



Osteosynthesis &
Trauma Care Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 of the OTCF

*Our mission is to advance osteosynthesis and trauma care
through research, education and best clinical practice.*



2023 was a successful year for the OTCF and we achieved as much or more than expected. Additionally, it was also a year of several changes for the Foundation, including a move to a new Headquarters and a new Fiduciary Accountant. Thankfully, these changes did not impact the smooth functioning and growth of the Foundation.

In June of 2023, the official handover of the presidency from Oliver Trapp to Francisco Chana was made. At this time, Stefan Clockaerts (Belgium) was also nominated as the as next incoming President (2025 – 2027).

As in 2022, the OTCF worked in full transparency with the main grantor. The Annual General Assembly, the Leadership Forum and the Hot Topic Workshop took place as planned in Madrid.

OTCF is very proud of the Research Grant Program, which been so well managed by the Research Committee (ReCo).

In addition to supporting, as much as possible, individual chapters in need, the OTCF wishes to encourage the younger generation and in particular, more women to join this international network. We believe that they will be the FUTURE OTCF leaders!

I. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The Executive Board (EB) met several times in 2023 both via Zoom and during onsite meetings.

EB had also a strategy meeting with the main grantor discussing all subjects, including both encountered and anticipated difficulties and suggested solutions as well as the future collaboration.

Throughout the meetings (and the year) the EB was consistently present, ready to help by taking fast and clear decisions, while working in full transparency and respecting all rules/regulations in accordance with the main grantor.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 15th June 2023 in Madrid

The AGM took place in Madrid and was hosted by the OTC Spain chapter. Except OTC South Pacific, all OTC Chapters worldwide were represented. The BOT and representatives from the main grantor participated as well.

Reports were given on following topics:

- OTCF Financial Report

The 2022 Financial Report was presented. Faced with a reduction in grant allocation, the OTCF achieved all its goals and completed all its activities but ended the year with a loss and needed to draw upon reserves.

The Auditor's Report, obligatory by Swiss Law, demonstrated that the OTCF books, as the prior years, have been diligently kept. The report was approved.

The budget for 2023 and first figures were shown per budget lines. OTCF has completely revised its chart of accounts to present a more accurate overview of each project during the year.

- Regional Representation Current regions and coordinators were approved as following:

Region 1: Europe & South Africa is represented by Oliver Trapp (OTC Germany)

Region 2: Latin America, Spain & Portugal by Jesús Gomez Vallejo (OTC Spain)

Region 3: Nordics is represented by Ole Brink (OTC Denmark)

Region 4: North America (FOT President, Robert Dunbar)

- The OTCF Award 2023 was given to Dr. Michael Ullman, Senior Consultant, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden.
- Progression in Individual Chapters.
- The reactivation of the OTC Switzerland Chapter was still in progress.
- The official creation of OTC South Africa occurred in February 2023.
- The activities of OTCF Education Task Force were discussed.
- The activities of OTCF Research Committee were discussed.

THE LEADERSHIP FORUM (LF), 15th & 16th June 2023

The LF took place in Madrid under the chairmanship of Dr. Francisco Chana, Dr. Jesus Gomez Vallejo (OTC Spain) and Dr. Oliver Trapp (President OTCF).

It was organized in coordination with the OTC Spain Basic Course so that local participants could attend the LF as well.

The first afternoon was dedicated to:

- Multidisciplinary management of polytrauma patients: what should I know from my colleagues? 10 speakers discussed topics such as varied as anesthetic consideration and vascular surgery considerations in the polytrauma patient.
- Orthopaedic residency programs all over the world: how are they similar, how are they different? (with presentations from 10 speakers from OTC Chapters around the globe).

The second day was dedicated to:

- Management of public disasters.
- Management of extreme fractures.
- Controversies in proximal femur fractures.

MID-TERM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 16th November 2023

The EB met in Rome (Italy) on 16th November prior to the Hot Topic Workshop managed by the Research Committee.

The committee also met with the main grantor for a strategy meeting during which current and future collaboration were discussed.

One of the main subjects of concern was the difficulty the chapters had to get grants and to fulfil the application procedures, as most of the chapters do not have a dedicated administrative staff able to take in charge all these fastidious formalities. Another point of contention mentioned was the delay in payments, which are paralyzing the chapters in their activities and plans.

The grantor promised to bring as much as possible support with a dedicated staff person for the application procedures. Regarding late payments, resolutions will be addressed on case-by-case basis. Also considered was to integrate a grantor representative in the OTCF Board of Trustees (BOT). Ultimately, it was concluded not to proceed along this route. At present, no one from the industry is joining the BOT.

Regarding the Award 2024: in memories of Prof. Volker Bühren who passed away in Summer 2024, EB decided to rename the OTCF Award into "Volker Bühren Award".

During this meeting, the EB did an in-depth review of all 2023 accounts and prepared the workplan and budget needs for 2024.

The EB started the preparation for the annual events in Stockholm that are scheduled from 12th to 14th June 2024 and decided to organize the mid-term meetings and ReCo Hot Topic Workshop in November 2024 in Cape Town with the local help of OTC South Africa.

II. EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Education Task Force (EduTF) is composed by: Micha Holla (Chair), Taco Blokhuis (NL), Rikke Thorninger (Denmark), Melanie Kall (Germany), Jesus Gomez Vallejo (Spain), Filip Stockmans (Belgium) and Alessandro Are (Italy). Dr Are, will be the incoming OTC Education Taskforce president up to 2024.

In 2023, EduTF initiated a questionnaire to assess the status of our OTC educational activities worldwide. Many OTC chapters diligently filled in the digital evaluation forms.

The analysis showed 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 OTCF and its 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.

In addition, EduTF aims 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, the committee 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). 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, the EduTF decided to invite experts to enlighten the new ways of thinking and work ethos. Through interviews and discussions with the younger generation, the committee aims to "Connect the Boomers to the Zoomers." EduTF anticipated making this session available for the Leadership Forum in summer 2024 in Stockholm.

Looking ahead to 2024, the EduTF is committed to achieve existing milestones, including the promotion of faculty exchanges, online evaluation forms, and leveled trauma education. A new course director meeting is planned for 2025, covering exciting topics, including the use of artificial intelligence and its impact on trauma education.

OTCF was also represented in October at the DKOU meeting in Berlin by animating a session on Controversies in Humerus Fractures.

III. RESEARCH PROGRAM

Research Committee (ReCo)

Members of ReCo in 2023 were:

Ted Miclau (Committee Chair), Volker Alt, Peter Augat, Hamish Simpson and Esther Van Lieshout.

Contacts: Esther Van Lieshout: research.grants@otcfoundation.org

ReCo had two meetings in 2023.

ReCo 39th meeting took place in Madrid (Spain) on June 13, to review a total of six research grant applications in the area of "Clinical Research Changing Clinical Practice". Four applicants were vetted and awarded a research grant.

ReCo 40th annual meeting took place in Rome (Italy) on November 17 and was focused on preparing for the Hot Top Workshop of 2024.

Hot Topic Workshop

The annual Hot Topic Workshop 2023 on "Fracture-Related Infections" brought 21 participants of various professional backgrounds together in Rome on November 16 and 17.

Topics included:

- Basic principles of infection.
- Infection prevention in open fractures.
- Diagnostics.
- New technologies and techniques to prevent infections.
- Treatment algorithms for infections.

Based on the Workshop, the following hot topics were identified for the 2024 Research Grants:

- Diagnostics; including pre-, intra-, and post-operative methodologies.
- Therapeutic strategies: including optimization of host factors, biomaterials, coatings, phages, local antimicrobial therapies, and alternative approaches such as vaccines.
- Data sets; including big data, omics, and high dimensional data collection for clinical outcomes, and pre-clinical model database for basic research on infection.
- Development of a Classification system for FRIs.
- Clinical trials or registries feasible to study FRIs.

The presentations and discussion results will be published in a supplement of Injury. The next Workshop in 2024 will address “Ballistic Injuries”.

ReCo Research Grants

There remain 11 grant projects in various stages of progress: four from 2022, three from 2021, two from 2019, and two from prior years.

Eleven applications were received in 2022, four applications with the highest ratings were awarded a Research Grant.

Injury Supplements

INJURY 2023, Volume 54, Supplement 5: “Clinical Research Changing Clinical Practice”. Guest editors: Volker Alt and Hamish Simpson.

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))

Volker Alt remains designated by Elsevier as the Handling Editor for processing of all contributions in accordance with the new electronic paper submission, editing and approval procedures for Injury papers.

Coordination of Clinical Research

The Spanish translation of the textbook on Clinical Research Coordination, which was published in 2020, has been finalized. It is available online in Open Access (<https://orthosurgery.ucsf.edu/research/resources/coordinacion-de-la-investigacion-clinica-un-manual-para-coordinadores-de>).

IV. WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION

The OTCF Website <https://otcfoundation.org/> is administered at OTC Germany by Melanie Kall (OTCF Web Manager): admin@otcfoundation.org

Support is provided to different OTC chapters (like Austria, Switzerland, FOT, Nordic).

Currently, OTCF is working on a tool which will permit the chapters to advertise their courses by their own.

V. CHAPTER COOPERATION

- **OTC Switzerland**

The relaunch went well at the beginning, a new Board was identified, a first webpage prepared, a workplan was in place, but unfortunately motivation waned during the Summer. The tentative plan was to organize a General Assembly to elect the new Board, but this failed and after numerous reminders and due to the lack of motivation and implication, the current President, Dr. Arlettaz decided to dissolve definitively the chapter.

VI. OTC FOUNDATION SECRETARIAT

The operational coordination and administrative implementation of the foundation program continued with following manpower:

NAME	FUNCTION	PORTFOLIOS
Emanuel Zloczower	Legal Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BOT oversight of OTCF• Legal counsel and compliance
Tomi Treuhand AG	Fiduciary Accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost center operations• Administrative headquarters
Margot Hamm	Education Manager & Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force Education program management• Education event organization• Chapter networking• Communication• Budget administration
Esther van Lieshout	ReCo Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research program management• Research events coordination• Budget management backstopping• Research grants administration• ReCo meetings coordination
Melanie Kall	Website Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTCF Webmaster• Support for OTC Newsletter

The OTCF secretariat covers administration and management of the foundation including administrative back-up services to OTC chapters.

Strasbourg, June 2024,
Margot HAMM, Education Manager &
Executive Assistant

