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New Year's Resolution

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It is that time again. Time to resolve to continue good practices, change an undesired behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve one's life. Time to declare a New Year's resolution. For years I've done this and have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to figure out what I should do. I can't say I have always lived up to my resolutions, but I repeat the process each year. This year, it was easy for me. I didn't have to think too hard about it. With my co-conspirator Dr Michael Dujela, I was at all costs to launch the first combined AO / ACFAS Basic Principles of Foot and Ankle Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery Course for DPMs. A venture that is a first of its kind. A collaboration of 2 educational powerhouses the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen (Association for the Study of Internal Fixation), commonly referred to as the AO and the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), to improve performance through education, and thereby to optimize surgical skills of the foot and ankle.

The goal of the course set forth by the AO and ACFAS is to deliver the basic principles of foot and ankle trauma and reconstructive surgery. This covers the fundamental principles and current concepts in the treatment of injuries for doctors of podiatric medicine (DPMs), incorporating the latest techniques in operative fracture management. The target audience is DPMs in residency and fellowship training and practicing DPMs interested in furthering their knowledge and skills. This venture is unique because it has been created through collaboration between these 2 esteemed educational bodies. Before attending the course, participants will complete a self-assessment questionnaire and review a set of pre-recorded presentations. This would be followed by a 2-day face-to-face course consisting of evidence-based lectures, the AO Trauma Skills Lab stations, practical exercises, and small group discussions. Lectures reinforce key information that is relevant to the topics that will be discussed. The AO Trauma Skills Lab is designed to engage surgeons with hands-on learning of basic principles and practical knowledge needed for live surgery. Interactive small group case discussions where participants are actively involved in the decision-making, management skills, and discussion of potential pitfalls regarding surgical cases form a key part of the learning experience. The course also includes several practical exercises, where participants are trained in the application of reduction techniques, choice of optimal implant designs, and fixation techniques applicable to the foot and the ankle.

This course has taken a huge amount of time and effort from multiple individuals who all deserve to be recognized for their dedication and extraordinary effort. All faculty involved in the venture, are active fellows of the

college. All faculties had to attend a 2-day intensive faculty education program. The goal of the program was to train faculty by improving their educational skills, knowledge, and expertise. Behind the scenes, multiple people from multiple countries have been working tirelessly to refine the course content, lecture material, and arrange all pieces of equipment along with bone models to make this happen.

With the first course dates set for May 5 and 6 and fall 2023, we are soon approaching this historic collaborative step. The future for participants who attend these courses looks bright. With the completion of the course, learning within the AO and ACFAS would be established. We couldn't be more excited.

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Photos of faculty members and AO staff at the faculty education program





