MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Theodore Miclau, III, MD

“Everyone in the world, by way of introduction, is connected to everyone else by a chain of no more than six people.”

“Six degrees of separation,” a concept proposed in 1929 by Hungarian Frigyes Karinthy in his short story “Chains,” grew from the author’s observation that the world was “shrinking” due to innovations in communication, travel, and human connectivity. Although popularized to the general public through a Broadway play and Hollywood screenplay in the 1990’s, the theory’s relevance to a world saturated with social media continues to stimulate debates on “average distances” between people. One recent study suggests that Twitter followers (5.6 billion relationships) are 4.67 steps away from each other, while non-users are only about 5 steps or less away. Another study estimates that the average distance between Facebook users (721 million with 69 billion friendships) is 4.74, with 99.9% interconnectivity between users.

Despite the effectiveness of social media to connect people, the most meaningful connections are those built on personal relationships. In this way, professional meetings, such as our own Annual Meeting, are still the best way to link to friends, colleagues, and collaborators (no offense to LinkedIn). Accordingly, attendance at the OTA Annual meeting has nearly doubled over the past decade, going up in every category of attendee. Over this same time period, the OTA’s leadership has directed efforts at making the Association relevant to a growing number of people in North America and around the world.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Thanks to Bob O’Toole and the Program Committee, other committees (including Basic Science, Education, and International committees) and their chairs, the OTA staff, and the many contributors to this year’s program, our Annual Meeting in San Diego will offer attendees an unprecedented number of opportunities to learn, teach, exchange, and meet. Early registration numbers point to record attendance, most notably amongst international attendees, with our German guest nation colleagues and the Nepalese SIGN scholars attending. There are social events every evening: the international reception on Wednesday, the poolside welcome reception on Thursday, and “suds and science” guided poster tours and beer and wine in the exhibit hall on Friday. The New-Member Luncheon, Kathy Cramer memorial luncheon (open to all, but specifically dedicated to networking for female orthopaedic trauma surgeons), and fellows graduation ceremony are all events designed to help our younger members make critical contacts early in their careers.

While we have yet to study the “average distance” of OTA members to orthopaedic trauma colleagues across the globe, my guess is that it is significantly lower than that of Facebook users or Twitter followers. In-person meetings, like the Annual OTA meeting, still result in the most meaningful connections and facilitate networking in a way that the internet cannot. I look forward to San Diego, where we will further “shrink” our already small community.

Business Meeting (OTA Members Only)
Thursday, October 8, 2015 ~ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Business Meeting Agenda
Spring 2015 Business Meeting Minutes
LIST OF PRE-MEETING COURSES

Basic Science Focus Forum
(October 7th - 8th)
11.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Edward J Harvey, MD, Chair
Academic orthopaedic surgeons, community surgeons with an interest in clinically relevant basic science, basic and clinical researchers, residents and fellows will benefit most from this Basic Science Focus Forum.

ICD-10 Coding Course
(October 7th)
6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
J. Scott Broderick, MD, Chair
Margaret Maley from KarenZupko & Associates, Inc. is back to ease the ICD-10-CM transition! Take this opportunity to attend an ICD-10 coding specifically for orthopaedic trauma surgeons and their staff. Be inspired, not intimidated about implementing ICD-10.

Orthopaedic Trauma Boot Camp
(October 7th - 8th)
12.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Daniel S Horwitz, MD & Robert F Ostrum, MD, Course Chairs
This course is intended for the practicing orthopaedic surgeon who takes emergency room or trauma call. Current techniques in orthopaedic care will be stressed with attention to appropriate soft tissue management and up-to-date implant selection. Case discussions will be used for interactive learning and audience participation.

International Trauma Care Forum
(October 7th)
8.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Peter V Giannoudis, MD, Chair
International Orthopaedic Trauma Care Forum is for the benefit of orthopaedic trauma surgeons and related allied health care professionals with an interest in international trauma health care.

Young Practitioners Forum
(October 8th)
4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits
Jodi A Siegel, MD, and Lisa K Cannada, MD, Program Co-Chairs
This course is designed for orthopaedic residents, fellows and young practitioners to promote career planning and development during residency and selection of best practice environment.

Orthopaedic Trauma for PAs and NPs
(October 8th - 10th)
19.5 AAPA Category 1 CME Credits
Cory A Collinge, MD, Michael J Gardner, MD, Daniel J Coll, MHS, PA-C & Dennis C Gregory, PA-C
This course is intended for PAs and NPs who are practicing in orthopaedics inpatient / outpatient or caring for orthopaedic injuries in ER / UC / General Trauma Services.

GUEST NATION

OTA is honored to welcome Germany as the 2015 OTA Guest Nation. We look forward to the participation of German colleagues at the OTA Annual Meeting. It is with great honor we welcome Professor Michael L Nerlich, MD, 2015, President of both the German Society for Trauma Surgery and German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery. We look forward to his enlightening presentation: The German Trauma Network Initiative - Challenges and Advantages. The Guest Nation program was initiated in 2011 in recognition of the importance and benefits of sharing knowledge and experience with international colleagues.

Ted Miclau, MD, OTA President and Peter Giannoudis, MD, OTA International Committee Chair are honored to be invited to represent the OTA, and participate at the DKOU Annual Meeting October 20 – 23, 2015, in Berlin, Germany. Others interested in attending the DKOU meeting should visit this links:

DKOU Meeting Video
2015 DKOU Meeting Website - October 20 - 23, 2015
2016 DKOU Meeting Website - October 25 - 28, 2016
More Annual Meeting Highlights

OTA Welcome Reception
Pool Deck at the Manchester Grand Hyatt
Thursday, October 8 ~ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Craft Brew Tasting special event in conjunction with the Welcome Reception.
Local California Craft Brews Available:
- Mission Hefeweizen
- Ballast Point Calico Amber
- Karl Strauss Tower 10
- Green Flash Stout

Tickets can be purchased onsite in San Diego at the registration desk.

Military Reception
Friday, October 9, 2015 ~ 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm
All Active Duty Military, Retired Military, and Landstuhl Distinguished Visiting Scholar participants are welcome to attend.

International Poster Reception
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 ~ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

New Member Luncheon
Friday, October 9, 2015 ~ 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Women in Orthopaedic Trauma Luncheon
Friday, October 9, 2015 ~ 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

2015 Industry Sessions
Wednesday, October 7 ~ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- DJO Global
Thursday, October 8 ~ 11:15 am – 12:45 pm
- DePuy Synthes (2)
- Zimmer Biomet
- Ellipse Technologies
- Stryker
- Acumed
- Siemens
- Acelity / KCI
- Titles, descriptions and faculty available online.

Exhibit Hall Happy Hour
Join the OTA for exhibit hall happy hour with our industry partners before dinner Friday from 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm in the Grand Hall at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

2015 OTA Video Theater
Robert A. Probe, MD

Ever wish you could easily get a quick video refresher for an upcoming case that you may not have done in awhile? With virtually everyone now turning first to the Internet for “just-in-time” knowledge, the OTA is addressing this need by launching a multifaceted approach to build a comprehensive video library. The first evidence of this will come at this year’s Annual Meeting where we will provide attendees the opportunity to pick up an iPad and peruse thirty peer-reviewed education technique videos ranging from repair of acromioclavicular joints to the pelvic fixation via the Stoppa Approach. Each of these instructional videos has been carefully edited to efficiently demonstrate the key technical aspects of a procedure within 10 minutes.

From this beginning, we are developing plans to rapidly expand our collection over the next few years. The ultimate goal is to provide members a single site where they can reliably access in video format, the full breadth of acute and reconstructive procedures relevant to the practice of Orthopaedic Trauma. Since its inception, the OTA has been at the forefront of innovative education. Maintaining this leadership position will require that we adopt new methods in the dissemination of our art. The degree, to which this ambitious initiative is successful, will depend on the degree to which we get our members to contribute their intellectual talents to the cause. We hope our debut in San Diego educates you and also stimulates you to become a contributor.
**Resident Grant Submission Deadline:** November 2, 2015

**January 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017 Funding Cycle**

The Research Committee met on August 21, 2015. After a day’s deliberations, grants were awarded in the following categories: $89,400 in Resident Grants (49 proposals reviewed); $404,790 in OTA Member Full Research Grants (30 proposals reviewed) awaiting Board approval in October 2015. In addition, the first International Grant Award was made by a Review Group headed by Heather Vallier, MD with members: Michael Archdeacon, MD; Amir Matitayahu, MD and Cyril Mauffrey, MD. The $49,050 International Grant award was approved by the Research Committee on August 21st and now awaits Board approval in October 2015.

The Disaster Committee has completed the “Disaster Management Response Guidelines for Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery” which will appear in JBJS reviews. Special thanks to Eric Pagenkopf who did an extraordinary job of editing and making this into an educational resource. Article will be available online soon.

Congratulations to all new 2015 OTA members. You are welcome to attend the new member lunch on Friday, October 9, in San Diego at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. The Board of Directors and membership committee invite prospective members to attend and learn about the benefits of membership.

The next membership deadline is October 15, 2015. Applications can be obtained online.

**Public Relations Committee**

Jeff Smith, MD

The AAOS and OTA partnered in 2015 on yet another successful public service announcement addressing Motorcycle Safety.

**Motorcycle Safety PSA**

The PR Committee also released an emergency room department poster on compartment Syndrome. Download the [Compartment Syndrome Poster](https://ota.org/education/compartment-syndrome) online today.
The landscape of healthcare is changing at a pace we have rarely seen. The Health Policy Committee (HPC) is working diligently to keep as up to date as possible. We would like to give our membership avenues to keep up not only with changes that affect us as practicing surgeons, but information that affects the health care enterprises we practice with. The other big change that will affect us all starting October 1 of this year is the implementation of ICD 10. These will be the two areas discussed in this report from the HPC.

We all have had many discussions with our colleagues on the many changes occurring. Many of these discussions involve us complaining about the changes. These complaints may be completely legitimate, or they may stem from fear or frustration. One of the best ways to combat any of these issues is with knowledge. The AAOS and OTA have many resources available for us. There are many other options available to us to help us stay educated. Here is a list of a few of websites to explore if you are interested:

- **Modern Healthcare.** This is a journal read by many healthcare executives.

- **American College of Healthcare Executives.** They may be the preeminent professional society for healthcare executives: [http://www.ache.org/](http://www.ache.org/)

- **American Association for Physician Leadership.** This is the nation’s largest health care organization for physician leaders: [http://www.physicianleaders.org/](http://www.physicianleaders.org/)


We are all gearing up for the implementation of ICD-10 on Oct. 1 of this year. It has generated a significant amount of anxiety in the healthcare industry. It has been delayed multiple times over the past several years. However, it appears it is here to stay.

ICD-10 was being developed starting in 1983. It was ready for use by 1992. The United Kingdom had it mandated in 1995, Australia adapted it in 1998, Canada in 2000, and many other countries have followed suit. ICD-10 is the 10th revision...
of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO). It contains codes for diseases, signs and symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances, and external causes of injury or diseases.

ICD-10 is due to be implemented on Oct. 1, 2015. Most of you by now have completed a course (or two) on coding in this new system. It will allow much better data management and outcome studies. However we all will need to change the way we do coding. A simple list will no longer work. However the logic behind the system can be somewhat intuitive. ICD-10 is here to stay, so instead of complaining we have listed some of the potential benefits of the new program:

1. Allow for more granular coding.
2. There may be financial benefits to physicians, as it will allow us to bill for more complex procedures and document when we have patients with more comorbidities.
3. Once the growing pains are done, there should be fewer rejected claims.
4. Allow for better coding for new procedures.
5. Fewer fraudulent claims.
6. Address technology and health reform initiatives.
7. Improve care by generating a more detailed data history. This can allow for better clinical protocols and outcome data.

In summary we are working in a dynamic and rapidly changing landscape. The more knowledge we have about the changing landscape from general policies to ICD-10 the easier these changes can be adapted into our daily routines. Let’s stay positive and “dance with change.”

The OTA EBQVS Committee has been active with several projects.

1. Literature review: Drs. Michael Zlowodski and Chad Coles have revised the literature available for OTA members and residents on the OTA website. This is a good summary of classic and current literature to help separate the wheat from the chaff.
2. Practice pattern guidelines: The DVT practice pattern survey and guidelines have been accepted for publication by the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma. Thanks particularly to Drs. Jaimo Ahn and Claude Sagi and for their work on this. Practice pattern and recommendations on compartment syndrome and hip fracture guidelines are underway for review and publication.
3. Performance measures: We submitted a grant proposal to the AAOS to assist with funding for development of performance measures to be submitted to the National Quality Foundation. We are looking at infection rate in bicondylar tibial plateau fractures and open tibia fractures, as well as time to antibiotics in open fractures and time to coverage of type IIIB open tibia fractures as possible CMS Performance Measures.
4. The American College of Surgeons is developing guidelines with their Committee on Trauma. The OTA Committee on Trauma liaison as well as the EBQVS Committee assisted with development of these guidelines on best practices that will be published by the American College of Surgeons on compartment syndrome, damage control, geriatric hip fracture, bleeding with pelvic fractures, limb salvage versus amputation, and triage and transfer issues. These will be published in the near future.
5. We have also been working with the AAOS to develop recommendations for topics for the “Choose Wisely” campaign. The AAOS is asking subspecialties to develop topics where orthopedic surgeons should consider judiciously utilizing resources that will impact patient outcome. We are developing categories of recommendations. One example
is appropriate use of imaging such as CT scans on nondisplaced fractures. These recommendations will be formalized later in the year at an AAOS meeting in October.

**Education Committee**  
*Robert Ostrum, MD*

Once again, the fall resident course, concurrent with OTA Annual Meeting, is nearing full enrollment capacity. Many thanks to our course chairs, **Kyle Jeray** and **Toni McLaurin** for organizing an outstanding program, which includes nearly 150 faculty members who provide a tremendous opportunity for residents to learn from so many of the top trauma surgeons in the country in a small group - interactive learning environment. The fall course mirrors the spring course format, and if your residents are interested in the spring course, please have them register early as we anticipate full enrollment for that course as well. The spring course registration link will be available at the end of November 2015 by visiting [www.ota.org](http://www.ota.org).

The Residents Advanced Trauma Techniques Course is scheduled for January 29-30, 2016 under the leadership of **Rafael Neiman**, Course Chair and **Phil Wolinsky**, Course Co-Chair. Please encourage your senior residents to attend by registering via this link: [http://ota.org/education/resident-resources/advanced-trauma-techniques-for-residents](http://ota.org/education/resident-resources/advanced-trauma-techniques-for-residents). We offer our thanks to **Matt Mormino** for co-chairing and chairing the course over the past two years.

CORE Curriculum Version IV, is now moving into Phase 2 and Phase 3 with **Cliff Jones** and **Lisa Cannada** and as Project Directors. We offer our thanks to **Ken Koval** for serving as Phase 1 Project Director. We also thank the OTA members who expressed their interest in serving as authors for the next two phases.

The final 2015 Webinar, Pilon Fracture’s: Strategies to Optimize Outcomes, being moderated by **David Hak**, is tentatively schedule for the first two weeks in December. We will lead off the 2016 Webinar schedule with a new concept: For the first time, the OTA will provide a webinar that is targeted at patients rather than practitioners and trainees. This webinar, moderated by **Bill Ricci**, “**Atypical Femur Fractures: Who’s at Risk, How and When to Treat, and Recovery**,” is scheduled tentatively for January 19 or early February. Visit the OTA website ([www.ota.org](http://www.ota.org)) for the final schedule for the December 2015 and early 2016 Webinars.

The OTA Education Committee is continuously looking for new video content and the goal is to put these on the OTA website and link this content to other educational venues as well as to make an inclusive video library. Please stop by the video theater at the Annual Meeting in San Diego and watch the best videos submitted and give us your feedback. We hope to show these videos yearly at the Annual Meeting. You can look out for the next video recruitment solicitation or contact Aimee Spellman (spellman@ota.org).

Finally, the Education Committee is working with other subspecialty partners including POSNA with regard to co-branding the Pediatric Module for the spring and fall residents courses, and AAOSM in offering a Joint Session at [2016 Specialty Day](http://www.ota.org/education/resident-resources/advanced-trauma-techniques-for-residents), **March 5, 2016**.

**OTA Volunteer Opportunities**

Select link to view and express interest in OTA volunteer positions, including committee work, teaching positions and Core Curriculum authors. View and apply for positions on the [OTA Volunteer page](http://www.ota.org/education/resident-resources/advanced-trauma-techniques-for-residents).

**AAOS Position**

The AAOS is seeking to nominate members to the National Quality Forum (NQF) Disparities Committee. To build on NQF’s prior efforts focused on disparities, NQF will convene a Disparities Standing Committee (DSC) to complement their extensive work in quality measurement to provide a cross-cutting emphasis on healthcare disparities across all of NQF’s work. The Committee would not be asked to serve as a primary reviewer of performance measures. Instead, their primary role would be to serve as a resource for all of NQF’s activities, including measure evaluation, selection, consideration of use, and improvement. The DSC will provide guidance to the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC), Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) and NQF Standing Committees. As appropriate, the DSC may make recommendations regarding evaluation criteria to the CSAC and MAP.

**Additional Information Online**
OTA was represented by OTA Staff at the Physician Assistants in Orthopaedic Surgery’s (PAOS) National Meeting in Chicago, IL, August 17-21. PAOS represents 1600+ PAs in orthopaedics and is a reflection of the growing number of PAs in Orthopaedics, currently 12% percent of the 100,000+ practicing PAs.

Dan Coll, PA-C and Dennis Gregory, PA-C, taught fracture workshops at the meeting and Chair the OTA’s Orthopaedic Trauma Course for PAs and NPs which runs concurrent to the Annual Meeting. The booth was well visited for CME and poster information and many of the booth visitors reported having attended the OTA PA/NP course or expressed an interest in attending in the future and possibly becoming OTA members.

**JOT Supplement - Request for Proposal**

**Objective**

The OTA will offer funding for one supplementary issue of the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma (JOT) annually.

The objective is to support the JOT as the official journal of the OTA, and to provide the OTA membership with additional opportunity to publish information with significant impact for the orthopaedic community.

**Funding**

The OTA will fund one supplement per year, with a maximum funding cap of $20,000

**Requirements**

The primary author of the supplement must be an OTA Member.

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**Surveys - Please participate**

**Fixation of the Lower Extremity (FLEX) Study Group**

Survey Close Date: 2/1/2016

**Authors:** Frank A. Liporace, MD; Richard S. Yoon, MD; Cory Collinge, MD; Jacob Spencer, DO; J. Tracy Watson, MD; George J Haidukewych, MD

**Description:** The focus of our study is to establish the practice trends of the OTA members in regards to intramedullary (IMN) and/or plate fixation strategies employed in the setting of lower extremity trauma. We hope the collection of this initial data will establish a trend of use and spark a linked network and registry that can help identify trends, cost-saving measures, and overall information that can be extremely useful in eventually tracking outcomes, especially associated with certain implant types. As the market continues to grow with coinciding increases in technology, we hope this marks of an on-going data gathering initiative that can be beneficial for years to come.

**Practice Variations in Usage of Perioperative Antibiotics for Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery**

Survey Close Date: February 29, 2016

**Author(s):** Itai Gans, MD; Amit Jain, MD; Erik Hasenboehler, MD; Elliot Haut, MD; James Ficke, MD

**Description:** To assess variation in practice patterns in perioperative antibiotic dosing regimen. To assess understanding of antibiotic usage guidelines among orthopaedic surgeons and trauma surgeons and resident trainees.
Fostering a Community of Musculoskeletal Educators - Project 1000

Since its inception, the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative (USBJI) has promoted excellence in medical education on the musculoskeletal system and diseases of the bones and joints. To meet this goal, the USBJI has embarked on a new effort called Project 1000. Project 1000 will identify 1,000 local champions of musculoskeletal education throughout the country, seeking at least one faculty member at every school, all contributing to a Community of Musculoskeletal Educators.

If you teach a subject related to musculoskeletal medicine (clinical, basic science or other) and consider this an important part of your professional life, please sign up at http://www.mskmed.org/register/

By fostering a Community of Musculoskeletal Educators, Project 1000 can achieve several important objectives: sharing best practices, exchanging educational material, and connecting faculty for discussion, research and planning. Once Project 1000 has a critical mass, we will add resources recommended by members to the website for review and use. We will also invite you to contribute your own resources and to participate in online discussions about these topics with fellow educators.

We won’t ask you for dues; we won’t share your email with anybody; and we won’t send spam.

We hope that you will join this community and please pass this request to other people at your institution to join us in this important enterprise.

Thank you.

David S. Pisetsky, MD,
PhD President, USBJI

Joseph Bernstein, MD
Chair, Project 1000

16th Annual AAOS/OTA Orthopaedic Trauma Update Course

March 31 - April 2, 2016
Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines • La Jolla, CA

Ensure your team’s treatment approaches are current when on call. Small faculty-led roundtable sessions, case presentations and lively point-counterpoint debates make this learning experience an interactive and engaging dialogue. Faculty adjusts lectures and case presentations to meet registrants’ experience level. Everyone on your trauma team can broaden their understanding of challenges in trauma care, evolve their decision-making skills, and learn coding and practice tips. Register at aaos.org/3248.

Announcements

- BOS September 8 Health Policy Update
- Job Opportunities

Upcoming Webinar Schedule

December 2015
Pilon Fracture’s: Strategies to Optimize Outcomes
Moderator: David J. Hak, MD

Early 2016
A Patient’s Guide to Atypical Femur Fractures: Who’s at Risk, How and When to Treat, and Recovery
Moderator: William M. Ricci, MD
Faculty: Michael Archdeacon, MD; Ken Egol, MD; Michael Gardner, MD; and Kathryn Diemer, MD

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