

AO Fellowship in Medical Education Research

The AO Foundation (<https://www.aofoundation.org/>) is a medically-guided, not-for-profit organization based in Switzerland, created to improve the surgical treatment of trauma and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. The AO Education Institute (<https://www.aofoundation.org/what-we-do/education>) supports the development of medical education of our health care professionals network and it is actively engaged in medical education research.

Each year we offer over 850 educational events around the world, supported by nearly 9,000 Faculty and attended by almost 58,000 participants.

Our global environment: 865 educational events in 2019 grouped by region.



Aims of the Fellowship Program

The AO Education Institute would like to offer a group of selected fellows the opportunity to conduct **research in postgraduate surgical education in a global environment** in order to build more evidence in the field of continuous professional development (CPD) for surgeons.

We offer this fellowship to further contribute to the body of research in medical education and therefore reinforce our commitment to improve performance and patient outcomes through education. Since 2011, the AO Foundation and its Education Institute have been deeply involved in medical education research projects, published in leading journals in the field, and presented at major medical educational conferences. In addition, the AO has been actively engaged with prominent associations and societies for CPD to share best practices and keep moving forward.

Fellows will have access to a global professional network as well as to data in order to conduct their research. Support will be provided by AO employees and by an external eminent educational expert. Fellows will also have the opportunity to learn about a not-for-profit global medical education organization and build a personal network.

Fellowship description

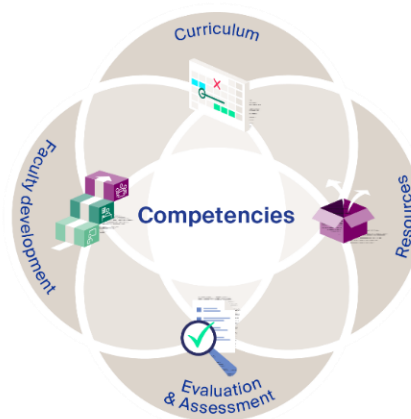
We are offering two fellowships for 2021 for a value of 23,000 CHF each. **The fellowship experience will be individualized** based on the project. The maximal duration is expected to be one year with the possibility of visiting our office in Zurich (Switzerland) for up to 2 months. The budget will be used to cover project related costs (no direct payment to the candidate). Examples of cost coverage are reported in the section "Fellowship offer".

Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in a Medical Education Program at one of our partner institutions
- Applicants must be proficient in spoken and written English

Call for Proposals: Priority interests

We encourage to submit projects related to **surgeons' continuing professional development (CPD)**. Further, we encourage applicants to consider concepts proposed in the AO framework of quality education.



Proposals will not be restricted to a particular methodological approach or topic area within CPD and learning. We remain open to the ideas of the scientific and academic CPD communities.

Timelines

- Letters of Intent and supporting documents are due no later than Monday, March 8, 2021
- The applications will be reviewed by members of the AO Education Institute Advisory Committee
- Selected candidates will be notified if they have been invited to proceed to the full proposal in mid-March 2021
- Full proposals will be due on Friday, April 23, 2021
- We expect to notify the decision by beginning of May 2021.

Expected outcome

At the end of the fellowship we expect

- A synopsis of progress
- One research article
- One presentation at a congress.

The finished work must be appropriate for publication in a health professions education journal or equivalent peer reviewed journal.

Role of the partner institution

The role of the partner institution is to advertise the AO fellowship program among the students enrolled in their medical education program. The head of medical education program and the supervisor should in addition support the applicant by writing a recommendation letter.

Sponsor

AO Foundation and its clinical divisions (Trauma, Spine, CMF, Vet, and Recon) through the AO Education Institute.

Fellowship offer (will be tailored to the project)

- Tutoring and support by the AO Education Institute employees
- Consultation with an external advisor (expert in medical education selected from our network, depending on the research topic) for 24 hours or more
- Possibility to attend AO educational events (cost coverage for travel and accommodation)
- Travel to and from Switzerland
- Cost coverage for Visa arrangements
- Accommodation in Zurich for one person for 2 months
- Travel card for local public transportation valid for 2 months
- 2-month usage of a phone sim card for national calls
- Cost coverage for article submission
- Cost coverage for a congress to present the project results.

Application process for fellows:

- Submit the letter of intent (LOI)
- Submit a curriculum vitae of maximum two pages (CV) with a list of publications and major lectures/presentations at conferences
- Submit recommendation letter(s) (from your Medical Education Program lead and your supervisor/chair).

Questions

Please direct any questions about the fellowship and the application to Dr. Monica Ghidinelli at monica.ghidinelli@aofoundation.org