

Community Voice

The newsletter for the AO Trauma North America community

Summer 2021



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Members Speak Out!

From the Editor



Welcome to the latest edition of Community Voice, which serves to inform AO members about the people, events, and opportunities of AO Trauma North America.

As we enter the summer of 2021, we are witnessing the gradual resumption of “normal” life in the US after many months of Covid 19 response. We have seen a monumental scientific and industrial response to create, manufacture, and distribute vaccines for Covid 19 which will end this pandemic. There is gratitude for the many, many health care workers who have been on the front lines caring for Covid patients. We remember those we have lost, and we are thankful for those who have weathered this virus.

What “normal” will look like is hard to say. AO Trauma North America is adapting and innovating to thrive in a new post-pandemic environment. There is no question that digital technology for communication, learning, and data analysis has accelerated as a result of the pandemic and will be embedded in the future of AO.

We will see virtual learning continue and we will also see the ability of the AO to reach a much wider audience. We will see the resumption of in-person events, but they will be different and even better than what we have seen in the past. This is an exciting time as we use the experience of the last year and a quarter to propel AO NA into new territory instead of reverting to pre-pandemic operations and assumptions.

A core element of AO NA is the collegiality and community that are part of the organization. We will be working even better to grow the AO Trauma NA community and help surgeons feel welcome and engaged in AO Trauma NA throughout a surgical career.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Community Voice. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Langdon A. Hartsock'.

Langdon A. Hartsock, MD, FACS

Editor, AO Trauma North America Community Voice Newsletter



Message from the President of AO North America

By: Amy S. Kapatkin



Dear All at AO Trauma NA,

AO NA is extremely busy planning the start of in-person courses. Although we all are anxious to be “back to normal”, after two leadership strategic retreats and individual clinical division retreats, “normal” will look different because we all want it to look different.

A strong learner and engagement strategy is now well worked out including implementation plans.

It relies heavily on digital strategies and engagement of more faculty members to fill roles in a variety of areas. AO NA has already formed some new committees engaging new faculty; Social Media Committee, Audit Committee, and Fundraising Committee.

There will be many more faculty volunteer opportunities, so if you are looking to become more engaged, please respond to the calls that are rolling out in areas of your interest.

AO TNA has led the way on many of these progressive learning and engagement ideas under their strong AO TNA Board and committee leadership. Many thanks to all in AO TNA for their devotion to making AO NA so successful.

AO Foundation has approved all the AO NA governance documents and those will be posted on the web site for anyone to see.

As many of you probably know, the Foundation and recently AO NA are going through a reorganization in their structure that involves more cross-collaboration between the clinical divisions and the tasks.

Those that serve on committees and projects will see a difference in work flow at AO F and AO NA in July. AO NA has been filling open positions to help with the digital strategy. The website has been updating the office organizational chart as things change.

The website is only as good as the content we put on it, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please make sure to share those.

If you have specific questions on processes, initiatives, or budgets, this information is discussed monthly with the clinical division chairs during Executive Committee meetings and then the Chairs and AO NA staff inform their clinical division boards and faculty members through newsletters or other means.

I am open to feedback or questions on any of our initiatives or processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Kapatkin".

Amy S. Kapatkin DVM, MAS, DACVS
President, AO North America

AO Trauma NA Board Update

Roger Wilber, MD

Chair, AO Trauma North America Board



Since our last issue there have been several changes within the governance of AO North America and AO Trauma North America.

AO North America Board

The AO North America Board of Directors has approved in its Bylaws the development of an Audit Committee which will consist of a representative from each clinical division.

This Audit Committee will be chaired by Michael Suk, MD, JD, MPH, MBA, FACS who is a member at-large on the AO North America Board of Directors.

The Audit Committee is tasked with overseeing:

- The independent audit
- Financial reporting and financial policies
- Conflicts of interest and
- General corporate compliance items

The Trauma representative on the audit committee is Michael Sirkin.

Also new to the board is the formation of a fundraising committee which will report to Jim Stannard, Chair of the AO NA Board.

The Trauma representatives to the fundraising committee are Terry Axelrod and Tom Hunt.

The Fundraising Committee will be tasked with the following:

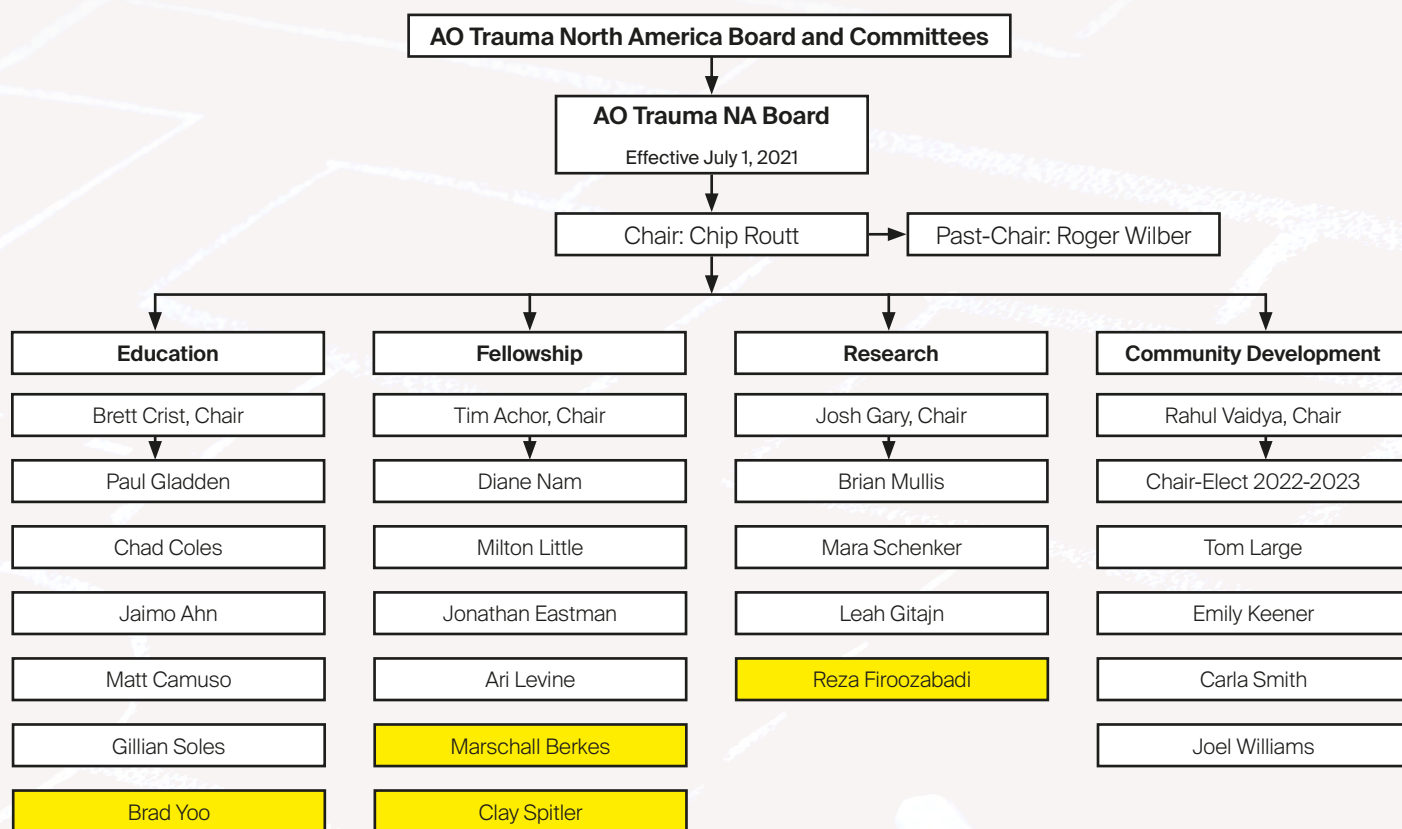
- Develop a long-term fundraising plan
- Develop the “case” for appealing to potential donors (i.e., the “pitch”)
- Recommend fundraising goals to board for budget purposes
- Work with AO NA staff to execute the fundraising plan
- Promote fundraising activities
- Monitor progress to objectives and ROI with respect to specific fundraising activities
- Ensure that donors are recognized

AO Trauma North America Board

Due to the rotation of several committee members, we are happy to announce and welcome the following new committee members:

- **Education:** Brad Yoo
- **Fellowship:** Marschall Berkes and Clay Spittler
- **Research:** Reza Firoozabadi

Effective July 1, 2021, Chip Routt will take over as Chair of the AO Trauma North America Board and I will begin my one-year term as Past-chair. At this time, we need to also recognize and thank both Greg Della Rocca and Jim Krieg—who have completed their terms as chairs of the research and Fellowship committees respectively—for their time commitment, leadership, and dedication to AO Trauma NA.



AO Trauma NA Strategy Meeting

An AO Trauma NA Strategy Meeting was held at the 320 Ranch in Big Sky, MT, on May 3-5, 2021.

This is the first time, since the inception of AO Trauma NA, that all the committee and board members have gathered to develop a strategy of Trauma to move the specialty forward.

The goals and objectives of the meeting were to:

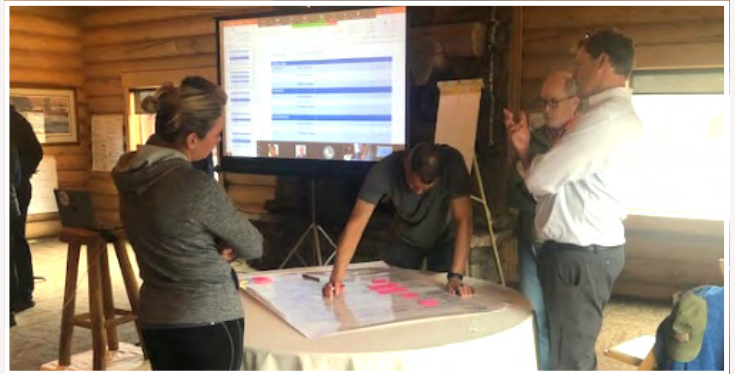
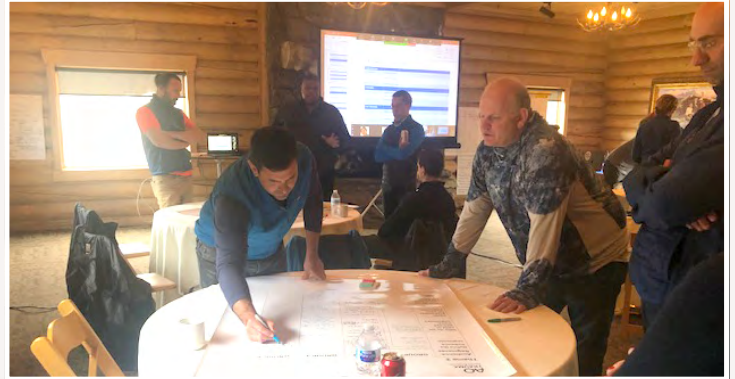
- Describe the future surgeon interactions with AO Trauma NA
- Create a roadmap for the future of skills training
- Define content format, access, and delivery
- Recognize the attributes of faculty and skills needed for us to deliver in the future
- Define goals for 2022 and identify priorities to work on

In addition, there were five major themes which we focused on:

- Content
- Skills training
- Surgeon journey maps
- Faculty skills and attributes
- Impact on committees and volunteer structures

To facilitate thinking and provide opportunities for creative problem solving, we organized several breakout sessions which required focus on specific theme.

Look for more information on the outcomes of the meeting in our next issue as we continue to advance the action items.



Roger Wilber, MD, Elected as AO NA Education Advisory Board Chair



We are pleased to inform you that Roger Wilber, MD, has been elected Chair of the AO North America Education Advisory Board (EAB). He will start his four-year term on July 1, 2021.

Dr. Wilber has worked actively within AO North America for 25 years and has held several leadership positions. In addition to his role as chair of the AO Trauma NA Board, he has served as chair of the Education Committee and is currently the leader of the Competency Training and Assessment Programs task force, where he works to increase the scope of and improve our education processes. Dr. Wilber's tenure of over six years on the AO Trauma NA Education Committee and his experience as a Regional Education Team Training member has enabled him to establish strong relationships within the organization, nationally and internationally.

Please join us in congratulating Roger and wishing him the best in his new role.

About Roger Wilber, MD

Dr. Roger G. Wilber graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1986, beginning his career in family practice. Following an internship at Highland General Hospital in Oakland California, he served as Lieutenant in the Alaskan Public Health Service for three years. An increased interest in musculoskeletal disorders inspired Dr. Wilber's return to training at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he completed an internship in General Surgery under the mentorship of Dr. John Border. His inclination to traumatology was further developed through the close training and friendship of Dr. Lawrence Bone in the Department of Orthopedics at SUNY Buffalo.

Dr. Wilber's primary focus became reconstruction of the pelvis and acetabulum, along with complex traumatic disorders and diseases of the hip. He completed a Fellowship in adult reconstruction at Wayne State University under Drs. Jeffrey Mast and Keith Mayo and has spent over 23 years as a trauma and adult reconstruction surgeon at University Hospitals and MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the current Chief of Adult Reconstruction and Pelvic and Acetabular Surgery at MetroHealth.

Dr. Wilber continues to pursue interesting projects in his field. He is dedicated to improving healthcare in developing regions, serving as a volunteer surgeon in Bhutan and a visiting professor across the globe. He collaborates with various organizations in developing healthcare technology to improve standards throughout medical practice and education.

About the EAB chair position

Responsibilities of the EAB chair include leading the development and implementation of the learning strategy through collaboration with clinical division boards, committees, and AO NA staff; representing AO NA at education platform meetings and advocating for AO NA learning needs at the level of the AO Foundation, as well as promoting collaboration across different organizations to forward AO NA strategic initiatives and achieve defined goals. Position requirements include having proven leadership experience in implementing the learning strategy across the organization; being an innovative and results-driven advocate for learning, with a focus on what is needed to make AO NA learning more effective, relevant, and meaningful to learners, and possessing a full understanding of AO NA compliance and regulatory concerns as well as those of commercial supporters.

Michael Baumgaertner, MD, AO Trauma International Board Chair

What is your current position with the AO Trauma International Board (AO TIB)?

I'm completing my first year of a three-year term. Current board Regional Chair members are Jon Monk (EUR), CW Oh (Asia-Pacific), Kahlid Khoshhal (Middle East), Rodrigo Pesantez (Latin America), and of course Roger Wilber (AO TNA). Samir Mehta, Wa'el Taja, and Pol Rommens sit on the AO TIB as the Chairs of CDC, Education and the Research Commissions. Kodi Kojima is concluding his term as immediate Past-chair.

How are the AO Trauma regional members selected?

Each region elects its Trauma Chairperson under the guidance and supervision of its Nominating Committee, which defines eligibility requirements and establishes the electorate and number of votes.

What are the responsibilities of the AO Trauma International Board?

The duties of the AO TIB can be described within the following six functional domains:

- **Strategic planning**—to identify, develop and implement global strategic plans for AO Trauma activities in education, research, and community development
- **Governance**—to set guidelines for the Global Commissions and Regional Boards
- **Performance**—to monitor, supervise and evaluate the performance of the TIB, Global Commissions, and Regional Boards. Instruct and implement actions where negative variances occur
- **Financial planning and monitoring**—to plan, monitor and manage AO Trauma finances in line with the policies of the AO Foundation Board, reporting processes, and structures
- **Budget disbursement**—to disburse budgets in a manner fit to the growth, viability, and sustainability goals of AO Trauma
- **Interactions**—to coordinate interactions with the AO Foundation Board, other clinical divisions and units, the AO Institutes, the AO support units, and among AO regions

What are the biggest challenges facing AO Trauma today?

I believe it centers on maintaining the goodwill of the faculty by providing them unique value as we evolve away from a primarily course-centric and primarily face-to-face interactions to more longitudinal, blended programs for professional development

How does your position interact with the AO Foundation Board?

Together with the other Clinical Division International Board Chairpersons, I attend the semiannual AO Foundation Board-CD meetings. Additionally, the CEO and Vice Chair of the Foundation, Chris Lindenmeyer, and the the Foundation president regularly attend all AO TIB meetings.

Where do you see AO Trauma in the next five years?

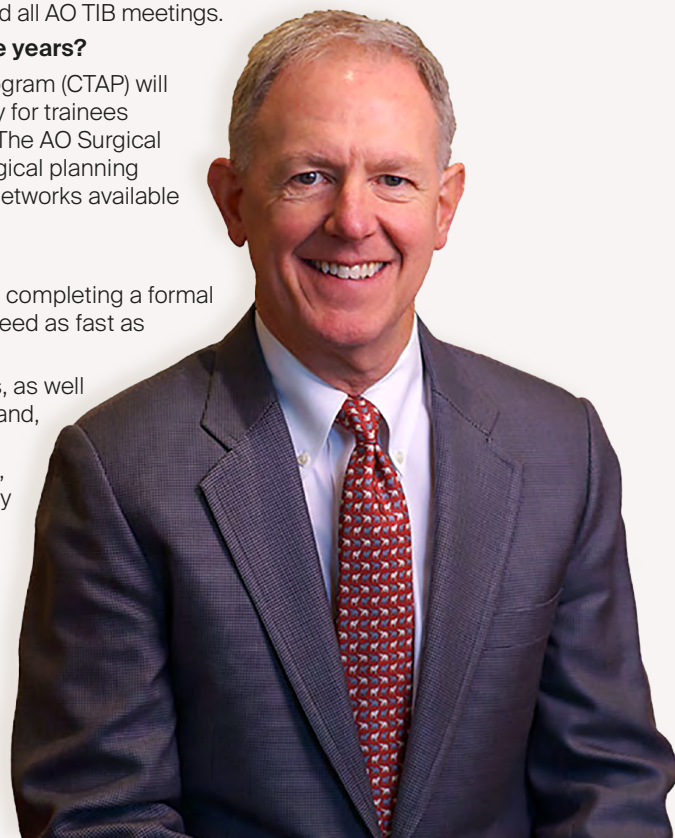
The Competency Training and Assessment Program (CTAP) will usher in a more effective pathway to proficiency for trainees and will serve as a model for other specialties. The AO Surgical Reference will maintain its dominant role in surgical planning and the **myAO** platform will help crosslink the networks available within our organization.

What launched your AO career?

I took a trauma job at Yale without the benefit of completing a formal trauma Fellowship and I needed to get up to speed as fast as possible.

I turned to the AO Basic and Advanced courses, as well as a short-term AO Fellowship at Chur, Switzerland, with Professor Ruedi as a means to become a good surgeon quickly. Peter Trafton, Larry Bone, Jeff Mast, Dave Helfet, Jack Wilber and so many others graciously guided me through my first decade, and even more subsequently.

I then took a special interest in Faculty Development and worked with other really bright people to develop the FEP and Coaching Program to be part of the AO experience. It has been remarkably rewarding to see the native "AO Spirit" harnessed in this way to make us better learners and teachers, knowing this ultimately influences our patients' outcomes.



“It has been remarkably rewarding to see the native “AO Spirit” harnessed... to make us better learners and teachers, knowing this ultimately influences our patients’ outcomes.”

COMMITTEE REPORT

Education



Brett Crist, MD

**Chair AO Trauma NA
Education Committee**

The last few months have brought a number of virtual offerings to AO Trauma members. We've had another round of Basic and Advanced courses, started the weekly Fireside Chats and are just finishing up the virtual Pelvis and Acetabular Course.

We continue to have a large number of participants signing up for the courses. All of these events are available via recordings post event.

One of the unintended consequences of the virtual content that turned into an incredible benefit was the increased reach to participants from around the world. Despite time differences, we had participants from Europe, the Middle East, and South America.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Brad Yoo as our newest member of the AO Trauma Education Committee. We would also like to thank Hobie Summers for his six years of tireless service, and Michael Sirkin for his exemplary service as committee member, Chair, and most recently Past-chair. Both members have shown a tremendous amount of passion for and commitment to our organization.

The pandemic hasn't slowed us down, it's made us move toward the future of education at a more rapid pace. We will still deliver the world-class orthopedic trauma educational offerings that we always have, but are able to reach more participants and involve more faculty.

You can find our full educational program on the next page.

AO Innovation Translation Center funding opportunities!

If you have an early-stage idea for clinical tools and technologies to improve patient care, or educational tools that support lifelong training for surgeons, the [Strategy Fund](#) may be able to help move your idea forward.

Apply by July 31, 2021.

If you need support to translate your specific idea to clinical availability, the [Development Incubator](#) could be your ideal partner. It helps achieve proof of concept on innovative ideas and bring them to market. Proposals are reviewed twice a year and the next deadline to apply is **October 31, 2021.**

2021 Education

Specialty	Date	Course Title	Location
Hand	November 13-14, 2021	AO Trauma Hand North America Course—Fellows	Tampa, FL
Hand	January 14–April 8, 2021	AO Trauma NA Hand Online Series—Advanced Wrist Summit Sessions 1-9 plus Q&A	Online Event
Hand	February 17, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Webinar—Basal Joint Arthritis	Online Event
Hand	March 31, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Webinar—Complex Elbow	Online Event
Hand	April 29–June 10, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Online Series—Hand Therapy Course	Online Event
Hand	June 2, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Webinar—Tendon Transfer	Online Event
Hand	August 4, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Webinar—Soft Tissue: Flaps in Hands	Online Event
Hand	December 1, 2021	AO Trauma Hand NA Webinar—Infections in the Hand	Online Event
Trauma	April 24–25, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Regional Practical Sessions	Boston, Providence, Newark, Baltimore, Ann Arbor, Minneapolis, Ventura, Corvallis OR
Trauma	May 20–23, 2021	AO Trauma North America—Fellows Forum	Bonita Springs, FL
Trauma	August 26–27, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Labs—Session 1	Boston, MA
Trauma	August 26–27, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab—Session 1	Boston, MA
Trauma	August 27–28, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Labs—Session 2	Boston, MA
Trauma	August 27–28, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab—Session 2	Boston, MA
Trauma	September 17-19, 2021	AO Trauma North America Seminar—Think Tank 1	Marco Island, FL
Trauma	September 17-19, 2021	AO Trauma North America Seminar—Think Tank 2	Marco Island, FL
Trauma	October 7-9, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Think Tank New Practicing Surgeons	Park City, UT
Trauma	October 9–10, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab	Phoenix, AZ
Trauma	October 10–12, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Think Tank 3	Park City, UT
Trauma	November 4–5, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management—Session 1	Orlando, FL
Trauma	November 6–7, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management—Session 2	Orlando, FL
Trauma	November 6–7, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab (one session)	Orlando, FL
Trauma	December 2–3, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab—Session 1	La Jolla, CA
Trauma	December 4–5, 2021	AO Trauma North America Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Practical Lab—Session 2	La Jolla, CA
Trauma	January 19–June 15, 2021	AO Trauma North America—Journal Club	Online Event
Trauma	February 3, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—Proximal Femur: Errors, Pitfalls, and Failures	Online Event
Trauma	February 4–March 25, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Essentials	Online Event
Trauma	February 24, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Compartment Syndrome in 2021: Diagnosis and Decompression	Online Event
Trauma	March 2–30, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Advanced Principles of Fracture Management Essentials	Online Event
Trauma	March 3, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—LE Deformity: How to Plan and Execute Proximal Femoral Osteotomy	Online Event
Trauma	March 24, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Distal Femur: Nail, Plate, or Both?	Online Event
Trauma	April 10–May 8, 2021	AO Trauma NA Online Course—Pelvic and Acetabular Fracture Management	Online Event
Trauma	April 20–July 20, 2021	AO Trauma NA—Fireside Series	Online Event
Trauma	April 21, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—Distal Femur Fractures	Online Event
Trauma	April 29–June 17, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Essentials	Online Event
Trauma	May 19, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Non-Union? Let's Solve It!	Online Event
Trauma	June 9, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Young Femoral Neck Fractures: Plaster, Plate or Nail?	Online Event
Trauma	August 19–October 14, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Essentials	Online Event
Trauma	September 1, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Pediatric Femoral Neck Fractures: Reduction and Fixation Tips and Tricks	Online Event
Trauma	September 15, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—Scapula Glenoid	Online Event
Trauma	September 29, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Just Another Ankle Fracture? Not So Fast...	Online Event
Trauma	October 13, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—Acetabulum: Radiology of Acetabulum and Fracture Types	Online Event
Trauma	October 28–December 16, 2021	AO Trauma NA Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management Essentials	Online Event
Trauma	November 10, 2021	AO Trauma NA Fellows Webinar—Bone Defects/Nonunions: Osteomyelitis for Trauma Surgeons	Online Event
Trauma	November 17, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Pilon Fractures: Initial Management and Definitive Planning	Online Event
Trauma	December 15, 2021	AO Trauma NA Webinar—Stable Pelvic Ring Injuries: Which Ones Need Surgery and Which Do Not?	Online Event

Hand Specialty Update

Chaitanya Mudgal, MD, MS, (Ortho) MCh
AO Trauma North America Hand Education Committee Chair



Over the last year, the hand specialty offered five web-based learning series totaling 47 live sessions. The 2021 year kicked off with the Advanced Wrist Summit focusing on fractures, soft tissue injuries and complications seen in the wrist. This was followed by the newly developed Hand Therapy Essentials Series. This seven-week series of case-based discussions highlighted the importance of the relationship between surgeons and hand therapists in delivering quality patient care. Hand surgeons and hand therapists teamed up to share their perspectives and approaches to treatment and post-operative care. Case discussions were designed to showcase how an inter-professional partnership and two-way effective communication can help achieve desired patient and clinical outcomes.

The last session for the Hand Therapy Essentials series was an International Round Table with hand surgeons and hand therapists from under-served resource-poor countries discussing their successes and challenges with treatment plans in their respective countries.

The AO North America Hand Education Committee (NAHEC) is developing another new online learning series scheduled to start in the

fall 2021. This Master Class series will take a deep dive into specific hand and wrist topics. For each moderated session, expert faculty will give an all-inclusive presentation ending with questions and answers.

NAHEC recently added the following representatives for a one-year term: new practicing hand surgeon, trauma faculty member and community surgeon task force member.

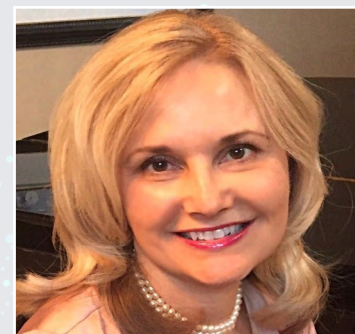
These new representatives to the committee will provide valuable insights for the curriculum. In addition, NAHEC is featuring a yearly Partner Nation. NAHEC will work with and provide education resources to meet the needs of the Partner Nation. The first Partner Nation selected is India.

NAHEC is venturing into podcasts starting with the Sage on Stage series from 2020. Podcasts will be released weekly starting in mid-July.

The Advanced Upper Extremity Course scheduled for August 12-14, 2021, in Miami, Florida has been rescheduled till May 5-7, 2022, at the same Miami location. The first AO Trauma Preparing for Life after Hand Fellowship will take place on Nov 13-14, 2021 in Tampa, Florida.

AO North America is GROWING

By: Andrea Mower, Chief Human Resources and
Administrative Officer, AO North America



We have made some additions to our Digital Communications Team.

Join me in welcoming two of our latest new hires:



Jakob Bower, previously a contractor, joined us officially on January 4, 2021. Jakob is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied music—with a focus on jazz and trombone performance—and English—with a focus on editing and digital media. Using music, writing, art, and animation, Jakob enjoys communicating interesting ideas and takes great pleasure in helping others communicate their own ideas. At AO NA, Jakob works with AO team members to ensure that the ideas being presented on our online platforms are communicated as effectively as possible. Jakob reports directly to Josh Block. You can reach him at bower.jakob@aona.org.

Josh Okumura started with us on February 8, 2021 as our Digital Marketing Associate. Joshua graduated from West Chester University with a degree in marketing. Joshua is responsible for the development and execution of communications and digital content that support the objectives of AO NA. This includes web content, search engine marketing (SEM), search engine optimization (SEO), and management of social media channels. Joshua reports directly to Josh Block and so there is a little less confusion, our new team member will go by Joshua for his email address. You can reach him at okumura.joshua@aona.org.





Learning is a learned behavior— How to get better at it?

Welcome back to the Learning Corner!

In the fall of 2020, we discussed expertise and I left you with a question “how do we encourage deep learning, and the ability to “learn smart”? We will try to find answers and see how this can be achieved this year.

The ability to learn is not a matter of intelligence. It is not an innate ability that people are born with. Yes, there are smart test takers and learners who are very confident in the way they learn and what they can accomplish but they are not born with it. It is a function of self-awareness, self-improvement, discipline, and a growth mindset.

There are many learners who approach the process without focus. They do not think of questions like: *How do I develop mastery? What should practice look like? Does practice require feedback? Should practice be hard?* These questions are important to educators and faculty to consider as well.

There is a growing body of research that suggests that learners are made, not born. Through deliberate practice and personalized dedicated strategies, we can all learn better and improve faster and in a smart way.

Marcel Veenman's studies on meta-cognition showed that people who focus on how they learn and monitor their thinking throughout the learning process, become self-aware and outscore those with very high IQ levels¹. They seem to acquire knowledge and skills faster than others². How can we help our learners become more self-aware disciplined learners with a growth mindset that facilitates continuous learning and improvement?

Organize learning goals.

To develop expertise, a pre-defined set of achievable goals are needed. Strategies to support accomplishment of these goals should also be well defined. Thus, a targeted approach to learning is key. It can also help address lack of confidence and the nagging negativity that follows us as we explore new concepts and new skills outside our comfort zone.

Negative emotions can many times rob us of our ability to learn and perform. Committing to a plan also helps maintain focus and build consistency in behaviors that are important.





continued...

Thinking about thinking

Meta-cognition plays a key role in developing abilities to learn and be good at it. Meta-cognition is about being more aware of how you know what you know. It is a matter of taking a few moments to reflect and ask questions about one's own learning. *Do I really know this? Do I need more practice? Am I ready to solve problems related to this?* Most learners do not engage in this kind of thinking. Meta-cognition, however, comes easily to experts. When they address a problem, they look at it from different perspectives and ask the questions: *Is this enough? What if...? Did I exhaust all possibilities?* How can we promote such thinking?

Reflection in learning can help with meta-cognition. This also promotes self-awareness and helps the learner understand their thinking, analyze strategies that they employed, and learn more about the problem at hand. A moment of “cognitive quiet”, silent introspection and focused deliberation helps achieve deeper learning and comprehension.

Learners need to check for readiness, make sure the skill is needed and get the right help! How can learners prepare to develop expertise?

- **Checking oneself for readiness to learn** is important. Is the goal attainable? How much time and energy should be devoted to this effort? Most people think that if one must devote a lot of time to something, then they lack the ability. However, for anyone, self-improvement is always hard work and commitment.
- **The skill should be relevant** to one's career, organization, or both. Gaining a new skill is work and an investment, and one needs to make sure that outcomes and return are known.

- **Know how to learn best.** Reflecting on past learning experiences, making a list of good and bad, and identifying common trends can help with defining what needs to be learned and the environment that can support it.
- **Find the best teacher.** Learners need to elicit the support of mentors and experts who have mastered what is to be learned. If a mentor or a teacher within your organization or network is not available, outside help should be sought.
- **Start small**, reflect along the way.
- **Challenge oneself** to teach the skills to others.
- **Be patient.**

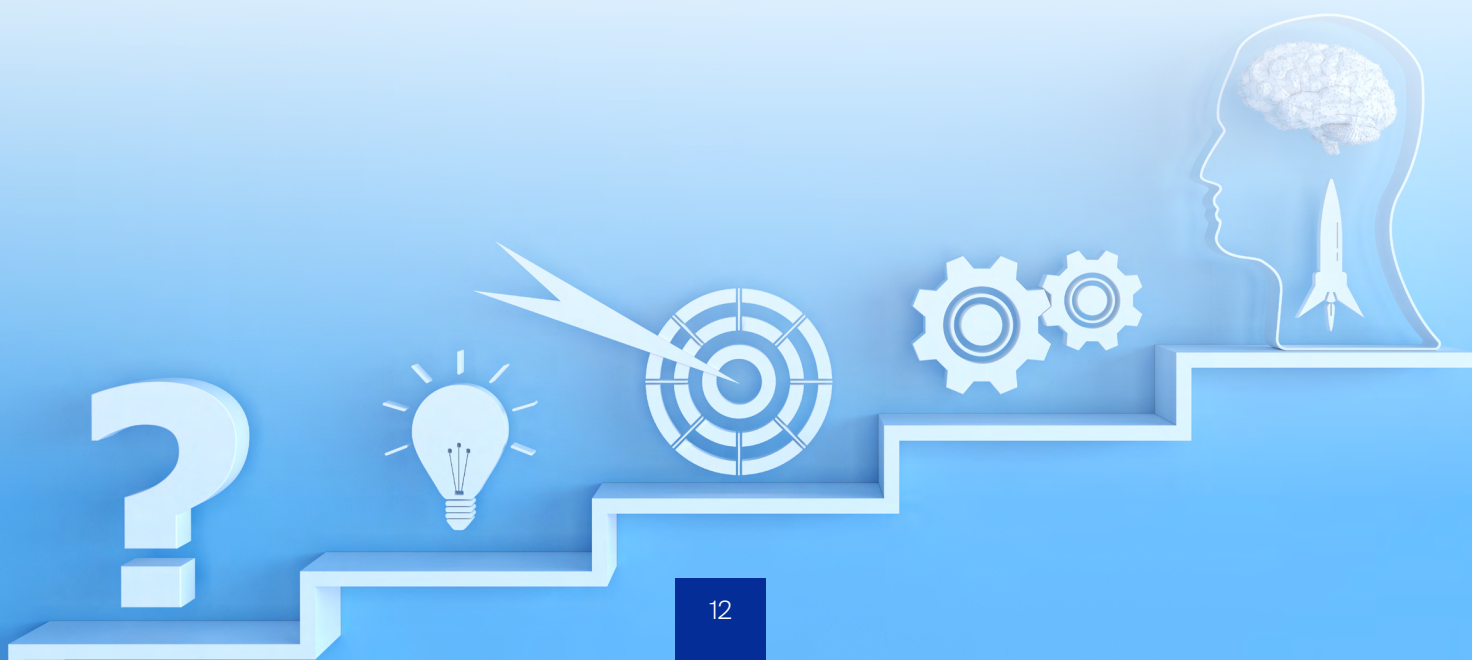
Many people believe that the ability to learn is a matter of intelligence. That is why people tend to approach the topic of learning without a plan. However, with a growth mindset, planned strategies based on learner behaviors, deliberate practice, and a supportive learning environment, competence and expertise is quite possible.

How could the AO NA faculty community support and address the need for meta-cognitive skills, support deliberate practice, and continued reflection for learning to happen faster and better?

Until our next article!

References

1. Veenman, M. V. J. & Bernadette H. A. M. et. al., Metacognition, and learning: conceptual and methodological considerations. *Metacognition Learning* (2006) 1: 3-14.
2. How to Learn Faster and Better. *Harvard Business Review*, Special Issue, Winter 2019



What's New in Faculty Development

By: Sally Peters-Gaffney
Manager Faculty Relations, AO North America



The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting in person to experience the AO faculty development programs in 2020. I am delighted to say that in May we held two successful back-to-back FEPs in Las Vegas. It was so good to see everyone. We have two more FEPs in August.

- **FEP**—faculty education offered to approved faculty that focuses on the AO teaching methods. A five-week online course precedes the F2F event.
 - Miami, FL
FEP #3—August 13-14, 2021
 - Boston, MA
FEP #4—August 28-29, 2021
- **Coaching**—coaching includes a three-week online precourse followed by a structured training session, after which the participants are able to provide faculty coaching at any clinical AO course. This is a F2F event.
 - Plans are underway for hosting two separate Coaching events in 2022
- **CEP**—chair education offered to those who first attended FEP and are now assigned to chair a course or may be a member of a governance committee. A five-week online course precedes each event. The first LIVE virtual CEP event was offered in May.
 - September 2021 event—F2F—September 17-18, 2021
 - October 2021 event—F2F—October 29-30, 2021
- **LEP**—leadership education offered to governance committee and board members (having completed the FEP and CEP). A five-week online course precedes the F2F event.
 - New Orleans, LA
July 30-31, 2021

For more specific details, please visit aona.org/want-to-teach. We have added information about all the AO Faculty development programs that are available to all faculty.

At the moment, these programs are by invitation only. However, once you proceed through your AO North America faculty career, we want you to know what may be available for you.

Remember—all these current and future opportunities require you to keep your membership current.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

We are always here to help.

Sally
peters-gaffney.sally@aona.org



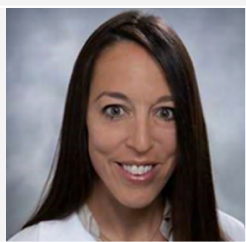


On the next page, I want to let the committee update you on their individual projects. if you want to help, have ideas, just email me or any of the committee members. Remember no limits but there is a budget. Looking forward to seeing you at the AO NA Reception at the OTA.



Social Media Task Force

Emily Keener DO—Ft Lauderdale, FL



The AO North America Social Media Taskforce met recently to discuss new avenues for social media engagement with AO NA members.

Josh Okumura has joined AO North America as the new Digital Marketing Associate to help effectively communicate with AO members, community surgeons, Fellows, and residents through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

The social media team is looking forward to more interactions with its members in the near future.

Humanitarian Outreach Opportunities through Community Development Committee

Carla Smith MD PhD—Spokane, WA



Optimal care of the trauma patient has evolved over the last half-century. Timing, implant choice and expertise are all part of the equation and often debated in expert circles. External fixation is a proven and effective way to treat both acute trauma and deformity.

While immediate access to both implants and expertise has come to be expected

in high-income countries, it is still a rarity in many low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Expertise has been addressed in ongoing fashion through training and educational exchange. The opportunity to assist in provision of implants to our colleagues is a wonderful way to “share the wealth” and toward this end the Community Development Committee is ecstatic to promote donation of gently used external fixators of all kinds (rings, bars, clamps, etc.) to our partnership with Fracture Care International.

Cleaned components can be shipped to our domestic location for inspection and organization into “sets” which will be provided to verified trauma surgeons in LMIC. To date we have re-purposed nearly 400 pounds of high-quality donated fixators.

Special thanks to all who have donated, with special recognition to individuals who have stepped up to help facilitate future donations and coordinate efforts: Molly Black, MD, and Ryan DeAngelis, MD. Stay tuned for future stories about fixator use and follow-up from LMIC surgeons on cases performed.

- Drs. Andrew Sems & William Cross, Mayo Clinic: 35 lbs of Ring Fixators
- Dr. Molly Black: 144 lbs of Ring & Bar/Clamp Fixators
- Dr. George Ochenjele: 54 lbs of Bar/Clamp Fixators
- Dr. Rahul Vaidya: 122 lbs of Ring & Bar/Clamp Fixators (multiple brands)
- Dr. J. Catalano: three lbs Bar/Clamp Fixators
- Dr. Alec Talsania: 18 lbs of Bar/Clamp Fixators
- Two Anonymous (no names provided): 28 lbs Bar/Clamp Fixators

Military Case-Based Dinner Discussions

Tom Large MD—Asheville, NC



The AO TNA Community Development Committee has continued to expand the regional case-based dinner discussion events connecting active duty military orthopaedic surgeons with their neighboring civilian colleagues. Two dinners have occurred in San Antonio, one in Northern California, and one in the DC/Baltimore areas.

All have been very well received and attended with outstanding cases and discussion. We will continue to expand and promote these events. Please contact Tom Large at tom_large@hotmail.com if you would like an event in your area.

Regional Case-Based Dinner Discussions

Joel Williams MD—Chicago, IL



The civilian Case-Based Dinner Discussions have continued to generate momentum.

Tom Large has been doing the organizing for military personnel and Andrea McClimon and I have been organizing for civilians. Thus far, we have had meetings in Chicago (two), Detroit, San Jose and Birmingham.

We are currently planning events in Indianapolis, Charleston, and Boise. All have been filled with outstanding cases and discussion. We will continue to expand and promote these events. Please contact Joel Williams at joelcwilliams73@gmail.com if you would like an event in your area.

At the end of 2020, three case-based dinner discussions were offered in Chicago, San Antonio & Detroit with 65 surgeons participating in the events. In 2021, seven events have been offered to date with 112 in attendance.

A case-based dinner discussion was held at Dr. Brian Mullis's home on Thursday, June 24th. Dr. Timothy Weber also moderated the event with Dr. Mullis.

Topic was: Case Controversies with Complications & How the Case was Salvaged.

Participants attended from five different sites in the region. The case below was a winner presented by Dr. Shively immediately after a case where Dr. Szatkowski stated weight bearing ankle films would be helpful.

The timing was impeccable. The most important part of these get togethers is the camaraderie and sharing some novel teaching points.



Welcome!

List of new AO Trauma members from November 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021.

Seth Ahlquist	Marcus Coe	Steven Greene	Christina Liu	Mossab Qatu	Patrick Tansey
Patrick Albright	Mark Cohen	Ryan Griffith	Marie-Claude Magnan	Luke Reda	E. Bailey Terhune
Thunayan Alemairi	Shea Comadoll	Phil Grisdela	Gabriel Makar	Ariana Reyes	Ylan Tran
Malik Ali	Marianne Comeau-Gauthier	Philip Hache	Danielle Marshall	Christopher Rivera-Pintado	Naomi Turner
Abdullah Al Thubayani	Brendan Comer	Jonathan Haller	Rakesh Mashru	Davis Rogers	Mason Uvodich
Gregory Angelides	Kasa Cooper	Colin Harrington	Emily McDermott	Cameron Roth	Josiah Valk
Stephanie Antoniades	Stephanie Coupal	Mitchel Harris	Donnell McDonald	Samir Sabharwal	Rebecca Van Dyke
Seyed Arshan Arshad	Tyler Cram	Hunter Hayes	Jillian McLaughlin	Kavi Sachar	Nickolas Van Roekel
Andrea Attenasio	William Crutcher	Jeffrey Henstenburg	Charles Mechas	Roy Sanders	Lohith Vatti
Jonathan Barnwell	Dhanur Damodar	Andrew Holte	Katy Metcalf	Mohamed Sarraj	Casey Wang
Brent Bates	Hayley Daniell	Robert Howard	Andrew Meyers	Nathaniel Schaffer	Miqi Wang
Miles Batty	Bradley Deafenbaugh	Aaron Hoyt	Joshua Milby	Michael Schallmo	Christopher Warne
Luke Beaton	Nicole Decker	Shu Yang Hu	Zina Model	Zachary Schwartz	Eugene Warnick
Ryan Beeker	Bijan Dehghani	Kyla Huebner	Erik Moore	Eric Schweller	Lesia Wasio
Michael Bergen	Sahitya Denduluri	Kenny Ierardi	Lynn Murphy	Neil Shah	J. Watson
Jacob Birlingmair	David Dennison	Steven Irmeger	Farah Musharbash	Sapan Shah	Jack Weick
Sarah Black	Matthew Deren	Jorge Jara	Hansli Muster	David Shearer	Luke Weishuhn
Ben Bonner	Joseph Di Michele	Rishabh Jethanandani	Patrick Nelson	Maegan Shields	John Werner
Peter Boucas	Michael Driscoll	Matthew Jimenez	Natasha O'Malley	Jake Shine	Rachel Wheeler
Patawut Bovonratwet	Emma Dwyer	Parker Johnsen	Reza Ojaghi	Aryan Shojae-lfard	Peter White
Elise Britt	Joseph Elissyy	Pierce Johnson	Andrew Ormseth	Zachary Sirois	Keith Whitlock
Grant Buchanan	Atsushi Endo	James Jung	Jorge Padilla	Phillip Snodgrass	Brady Williams
Robert Burnett	Daniel Enriquez	Matthew Kaili	Brian Page	Laura Sokil	Meagan Womack
David Burns	Joseph Featherall	Cina Karodeh	Efstratios Papadelis	Tyler Spiering	Heather Wortham
Michael Burton	Michael Fice	Suzanne Kent	Scott Pascal	Justin Stafford	Kelly Wun
Bennet Butler	Brianna Fram	Karl Lalonde	Arjun Patel	Amy Steele	Mark Xu
Nathan Cafferky	Nicholas Gannon	Stéphanie Lamer	Jay Patel	Hayk Stepanyan	Jeffrey Yao
Cathleen Cahill	Sean Gao	Matt LaVelle	Brendan Patterson	Joseph Stephens	Kero Yuen
Tanner Campbell	Paul Gauthier	Ian Laxdal	Naveen Pattisapu	Kellee Stephens	Connor Zale
Colin Cantrell	Brent Geers	Moses Lee	Ronald Peirish	Phillip Stokey	Gregory Zeiders
Paige Chapman	Daniel Gerow	Y.J. Lee	Mitchell Pet	Matthew Sweet	David Zurita
Richy Charls	Rachel Glenn	Kathleen Leinweber	Danielle Peterson	Brendan Swift	
Anthony Christiano	Utpal Gogoi	Jason Lipof	David Polonet	Jonathan Tan	
William Chu Kwan		David Liu	Gautham Prabhakar		



Save the date: Miami, FL, USA, May 2022

Sharing a world of knowledge

We are pleased to announce the 2022 AO Trauma World Meeting in collaboration with AO North America, Inc. as a face-to-face event with outstanding masters courses designed to meet your specific professional needs.

At the AO Trauma World Meeting, your current level of knowledge, attitudes, and skills will be challenged. The best-in-class curriculum and faculty will provide you with a memorable learning experience that will remain with you for a lifetime.

All courses include one day of anatomical specimen dissection.

AO Trauma World Meeting
Miami 2022
May 12-15, 2022



Accreditation Information:

AO North America, Inc. (AO NA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing education for physicians. AO NA has been resurveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and awarded Accreditation with Commendation.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of AO North America, Inc. (AO NA) and AO Trauma. AO North America, Inc. is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing education for physicians.

Designation Statement:

AO North America, Inc. designates each live activity for the number of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* listed below. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Knee Injuries and Deformities: 22.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Shoulder Trauma: 17.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Fractures Around the Elbow: 20.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Foot and Ankle: 24.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Hip Fractures: 21.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

AO Trauma Masters Course— Shoulder Trauma

Chairpersons:
George Dyer (US),
Ashraf Moharram (EG)

AO Trauma Masters Course— Fractures around the Elbow

Chairpersons:
Pedro Labronici (BR),
Abdel-Hakim Massoud (EG)

AO Trauma Masters Course— Hip Fractures

Chairpersons:
Rodrigo Pesantez-Hoyos (CO),
Wael Taha (SA)

AO Trauma Masters Course— Knee Injuries and Deformities

Chairpersons:
Matt Graves (US),
Ashraf Abdelkafy (AE)

AO Trauma Masters Course— Foot and Ankle

Chairpersons:
Lori Reed (US),
Husam Darwish (SA)

For more information visit: www.aotrauma.org

AO
TRAUMA

REPORT: AO Trauma NA ORP Course, Charleston, SC

By: Langdon Hartsock, MD

An AO approved ORP course was held on a Saturday, May 15, 2021 for about 16 Medical University South Carolina (MUSC) OR staff. The event was made possible by hard work from Andrea McClimon of AO NA and Caitlin Aymond, RN, MUSC Main OR ortho coordinator.

The course faculty included myself, my trauma partner, Kristoff Reid, MD, and Michael David, CST, who has taught many ORP courses in the past. All three of us are AO faculty. The faculty established the course agenda and schedule.

AO has several CTMs (clinical training modules) that have been developed for ORP courses. We adjusted the modules to fit into a one-day course and included hands on practical labs.

Andrea and Caitlin worked to do all the implementation. This included numerous details such as:

- AO Foundation approval
- Obtaining MUSC continuing education credits for the participants, free of charge.
- Registering faculty and participants on the AO site
- Securing the venue
- Refreshments for the participants
- Coordinating with DPS for equipment
- Obtaining sawbones
- Making sure the AV set up was functional
- Venue cleaning

Most difficult was working through the agreement between DePuy Synthes and MUSC to obtain the educational grant to pay for the equipment shipping, etc. The local DPS sales force provided equipment set up and take down. They were not involved in the education of the participants.

The course was a great success! The participants were eager and enthusiastic. They asked questions regarding the lectures and learned many practical tips in the hands on exercises. Hopefully this course will be a model for other interested AO TNA faculty to teach AO methods to OR staff at their home hospitals.



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As an AO Trauma member of our unique network, you will help shape the future of AO Trauma, learn from and share knowledge with expert colleagues from around the world, and gain access to exclusive educational content customized to your needs.



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Develop your career with a global fellowship.



Benefit from exclusive functionalities in online learning.

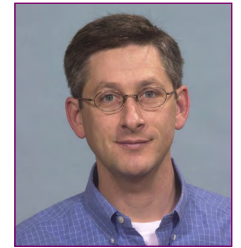
AO Trauma membership fees
1 year 100 CHF
2 years 180 CHF
www.aotrauma.org/membership



Fellowships

AO Trauma NA Fellowship Update

James Krieg, MD



AO Trauma NA actively supports education and research through its Long-Term Fellowship (LTF) Program. The LTF Program is created, developed, driven, and monitored by the AO Trauma North America Fellowship Committee. The LTF Program is considered one of the main strategic efforts for the development and training of trauma surgeons across North America, requiring a significant amount of time, dedication, and effort by the committee members. The Committee spends a significant amount of its resources on continuous critical evaluation, in order to ensure Fellows are receiving the quality and excellence in training that is synonymous with the AO.

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve the oversight of the LTF Program, the Fellowship Committee has been hard at work refining the selection process towards a transparent, non-conflicted process, taking into consideration a program's resources and track record for educating Fellows, as well as faculty and fellow involvement with AO Trauma North America. The entire process is committee-driven. There are eight members of the AO Trauma NA Fellowship Committee, representing both USA and Canada. Each member evaluates and grades each application. The scoring involves a 100-point rubric, with points assigned for clinical volume, acuity, and faculty number/expertise. This information is obtained by self-reporting, with several methods available to provide supporting data. Fellow research is taken into account, with regard to resources for research and output of Fellows who have passed through the program. Points are given for the ongoing AO involvement of the center, including the faculty, and the Fellows.

Also taken into account is the feedback from previous Fellows of the program. Finally, points are awarded based on didactic teaching, both intramural and extramural, afforded to the Fellows. The scoring criteria is available to all centers applying for a LTF program award.

The application process is an opportunity for programs to showcase the strengths of the program and include information that helps the committee members realize the success of the training. In addition, Fellowship programs are advised to critically evaluate their programs and identify areas of improvement, in an effort to enhance the experience for Fellows. In recent years, several programs have improved their program offerings and the ability of their application to communicate this to the committee such that they have gone from being unfunded to funded or seen their award amount increase. Conversely, other programs have seen a decrease in funding, often because their application may simply not fully reflect the training experience they offer. This year, the Fellowship Committee received 38 applications with 28 programs being awarded. Award amounts vary, based on the relative strength of the application, and reflect the growing reality that funding is decreasing at a time when competition for awards is increasing.

Oversight of the LTF has been a significant focus for the Fellowship Committee. All members of the AO Community are welcome to provide feedback on the Program to Committee members. This includes the award process, and the ways in which the program helps fulfill the AO Mission, especially as it relates to Fellowship training in North America.

2021-2022 AO Sponsored Fellows

Institution Fellowship Program	Fellowship Program Director
Carolinas Medical Center	Madhav Karunakar, MD
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Milton Little, MD
Dalhousie University, Halifax	Ross Leighton, MD
Detroit Medical Center/Harper University Hospital	Rahul Vaidya, MD, FRCSC
Indiana University School of Medicine—IU Methodist Trauma Fellowship	Roman Natoli, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School	Michael Weaver, MD
McGill University Health Centre/Montreal General Hospital	Rudolf Reindl, MD, FRCSC
MetroHealth Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University	John Wilber, MD
Orthopaedics Indianapolis /OrthoIndy	Timothy Weber, MD
R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center	Robert O'Toole, MD
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School	Mark Adams, MD
St. Louis University School of Medicine	J. Tracy Watson, MD
Tampa General Hospital	Roy Sanders, MD
University of California, Davis	Mark Lee, MD
University of California, San Francisco	Theodore Miclau, MD
University of Minnesota	Peter Cole, MD, FAAOS
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	Mark Calder, MD, MPH, BS
University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Chattanooga	Warren Gardner, II, MD
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Timothy Achor, MD
University of Texas at San Antonio	Boris Zelle, MD
University of Toronto/Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre	David Stephen, MD, FRCSC
University of Washington	David Barei, MD, FRCSC
Vanderbilt University	William T. Obremskey, MD, MPH
Wake Forest University School of Medicine	Eben A. Carroll, MD
Washington University/B-JH/SLCH Consortium	Christopher McAndrew, MD, MSc
Yale University	Brad Yoo, MD



AO Trauma NA Trauma Fellows Forum 2021

After a year's delay, the inaugural AO Trauma NA Trauma Fellows Forum was held May 20-23, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, FL. Co-chaired by Tim Achor and Jim Krieg, a total of 44 AO TNA faculty, program directors and Fellows participated in this event. The Forum objectives were to:

- Share ideas and experiences to improve patient care
- Help young orthopaedic trauma surgeons navigate their first few years in practice
- Provide critical feedback on research projects
- Help in getting involved in professional organizations such as AO Trauma NA
- Improve networking opportunities for Fellows to interact with their peers
- Facilitate relationships with AO experts

Portions of the program were dedicated to case-based patient scenarios, with lively discussions among faculty and Fellows. Senior faculty shared their thoughts and advice on career building and how to navigate the first few years in practice.

A key component of the program involved the research presentations of each Fellow. All Fellows were asked to submit an abstract in advance of the program, and these were graded by members of the AO Trauma NA Fellowship and Research Committees.

The top five abstracts were selected as podium presentations. In addition, each fellow also provided a poster of their research which was judged on-site. The top five posters were invited to present at the podium as well.

The Keynote speaker was Chip Routt, MD, who spoke on sustainability, inspiring the participants and faculty, alike.

The 2019/2020 Young Investigator Research Development Award Winners, Ashley Levack, MD, MAS, and Joseph Thomas Patterson, MD, presented their experiences on "Navigating the Start of an Academic Career in Orthopaedic Trauma".

The program ended with the Chairmen's Award Dinner. Dr. Roger Wilber, current chair of the AO Trauma NA Board, provided comments on the history and development of the Fellows Forum. In addition, Drs. James Krieg and Greg Della Rocca were thanked for their terms on the Fellowship and Research Committees respectively.

Dr. Greg Della Rocca presented the Young Investigator Research Development Award Winners with gifts of appreciation.

Dr. Phillip Mitchell, MD briefly spoke to the group on his Davos Fellows experience and encouraged the Fellows in attendance to apply for this award.

Co-Chairs Drs. James Krieg and Tim Achor presented the long-awaited Awards for the Best Abstract and Best Poster. Winners were:

Award for the Best Abstract:

Brandon Wilkinson
R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
University of Maryland
Baltimore, MD

Award for the Best Poster:

Nicole Stevens
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

In closing, Dr. James Krieg presented a token of appreciation to Dr. Roger Wilber whose term as the current AO Trauma NA Chair will come to an end June 30, 2021.

Although it was a long time coming, the Inaugural Fellows Forum went off without a hitch. It was such a relief to finally be able to meet in person. Nobody was forced to say, "you're muted." No screens froze up. And nobody showed up in pajamas. It was a great feeling to be back on the road to "normal". Of course, some of our colleagues were still restricted by travel bans, and were unable to attend in person. We look forward to next year, when everyone will be able to meet again.

Meet your new myAO

You spoke and we listened! myAO is the fastest-growing, most relevant digital network of trauma and orthopedic surgeons worldwide. The latest version includes new features most relevant to surgeons such as case sharing, topic groups, and expert knowledge on demand to accelerate your professional development.



Exchange

Share clinical cases in a structured way, including images, links, and documents.



Learn

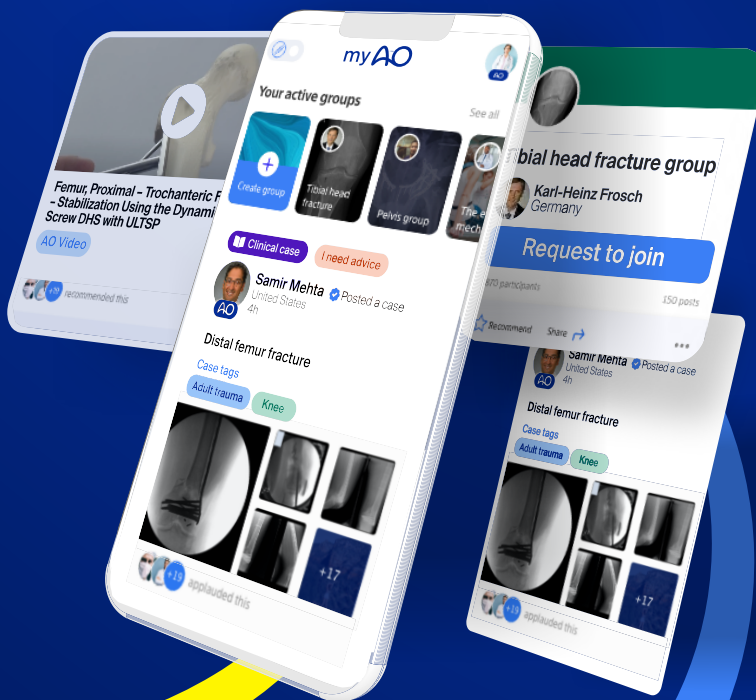
Engage in secure topic groups and learn from journals and verified surgical videos.



Connect

Interact with a global network of verified surgeons, and get reading recommendations and alerts.

Transforming
surgery
together



designed
by surgeons

myAO is a secure platform connecting verified surgeons and in line with European General Data Protection Regulation for data sharing.

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For more info, check www.myao.app.



Get it on:



COMMITTEE REPORT

Research

Gregory Della Rocca, MD, PhD, FACS



The Research Committee continues its efforts after a busy winter session. We do have a few updates for the community at this time.

The Kathryn Cramer Memorial Career Development Award applications are now closed for 2021. The committee is in the process of deliberating over the eventual winner of the award, and the announcement should follow soon. This represents a great opportunity for research funding for upper-level trainees and young faculty investigators looking to jump-start their academic careers.

The AO Trauma North America Research Committee has recently agreed to endorse future offerings of AO PEER, a research program sponsored by the AO Foundation. We will be working with AO PEER to assist with identifying instructors for AO PEER courses offered in North America from our diverse and talented AO Trauma NA faculty. Gerard Slobogean, MD, recently ran a level I AO PEER course in North America. We fully support the AO PEER initiative and believe that the level I course offering (there are three “levels”) may be perfect for lower-level resident physicians in helping them navigate their ACGME-required research programming, potentially widening the intended audience for this initiative.

Please keep your eyes open for the call for applications for resident research funding, coming soon. Research funding applications for next year’s trauma Fellows will then follow in short order. The research committee also has some new initiatives planned for the future; more on that to come in future newsletters and email communications.

It has been my honor to serve the AO Trauma NA community as Research Committee member and Chair. I am humbled by the hard work and dedication of our many members here in North America and am indebted to the Research Committee members who have served during my time as both member and chair. I was particularly honored to follow in the footsteps of my friend and mentor, Dr. Roy Moed, whose recent and untimely death has saddened us all (and reminds us of our own transience and mortality). It is my pleasure to turn the reins over to Joshua Gary, MD, incoming Chair, with whom the committee and AO TNA will find clear and outstanding direction.

2020 Young Investigator Research Development Award Winners Announced!

Congratulations to Dr. Adam Boissonneault, trauma Fellow at R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, and Dr. L. Henry Goodnough, trauma Fellow at Harborview Medical Center/University of Washington, as the recipients of the AO Trauma North America 2020 Young Investigator Research Development Awards! The AO Trauma North America Research Committee created and developed this award as a unique offering intended to foster the development of research interests in qualified AO Trauma North America Fellows, with funding intended to carry forward into their first years of post-Fellowship practice. As part of the program, the awardees present their research proposals to the AO Trauma NA Research Committee, where they receive input and guidance

followed by periodic monitoring. The program also provides support for attending grant-writing workshops, OTA and One AO meetings, and other ad-hoc research meetings deemed important by the Fellows and the Research Committee. This award follows the graduating Fellows into their first year of post-Fellowship practice, where they may initiate or continue their research with this AO Trauma NA funding support. The Young Investigator Research Development Award is now in its second year and the research continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned as these AO Trauma NA-supported investigators grow into accomplished clinician scientists performing research with an impact on trauma patient outcomes throughout the world.



Adam Boissonneault, MD



L. Henry Goodnough, MD, PhD

Dr. Raymond White



By Matt Camuso, MD

On June 1st, 2021, family, friends, and colleagues gathered to bid a fond farewell to their favorite orthopedic trauma surgeon Dr. Raymond White of Portland, Maine.

This occasion marked the conclusion of a career that spanned five decades and over forty years of practicing, perfecting and teaching the art of fracture surgery. His ingenuity, acumen and antics as a surgeon are legendary and will be sorely missed.

Many do not know that Dr. White began his career as a junior faculty member under the tutelage of Dr. Jim Hughes at the University of Mississippi in Jackson. He was enamored with the AO techniques shared with him during his residency at the University of Vermont by visiting professor Dr. Ted Hanson.

During his two years in Jackson, he honed his skills as a fracture surgeon and began his love affair with both the AO concepts and characters in AO North America. Invited by Dr. Hansen to his first AO course, he began as a table instructor and met lifelong friend Keith Mayo and soon thereafter Eric Johnson and others from AO NA... all of whom remain best friends today.

Ray moved to Maine in the mid-1980s where he helped introduce modern fracture fixation techniques including intramedullary nailing of the femur and plate fixation of the tibia. His involvement in the AO also grew. His educational capabilities were noticed, and he rapidly rose amongst the faculty in the AO, eventually ascending to the level of chair of the AO Foundation alumni association.

At the same time, along with colleagues Jesse Jupiter, Peter Trafton, and others from the Northeast, he founded the New England Fracture Study Group for the purpose of sharing, discussing, and publishing their experiences with new fracture fixation techniques.

It was this annual meeting that eventually morphed into the wildly successful New England Fracture Summit, chaired for more than fifteen years by Drs. White, Jupiter and Mark Vrahas.

This regional AO course has been a model for AO NA post-graduate trauma surgery education mostly due to his incredible love for and dedication to teaching fellow local surgeons who are interested in improving their care of injured patients.

It was in this venue that Ray's personality, common sense, humility, and humor came out the brightest.

In 2019, Dr. White was honored with the Community Surgeon Achievement Award by the OTA. This award is given annually to a surgeon who has:

- Demonstrated outstanding community orthopaedic contributions
- Dedicated his/her professional life to excellence in research and education at all community levels
- Personal qualities of integrity, compassion, and leadership in orthopaedic trauma

Throughout our fifteen years of working together at Maine Medical Center, I have come to know him as my finest mentor and the best partner one could ask for.

At the end of a long day, even at his ripe retirement age of 69, he would call me to see if I needed help with anything. And he sincerely meant it. I will forever cherish my time operating beside him and learning more from him than I could ever teach in return.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. White on his amazing career and to wish him the best with whatever comes next.

Members Speak Out!

For this issue, we asked our community of trauma surgeons "Where would you like to go after COVID-19?"

All entrants were automatically enrolled in a drawing for a \$50 Grub Hub gift certificate, and the lucky winner this time was **Dr. Kyle Dickson**.





Your voice is important

We want to hear from you!

What would you like to see in this newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Send an email request to: mcclimon.andrea@aona.org

In the Winter 2021-22 Issue...

- Trustee Meeting 2021
- Davos 2021 Courses
- OTA

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