The AO world
From history to lifelong learning

Nikolaus Renner
Past-president AO Foundation
History

Lack of asepsis  Lack of good tools  Lack of training

Failures

Development of fracture fixation techniques
On November 6, 1958 the AO Foundation was founded by a group of Swiss surgeons.

This group of Swiss surgeons came together to champion revolutionary techniques of internal fixation that achieved unprecedented results in healing bone fractures.

Defying conventional wisdom, the group expanded the practices and philosophy of the organization, known as the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen (Association for the Study of Internal Fixation) or AO.

Today the AO Foundation is a global organization synonymous with excellence in surgical techniques and advancing patient care.

The AO Founders revolutionized surgery.
Motivation?—Unsatisfactory results!

Workmen’s compensation insurance (SUVA) 1945:
- Tibial shaft fractures 40%
- Femoral shaft fractures 70%

Medical revolution

The four AO principles

- Early mobilization
- Anatomical reduction
- Stable fixation (direct bone healing)
- Careful soft-tissue handling (blood supply)
The four AO principles
Evolution into today’s global gold standard

1. Reduction – restoring **functional** anatomy
2. Absolute or relative stability depending upon type of fracture and injury
3. Preservation of the blood supply to soft tissues and bone by careful handling and gentle reduction techniques
4. Early and active mobilization
Four pillars of success

ARI
AO Research Institute

AO TC
Technical Commission

AO CID
Clinical investigation and documentation

AO EI
AO Education Institute
AO Education Institute—How to stay best in class

High quality content  High quality faculty  Access and delivery
Addressing lifelong learning

Residency
AO Trauma Courses
• Basic
• Advanced principles of fracture management

Start of practice
• Masters
• Current concepts

Growing specialization

Expertise
Three underlying basic concepts

1. Backwards-planned educational activities

   Competency
   - Knowledge
   - Skills
   - Attitude

2. Competency-driven curricula development

   Curriculum – defines all learning activities & outcomes
   - Faculty development
   - Resources (learning material)

3. Outcomes measurement driven planning
Staged faculty career education

Optional LEP modules
RET T
Regional Education & Training
T4EA
Training for Educational Advisors

Faculty Experience
lead

Chair

Teach

Faculty Training
Exemplary Faculty Preparation

CP Coaching Program
AOTrauma ORP (Operating Room Personnel)

Education through
- Courses, and seminars
- Hospital based education
- Faculty development
- ORP educational material
Educational content—Webcasts and webinars

In 2018:
• Webinars—39
• Webcasts—4
• 6,848 online participants
Educational content—Downloads

AO Surgery Reference

AO/OTA Fracture Classification

AO Trauma Orthogeriatrics

130,590

57,463

17,455
Innovation in education—AO Trauma STaRT Program

Surgical Training and Assessment for Residents

11,699
Registered users
Approved fellowships 2018

Total
280 fellowships

North America 15
Latin America 45
Middle East and Northern Africa 65
Europe and Southern Africa 75
Asia Pacific 80
AOAF 10
Our clinical divisions

AO Trauma  AO Spine  AO CMF  AO Vet
One Foundation—One mission

Promoting excellence in patient care and outcomes in trauma and musculoskeletal disorders
Global structure—Five AO regions
Global AO Trauma network

20’000 Members
Welcome to the family!
Thank you very much for your attention