Dear [EMV FIELD]FIRSTNAME[EMV /FIELD], here are the latest news from the AO Foundation.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

AO Dialogue

The newsletter for the AO surgeon network
August 2015

Dear AO member

Welcome to Issue 2 of AO Dialogue 2015 featuring an interview with the AO Foundation President and CEO, updating you on important recent events in the world of AO. This AO surgeon network newsletter also brings you up to date on other member-relevant information from across the AO Foundation.

Sincerely,
James F Kellam
Editor-in-Chief

InTouch

Video interview with the President and CEO
Suthorn Bavonratanavech and Rolf Jeker discuss recent highlights from across the AO Foundation including the AO Trustees Meeting in Chiang Mai, the historic signing of the Cooperation Agreement with DePuy Synthes and the next steps in the community development review.

Topics

AO Strategy Fund
Innovation at the AO Foundation across disciplines  ...more

Davos Courses 2015
Registration for all AO Clinical Division courses is now open  ...more

AOCID
No need to be negative about negative results!  ...more

AO Alliance Foundation
The AO Alliance Foundation has just

AOSpine Congress
Call for abstracts open until mid-September  ...
AO Strategy Fund
Innovation at the AO Foundation across disciplines

Launched in December 2013, the AO Strategy Fund (AOSF) supports a range of projects aimed at developing new services and technologies for unmet needs, enhancing the AO’s visibility and reach, fostering cooperation across clinical divisions, and boosting operational effectiveness and efficiency. The third funding round closed on July 31 and the AOSF has just launched a new project hub which gathers together profiles of the projects which are underway. In addition any AO member who drafted or submitted a proposal for the AOSF can retrieve their documents from the Applicant Area. New project profiles, and updates to existing ones, will be regularly added to the AOSF project hub.

Davos Courses 2015
Registration for all AO Clinical Division courses is now open
Registration is now open for the Davos Courses 2015, the AO Foundation's flagship education event with cutting-edge knowledge in trauma, spine, craniomaxillofacial and veterinary surgery. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from AO's international faculty, share experiences, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and expand your surgeon network. All course details are available on the Davos Courses 2015 webpages.

AOCID

No need to be negative about negative results!

"Trials with positive findings were more likely to be published than trials with negative or null findings...in absolute terms, this means that if 41% of negative trials are published, we would expect that 73% of positive trials would be published." This extract comes from
the Cochrane Review by Hopewell et al, which examined "Publication bias in clinical trials due to statistical significance or direction of trial results."

The same phenomena that positive results are more likely to be reported has been found by other researchers. Hasenboehler et al examined 16,387 scientific papers and found that 12,251 (74%) articles reported positive findings, 2,709 (17%) reported negative results, and 1,437 (9%) were neutral. They also note that a bias toward publishing positive data will systematically overestimate the clinical relevance of treatment effects because important information from unpublished negative studies will not be presented. Publication bias may therefore affect the quality of care of patients undergoing surgical procedures.

While it is clear that it is important to also publicize negative results, it is also equally clear that it is harder to get such results into the scientific literature. At the end of last year, the following manuscript was published by the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the angular stable locking system in patients with distal tibial fractures treated with intramedullary nailing: a multicenter randomized controlled trial.

The paper was based on the ASLS trial, sponsored by AOTK and the AO's industrial partner, and was conducted by AOCID. As noted in the abstract, "No clinically important differences were found for either the primary or secondary outcome parameters between the groups during the entire follow-up period."

To have a study like this one published in a renowned journal like JBJS goes some way to addressing publication bias in the literature. That this is an unfortunately all-too-rare occurrence can be seen in this quote from the journal's editor which is reproduced with permission. "Thank you for submitting this well done multicenter RCT (Randomized Controlled Trial) to JBJS. You are especially to be commended for publishing a negative trial which is a step that is all too often omitted in the orthopaedic clinical research community." - Marc Swiontkowski, JBJS Editor-in-Chief

Examples like this underscore the importance of having independent bodies like the AO which conduct research that has the sole purpose of contributing to the scientific knowledge available.

References:


AO Alliance Foundation

The AO Alliance Foundation has just launched its first website

The AO Alliance Foundation (AOAF) is a developmental nonprofit organization dedicated to improving fracture care for patients in low-income countries through local capacity building. The foundation was inaugurated in Davos on December 13, 2014, which was the culmination of over 18 months of developmental work through task forces and management recruitment. The AOAF’s operations commenced on January 1, 2015 with an inauguration of their offices in the AO Center building in Davos, as well as the financing of some AO surgeon’s projects in low income countries.

The AO Alliance website, a simple to navigate and mobile-optimized site which launched on July 28 brings users news, stories and useful educational resources from their work around the world. Users can also sign up for a newsletter with quarterly updates on latest projects, expert opinions and news from across the field of trauma care. The first of these will be published in September 2015.

AOSpine Congress and Forum

Call for abstracts open until mid-September
The next Global Spine Congress (GSC), being held concurrently with the World Forum for Spine Research (WFSR), takes place in Dubai (AE) from April 13–16, 2016. AOSpine invites all surgeons, researchers, clinicians and specialists to submit an abstract for both events.

The call for abstracts is open until September 15, 2015. Submitting an abstract of your work provides you with a great opportunity to:

- Have an impact on surgery practice
- Present your research to an international audience
- Meet the world's leading experts
- Gain recognition among your peers

AOSpine launched the GSC in San Francisco (2009), and the event has since taken place in Barcelona (2011), Hong Kong (2013), and Buenos Aires (2015). It draws a global audience of more than 1,200 spine surgeons, researchers, and speakers.

The WFSR is AOSpine's primary spine care research forum. It is designed to address some of the still unresolved clinical challenges in the diagnosis and management of patients. The bi-annual WFSR was launched in Kyoto (2008), and has since been held in Montreal (2010), Helsinki (2012), and Xiàn (2014). The event attracts more than 200 attendees, including surgeons, clinicians, scientists, government organizations, and regulatory authorities.

World famous spine surgeons tell you why you shouldn't miss the GSC and the WFSR.
If you no longer want to receive messages from us, simply click on the link below. Before opting-out, please note that by doing so you will no longer be able to receive communication that you may have registered for, such as newsletters, course announcements, membership information, and other AOTrauma, AOSpine, AOCMF and AOVET related email communication.

Unsubscribe