Luis Parra new AOLAT Regional Director

Colombian-born Luis Javier Parra assumed the position of AOLAT (AO Latin America) Regional Director on February 3, 2006. Mr. Parra is a mechanical and computer engineer from the University of the Andes (Universidad de los Andes) in Bogotá, a PDD graduate (Program for Enterprise Direction Development), and also attended Stanford and Grenoble universities.

Mr. Parra has valuable private and corporate experience; in his last corporate responsibility he was head of Sun Microsystems NOLA (North Latin America).

Mr. Parra will manage the operational activities of the AO Foundation in Latin America, and implement decisions made by the AOLAT Executive Board. He will ensure compliance with international AO activities, regulations and standards and will coordinate activities with license partners. In addition, he will provide support for the educational, development and research activities when needed in the region.

Reto Babst appointed professor of surgery

In recognition of his contribution to education and research, Reto Babst has been appointed Professor of Surgery by the Council of the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Reto Babst studied at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bern, Switzerland, completing his surgical training in the Swiss Cantonal hospitals of Basel, Fribourg, Obwalden and Lucerne, and in the Dortmund Academic Hospital in Germany. In 1990 he received the title of FMH (Swiss Medical Association) Specialist in Surgery, and specialized in the area of trauma surgery at the University of Basel and in specialist clinics in the USA and Germany.

In January 1998 he became Deputy Director of the Surgical Clinic of the Cantonal Hospital of Lucerne. Two years later he acquired his official qualification as a university lecturer from the University of Basel. He has been Director of the Department of Surgery, Head of the Surgical Clinic A, and Chief Physician of Trauma Surgery since 2003, and a member of the hospital management since January 2005.

Reto Babst’s specialty is the treatment of injuries and their effects on the musculoskeletal system, with particular focus given to complex articular injuries and the development of minimally invasive methods of fracture treatment. Under his management, the trauma department has developed into an AO reference clinic, which trains guest physicians from all over the world.

In 1999 he received the Recognition Prize of the AO Technical Commission (AOTK) for his exemplary support of the TK System in clinical investigation in planning and implementation of studies, and his help in establishing a new structure and documentation concept for AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation (AOCID). He is regularly asked to speak and lecture at national and international congresses and courses. Reto Babst is also the coeditor of several medical journals and on the board of various medical societies.

Within the AO Reto Babst is a dedicated and highly innovative teacher who developed the teaching concept for minimally invasive surgery (MIS). At the AO Davos Courses 2005 he introduced a brand new interactive format for the AO Masters’ Course, which was met with universal enthusiasm.

Congratulations, Professor Babst!