**[AO ITC Clinical Research Fellowship](https://www.aofoundation.org/what-we-do/innovation-translation/clinical-evidence/clinical-science/ao-itc-clinical-research-fellowship) Program for surgeons**

**Aim**

This fellowship program provides surgeons with training and experience in all phases of clinical research (study planning, monitoring, data analysis, and publication).

**Sponsor**

[AO Trauma](http://www.aotrauma.org/) and [AO CMF](http://www.aocmf.org/) may each support one or two candidates annually to participate in this unique and challenging experience. A maximum of two fellows can be enrolled at the same time.

The selected fellow spends three months at the Clinical Evidence, AO Innovation Translation Center (AO ITC) office in Dübendorf, Switzerland.

 **Requirements:**

* Medical Doctor (MD) with minimum orthopedic training or a dental diploma
* Current member of AO Trauma or AO CMF​
* AO Principles Course completed (only for AO Trauma fellows, certificate required)
* Published at least one clinical investigation in a peer reviewed journal
* Willing and able to dedicate at least 10 percent of time to clinical research
* Communication skills and ability to work in a team
* Proficient in spoken and written English

**The fellowship offers:**

* Tutoring and support by AO clinical evidence staff
* Training in Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
* Single user [Stata](https://www.stata.com/) license for one year. The fellow is expected to bring his/her own laptop with Stata software installed. Unless they can demonstrate prior knowledge and experience in the use of a statistical software package, fellows will complete an [online introductory course](http://www.stata.com/netcourse/nc101.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) on Stata prior to starting the fellowship.
* Travel to and from Switzerland
* Accommodation for three months for one person

**Projects**

Candidates can apply to develop any of the following projects:

1. **Analysis and publication of their own data**

Fellows who have a complete database of a clinical study from their own clinic will perform the analysis and prepare a manuscript for publication of their results by the end of the three-month period. A copy of the ethics commission (EC) or institutional review board (IRB) approval must be provided.

1. **Development of a clinical study protocol**

Fellows who want to develop a study protocol will prepare a clinical investigation plan in accordance to AO ITC standards. The study should address a clinically relevant topic and be supported by the head of the home clinic. Upon return to their countries, fellows are expected to run the study.

1. **Systematic literature reviews and metanalysis**

Systematic literature reviews and metanalysis from highly relevant topics may also be possible within the framework of this fellowship. The fellow will conduct his/her research in accordance with current AO ITC standard operating procedures.

* AO CMF fellows are highly encouraged to utilize the support offered during his/her stay at AO ITC by writing a systematic review and submitting it to *Craniomaxillofacial Trauma and Reconstruction Open* *(CMTR Open)*. *CMTR Open* is the preferred target journal for manuscripts developed during the fellowship.

Certified AO ITC fellows are further guided after the three-month period in Switzerland until the submitted manuscript can be successfully published, and/or the planned study can be implemented as much as possible.

**Additional tasks**

Fellows are also involved in various AO ITC activities by providing their clinical expertise. At the end of the fellowship, they present the results of their projects in an internal meeting before receiving the Fellowship certificate.

**How to apply**

1. Complete the application form.
2. Complete the fellowship project outline form.
3. Send the fellowship application form, the fellowship project outline form and the additional required documents to clinicalresearch@aofoundation.org (.tif, .doc, .docx, .pdf, .jpeg are accepted)\*.
4. Applicants will be informed about the decision by e-mail.

\*If electronic format is not possible, paper copies can be sent to:

AO Innovation Translation Center

AO ITC Fellowship Program

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