



Osteosynthesis &
Trauma Care Foundation

OTC FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dear OTC Family,
Dear colleagues and friends,
The year is coming to an end and again we look back on a challenging year. The Corona pandemic has clearly lost its terror after the vaccinations and due to the Omicron variant, however, until today, colleagues, patients, nurses and therapists are still on sick leave. Most also remain in quarantine for about 2 weeks, although the courses are mild in comparison. Therefore, first countries have already stopped quarantine regulations.

What remains is a critical shortage of staff in clinics, as nurses in particular have left the profession due to the stresses during the pandemic.

In some clinics, only 50% of the capacity is available, both hospital beds and OR capacity, as before the pandemic. Initial reactions in the political arena indicate that the situation is unlikely to improve in the next few years; rather, we will have to learn to cope with a significant shortage of specialists due to the lower birth cohorts. Everyone is talking about the „ambulanzization“ of medicine, and the first changes can be expected as early as the beginning of 2023, at least in Germany.

Even if the Corona pandemic has weakened, Europe and the entire world were shaken in February 2022 by the aggressive invasion of Ukraine by Putin's troops in violation of international law. Friends became enemies, and to this day not

only soldiers die on the front lines, but above all women and children. With wistfulness I remember many activities of the OTC in Russia and Ukraine, where together we held exciting congresses and courses. Now we treat war wounded in our clinics and feel how close the war is.

But there are definitely also very positive developments to report. During our AGM and Leadership Forum in Vienna we could celebrate the foundation of OTC Austria. Also, in South Africa, a new chapter, the OTC SA, was founded with the first president Prof. Sithombo Maqungo from Cape Town. On 11/23/22, the OTC SA held its first webinar and taught over 110 participants the concepts of treating gunshot wounds to the upper and lower extremities.

OTC Switzerland is also slated to be reactivated. Initial meetings with interested colleagues have already taken place, and a constituent meeting is planned for January 2023.

The OTC Foundation was able to organize scientific blocks within the framework of the congresses EFORT in Lisbon and DKOU in Berlin, thus further expanding its profile. With the AGM in Vienna, the topic „Controversies around femoral fractures“ was discussed in the Leadership Forum, and in the „Course Director Program“ of our Education Taskforce we were able to share our experiences in organizing modern course concepts.

At the Annual General Meeting in Vienna, we were able to honor Jean-Marc Féron as a laureate of the OTC Foundation. Jean Marc has actively supported the values of the OTC in many different functions for many years, e.g., as President of the OTC France, as a member of AIOD international and also as a founding member of the OTC Foundation. Thank you, Jean-Marc for your continued enthusiasm and support of the OTC.

A special thanks goes to the Research Committee. Under the leadership of Ted Miclau, grants were awarded, several publications were published under the name of the OTC Foundation, and an exciting „Hot Topic Workshop“ was organized in Lyon.

I would like to express my special thanks for the intensive support of our activities by the OTC offices in Strasbourg, France and Essen, Germany. Without the experience and hard work of Margot Hamm, Audrey Chall and Melanie Kall, we would not be able to manage the activities of the OTC Foundation in our condensed daily work routine.

I would also like to thank the members of the BOT, Emanuel Zloczower, Volker Bühren and Peter van den Hazel, but also my past president Michael Edwards and incoming president Francisco Chana for their continuous support and trustful cooperation.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our grantor Stryker. In times of increa-

sing financial challenges also for the companies we really appreciate the support and our trustful collaboration. After all, we were able to span a worldwide network with meanwhile 20 active national chapters and continuously manage to further highlight the scientific and professional importance of our network.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023 and I am looking forward to exciting and common activities and experiences.

Stay healthy and see you soon,

Oliver Trapp

OTCF President

NEWS FROM THE OTCF RESEARCH COMMITTEE (RECO)

ReCo convened its 37th meeting on June 28 in Vienna (Austria) and its 38th meeting on November 12 in Lyon (France). ReCo reported a summary of its work to the Executive Board and General Assembly for the year 2022. Highlights included:

- Evaluation of 11 full research proposals, from which four research grants were awarded for a total of approximately \$200,000.
- Spanish translation of the textbook on Clinical Research Coordination, which was published in 2020, is progressing well for open access on-line publication in 2023.
- The hot topic workshop on “Clinical Research changing Clinical Practice” took place on November 11-12, 2022 in Lyon. There were 19 presentations by experts in clinical research, regulatory requirements, and the value of big data and registry data in clinical research and practice. The presentations of the workshop will serve as basis for the OTC/ReCo annual research supplement in Injury, which is targeted for November 2023.
- Based on the Lyon workshop, the following hot topics were identified for the next research grants round:
 - 1) Improved research trial solutions for evidence based solutions to common orthopaedic trauma problems: a) Non-inferiority trials; b) Economic analyses; c) Prospective observational studies; d) Real World Data: How to best utilize large data sets and registries
 - 2) Best practices for data sets: a) Outcome measures (for MDR/PROMIS); b) Financial information; c) Utility for development of clinical care guidelines. 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 2021 has been published: OTC Supplement 2022: New Technologies in Orthopaedic
- Traumatology (Guest Editors: Volker Alt, Esther van Lieshout, and Theodore Miclau), Injury 2022;53(Suppl 3).



ReCo is looking forward to 2023 with the expectation of two meetings, June 13, 2023 in Madrid (Spain) for its 39th meeting, and November 17-18 in Rome (Italy) for the workshop “Infection” and its 40th meeting.

Esther Van Lieshout
 Manager OTC Foundation Research Committee

NEWS FROM THE OTCF EDUCATION TASKFORCE

It is December 2022, the sound of the Christmas bells is getting louder and Sky Radio is playing the well-known Happy Xmas song again.

A good time for us to look back; so this is Christmas, and what have we done? On behalf of the OTCF Education Taskforce, I can say that 2022 was a great year for OTC trauma-education. The curse of COVID and its restrictions was left behind. Most of the OTC courses, hidden in the dark for more than a year, saw the light again.

2022 was also the year that the first OTCF Course Director Meeting (CDM) took place. Against the backdrop of the beautiful Vienna, fascinating presentations were given. Valuable teaching knowledge was exchanged with impressive talks by

Eileen Ke, on Hybrid virtual education forms and Francisco Chana, on improving surgical videos. Melanie Kall inspired us on making trauma Podcasts and I shared my opinion on how to create a trauma curriculum. A special highlight was the presentation by Kath Lukaszewski with useful tips on how to improve your presentation, including personal cooling fans to compensate for the air-conditioning.



In interactive workshops, new educational techniques were presented, including the use of Virtual Reality (by Jules van Horen), local workshops (by Rikke Thorninger), prefactured specimens (by Oliver Trapp), smart glasses (by Eileen Ke) and online evaluation forms (by Melanie Kall).

With meetings like these and the active participation of course directors, I believe the quality of the OTC courses across the world is improved. It truly helps to achieve the mission of the OTCF education taskforce to bring trauma education to the next level.

But 2022 is ending and it is also time look forward to the upcoming year 2023; another year over, and a new one just begun. In 2023 the OTC Education Taskforce is planning to make a new inventory of all OTC trauma education activities in all OTC Chapters. Just like five years ago, we would like to present the outcomes of this inventory in a written report. The data for this study will be gathered with the use of the self-created OTC online questionnaire application. This is a great opportunity for us to use this software and for the OTC associates to become acquainted with this application. When you receive this questionnaire, take a few moments to complete it and tell us about your activities.

What may 2023 bring? COVID may return and its serious impact on our education. Furthermore, due to rising costs of energy and materials the available resources, also for trauma education, may be reduced. In 2023 nearly all OTC Chapters face

budget cuts from our grantor. Educational OTC activities largely depend on external funding. We hope that OTC and our grantor, will find solutions for the financial budgets soon.

Despite these challenges it is crucial to proceed with our trauma education. After all trauma education is essential for good Osteosynthesis and Trauma Care. Unfortunately, effective trauma care is still sorely needed. War is raging in the east of Europe. It is leaving many injured, suffering and dying. I sincerely hope that in next year's newsletter John Lennon's lyrics have a true meaning and we can sing "war is over!".

Merry Christmas and happy New Year,

Micha Holla

Chairman of the OTC Foundation Education Taskforce



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

OTC Spain

OTC Spain is back!

In fact, we never left. During 2021 and 2022 OTC Spain has been one of the few associations that has continued supporting the training of orthopaedic surgeons in the Iberian Peninsula. We have kept the whole education program despite the difficulties. Even our Latin-American connections, in February we were invited by the Trauma Society of Panama to be responsible for trauma topics during its annual congress in Río Hato.



In this year OTC Spain has increased the number of members to 830, currently we are the first scientific society in Spain in trauma and the third in traumatology and orthopaedic surgery.



In the last September of 2022, OTC Spain actively participated as an outstanding allied society in the SECOT (Spanish Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology) national annual congress held in Valencia, where we were offered the main auditorium to present three sessions. These sessions have been positioned in the top five of the congress. The last quarter of this year has been a very busy period for OTC Spain, an advanced course on osteosynthesis of upper extremity fractures was held Valencia, attended by 35 surgeons from Spain and Portugal, with keynotes presentations followed by hands-on surgical approaches and practice of osteosynthesis in cadavers.

And in November, within the training program that accredits third-year residents of Spain, the second basic course took place in Madrid (The first was in March in Sevilla), with 90 attendees. The format of this course was based on small groups where case discussions, 3D planning and osteosynthesis in plastic models. The rating scales for all these activities have been extremely high.

But probably, our most widespread program was OTC Tv Satellite Edition “Polytrauma and Complex Fractures”. In a TV set, documentary/talk show format,

with two channels (English and Spanish), we broadcast our program for 400 registrants during two days. In this international session, the speakers came from France (G. Taglang), Germany (C. Burger), EEUU (D. Chafey) and Spain. Six sessions with discussions and interactions with the audience were guided by 12 speakers. The feedback received was amazing. A new format for new times.

Happy new year and our best wishes for 2023, we hope to see you soon!

PS: Special thanks for OTC Foundation on behalf the OTC Spain.

Jesus Gomez Vallejo
President OTC Spain



OTC South Africa



This has been an exciting year for us as 2022 marked the formation of OTC South African Chapter. We are still finalising the legal and administrative processes and we are excited to be a part of this global network of traumatologists.

On 23rd November 2022 we held our first international webinar on Gunshot Injuries in Orthopaedic Trauma with faculty from University of Cape Town. The webinar was well attended and enjoyed by all based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received.

We have exciting educational activities in the pipeline for 2023, both in person and virtual, so watch this space!

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,

Sithombo Maqungo

President OTC South Africa

OUTLOOK FOR 2023

Please mark your diary:

- General Assembly and Leadership Forum in Madrid, June 14th to 16th, 2023
 - EB/BOT/ReCo mid-term meeting in Rome, November 16th – 18th, 2023
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OTCF WEBISTE - NEW LAYOUT

The OTCF Website has a new layout, please visit:

<https://otcfoundation.org/>

For any information or needs, please contact OTC Germany, Mrs. Melanie Kall
melanie.kall@otc-akademie.de

OTC Foundation

Emmenholzweg 1, CH-4528 Zuchwil, Switzerland

www.otcfoundation.org, info@otcfoundation.org

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