



**Osteosynthesis &
Trauma Care Foundation**



August 2009

From the Director

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege having been selected as the new Executive Director of the OTC Foundation. I am filled with gratitude, a tremendous sense of responsibility, and I thank the Trustees and the Executive Committee for their confidence.



**OTC Executive Director
Othmar B. Ulrich**

Let me introduce myself to you, look back to OTC's past excellence, reaffirm the fundamental missions, and chart a course for the future - one that is rich with opportunity and challenge.

Throughout the course of my career I have grown several institutions successfully: In Banking; in the humanitarian field with the International Committee of the Red Cross; and for the last 14 years in various positions within the orthopaedic industry. It is now my pleasure to provide my experience to the OTC Foundation.

Having lived and worked on all continents, I consider myself a global citizen with Swiss-German roots. Born in 1963, I received degrees in management from the University of Berne and an MBA from IMD, a global leader in executive education based in Lausanne. I am multilingual, an open communicator and have been enjoying a fruitful professional collaboration and friendship with surgeons.

The OTC Foundation is a very promising institution! In a short amount of time it has established itself as a stable base for research, education, best clinical practices and humanitarian aid. It has awarded an ample amount of internationally-acclaimed scholarships to fellows and has promoted and sponsored numerous theoretical and practical courses – all activities that reinforce and support a growing global network of surgeons, working to improve health and trauma care treatment. It is a network of science and friendship.

Strong growth leads to new dimensions and new horizons but also ... to new requirements. Thus, it is now time to build on our existing base. To assure future international success for our Foundation, we must specify and advance our strategy and align structure and processes accordingly. By doing so, we subsequently enhance the Foundation's external profile and popularity.

Additional partners will be involved and additional activities developed. Together with our successful surgeons, we strive for further faculty excellence as well. This requires a renewed commitment to building collaborations and cooperation among our distinguished surgeons to set the standard for expanding our network. Our faculty and supporters must have the necessary tools also in order to excel. They must have the facilities and the best places to support passionate learning and research. In an increasingly mobile world we must be flexible to be able to realize these goals.

Together we share a commitment to advance the Foundation. With our shared values of leadership, compassion, diversity, professionalism and excellence we strive to make the OTC Foundation a world-class institution of research and education. It is my pleasure to help to nurture the growth of this "sapling" - OTC into a "strong tree" with many branches. I look forward to embarking on our common journey!

Othmar B. Ulrich

Osteosynthesis & Trauma Care Foundation (OTC) Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NICE – 25 JUNE 2009

The OTC Foundation Global Board convened in Nice for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and welcomed presidents and representatives from 20 Chapters. Their major tasks included reviewing and approving the 2008 program budget as well as advising on the implementation of the 2009 program budget; forecasting needs for the remainder of the 2009 calendar year and drafting a business plan for the foundation's development over the next five years.



One major discussion evolved around the AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals and the Eucomed Code of Business Practice, and how these affect the foundation's work.

The AGM provided a forum for representatives to exchange educational experiences and to discuss ways of strengthening chapter relationships with the Foundation and grantor.

LEADERSHIP FORUM NICE – 25 AND 26 JUNE 2009

The Leadership Forum (LF) followed the AGM and assembled some 50 health care professionals, surgeons, scientists, managers and administrators from all around the globe.

Prof. Emil Schemitsch (Canada) presided over the gathering and assembled an impressive array of eminent surgeons to serve as faculty and moderators including Prof. Roger Atkins (UK) and Dr. David Brinkert (France), as guest speakers.

Dr. Brinkert presented the second topic: "The Global Burden of Trauma: A Call for Action." He shared with the forum dramatic experiences he encountered while working in war-torn Congo. Citing extreme conditions paired with lack of resources, materials and assistance as common road blocks to providing quality trauma care treatment to patients in distressed areas, other panel members representing third world countries echoed similar views and debated what the role of orthopaedic surgeons should be.

All panelists agreed that extreme conditions in areas of conflict will remain and determining ways to support chapters involved in humanitarian missions should become a more visible goal for the OTC Foundation.

NUMERICAL MODELING AND TRAUMA CARE – JUNE 2009

Profs. P. Augat (Germany) and M. Bottlang (USA) gathered together 25 experts in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for a workshop on the future of numerical modeling in the field of trauma care.



With all relevant professions (orthopaedic and trauma surgery, biomechanics, computer sciences and biomedical engineering) presented, attendees discussed the topic: "How will computer sciences and modeling influence the treatment of trauma patients?"

At the end of the workshop, attendees agreed that the subject matter will remain a hot topic for the OTC Foundation program and fellowships and research grants should support the work of interested institutions.

CLINICAL RESEARCH COURSE – SEPTEMBER 2009

Profs. Emil Schemitsch and Mohit Bhandari will direct the clinical research course entitled: "Principles and Practice of Clinical Research" in Mississauga, Ontario on September 16-18, 2009. The course is for surgeons training in North America and the syllabus is based upon the comprehensive textbook, Clinical Research for Surgeons, edited by Drs. Bhandari and Anders Joensson. Copies are available upon request at: research@otcfoundation.org.

CADAVERIC COURSE: HAND AND DISTAL RADIUS, STRASBOURG – 27 AND 28 OCTOBER 2009

Under the leadership of Prof. Filip Stockmans (Belgium), the OTC Foundation will present its first Cadaveric Course on Hand and Distal Radius. Prof. Stockmans, an eminent expert in this surgical area, has assembled an international faculty and obtained CME accreditation. The course will be held at the IRCAD in the Strasbourg Hospital, thanks to the support offered by Dr. Taglang of the EXCO. Download the application and registration from the OTC website at www.otcfoundation.org or email the OTC Foundation at: education@otcfoundation.org.