

Annual Report 2025 – AO Trauma Switzerland

Dear Members

This is my first annual report as President of AO Trauma Switzerland, and I am pleased to sincerely thank all of you for your support and commitment. Without your efforts, this diverse association year would not have been possible.

Review and Start of 2025

At the Dreiländertagung in Lugano, we were able to conclude the 2024 association year in a special setting. At the same time, there were changes on the board with the departure of Yves Acklin and Daniel Petek and Michele Arigoni moving into the role of Past President. I would like to warmly thank all of them again here for their dedication to the board. Axel Gamulin and Valentin Neuhaus have newly joined our board and have already started their work with great commitment. I was especially pleased that we were also able to celebrate our new honorary member Andy Platz at this event. Many thanks again to Michele Arigoni and Stefanie Walser for the excellent organization of the meeting.

The 2025 association year really kicked off with the fruitful scientific program of the Dreiländertagung in Lugano. A big thank you here to Yves Acklin for the thematic organization and coordination with colleagues from Germany and Austria.

Due to Stefanie Walser's maternity leave, some adjustments had to be made in the secretariat and tasks redistributed. This worked well, although it was not without effort. All the more, we hope Stefanie can rejoin us fully from summer as usual.

Education

Our annual Basic and Advanced courses as well as the student course in Davos were again very well attended, with motivated and enthusiastic participants and faculty alike. This year, we were able to recruit five faculty candidates, all of whom performed very well, and we look forward to appointing them again in future courses. Furthermore, our growing waitlist for faculty candidates shows strong interest from the next generation and offers a great opportunity to involve them.

We were particularly pleased with the new format of the Young Academy courses for medical students in Bern, Zurich, Basel, and Lausanne. All courses were fully booked or even oversubscribed. This clearly shows the strong interest in traumatology among the younger generation! We will implement this format in future as well in Geneva.

Additionally, we were able to run two German-speaking and one Italian-speaking ORP course. These courses are very important for our daily work, as successful trauma care only works as a team effort.

Some of you were also active internationally, either as faculty or chairpersons at Master courses in Davos or Europe. This shows how strongly we are connected internationally. A big thank you to everyone who got involved: Christian Spross, Karl Stoffel, Christoph Sommer, Valentin Neuhaus, Björn Link, Mario Morgenstern, Moritz Tannast, Johannes Bastian. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone, my apologies if so.

Research and Fellowship

The AO Trauma Switzerland Research Award 2025 went to Matthijs Jacxsens from St. Gallen. His work "Predicting functional outcome after nonoperative treatment of

proximal humeral fractures involving the surgical neck" was published in the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery, congratulations again!

For the next award, three exciting publications have already been pre-selected by the board. The authors will present their work in Fribourg, and you will be able to choose the best.

The DACH Fellowship 2025 was awarded to Elin Winkler from Winterthur. She will report on her experiences in Innsbruck in Fribourg, we look forward to it!

Please inform young colleagues in your environment about these opportunities and encourage them to apply, it's worth it!

Community Development

At the Medifuture Congress in Bern, we were again represented in 2025, this time together with the Swiss Trauma Society (STS). Thanks to Michele Arigoni, Severin Meili, and Thomas Beck for organizing and helping out. This congress is another great opportunity to present our activities to young colleagues.

The cooperation with the STS is becoming closer overall, which makes us very happy. Further joint activities are planned, including for the Biel Continuing Education Days 2026 and our Annual Meeting 2027.

Finances remain a challenging topic

Fortunately, the annual financial statements reflect a net surplus of CHF 36'280.90. This amount is mainly driven by unrealized gains on equity investments.

But as you already know from the last annual meeting, we are in the middle of financial changes: We no longer have a fixed budget from the AO Foundation. Funds are now practically distributed almost exclusively on a project basis and depending on membership numbers. This applies especially to our community development budget. The details are not yet finalized, but the direction is clear.

This means we must plan our activities much more long-term and apply for grants even for annual activities as our annual reunion. New ideas can no longer be implemented as flexibly as before since an independent distribution of funds is no longer possible. This particularly affects the AO Trauma Switzerland Research Award and the DACH Fellowship. Currently, we have submitted these activities as a grant. However, if this is rejected, we will have either to reconsider their continuation or finance them from the association's assets or through alternative sponsors in line with AO sponsoring policies.

Members and international committees are more important than ever

Due to the changed financial situation, it is even more important that we maintain or even increase our membership numbers. At the end of 2025, the number of AO Trauma Switzerland members was 326 (previous year: 304).

Please remember to actively renew your membership; it no longer renews automatically.

Representing our interests in European and international AO Foundation committees remains crucial. A big thank you to Yves Acklin for his commitment in the TESA Education Committee! He will hand over this role in mid-2026.

Outlook

A heartfelt thank you goes to Philippe Vial and Axel Gamulin for organizing this year's meeting in Fribourg.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly on May 7, 2026, and of course to the personal exchange in the evening as well as the exciting scientific seminar on challenges of and around the bone in fracture dislocations on May 8.

The next Annual Conference will take place on April 29 and 30, 2027 in Basel and will be organized by Mario Morgenstern and his team. Please mark these dates in your agenda already today!

Thank you all for your commitment to AO Trauma Switzerland, and I look forward to everything we will accomplish together.

Kind regards
Ruth Gremminger

Laax, 22.03.2026

AO TCH - Strong Impact Across Education, Research & Community

>600 participants across 7+ initiatives in 2025

