Beate Hanson

The AO is most fortunate that Beate Hanson decided during her residency in general and orthopedic surgery from 1994–1998 that she was most interested in epidemiology, clinical investigation, and public health and not in the clinical practice of medicine. Accordingly, she completed a Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington and joined AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation (AOCID) as a research scientist at the same time. In 2002, upon the resignation of Ruedi Moser, Beate Hanson took over as Director of Clinical Investigation and Documentation at the AO.

Ruedi Moser had previously been able to restructure AOCID and move the organization from a documentation center to more of a clinical investigation center. Beate Hanson, with her clinical and epidemiological background, solidified this change and has been able to take AOCID to new heights. AOCID, now under her leadership, is an ISO Certified Department of Clinical Investigation, nationally and internationally recognized and even sought after by outside vendors for their expertise. The numbers are quite staggering. She manages a division with a staff of 25, currently coordinating 22 ongoing studies, involving 150 hospitals, 20 countries, and 2,353 patients. An additional eleven studies are in the planning phase. In addition, AOCID handles 175 external requests and on average generates 25 publications per year—quite an accomplishment.

But those are just statistics. More important, the AO is family and Beate Hanson understands that better than most. She is very loyal and supportive to her team in CID and well respected as a result. She knows how to “deal” with the physician/surgeon members of the AO, i.e., to understand the clinicians and their concerns, to be supportive of their knowledge quest, to educate them as to the techniques and methods of practical clinical investigation and to nurture them through the process from question to publication. She accomplishes this all in a most endearing and collegial fashion. This does not just apply to Northern Europe or the US, she has become well known throughout the AO world. She has spoken to AO Alumni Associations, national scientific meetings, and international meetings and at all of them she is able to make the search for real knowledge an enjoyable process and understandable to all.

All who come into contact with Beate are impressed. She is smart, a real expert in her field, knowledgeable, understanding of all the issues, problems and complexities in doing clinical research, and practical in her approach. More importantly, she has a warm and engaging personality, is a loving mother, fun to be with, and it is a pleasure for all who collaborate with her. We are really fortunate to have Beate Hanson as not only a member of the AO family, but one of its leaders.

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