

AO Trauma Course— Basic Principles of Fracture Management for Swiss Surgeons

November 29 – December 3, 2026
Davos, Switzerland

Lecture hall: Davos 1
Practical exercise room:
Davos 2

**EVENT
PROGRAM**



Goal of the event

The AO Trauma Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management for Swiss Surgeons is part of AO Trauma's educational program teaching fundamental principles and current concepts in the treatment of injuries, incorporating the latest techniques in operative fracture management. The AO Trauma Basic Principles course is the initial step along the path of lifelong learning in operative fracture management. The focus of this course is on teaching the basic principles of fracture management.

Target participants

This AO Trauma Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management for Swiss Surgeons is targeted at first- to third-year trainees and is also open to newly certified orthopedic and trauma surgeons who are interested in furthering their knowledge and skills in operative fracture management.

All surgeons regardless of nationality but working at Swiss hospitals can participate in this course.

Learning objectives

On completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Outline and use AO principles in the treatment of diaphyseal and simple articular fractures
- Read and analyze x-rays of clinical cases properly and apply the AO/Orthopedic Trauma Association (AO/OTA) Fracture and Dislocation Classification Compendium
- Plan a treatment based on assessment, imaging, classification, and decision making
- Discuss concepts of stability, their influence on bone healing, and how to apply implants to achieve appropriate stability
- Apply the knowledge of soft-tissue injury in making appropriate decisions regarding treatment options and timing
- Identify and discuss the special problems related to:
 - Fractures in the immature skeleton
 - Polytraumatized patients
 - Osteoporotic fractures
 - Delayed union and/or nonunion
 - Implant associate infections

Event description

The AO Trauma Course—Basic Principles of Fracture Management for Swiss Surgeons is part of AO Trauma's educational program for residents and based on a specific framework of competencies and learning objectives. They feature a balanced mix of educational methods with a strong focus on interactive sessions.

Online pre-course self-assessment prepares participants for the course and allows the faculty to tailor the course to the needs of participants. Before attending the course, participants are expected to complete the online self-assessment questionnaire.

The course consists of evidence-based lectures which cover the key information required. In practical exercises, participants will be trained in the application of various techniques.

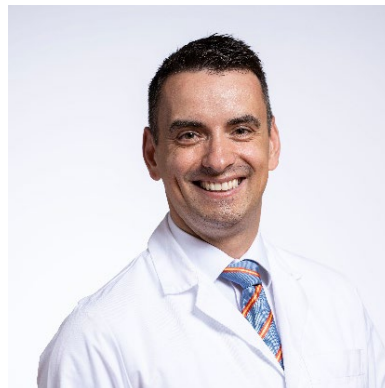
The AO Skills Lab consists of ten stations where participants will learn the principles of fractures, biomechanics, and test fracture management options. Discussing cases in small groups will help participants to understand decision-making processes and further develop management skills.

After the course, an online post-course self-assessment will provide participants with important feedback on how much they have learned.

Chairpersons



Matthieu Zingg
Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève
Geneva, Switzerland



Primoz Potocnik
Kantonsspital Graubünden
Chur, Switzerland

Faculty

Jocelyn Corbaz	CHUV Lausanne	Lausanne, Switzerland
Giacomo de Marco	HUG Genève	Geneva, Switzerland
Michael Dietrich	Stadtspital Zürich Waid and Triemli	Zurich, Switzerland
Andreas Flury	Universitätsklinik Balgrist	Zurich, Switzerland
Andreas Fösel	Klinik Sonnenhof	Bern, Switzerland
Axel Gamulin	HUG Genève	Geneva, Switzerland
Matthieu Hanauer	Valais Hospital Martigny Sion	Sion, Switzerland
Samuel Haupt	Spital Oberengadin	Samedan, Switzerland
Petros Ismailidis	Universitätsspital Basel	Basel, Switzerland
Method Kabelitz	Stadtspital Zürich Waid and Triemli	Zurich, Switzerland
Christian Keiser	Kantonsspital Graubünden	Chur, Switzerland
Andreas Ladurner	Stadtspital Zürich Triemli	Zurich, Switzerland
Björn-Christian Link	Kantonsspital Luzern	Luzern, Switzerland
Niccolò Marelli	Ospedale regionale Lugano	Lugano, Switzerland
Vanessa Morello	HUG Genève	Geneva, Switzerland
Gherardo Pagliazzi	Ospedale Regionale Lugano	Lugano, Switzerland
Martin Riegger	Ospedale Regionale Lugano	Lugano, Switzerland
Dominic Rigling	Kantonsspital Nidwalden	Stans, Switzerland

Jan Rosenkranz	Stadtspital Zürich Waid and Triemli	Zurich, Switzerland
Valentina Scholz	Kantonsspital Graubünden	Chur, Switzerland
Florian Schönweger	Ospedale Regionale Lugano	Lugano, Switzerland
Michael Stalder	Spitäler FMI AG	Interlaken, Switzerland
Galo Stückelberger	Kantonsspital Winterthur	Winterthur, Switzerland
Franz Tillmann	Kantonsspital Luzern	Luzern, Switzerland
Nicole Van Veelen	Kantonsspital Luzern	Luzern, Switzerland
Bryan Van de Wall	Kantonsspital Luzern	Luzern, Switzerland
Christian Von der Lippe	Spital Herisau	Herisau, Switzerland
Manuel Waltenspül	Stadt Spital Zürich	Zurich, Switzerland
Daniel Wagner	CHUV Lausanne	Lausanne, Switzerland
Hanna Wellauer	Kantonsspital Winterthur	Winterthur, Switzerland
Franziska Ziegenhain	Kantonsspital Winterthur	Winterthur, Switzerland
Bernd Zimmermann	Kantonsspital Graubünden	Chur, Switzerland
Christoph Zindel-Geisseler	Kantonsspital Graubünden	Chur, Switzerland

Guest lecturer

Martin Stoddart	AO Research Institute	Davos, Switzerland
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Sunday

November 29, 2026

15:00	Opening of the Davos Congress Centre
15:00–17:00	Registration of participants
17:00–19:00	Opening ceremony and founders' reception

Monday

November 30, 2025

LOCATION: Davos 1

Module 1

Moderator: V Morello

General concepts

On completion of this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe the AO principles of fracture management
 - Explain bone and fracture-healing processes
 - Describe the mechanical concepts of fracture fixation
 - Define relative and absolute stability
 - Select the appropriate type of stability and implant according to the AO/OTA Fracture and Dislocation Classification and associated soft-tissue injury
 - Perform steps of applying screws and plates to provide absolute stability
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08:00–08:10	Welcome and introduction—objectives, structure, faculty, and outlook for the week	M Zingg
08:10–08:30	Biology of bone healing	M. Stoddart
08:30–08:50	Concepts of mechanical fixation—relative and absolute stability	C Zindel-Geisseler
08:50-09:15	Coffee break	
09:15-09:45	Principles of conventional plate fixation, including lag screw technique	P Ismailidis
09:45-09:50	Location change to practical exercise room Davos 2	
09:50-10:10	Practical exercise 1A Welcome to the "Baumarkt" How to use a power drill and a saw	G Pagliazzi
10:10-11:40	Practical exercise 1B Internal fixation with screws and plates—absolute stability	G Pagliazzi
11:40-12:40	Lunch break and location change to lecture hall	
12:40-13:05	Principles and concepts of the locking compression plate (LCP)	M Kabelitz
13:05-13:10	Location change to practical exercise room	
13:10-14:40	Practical exercise 1C Principles of the internal fixator using an LCP	M Kabelitz

14:40-14:55	Coffee break
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Location: Davos 1

Green team (Two teams, red and green, run in parallel)

14:55-16:55	AO Skills Lab *Note: participants spend 10 minutes at each station, then rotate clockwise Station A: Torque measurement of bone screws Station B: Soft-tissue penetration during drilling Station C: Heat generation during drilling Station D: Mechanics of bone fractures Station E: Techniques of reduction, part 1 Station F: Techniques of reduction, part 2 Station G: Mechanics of intramedullary fixation Station H: Mechanics of plate fixation Station J: Fracture healing and plate fixation Station K: Difficult implant removal	Moderator: C Von der Lippe M Riegger, G Stückelberger M Dietrich, M Kabelitz G- Pagliazzi, A Ladurner J Rosenkranz M Hanauer, J Corbaz A Gamulin G de Marco, A Fösel F Schönweger, M Stalder N. Marelli C Zindel-Geisseler
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Location: Davos 2

Red team (Two teams, red and green, run in parallel)

AO Skills Lab *Note: participants spend 10 minutes at each station, then rotate clockwise Station A: Torque measurement of bone screws Station B: Soft-tissue penetration during drilling Station C: Heat generation during drilling Station D: Mechanics of bone fractures	Moderator: BC Link C Keiser D Wagner S Haupt, N Van Veelen H Wellauer
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Station E:
Techniques of reduction, part 1

D Rigling, B van de Wall

Station F:
Techniques of reduction, part 2

P Ismailidis

Station G:
Mechanics of intramedullary fixation

V Morello, F Ziegenhain

Station H:
Mechanics of plate fixation

V Scholz, B Zimmermann

Station J:
Fracture healing and plate fixation

M Waltenspül, F Tillmann

Station K:
Difficult implant removal

A Flury

16:55–17:00 Evaluation

Tuesday

December 1, 2026

LOCATION: Davos 1

Module 1 (continued)

Moderator: V Morello

General concepts

08:00–08:10	Outlook for the day (learning objectives)	M Zingg
08:10–08:25	Radiation in the operating room	A Fösel
08:25–08:45	AO/OTA Fracture and Dislocation Classification	F Schönweger
08:45–08:50	Location change to discussion group rooms	
08:50–09:40	Small group discussion 1 General principles, classification	
	Group 1: Landwasser 1	A Gamulin, V Morello, J Corbaz
	Group 2: Landwasser 3	M Hanauer, D Wagner, G de Marco
	Group 3: Landwasser 5	M Riegger, G Pagliazzi, N Marelli
	Group 4: Landwasser 7	F Schönweger, A Ladurner, J Rosenkranz
	Group 5: Landwasser 9	F Tillmann, V Scholz, N Van Veelen
	Group 6: Landwasser 11	S Haupt, B van de Wall
	Group 7: Landwasser 13	D Rigling, A Fösel, M Waltenspül
	Group 8: Landwasser 15	F Ziegenhain, M Stalder, B Zimmermann
	Group 9: Landwasser 17	P Ismailidis, A Flury, C Zindel-Geisseler
	Group 10: Landwasser 19	C Von der Lippe, M Kabelitz
	Group 11: Landwasser 21	M Dietrich, H Wellauer
	Group 12: Landwasser 23	BC Link, G Stückelberger,

09:40–09:55 Coffee break and location change to lecture hall

Module 2

Moderator: M Dietrich

Diaphyseal fractures

On completion of this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe principles of diaphyseal fracture management
- List the treatment options for femoral and tibial shaft fractures
- Perform steps for the application of a large external fixator to the tibial shaft

09:55-10:20	Principles of diaphyseal fracture management (incl principles of intramedullary (IM) nailing)	S Haupt
10:20-10:40	Forearm fractures-not just another shaft fracture	A Flury
10:40-11:00	Preoperative planning lecture	N Marelli
11:00-11:05	Change to tables for planning	
11:05-12:05	Practical exercise 2 (in the lecture room) Preoperative planning for forearm shaft fracture 2R2A, 2U2C using LCPs (8- and 11-hole plates)	N Marelli
12:05-13:10	Lunch break	
13:10-13:30	Principles of external fixation	B Zimmermann
13:30-14:40	Practical exercise 3 Management of a forearm shaft fracture 2R2A, 2U2C using LCPs (8- and 11-hole plates)	A Gamulin
14:40-14:55	Coffee break	
14:55-15:15	Pediatric fractures—case based lecture	G de Marco
15:15-15:35	Fractures of the femoral and tibial diaphysis	C Keiser
15:35-15:40	Location change to practical exercise room	
15:40-16:25	Practical exercise 4 Tibial shaft—external fixator	F Tillmann
16:25-16:30	Location change to discussion groups	

16:30-17:45	Small group discussion 2 Management principles for the treatment of diaphyseal fractures	
	Group 1: Landwasser 1	A Gamulin, V Morello, J Corbaz
	Group 2: Landwasser 3	M Hanauer, D Wagner, G de Marco
	Group 3: Landwasser 5	M Riegger, G Pagliazzi, N Marelli
	Group 4: Landwasser 7	F Schönweger, A Ladurner, J Rosenkranz
	Group 5: Landwasser 9	F Tillmann, V Scholz, N Van Veelen
	Group 6: Landwasser 11	S Haupt, B van de Wall
	Group 7: Landwasser 13	D Rigling, A Fösel, M Waltenspül
	Group 8: Landwasser 15	F Ziegenhain, M Stalder, B Zimmermann
	Group 9: Landwasser 17	P Ismailidis, A Flury, C Zindel-Geisseler
	Group 10: Landwasser 19	C Von der Lippe, M Kabelitz
	Group 11: Landwasser 21	M Dietrich, H Wellauer
	Group 12: Landwasser 23	BC Link, G Stückelberger, C Keiser

17:45-17:50	Evaluation
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17:50–20:30	AO Davos Courses night Davos Congress Centre
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Wednesday

December 2, 2026

Location: Davos 1

08:00–08:10	Outlook for the day (learning objectives)	M Zingg
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Module 3

Moderator: C Keiser

Special topics

On completion of this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe the treatment algorithms for the polytrauma patient
 - Outline principles of damage-control orthopedics in the management of pelvic fractures
 - Specify goals and principles of open fracture management
 - Describe soft-tissue management in open fractures
 - Apply steps for the application of a reamed tibial nail
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08:10–08:30	Treatment algorithms for the polytrauma patient (damage control vs early total care), including pelvic trauma	J Rosenkranz
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08:30–08:50	Management of open fractures—skeleton and soft tissue	V Morello
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08:50–09:10	Infection after osteosynthesis / implant-associated infection	V Scholz
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09:10–09:25	Coffee break and location change to practical exercise room	
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09:25–11:05	Practical exercise 5 Reamed IM nailing of the tibia using the TN-Advanced tibial nailing system (TN-A), including distal locking (DEHST-stations)	D Wagner
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11:05–11:10	Location change to lecture room	
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Module 4

Moderator: G Pagliuzzi

Articular fractures

On completion of this module, participants will be able to:

- Explain the management principles for articular fractures
 - Outline surgical treatment of wrist fractures
 - Perform steps for the fixation of an extraarticular distal radial fracture using the palmar LCP
 - List indications for nonoperative and operative treatment of clavicular and proximal humeral fractures
 - Define alternative techniques when tension band wiring is not possible
 - Explain and apply the treatment concept of cerclage compression wiring to patellar and olecranon fractures
 - Describe fixation principles in proximal femoral fractures
 - Recall challenges in treating the geriatric patient
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11:10–11:30	Management principles for articular fractures—how do they differ from diaphyseal fractures?	BC Link
11:30–11:50	Distal radial fractures—which to fix and how to fix them?	M. Dietrich
11:50–11:55	Location change to practical exercise room	
11:55–13:05	SHARD (11:55–12:55) Live surgery—modified Henry approach to the distal radius and ORIF Practical exercise 6 Distal radius—intraarticular fracture fixation using the variable angle (VA)-LCP 2.4 palmar two-column distal radial plate	BC Link, M Riegger
13:05–14:00	Lunch break and location change to to lecture room	
14:00–14:20	Proximal humeral fractures	M Stalder
14:20–14:40	Fractures of the olecranon and patella (cerclage compression wiring principles and cerclage wiring)	F Ziegenhain
14:40–14:45	Location change to practical exercise room	
14:45–15:20	Practical exercise 7 Olecranon—transverse fracture 2U1B1 managed by cerclage compression wiring	D Rigling
15:20–15:25	Location change to lecture room	
15:25–15:45	Tibia plateau fractures	G Stückelberger
15:45–16:00	Coffee break	

16:00-16:05	Location change to the discussion groups or practical exercise room (check your group number)	
16:05-17:20	Small group discussion 3 Articular fractures	
	Group 1: Landwasser 1	A Gamulin, V Morello, J Corbaz
	Group 2: Landwasser 3	M Hanauer, D Wagner, G de Marco
	Group 3: Landwasser 5	M Riegger, G Pagliazzi, N Marelli
	Group 4: Landwasser 7	F Schönweger, A Ladurner, J Rosenkranz
	Group 5: Landwasser 9	F Tillmann, V Scholz, N Van Veelen
	Group 6: Landwasser 11	S Haupt, B van de Wall
16:20-17:50	Practical exercise 9 Trochanteric femoral fracture—IM nailing using a proximal femoral nail antirotation (TFNA) incl. DEHST–stations Group 7-12	A Ladurner
17:50-17:55	Evaluation	

Thursday

December 3, 2026

Location: Davos 1

Module 4 (continued) **Moderator: G Pagliazzi** **Articular fractures**

08:00–08:10	Outlook for the day (learning objectives)	M Zingg
08:10–08:30	Ankle fractures—a logical approach for their fixation	M Waltenspül
08:30–08:35	Location change to the practical exercise room	
08:35–09:45	Practical exercise 8 Management of a type C malleolar fracture	M Waltenspül
09:45–10:50	Coffee break and location change to to lecture room	
10:00–10:20	Femoral neck fractures	M Hanauer
10:20–10:40	Trochanteric fractures	H Wellauer
10:40–10:45	Location change to the discussion groups or practical exercise room (check your group number)	
10:45–12:00	Small group discussion 3 Articular fractures	
	Group 7: Landwasser 13	D Rigling, A Fösel, M Waltenspül
	Group 8: Landwasser 15	F Ziegenhain, M Stalder, B Zimmermann
	Group 9: Landwasser 17	P Ismailidis, A Flury, C Zindel-Geisseler
	Group 10: Landwasser 19	C Von der Lippe, M Kabelitz
	Group 11: Landwasser 21	M Dietrich, H Wellauer
	Group 12: Landwasser 23	BC Link, G Stückelberger, C Keiser

10:45-12:15	Practical exercise 9 Trochanteric femoral fracture—IM nailing using a proximal femoral nail antirotation (TFNA) incl. DEHST-stations Group 1-6	J Corbaz
12:00-13:00	Lunch break and location change to to lecture room	
13:00-13:20	Fixation principles in osteoporotic bone—the geriatric patient	B Van de Wall
13:20-13:40	Treatment of nonunion	D Wagner
13:40-14:00	Violation of principles and my worst case	C Von der Lippe
14:00-14:10	AO world—history and today's activities (research, teaching, country chapter): what is AO, where do we come from, what do we offer	M Zingg
14:10-14:20	Prize give-away, evaluation, closing remarks	M Zingg, P Potocnik

Event organization

AO Foundation

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Registration fee

Standard Ticket - AO Trauma Basic for Swiss 2026
CHF 1'750.00

Included in the course fee: coffee and lunch breaks, opening ceremony and AO Davos Courses night, and course certificate.

Cancellation policy:

50% until 30 days before the event. No refund thereafter.

Online registration

bit.ly/DCBasicSwiss26

Language

English

National CME accreditation

An application has been made to SGC and Swiss Orthopaedics.

Disclosures and conflicts of interest (COI)

Disclosure information and potential conflicts of interest (COI) can be viewed at the event webpage

Venue

Davos Congress Centre

Talstrasse 49A

7270 Davos Platz

Switzerland

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General information

Evaluation guidelines

All AO Trauma events apply the same evaluation process, which includes pre- and post-event online evaluation and on-site written questionnaires. These evaluation tools help ensure that AO Trauma continues to meet your training needs.

Intellectual property

Event materials, presentations, and case studies are the intellectual property of the event faculty. All rights are reserved. For more information, please see:

www.aofoundation.org/legal.

Recording, photographing, or copying of lectures, practical exercises, case discussions, or any course materials is absolutely forbidden.



The AO Foundation reserves the right to film, photograph, and audio record during their events. Participants must understand that in this context they may appear in these recorded materials. The AO Foundation assumes participants agree that these recorded materials may be used for AO marketing and other purposes and made available to the public.

Use of social media

During the AO Davos Courses 2026, you can post your experience using the #AODavosCourses2026 hashtag. While we encourage you to share your AO Davos Courses 2026 experience with your online network, it is expressly forbidden to share any images or recordings from inside the course.

Security

There will be a security check at the entrance of the building. Wearing of a name tag is compulsory during lectures, workshops, and group discussions.

No insurance

The event organization does not take out insurance to cover any individual against accidents, theft, or other risks.

Mobile phone use

Mobile phone use is **not allowed** in the lecture halls and in other rooms during educational activities. Please be considerate of others by turning off your mobile phone.

Picture gallery

Check out www.aodavoscourses.org for a daily selection of pictures from the AO Davos Courses 2025, the best from last year's courses, and a selection of photographs from the first-ever AO Davos Courses.

Dress code

Warm clothes and suitable shoes are recommended.

Sponsors

We thank our major industry partners, DePuy Synthes, for their key contribution in the form of an educational grant and in-kind support (material, technical staff and logistics) and Siemens Healthineers for their key contribution in the form of an educational grant.



Principles of AO educational events

1. Academic independence

Development of all curricula, design of scientific event programs, and selection of faculty are the sole responsibilities of volunteer AO network surgeons.

All education is planned based on needs assessment data, designed and evaluated using concepts and evidence from the most current medical education research, and reflects the expertise of the AO Education Institute (www.aofoundation.org).

Industry participation is not allowed during the entire curriculum development and planning process to ensure academic independence and to keep content free from bias.

2. Compliance to accreditation and industry codes

All planning, organization, and execution of educational activities follow existing codes for accreditation of high-quality education:

- Accreditation Criteria of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, US (www.accme.org)
- ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities (www.accme.org)
- Criteria for Accreditation of Live Educational Events of the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (www.uems.eu)

Events that receive direct or indirect unrestricted educational grants or in-kind support from industry also follow the ethical codes of the medical industry, such as:

- Eucomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.medtecheurope.org)
- AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals (advamed.org)
- Mecomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.mecomed.org)

3. Branding and advertising

No industry logos or advertising (apart from the AO Foundation and its clinical divisions) are permitted in the area where educational activities take place.

Sponsors providing financial or in-kind support are allowed to have a promotional booth or run activities outside the educational area with approval from the event chairperson.

4. Use of technologies and products in simulations

In case simulations are chosen as an educational method to educate skills, we only use technology approved by the AO Technical Commission—a large independent group of volunteer surgeons developing and peer reviewing new technology.

More information about the AO Technical Commission and its development and approval processes can be found on the AO's website: www.aofoundation.org.

5. Personnel

Industry staff members are not permitted to interfere with the educational content or engage in educational activities during the event.