

FRACTURE *lines*

The Newsletter of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association

October 2003

University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky 40202

19th Annual OTA Meeting

With the 19th Annual OTA Meeting right around the corner, this is a hectic time for all of us. No doubt this is probably going to be the best annual meeting ever. The OTA Basic Science Focus Forum which starts on Wednesday and concludes with a symposia on bone substitutes and surgical navigation will be a unique way to usher in the meeting. Be sure to attend the OTA Members Meeting in order to vote on important changes in the bylaws and new officers of the OTA Board of Directors who will begin their term in March, 2004.

Have a look inside this issue at the minutes from the June Board Meeting, the Coding and Classification Committee Update, an invitation to the Basic Science Focus Forum, the results of a survey on logistics of coverage of open tibia fractures, and a new survey on orthopaedic trauma subspecialty certification. Twelve members have signed up as mentors and the application for both mentors and mentees will be available on the OTA website following the annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Dialogue continues on the EMTALA draft document produced by the Goulet Commission and your input is still needed. Copies will be available at the OTA fall meeting and posted online following the meeting.

On a sad note, Dr. Kenneth D. Johnson, former president of OTA, is confined to his home and under the care of a hospice team. A Fellowship/Award is currently being created in his name. Stay tuned for further details.

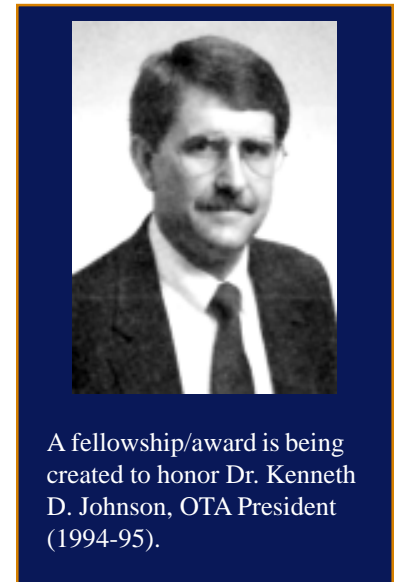
I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City.

Thank you again for your support.



Craig S. Roberts, M.D.
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The Editor's Pen



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The welcome reception at the 19th Annual Meeting will take place at the Union Pacific Grand Hall (Historic Salt Lake City Train Depot) on Friday, October 10, 2003.

Coding and Classification Committee Update

By Larry Webb, M.D.

Any suggested modifications of the OTA fracture code (Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma Volume 10 Supplement 1 1996) should be submitted to the OTA Coding and Classification Committee via Nancy Franzon (franzon@aaos.org).

Suggested modification(s) should include a written explanation of the perceived problem with the current code, a detailed proposal for the suggested alternate code as well as the name and address (including e-mail address) of the OTA member. These will be taken up by the Coding and Classification Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

OTA Basic Science Forum

by Emil Schemitsch, M.D.

On behalf of the OTA Board of Directors and OTA Program Committee, I encourage you to attend the first annual OTA Basic Science Focus Forum beginning Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning sessions immediately precede the OTA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City and offer a concentrated exposure to the basic science of orthopaedic trauma and an excellent introduction to the annual meeting.

There will be a half-day session of basic science papers on various aspects of the mechanics and biology of fracture repair as well as two cutting edge symposia on bone substitutes and surgical navigation. Computer-assisted surgical navigation systems will also be available for hands-on demonstration opportunities from Basic Science Focus Forum Sponsors.

Orthopaedic Trauma Association Abbreviated Conference Call Minutes

Special Board Meeting

June 23, 2003

Availability of Funds

The meeting was called following numerous electronic mail messages indicating that there are funds available from one of the Orthopaedic Companies to support a project to honor the contributions of Dr. Ken Johnson. It was suggested that this be in the form of a named fellowship.

Named Fellowship Discussion

The board discussed the appropriateness of naming a fellowship under the auspices of OTA in honor of Dr. Johnson. Other ideas were presented but those present unanimously agreed upon a named fellowship.

Distribution of Funds

The participants also agreed unanimously that the funds should be given to the individual applicant who receives the award. Tax implications for the recipient will be considered in final planning document submitted to the board in October.

Format of the Kenneth Johnson Fellowship

The pros and cons of possible formats were discussed and it was decided that the fellow would be awarded the funds to travel to either one of the following two plans:

1. Following the fellowship year travel to 3-4 North American Orthopaedic Trauma Program Centers to focus on learning new treatment options and techniques.
2. Travel to focus on orthopaedic traumatology at an academic Orthopaedic Trauma Program and spend 3-6 months learning about conducting research and managing an academic center.

Application Process

1. The suggestion was made and approved that the application should be available up to four (4) years after completing a trauma fellowship.
2. It was further suggested that the application process should not be exclusive and that it should be open to those traumatologists who have shown an interest in further study of trauma centers and a dedication to the field.
3. A separate Ad-hoc Selection Committee was appointed as follows: Drs. Peter Trafton, Donald Wiss, Toney Russell, and Frank Navarra who proposed the named fellowship and began the fund with a \$35,000 check from Smith + Nephew.
4. The Ad-hoc Selection Committee will present its suggestions for Selection Process and will report these to the board in Salt Lake City.

OTA Mentoring Program

by Marc Swiontkowski, M.D.

The OTA Board of Directors has unanimously approved the development of an OTA mentoring program. The goal of the program is to provide career guidance to young traumatologists who are within 10 years of residency/fellowship training. Your obligation as a mentor would include:

- Answer e-mail messages within 1 week
- Respond to phone calls within 2 days
- Offer clinical and career advice

- Serve as an advocate for career advancement for the individual proportional to their interests, talents and energies
- Meet with the mentee at the annual OTA meeting and AAOS/OTA specialty day on an informal basis

All OTA members who can fulfill the above obligations and are interested in serving as an orthopaedic trauma mentor should consider completing the application.

Once all applications are collected and reviewed, a mentor database will be created and posted on the OTA website. The database will allow young trauma surgeons to search the database for a mentor with the clinical and research experience that best matches their interests.

Orthopaedic Trauma Association

6300 North River Road, Suite 727 • Rosemont, Illinois 60018-4226
Phone: (847) 698-1631 • Fax: (847) 823-0536 • Website: www.ota.org

OTA Mentoring Application

Name:
Note: If the address information currently on-file with the OTA office is current, you may leave the following 6 lines blank. If you're unsure, check the members only page of the OTA website: www.ota.org
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Qualifications/Areas of interest
How many years have you been an OTA member (10 year minimum requirement):
years in practice:
Areas of clinical interest:
Areas of research interest:
Publications of interest (please list a maximum of 10):
Committee positions held:
Local:
National:
Briefly state what you can offer the mentee:

Please return your application by e-mail to: franzone@aaos.org

Or by fax to number below

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Logistics of Coverage of Open Tibia Fractures OTA Survey

By Jeffrey M. Smith, M.D. and David Volgas, M.D.
67 surveys were returned

A patient presents with an open IIIB tibia fracture without specification to proximal or distal. There is an approximately 3 x 3 cm area of exposed bone anteriorly with moderate contamination.

1) Who will typically provide definitive coverage for this wound, if it were your patient?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| a) orthopaedic traumatologist | 18% |
| b) orthopaedic hand surgeon | 9% |
| c) general orthopaedic surgeon | 0% |
| d) plastic surgeon | 73% |

2) In what time frame will this wound typically be covered?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| a) less than 24 hours | 6% |
| b) 24-72 hours | 30% |
| c) 3-6 days | 55% |
| d) more than 6-7 days | 9% |

3) What types of wound coverage would you typically consider providing?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| a) free flap | 9% |
| b) local rotational flap | 7% |
| c) fasciocutaneous flap | 8% |
| d) b) and c), but not a) | 22% |
| e) all | 54% |

4) Which technique will you use to temporize the wound until definitive coverage can be done?

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| a) bead pouch | 39% |
| b) wound VAC device | 43% |
| c) daily dressing changes | 8% |
| d) other | 10% |

5) What is the greatest determinant of whether a free flap will be performed within 3-6 days of injury?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| a) any distal 1/3 wounds | 27% |
| b) microvascular surgeon availability | 45% |
| c) operating room availability | 3% |
| d) other | 25% |

6) If a 1-2 day cadaver course were available covering simple flap and soft tissue coverage, would you attend?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| a) definitely | 16% |
| b) possibly | 53% |
| c) not likely | 16% |
| d) no | 15% |

Selected Comments:

- Questions have a strong bias reflecting regional practice pattern. Our opinion is that if you can't do a free flap, you shouldn't be doing the lesser options that might result in or require a free flap at the same sitting.
- I think it would be a great idea to have a mini-course on gastrocnemius rotation flaps, soleus flaps, and local fascia cutaneous flaps.
- I would definitely be very interested in doing a cadaver lab on flaps.

Please fill out the following questionnaire:

What's Next: Orthopaedic Trauma Subspecialty Certification?

by Jeffrey M. Smith, M.D. and Craig S. Roberts, M.D.

1. Do you agree with the need for current subspecialty certifications in hand surgery and spine surgery?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral or no opinion
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

2. Do you agree with the recent decision in sports medicine to go ahead with subspecialty certification?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral or no opinion
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

3. Do you support efforts to develop subspecialty certification in orthopaedic traumatology?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Undecided

4. What should subspecialty certification in orthopaedic traumatology be based on?

- a) Fellowship training
- b) Written exam
- c) a and b
- d) Practice experience
- e) I don't agree with subspecialty certification

Please respond to:

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“The OTA does not endorse these technical points and formally disclaims any responsibility for their use.”

Announcements

- OTA Board/Committee Chair Meeting, Salt Lake City, Grand America Hotel, Audubon Room, on Wednesday, October 8, 12:30 Luncheon; 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with a Board dinner to follow.
- An excellent position for a full-time orthopaedic traumatologist is now available at Duke. Please contact Steve Olson, M.D., F.A.C.S. for details (e-mail: olson016@mc.duke.edu; phone 919-668-3000).
- Dr. Kenneth D. Johnson, former president of OTA, is now confined to his home and in the care of a Hospice team. Dr. Bruce Browner has spoken to his wife who agreed that e-mail correspondence from his OTA friends and colleagues would be welcome and she will print out your messages for him. Perhaps you can share a past memory, a story, or even a joke to cheer him up during this difficult time.
- The bylaws changes which were requested following the February Board Meeting were approved by the OTA Board of Directors. These have now been posted on the “Members Only Section” of the website: <http://www.ota.org/membership/bylawrev.doc> . Full copies of these are available to each of you upon request. A vote will be taken at the Friday, October 10, 2003, 12:00 p.m. Business Meeting of the OTA membership. Please review the changes which include the formation of new appointed committees and some minor wording issues. Any comments, questions or concerns should be sent to Steve Olson, M.D., or to the staff office and these issues will be forwarded to the full Bylaws Committee and Board of Directors.
- Please fill out the OTA Mentoring Application inside. So far twelve OTA members have signed on to be mentors. More are needed. Please decide to make a difference in the future of orthopaedic traumatology and sign-on today.
- Dr. Johnson’s e-mail address is available to members-only section of the OTA website.
- The membership committee reports a record year for applicants to OTA with 79 candidates names submitted for Board approval at the meeting in Salt Lake City. Successful candidates will be notified by November 15 and invited to attend the Specialty Day Meeting in San Francisco, March 13, 2004.
- Tulane University is inviting applications for a career opportunity in academic traumatology at one of the busiest trauma centers in the country. For details please contact Kyle F. Dickson, M.D. at 504-584-3515.
- OTA members are needed to encourage colleagues to head for the warmer shores of Coronado Bay in San Diego for the audience participation, interactive OTA course January 16-18, 2004. Robert Probe, David Teague, and the entire OTA education committee headed by Michael Baumgaertner are counting on at least 200 orthopaedic surgeons to attend and learn about the latest in trauma treatments! Complete details are in the OTA meeting brochure mailed in late September!

OTA Executive Committee

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