleagues, friends or family members who became ill due to Covid-19.

Looking back at the year 2020 it's easy to focus on the things lost. The cancellation of the General Assembly and Leadership Forum in June, the numerous OTC courses around the globe which were called off, but also the more normal things in life such as sporting events, going out to restaurants/bars or other social events. People on the streets, mouths covered by masks, ears covered by headphones....! A glooming doom future scenario?

But Corona also taught us something positive. It was not them versus us. Every person, every nation had to deal with this pandemic. We were able to develop several vaccines in record time. Realization that we all have to work together in order to restore normal human interaction. The limitation of travel and the prohibition of group gathering forced us to adapt our normal way of delivering education and training. With help of Stryker, we were able to organize multiple webinars in order to continue our educational OTC-F mission. Instead of meeting in Brussels, we were able to organize a video conference where all chapters were present at the same time. OTC Italy organized an excellent word wide webinar with the focus on Covid-19 and trauma care: lessons learned around the world with more than 1500 participants. OTC/AIOD Strasbourg, under the supervision of Dr. Taglang, gave excellent webinars with plenty tips and tricks on the new T2 Alpha nails and distal targeting devices.

The prospects for 2021 are very positive. Vaccination programs are being started left and right which will decrease the impact of Covid-19. Hopefully it will reduce the strain on intensive cares, hospital wards, nurses, doctors and foremost patients around the world. With the strong support of our grantor, OTC chapters will be able to restart their training programs. With lessons learned it will be a hybrid model. Combination of webinars and hands-on sessions with sawbones and anatomical specimens. The Research Committee will restart as well sponsoring promising researchers with grants and other forms of support.

If all goes well, we will be able to organize the Leadership Forum and General Assembly in Brussels, 16-18 June 2021. Once more a time and place to meet!

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very pleasant Christmas vacation. Enjoy your holidays and remain safe. Get some well-deserved rest and hope to see you all in 2021.

Have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Best wishes and warm regards,
Michael Edwards

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

OTC ITALY

Despite of the problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, OTC Italy managed to maintain training activities, even if in online mode. This is a sign of the resilience of OTC Italy, demonstrating its vigor as a successful orthopedic organization.



Program of Activities in 2020:

OCTOBER 17th ASYNCHRONOUS DISTANCE TRAINING

“Come iniziare ad eseguire la chirurgia del bacino step by step”

Chairman: M. Spoliti M.D.

OCTOBER 20th WORLD WIDE WEBINAR

“Healthcare during the Covid-19 pandemic: protecting our patients and protecting ourselves”

Chairmen: R.Erasmo M.D. and A. Are M.D.



DECEMBER 1st WEBINAR

“La lesione di Monteggia nell’adulto”

Chairman: A. Are M.D.

DECEMBER 4th ASYNCHRONOUS DISTANCE TRAINING

“Fissazione esterna nel trattamento in traumatologia”

Chairman: A. Medici M.D.

Planned Program of Activities in 2021:

March: “**Fractures around the elbow**” – WEBINAR and later transformed into ASYNCHRONOUS DISTANCE TRAINING
Chairmen: G. Maccauro M.D. and F. Liuzza M.D.

June: “**Le maxi emergenze**” - NATIONAL COURSE / Rome
Chairmen: M. Arduini M.D. and F. Bove M.D.

September: “**La gestione delle fratture di gamba. Dall’urgenza al trattamento definitivo**” – TRAUMA COURSE / Catania, Sicily
Under the presidency of S. Caruso M.D. and G. Salvo M.D.

December: “**Le fratture esposte di tibia**” - COURSE / Trieste
Chairman: L. Murena M.D.

Date to be announced: **Relieve surgery**
Chairman: TBD

ROUND TABLE WITH OTC CHAPTERS: Worldwide Webinar
Annual Event organized by OTC Italy

With many thanks for the active cooperation of all chapters, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope you have a happy and healthy New Year.

R. Erasmo
President of OTC Italy

OTC GERMANY

The Corona pandemic has been a tough challenge for all of us. Courses had to be cancelled and the entire daily business in our office was paused. Luckily not for long.

Many thoughts and ideas came up to put education for OTC Germany to the next level which is obviously supposed to be digital and virtual nowadays. First, we started a podcast series about a special topic in trauma surgery and orthopedics.

The chapter developed an E-learning platform for videos, podcasts and live streams. The platform allows all steps of learning and teaching requirements including an evaluation and survey chat and quiz function. Contents can be found here: digital.otc-germany.de.

Webinars and live streaming sessions were organized, named “Digital Academics – Prefractured Series”.

Chapter members worked closely with the University of Cologne concerning this project. The great support received from our members and faculty is gratefully acknowledged.

This extraordinary year is closing with a webinar about Polytrauma in corporation with the Occupational Trauma Center BGU Murnau. The webinar took place on Friday the 4th of December and will become available in our media library “digital.otc-germany.de”.

However, we miss direct contact with our participants and faculty and are looking forward to meeting everybody again in person in 2021. Preparations and organizational steps have already been



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Germany

A promotional poster for an OTC Germany course. At the top left, it says 'VIDEO ON DEMAND' with a play button icon. The OTC logo is in the top right. A central image shows a surgical procedure on a knee. Text on the left side of the image reads 'KURSGEBÜHR STAGIAR-LEHR 0,- EUR' and 'KOSTENFREI BIS ENDE JANUAR 2021'. Below the image, it says 'TEIL 1 UPDATE KREUZBANDCHIRURGIE ARTHROSKOPIE-KURS · LIVE-OP'S & WORKSHOP'. The moderator is 'Dr. med. G. Knoll, Leipzig, Chefarzt Sportorth. St. Elisabeth Krankenhaus, Abteilung Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie'. There are two operators listed: 'Dr. med. G. Knoll, Leipzig, Chefarzt Sportorth. St. Elisabeth Krankenhaus, Abteilung Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie' and 'Dr. med. T. Fregl, Leipzig, Leitender Oberarzt Sportorth. St. Elisabeth Krankenhaus, Abteilung Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie'. A red badge on the right says 'CHE PUNKT SEIN INTEREST'. At the bottom, it says 'Dr. med. Gotthard Knoll und Dr. med. Thomas Fregl operieren jeweils eine vordere und hintere Kreuzbandruptur live aus dem St. Elisabeth Krankenhaus in Leipzig. Beide Experten berichten außerdem ausführlich über Diagnostik und Therapie in der Kreuzbandchirurgie. Dieser Video-Kurs lehnt an den Präsenzkurs der OTC Germany an und kann in eigener und freier Zeiteinteilung absolviert werden.' Contact information for the OTC Germany office is provided at the bottom.

made to make a conscious approach to a regular course business that combines virtual content and blended learning.

Take care and stay healthy,
Your OTC Germany Team



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France



AIOD STRASBOURG & OTC FRANCE

Like all chapters, AIOD in Strasbourg and OTC France were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and both chapters were obliged to cancel or to postpone to 2021 all physical educational events. However, the importance of teaching and sharing education became their priority in this strange year and courses were organized online either with Kudo platform or via Zoom.

Courses for surgeons held in 2020

Four online courses under the chairmanship of Dr. Gilbert TAGLANG were organized for surgeons and residents in September, October and twice in November. The main subject of these four courses was the latest technologies in intramedullary locking nailing techniques with:

- Tricks and tips in reduction of per- and sub-trochanteric fractures
- Adapt 2.0.™ technology to increase placement of lag screw and distal locking screws
- How to reduce femur and tibia fractures (pre- and per-operatively)
- T2 Alpha™ locking nails with indications and different locking options (Recon mode in femur and supra-patellar approach in tibia)

Discussions, quiz sessions and live voting system completed the courses.

The course in September was held in English language on Kudo platform with translation into Italian and Spanish languages, with more than 100 participants connecting from all continents.

The course in October was dedicated to French speaking doctors and residents. Participants came from France, Switzerland, Belgium, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal, Cameroun and Burkina Faso.

The two sessions in November were in English language with average registration of 230 persons with final connection of about 80 - 100 participants per course from 14 different countries.

Course for nurses, residents and OP staff

Since 1994, AIOD is organizing every year in December an international course for nurses, residents and OP staff. In 2020 this course was moved to a virtual platform, held from 2nd to 4th December.

For three days, for 2.5 hours per day (4:00 pm - 6:30 pm), the AIOD Team (Dr. Taglang, Prof. Adam,

Dr. Brinkert, Dr. Schenk and their OP staff from the University Hospital in Strasbourg, seconded by Prof. Lefevre from Brest and Dr Arlettaz from Switzerland) presented different topics on femoral, tibial, humeral and wrist indications, with presentations on patient positioning, instruments, operative techniques, as well as on flaps, negative pressure therapy, radioprotection aspects, with emphasis on tricks and pitfalls.

This course benefitted greatly from collaboration with our industrial partners who helped promoting the course. The result was overwhelming with more than 350 registrations within just 10 days after the first announcement. The final results were:

- An average of 160 connections per day
- Maximum at 170 simultaneous connections
- More than 220 attendees at **every** session (some hospitals were connected in groups)
- 3 countries: Switzerland, Belgium and France
- 24 subjects presented
- 10 faculty speakers
- Appreciating feedback received from all participants



To conclude this particular year, AIOD Strasbourg and OTC France are convinced that virtual courses proved to be a viable solution to train and to keep participants on board and fully attentive. Virtuality could be a solution for certain courses also in the future, although one should not ignore the importance of hands-on courses which remain essential to learn and to practice. A healthy mix of both will most likely constitute a win-win program for the New Year.

During the first months in 2021, AIOD plans the following online courses on Intramedullary Nailing techniques:

- 21st & 22nd January (English)
- 4th & 5th February (French)
- 25th & 26th February (English)
- 11th & 12th March (English)
- 1st & 2nd April (English, Italian, Spanish)
- 27th & 28th May (French)



For more information, please contact: aiod@orange.fr

OTC SPAIN

The international training course on **Polytrauma and Complex Fractures** was held in the webinar format ("OTC on TV") on 17th and 18th September 2020. OTC Spain could build upon the experience with a previous webinar course in the Spanish language for Latina countries. This time the course was bi-lingual.

The Spanish version drew the attention of:

- 500 registrants
- 280 attendees
- 340 visitors



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Spain

The English version drew the attention of:

- 70 registrants
- 35 attendees
- 55 visitors

These participants came mostly from Spain, Portugal and Peru, plus some from another eight countries. Six sessions with discussions and interactions with the audience were guided by 14 speakers from Spain, Portugal, United States and Argentina. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. In conclusion, this format has proven, now for a second time, to be “innovative attractive and visual”, and well received by the audience. A format which will certainly be used in the future to bridge the gap between surgeons from different countries and continents!



NEWS FROM THE EB TASK FORCE EDUCATION

In Prague, November 2019, the OTCF Education taskforce set up ambitious plans to bring trauma education to the next level in 2020. Together with Taco Blokhuis, Rikke Thorninger, Melanie Kall, Oliver Trapp and with support from Margot Hamm we made plans to:

- Set up an online OTC library,
- Set up a two-day Course Director Platform Meeting in Brussels,
- Promote the further exchange of international course faculty,
- Promote the use of online OTC-F evaluation forms,
- Visit Oculus(CA) to investigate the use of virtual reality in OTC trainings and to
- Evaluate the use of Zoom and GoToMeeting conferences.

At that time we were living in a global community with little limits. In January 2020, Margot Hamm set up a Dropbox File backbone for all OTC chapters, Melanie Kall translated and upgraded the OTC-F online evaluation forms, and reservations were made to welcome the Belgium OTC chapter in Brussels with a two day OTC-F Course Director Course.

And then a very small particle changed everything...

Due to COVID-19, the Course Director Course for 2020 in Brussels was cancelled. The exchange of international faculty came to a full stop. A planned visit to the Oculus company was cancelled, and the implementation of the online OTC evaluation forms was paused, since all OTC courses were postponed.

From that perspective you could say that OTCF Education Taskforce in 2020 was not able to bring trauma education to the next level. But as the famous Dutch soccer player Johan Crujff once said: "Every disadvantage has its advantage."

Due to COVID-19, the use of online meetings and online trainings took a quantum leap forward. In 2019, hardly anybody used online platforms for meetings and teaching. Applications like Microsoft Teams, Lifesize, Skype, Zoom were relatively unknown. Enrique Guerado was a pioneer to set up international webinars in Latin speaking countries before 2020, setting a clear example how to organize an event in the current pandemic time.

Now, at the end of 2020, it is hard to imagine that one year ago we lived without these applications. With rapid technical improvements of software and increasing experience by the users, online meetings and webinars, have become part of our daily routine. All within less than one year! We now are aware of the advantages (and disadvantages) of these digital possibilities. It is common for all of us, and who

would have imagined to run into 'Virtual Fatigue' a year ago?

In the online world, things are slightly different. Online courses must be short and to the point, as the possibility to focus in an online environment is limited. Furthermore, the current online trainings are not able to replace the "old-fashioned" hands-on courses. So despite of the limitations by COVID-19 in 2020 we learned a lot in the field of online-courses.

From this perspective, it is safe to say that OTC Trauma Education in 2020 went to a *different* level. Hopefully we are able to hack the Corona-virus in 2021 and continue our education in our "old-fashioned" way. But we must not forget the valuable lessons we've learned in 2020. We must keep using and developing the positive elements of online meetings and webinars.

The OTCF Education Taskforce is looking forward to unfreeze the plans we had for 2020 and to proceed with a new and vigorous success in 2021!
Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

Micha Holla
Chairman of the OTC Education Taskforce

LAST FELLOWSHIP REPORT by Diane WERNLY

I had the privilege to go on a Traumatology OTCF Fellowship, which I won at the excellent trauma AIOD/OTCF workshop in Thun, Switzerland, September 2019. It consisted of a two-weeks observation Traumatology fellowship. I chose to visit Professor Hamish Simpson at The Royal Infirmary NHS Lothian in Edinburgh, Scotland.

After completing the various administrative formalities, I was warmly welcomed by Prof. Simpson and Dr Powell-Bowns. I was able to attend the morning meeting and take part in the activities of the operating theatre, according to my preferences. Every day, the team deals with different orthopaedic and traumatology cases, spread over six operating theatres. I had the opportunity to attend different traumatology operations, such as ankle and proximal femur fractures, as well as total hip and knee arthroplasties. Since the Royal Infirmary NHS Lothian is publicly funded, it was very interesting to note important differences between their system and the Swiss one, for example the predefined choice of implants, whether in Traumatology, or in Orthopaedics (limited choice of implants for total arthroplasties).

I was also able to enjoy Edinburgh, a city I didn't know at all. According to Wikipedia, there would apparently be less rain per year in Edinburgh than in Lausanne, which I find hard to believe based on my experience. However, with its impressive castle and old town, the charm worked right away! Especially before Christmas, when you can eat a waffle in the huge Christmas market after a day at the hospital.

In conclusion, these two weeks in Edinburgh was high above my expectations. I learnt a lot about another health care system and different approaches to interesting cases in Traumatology, as well as in Orthopaedics. Above all, I was able to meet a very friendly and professional team and definitely look forward to crossing their path again. I would like to thank the OTC Foundation for providing me with this amazing experience.

Diane Wernly



NEWS FROM THE OTCF RESEARCH COMMITTEE (RECO)

RECO convened its 34th meeting online on November 12th prior to the EB meeting to which it reported on the latest outcomes of its work during the second half of 2020:

- There are still 10 research grant projects at various stages of execution
- The hot topic workshop November 2020 on New Technologies had to be postponed to 12-13 November 2021 in Lyon, France
- The planned research symposium during DKOU in Berlin in October had to be cancelled as the event was not taking place
- All manuscripts for the Injury Supplement on Enhancement of Fracture Healing have been submitted to the editor and publication is scheduled for May 2021

A comprehensive 30-page report on the achievements of RECO during the last five years has been published; readable and downloadable on the OTCF website under Research > Research Publications

As of 2021 RECO will be served by Esther van Lieshout as OTCF Research Manager, reachable under research@otcfoundation.org.

RECO is looking forward to 2021 with the hope to meet again in person, 16 June in Brussels for its 35th session, and 12-13 November in Lyon for the workshop and its 36th session.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2021

- Executive Board (EB) and General Assembly (GA) scheduled in Brussels, June 16th until 18th
- Midterm EB Meeting and Hot Topic Research Workshop in Lyon (France), November 11th until 13th

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