

YEAR-END REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTC PROGRAMS IN 2009

A. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The general direction for the development of the 2009 program was outlined by the Grantee-Grantor Meeting in Paris, November 1-2, 2008. On this basis the grant budget and work program 2009 was established and accepted by the Grantor.

The 2009 grant was set at the level of CHF 2'606'880 or USD 2'306'360. This means a reduction of CHF 600'000 from the 2008 grant budget.

Through severe organizational restructuring, this reduction was achieved by curtailing the fixed operating costs, including staff reduction: The personnel structure at the TCI was streamlined in accordance with the program tasks 2009. Program funds were maintained, and the budget augmented for covering staff relocation expenditures (see below).

The cost center in Zuchwil continued to administer the finances of OTCF and the record keeping of all transactions and contracts with HCPs and collaborating centers. Internal procedures have been put into operation which are now commensurate with the AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals and the corresponding EUCOMED guidelines. Relevant compliance procedures and check lists have been established and introduced by the Compliance Officer and all staff trained in their application.

After the departure of the Executive Director by the end of 2008, the operational management and program implementation oversight were assumed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Research Manager. In August 2009 the new Executive Director took office, Mr. Othmar B. Ulrich who was unanimously chosen by the Board of Trustees and by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee (EXCO) met twice in 2009, first in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting and Leadership Forum on 24/25 June in Nice and then on 18 October in Frankfurt. The EXCO had also several telephone conferences to discuss program matters and to oversee the search for a new ExDir. To this end the OTCF webmaster subscribed to the WEBEX system which is now used for telephone and video conferences of committees. In the fourth quarter the Skype system was introduced for telephone conferences and for all telephone communication. Efforts went into drafting a comprehensive database for OTCF, for covering program and administrative tasks and procedures, as well as for membership management of the OTC chapters.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The meeting was attended by chapter presidents and representatives from 20 countries. They reviewed and approved the 2008 and the 2009 program budget, and were informed about the repercussions of the AdvaMed guidelines on the work of the OTC.

Leadership Forum (LF)

The meeting brought together more than 50 health care professionals, surgeons, scientists, managers and administrators from all continents.

The first topic was: The global burden of trauma – a call for action.

The other topic was: Foot and ankle surgery.

New OTC Strategy

At the second annual EXCO Meeting in Frankfurt, 18 October 2009, the newly appointed Executive Director presented his Vision, Strategy and Goals for the OTC. This was accepted by the BOT and the Executive Committee and its broad approach endorsed for implementation in 2010 and beyond.

Contacts with OTC Chapters

During the fourth quarter the Executive Director undertook several missions to visit selected country chapters, including Spain, Netherlands, Germany, China and others. The main purpose was to discuss the potential for intensified cooperation between the OTC Foundation and the OTC Chapters, that shall receive additional support. This will provide the basis for enhanced program activities in 2010.

Staff and office developments

During the AGM/LF Stryker representatives informed that the TCI Nice will be closed by end of August. It was then decided that the OTCF office would have to leave Nice and would move to Switzerland. The search for suitable and conveniently located space for a new head office resulted in the choice of Bern, the capital of Switzerland. The new address is: Südbahnhof-Strasse 14c, CH-3000 Bern 14. This is in close commuting distance to the OTCF cost center in Zuchwil thus bringing the essential organizational services closer together and saving considerable cost.

The two Nice-based staff preferred not to follow the dislocation, which brought the collaboration to an end during the second half of 2009.

New appointments were made by the Executive Director for the Bern office:

- Ms. Karin Wyss-Moser as the new Bern Office Manager and also OTCF Education Fellowship Manager
- Ms. Petra Fischer as the new Manager for Events and also responsible for the Education Program

The Managers for Research (Richard Helmer) and IT (Carolyn Moncel) remained unchanged in place.

Contacts with the Grantor

Important administrative changes and rearrangements regarding compliance rules did absorb significant management capacity at our sole grantor, which is Stryker Trauma SA. The costly investments to bring also the OTCF administration to the desired level regarding compliance, paid off: The second audit of OTCF by Stryker specialists went well and cleared the way for an ongoing cooperation.

The OTCF 2010 budget proposals were agreed upon by the BOT and the EXCO and presented in October. However, in the last quarter our grantor underwent itself important reorganizations. It was thus not possible to arrange for a new grant agreement before the end of the year. The repeated personal contacts at various levels laid a good foundation for the future cooperation.

B. EDUCATION PROGRAM

The application of the AdvaMed guidelines by the Grantor, and its restrictions on funding participants of third-party events, had a profound impact on the program of education courses. The International Trauma Symposia (ITS) e.g., previously co-branded as OTC events are now convened as Stryker meetings.

The OTCF program of education events in 2009 was therefore focusing on:

- Leadership Forum (LF), June 25-26 (as described above)
- Cadaveric Course on Hand and Distal Radius, at Strasbourg, October 27-28
- Nurses and OP Staff Course at Strasbourg, December 2-4, conducted by AIOD Strasbourg in association with the OTC Foundation.

Cadaveric Course: Hand and Distal Radius

This was the first cadaver course ever organized by OTCF, and the first ever receiving CME accreditation. The faculty of eight under the guidance of Prof. Filip Stockmans taught 35 participants from 14 countries with lectures, case discussions, and extensive hands-on cadaver lab sessions. This will provide the model for such courses in 2010.

E-learning activities

In light of the restrictions on events, expanding emphasis has been placed during 2009 on the development of OTC-branded E-learning mechanisms and tools. The following has been initiated:

- Transmission of faculty lectures at OTC educational events (courses and LF) via Vindico into the Trauma Section of the Hyperguide (started in 2008 already)
- Roadmap Project for systematic inclusion of indication based educational and audio-visual material into the Hyperguide has been designed in 2008 by Prof. KS Leung with the South-Pacific Chapter
- Image Data Base and OP techniques are being prepared from existing material for inclusion in indication-based entry points on the OTC website (Grantor in-kind contribution given in 2009 for this)
- The e-learning activities will be readdressed in 2010 in consideration of the planned OTC Web-Platform.

Import the Expert

For the development of the new Chapter OTC Chile, AIOD Deutschland received support to send a delegation of surgeons to Chile for a series of courses, lectures and discussions. A standard procedure to apply for such supporting visits will be established in 2010.

C. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A broad-based system offering fellowships to surgeons and researchers has been initiated in 2008, and has evolved to a cornerstone of the OTC program. Major achievements are:

- Network of 5 host centers established and operational to receive surgeons in training and surgeons in practice as Fellows for education and training
- 7 education fellowships were placed so far in 2009, and 6 more are approved for 2009 with the search for a suitable host center in progress
- 2 more educational fellowships are pending approval, and 3 are earmarked for implementation in early 2010
- One biomechanical research fellowship completed, with two more approved for award in late 2009.

D. PUBLICATION PROGRAM

The textbook “Clinical Research for Surgeons” has been published. It constitutes the authoritative course syllabus for a series of OTC clinical research courses and symposia, and it is also available free of charge to OTC surgeons upon request.

An OTC Supplement to the Journal of Orthopedic Trauma (JOT) has been commissioned in late 2008 and the manuscripts are in final stage of editing. The title is “Osteobiologics: Current Best Evidence”, and the articles are based upon the LF 2007 lectures. It will be published with the March/April 2010 issue of JOT.

It is planned to have the JOT as the OTC house journal with annual OTC contributions, news and advertisements of events, grants, fellowships and courses.

E. RESEARCH PROGRAM

The three components of the research program (basic, biomechanical, clinical research) have been successfully integrated into one coherent program with the Research Committee (RECO) as the core scientific and organizational body. Three regular annual meetings of the committee were held:

- Las Vegas, 25 February 2009
- Nice, 24 June 2009
- Amsterdam, 21-22 November 2009

Grants

Research grants were received initially as pre-proposals and then, after review and selection, as full proposals. Finally, grant awards were extended to those which passed the rating process successfully.

<u>Grant process</u>	<u>Research Grants</u> <u>(USD 50'000)</u>	<u>Young Investigator</u> <u>Grants (USD 10'000)</u>	<u>Total Grants</u>
<u>Overview</u>			
Pre-proposals 2009 received	42	6	48
Full proposals 2009 reviewed	15	3	18
Grants 2009 awarded	8	3	11
Pre-proposals 2010 received	40	15	55
Full proposals 2010 reviewed	17	10	27
Grants 2010 rated for award *)	6	4	10

*) Award pending availability of funding for 2010

Courses & Symposia

A biomechanical research symposium entitled "Numerical Modeling and Trauma Care Workshop" was held on June 14-16 at Cambridge, MA. Participation was upon invitation only. A total of 24 persons attended.

In order to allow for research grants 2010 in that subject area, the deadline for related submissions was extended to July 15.

The clinical research courses are a newly added focus of the program:

- OTC Hellas Clinical Research Symposium, Athens, March 28, 2009 with two faculty provided by OTC
- North American Clinical and Basic Research Course, Toronto, held from 16 to 18 September 2009 and attended mainly by Canadian participants.

For 2010 RECO agreed that the clinical and basic course be repeated for European participants in London, and plans were developed for a course in Cuba.

Publications

The basis for the courses is the Clinical Research textbook. It will be amended by additional two volumes to be published in the coming years.

The OTC Research Book 2008 was prepared and published by the RECO and its scientific coordinator. It contains a listing of all research grant studies since 2005, a detailed description of selected research studies, and also a list of publications which emanated from the program.

The RECO chairman had prepared a comprehensive OTC research strategy for presentation and discussion at the 14th RECO meeting in Nice. Topics include research methodology, courses, research subjects, hot topics, etc.

Humanitarian Program

The need for surgeon missions to countries in need became most apparent through the invited guest lecture of Dr. Brinkert (Congo/France) and the faculty presentations and podium discussions on this topic at the LF in Nice.

One humanitarian mission of the Fundacion Bangassou to the Central African Republic was supported by OTC. This mission took place from 18 November to 4 December 2009 during which Dr. Seguras from Cordoba assisted local orthopedic surgeons in Bangassou and provided training.