

AO Courses in the International Context

*Rüedi P. Thomas, Prof. Dr. med. emerit.**

Since over 40 years, AO International offers its AO courses with hands-on workshops on a worldwide basis. In 2002, 160 courses for general orthopaedic trauma, spine, craniomaxillofacial and veterinary surgery were organized, not including the 13 courses in December in Davos / Switzerland and the 60 courses for operating room personnel (ORP). Since the first AO course in 1960 more than 250,000 surgeons and ORP attended educational AO events.

A typical AO course consists of formal lectures (according to a prepared syllabus), interactive panel discussions, practical exercises, case presentations and casual fireside discussions. Different levels of courses – principles, advances and masters as well as several specialities – try to address the needs and requests of the participants worldwide. The AO faculty consists of some 2,000 surgeons around the world, who contribute and share on a voluntary basis their knowledge, experience and skills, while the implant and instrument manufacturer and their local agencies provide the enormous logistical support, including interpreter services, which is required to run these courses.

AO produces also different teaching materials, such as books (AO Principles on Fractures Management, translated into 8 languages), journals, videos, CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs as well as PowerPoint presentations, and presently the value of e-learning modules as an adjunct to the face-to-face teaching is being assessed.

For any further information on up-coming courses etc. please consult our Web page at: www.ao-asif.ch → courses, which is regularly up-dated.

** Rüedi Thomas P., Prof. Dr. med. emerit.*

*Surgeon, President ASIF (Association for the Study of Internal Fixation)
International, Davos, Switzerland*