From a low-key start in 2003, AOCID North America has grown dramatically in size and capability.

Enno Boesche

AOCID in North America

AOCID opened a small office at the Hospital of Special Surgery in New York in 2003. Judy He was the sole employee then and her job was to monitor ongoing projects at US sites and to plan and carry out AOCID’s first all-American clinical trial—the trochanteric femoral nail (TFN) study. This study revealed a great demand for clinical study services. By 2005, AOCID North America was able to initiate three new prospective and two new retrospective studies. Because technical aspects and regulatory affairs differ dramatically between Europe and North America, AOCID NA is utilizing new methods of internet-based onsite data capture, reducing data entry workload but making more monitoring demands. It became necessary to hire additional personnel and a larger office was opened in Princeton, NJ in 2006, the same year that Enno Boesche arrived from Zurich to act as business manager and liaise with the AO in Switzerland.

The TFN study was successfully completed and a publication has been submitted to INJURY (2007 Jun 18; [Epub ahead of print] Radiographic outcomes of intertrochanteric hip fractures treated with the trochanteric fixation nail. Gardner MJ, Briggs SM, Kopjar B, Helfet DL, Lorich DG) Data capture for the two retrospective studies ended in June and the data are currently being evaluated:

- In the study “An Assessment of Surgical Techniques for Treating Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy—Retrospective Study” (CSM-r), data on 300 patients have been extracted.
- In the study “Comparing surgical to conservative management in the treatment of Type II odontoid fractures among the elderly” (GOF) nearly 80 patients were recruited.

Both studies are showing follow-up rates of around 80%, a high level CID NA is confident will continue.

CID NA requires highly qualified and motivated coordinators in their collaborator clinics. To strengthen these relationships and to answer any open questions, CID NA organized a study coordinators’ meeting in April, 2007. CID NA coordinators and nearly 20 study centers attended this meeting for two days of presentations, discussions and personal interaction. Thanks to this collaboration, CID NA will be able to expand its reference clinic system in North America. This reference center system (based on the successful European experience) consists of a group of study centers chosen through systematic evaluation of their quality, quantity, and ability to perform exceptional clinical research.

Given the current status of the ongoing studies and five new studies in the planning phase, AOCID’s expansion is proving to be a great success and contributes to the AO’s excellent global system of services, advice, and collaboration.

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