

## What is AO and AO Grant Opportunities For You

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### INTRODUCTION:

The AO is a non-profit surgeon-driven organization dedicated to progress in research, development, and education in the field of trauma and corrective surgery. The goal of the AO is the research, development and approval of every aspect of osteosynthesis methods and devices and to provide the education to spread this knowledge around the globe. Using these methods and devices, the AO surgeons and OP personnel trained in the AO have successfully treated a vast quantity of patients with musculoskeletal injuries and their sequelae over the past 40 years.

AO Foundation is one of the few Foundations without an endowment to finance its activities through capital interests. It functions through the contribution of ideas and know-how as well as ongoing support in teaching and scientific activities which are made possible by its continuous incoming royalties from industrial partners. In this way a unique system of support helps to develop the latest technologies, implants and instruments based on research and development and nourished by an international family of idealistic and dedicated surgeons. The unique set-up of the organization ensures a most effective use of royalties derived from the market, thereby eliminating a potential burden on public funds.

Activities: Since its beginnings the AO has been an organization thriving on active, hands-on innovation, exploration and implementation in the field of osteosynthesis. The AO's five main areas of activity are presented:

Research: Through the AO Research Institute (ARI) and AOCID the AO promotes investigations in all areas of trauma of the locomotor system and its diseases and helps to provide the scientific basis for new developments in AO-related fields. It investigates the performance of surgical procedures, devices and substances in order to improve patient treatment. At the same time, it renders research services within and outside the AO Foundation.

Development: The AO Development Institute (ADI) provides new concepts, operating techniques and fracture fixation products, which not only extend the existing product range but also lead on

to new methods and standards. To achieve this, the ADI takes on the task of bringing together both internal and external specialists and integrating them as soon as possible into the development process.

Education: Through AO Education, the AO provides education programs in which new methods, products, and scientific findings are disseminated among orthopedic surgeons, operating personnel, and hospitals around the world. A faculty of over 1200 dedicated specialist surgeons volunteer as teachers, offering more than 150 annual courses in which in 2003 alone more than 12,000 doctors participated.

Scholarships: The AO offers scholarships through three channels:

#### [Socio Economic Committee](#)

The Socio Economic Committee (SEC) represents the social conscience of the AO Foundation. Its primary goal is to improve the care of the injured in developing countries by conducting or facilitating teaching events and programs as well as by supporting the training of individuals involved in the programs.

#### [AO Research Fund](#)

The AO Research Fund is funded by the AO Foundation, a Swiss non-profit organization. The Research commission is an independent review board chaired by Dr Adrian Sugar. The mission of the AO Research Fund (AORF) is to support basic scientific, pre-clinical and clinical research in all areas of trauma, surgery of the musculo-skeletal system and related problems. It provides predominantly seed money to individual researchers and research groups, finances pilot studies and supports investigation of new and unconventional ideas or hypotheses. It also funds projects focused on specific clinical problems as defined from time to time by the AO Academic Council. Its principal clinical areas encompass general trauma, spine, craniomaxillofacial and veterinary surgery.

#### [Fellowships](#)

AO Education offers 200 fellowships for surgeons and 20 for ORP every year. These provide additional experience in AO techniques for fully trained orthopedic or general surgeons and ORP with an interest in trauma.