AOTrauma Orthogeriatrics E-Hub

The first of its kind

As the world’s aging population grows, so does the need for visionary educational platforms addressing orthogeriatrics—the field of caring for elderly orthopedic patients. That’s why Dr Michael Blauth of the AOTrauma Orthogeriatrics Education Task Force and Michael Cunningham, Curriculum Developer at the AO Education Institute, have teamed up to develop the template for an AOTrauma Orthogeriatrics E-Hub (AO-OGE).

Funded by a grant from the AO Strategy Fund (AOSF), the AO-OGE is envisioned as the first global, internet-based e-hub on orthogeriatrics with unique content, presentation, and features.

Dr Blauth, Chairman of AOTrauma Europe Research and of the TK Expert Group on Intramedullary Nailing, member of the AOTrauma Research Peer Task Force, and permanent guest on the AO Clinical Investigation and Documentation Advisory Committee, said the need for the AO-OGE is clear.

"Elderly patients account for at least 30 percent of all patients in the average hospital trauma department. The world’s aging population is growing and, with that, the number of geriatric fractures is increasing," Blauth explained. "At the same time, it’s clear that books are not the most contemporary means of providing medical education."

The idea for the AO-OGE grew out of the AOTrauma Orthogeriatric Task Force’s ten years of work on the topic, including the soon-to-be-published book, Osteoporotic Fracture Care—Medical and Surgical Management by AOTrauma’s Dr Stephen Kates, Dr Joseph Nicholas, and Dr Blauth. From the work of the Clinical Priority Program (CPP) on Fracture Fixation in
Osteoporotic Bone to the AOTrauma Orthogeriatrics Education Task Force and the new book, the AO-OGE will comprise the AO’s research and teachings in orthogeriatrics over the past ten years.

“Our objective is to develop the leading educational destination for surgeons, other healthcare professionals, and patients with their relatives to improve geriatric patient care. We will serve the changing educational needs, collaborate intensely with third-party organizations and funders, and develop a model that our other clinical divisions can adapt and reuse,” said Blauth. “We want to develop an e-hub that is so good that third parties will want to fund its development and maintenance.”

The AO-OGE, using a variety of materials, will address principles of orthogeriatric treatment, the system of orthogeriatric care, and fracture management.

“It is crucial for the e-hub to be very dynamic—updated very regularly—with highly relevant and credible information available on demand,” he said. “AO has built up a very broad international network on orthogeriatrics and our group of surgeons is a unique AO characteristic, so there are people in every country who we can rely upon to share their knowledge through the AO-OGE.”

Central to the AO-OGE will be its ease of use, highly credible content, excellent search function, videos to demonstrate typical tests and surgeries, country-specific sections, forums for surgeons to exchange information in real time, links to other organizations in order to avoid repetitive content, links to specific journals, hands-on instructional manuals, apps, downloads, and presentations and contact exchange for orthogeriatric centers of excellence.

“This project absolutely would not have been possible without AOSF seed funding. It’s an investment in the future of medical education—that’s something AO has always been known for,” said Blauth.

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