BrainLAB behind the scenes

A rewarding cooperation: BrainLAB and the AO

When we took the first steps on our partnership between the AO and BrainLAB almost three years ago, I never imagined that this was the beginning of a journey, which has had an ever increasing impact not only on our perception of trauma care and related field, but also on training and educating health care professionals in new technologies. Right from the start we found the support and willingness to cooperate in various areas, from the excellent and open-minded exchange on development with the Computer Surgery Expert Group (CSEG) and ADI, studies with AO CID and mutual work with AO Education and Publishing. Also in our interactions on AO courses around the world—be it in America, Asia, or Europe—we found ourselves welcomed as a readily accepted member of the AO family.

Partnering with the AO network of healthcare professionals in 2004 marked a new era for BrainLAB—which was founded by our CEO Stefan Vilsmeier in 1989 and quickly became a leading innovator of software solutions for today’s clinical challenges. Our mission ever since has been to bridge the gap between the high quality of preoperative imaging and reality in the OR.

BrainLAB kicked it off with navigation software for neurosurgery as its first product. Over the last 15 years, navigation has become standard for many specialties, enabling surgeons to treat patients with greater accuracy. BrainLAB has continued to pioneer new developments in the field of radiotherapy and computer-assisted surgery (CAS) in neurosurgery, orthopedic, trauma, spine, ENT, and CMF surgery.

Today, more than 200 research and development engineers of the around 1,000 BrainLAB employees worldwide are continuously striving to take technology to the next level. BrainLAB technology can be found in more than 2,000 ORs in the world, where numerous surgeons today use CAS to increase precision during surgery. After more than 15 years of expertise in the development of image-guided technologies, BrainLAB is now also focusing on integration and the effective managing of medical data.

AO principles of fracture care, preoperative diagnosis and surgical decision-making play a crucial role in identifying the appropriate surgical steps. The link between imaging, planning and intraoperative execution has always been key to BrainLAB products.

This can be seen in the AOTK approved CAS modules, which we developed together with the CSEG, but also in developments like the Digital Lightbox, an interactive multimodality image and data system which combines the benefits of traditional hospital lightboxes and modern viewing workstations. Two intuitive touchscreens make it easy and convenient to manipulate and modify images to suit clinical needs, and bring static digital medical information to life.

Working with the AO over the past years has been great and kept us in touch with the AO spirit, in which we found a good match to our company values of innovation, integrity, and fun. Our mutual past achievements to advance patient care in trauma with computer-assisted surgery has reached its first milestone. The journey goes on—together.