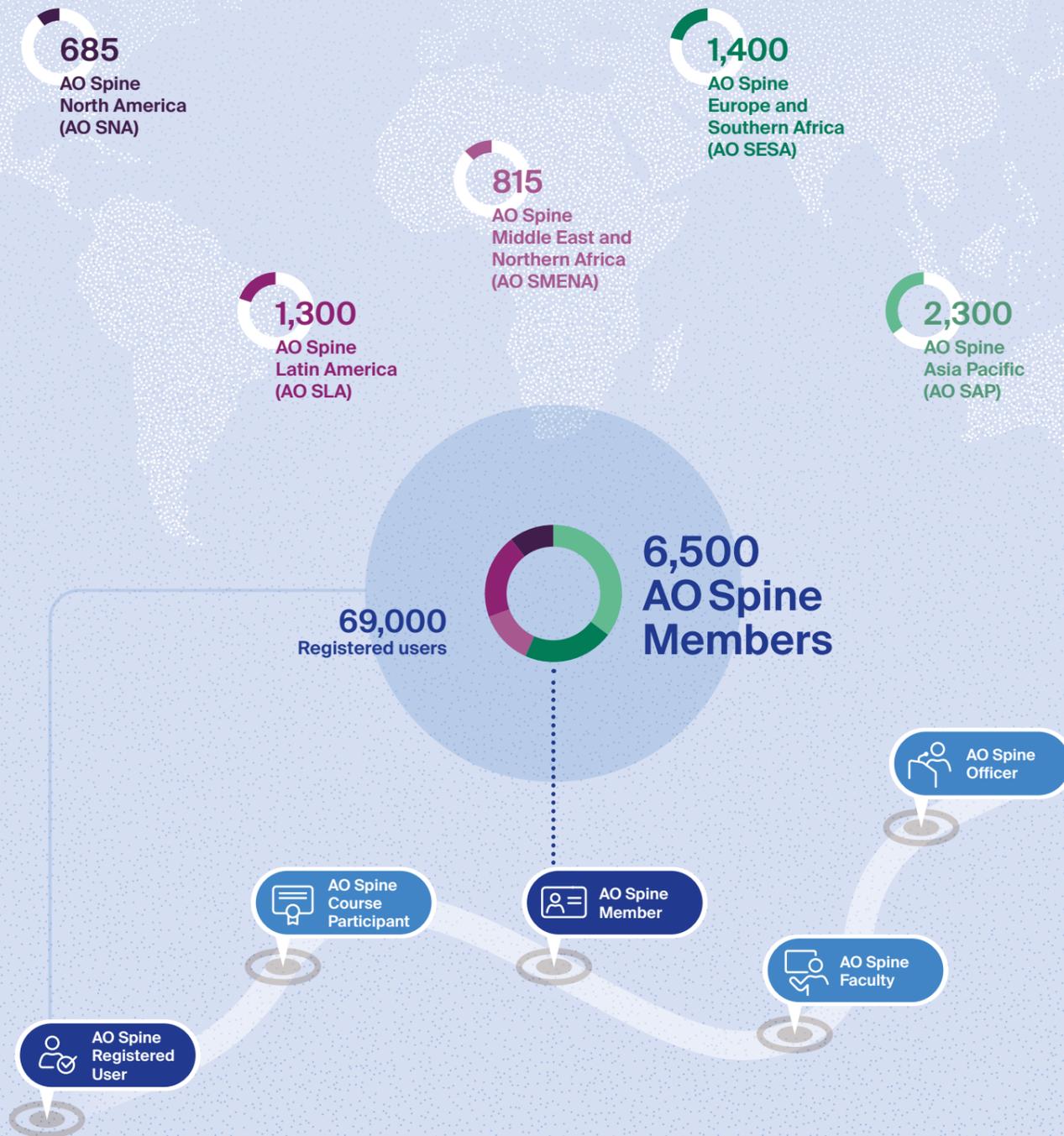




**Learn more.
Research deeper.
Become the best.**

Who we are

We are AO Spine, the leading global academic community for innovative education and research in spine care, inspiring lifelong learning, and improving patients' lives.



Start your AO Spine journey now.

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Welcome

I welcome every one of you to join AO Spine and become a part of the largest international network of spine surgeons. Why? Take the leap and you will find a world of advantages waiting for you.

With AO Spine you will be recognised: we are the only truly international, multicultural spine society in the world. AO Spine is known for our state-of-the-art educational and academic programs, from well-structured courses and hands-on training workshops to mentorship facilities and fellowship opportunities. We drive research through our Knowledge Forums dedicated to trauma, spinal cord injury, deformity, tumor, and degeneration. And we offer numerous clinical tools for your practice: the AO Surgery Reference, the #myAO platform, the Global Spine Journal, or the AO Global Data platform, just to mention a few.

But, most of all, I want to show you how AO Spine is more—with AO Spine you literally connect with the "Who's Who" in spine surgery, participate in academics and research and collaborate with them. You will develop close professional relationships and friendships. You will be exposed to pathology and treatment strategies and philosophies worldwide. You will find a constantly evolving dynamic society, always innovating. Recent examples are the 'Global Spine Diploma Program', which provides accreditation and recognition of spine training for surgeons worldwide, and the 'Clinical Expert Advice Forums', which collects the crystalized experience of experts on challenging clinical situations.

You will see that—no matter what stage of your career you are in, from trainee to senior professor—AO Spine has a multitude of opportunities. So why not? And why wait? Join the AO Spine family today!



Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran
AO Spine International Chairperson

Join the leading global academic community in spine care

“AO Spine is the number one organization for keeping up to date with innovative spine procedures, state-of-the-art education, latest research findings, and lifelong global friendships.”



Dan Riew
Professor Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University



What we do

We have something in **academics, research, and global networking** for every spine surgeon.

We learn from each other; we educate and mentor spine surgeons and researchers. We conduct and fund collaborative clinical and translational research. We share our outcomes, knowledge, and experiences.



Learn We are passionate about improving patients' lives by making sure you stay at the forefront of spinal care.

We continuously integrate the latest research advances and treatment outcomes into our educational programs. Our competency-based Curriculum ensures you have the skills and knowledge required for your clinical practice. The AO Spine Global Diploma Program provides the pathway and the AO Spine Global Diploma Exam certifies your knowledge. Our members can apply for fellowships and observership programs at all stages of their careers. Our faculty training programs and teaching opportunities are there for you to become the best and give back, train the next generations, giving them the same and even better opportunities.



Connect We are passionate about improving patients' lives by advancing your professional career.

Our collaboration tools and palette of events allow you to share knowledge, network, and talk to your peers and colleagues around the world, virtually anytime, anywhere. The Global Spine Congress and AO Davos Courses are the place to be, where you will connect and discuss your cases with your peers and key opinion leaders in person, make lifelong friendships, plant seeds for novel ideas, and build professional collaborations.



Research We are passionate about generating new knowledge that matters to you and your patients.

We sponsor innovative preclinical and clinical studies adhering to the highest standards. Members can participate through open calls and apply for grants and awards. The Regional AO Spine Young Investigator Researcher Grant Awards and global Discovery and Innovation Awards are specially targeted at scientist in the early stages of their career. The AO Spine Knowledge Forums are the engines of our evidence-based clinical research. They develop AO Spine classifications, staging of the disease, treatment guidelines, and outcome measures—meaningful research to support you in your practice.



Practice Our clinical tools, research outcomes, and learning assets are developed by spine surgeons for spine surgeons.

They can improve spine patient care and outcomes, and most are available as open access for the global spine community.

All AO Spine activities are based on our combined knowledge. It is the foundation of our state-of-the-art innovative education and research activities, our treatment guidelines, AO Spine classifications, as well as the AO Surgery Reference, the #myAO platform, and the AO Global Data PROMs platform.

Learn

Based on the **philosophy of lifelong learning**, every year AO Spine provides over 200 educational opportunities to over 13,000 spine surgeons and spine specialists worldwide.

AO Spine events are based on regular needs and are organized locally, regionally, globally, and virtually. Learning is more and more blended combining online learning modules at your own pace with hands-on in-person training courses, and introducing virtual and augmented reality into reality.

AO Spine educational events 2019



AO Spine Curriculum
The AO Spine curriculum is based on competency and encompasses knowledge, skills, and attitudes. It is a learning framework based on entrustable professional activities (EPA's). This is an activity that can be entrusted only to surgeons who have proven they can work independently in the given situation to achieve a desired outcome. The AO Spine curriculum aims at a final level of autonomy, fully independent practice.

AO Spine Global Diploma Exam
The AO Spine Global Diploma Exam is a formal assessment of competencies required to manage patients with spinal disorders. It is designed for experienced spine surgeons who want to certify their knowledge. Exam level is minimum of 5 years in spinal surgical practice after graduating in orthopedic or neurosurgery.



Clinical Expert Advice Forums

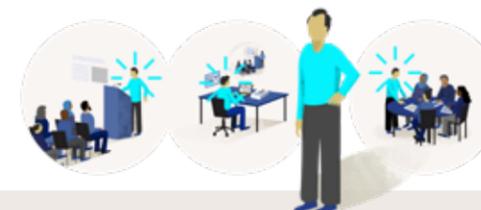
Evidence based medicine and randomized prospective controlled trials are the basis of clinical medicine. While we strongly rely on this evidence, the practicing surgeon frequently encounters clinical scenarios for which solutions from such trials are not possible.

The AO Spine Clinical Expert Advice Forums aims to fill that void, by documenting expert advice on everyday clinical scenarios, from diagnosis and management decisions to intra-op events and post-operative complications.



Fellowship and observership programs

As an AO Spine member, you can benefit from our investments into various long- and short-term fellowship programs and observation opportunities. These programs offer additional experience in surgical techniques for fully trained orthopaedics and neurosurgeons. Program are designed according to regional needs.



Faculty development

The AO Faculty Education Program (FEP) provides a framework to explore a variety of teaching methods. It concentrates on practical skills and guides you through the specifics needed to deliver high impact lectures. It demonstrates how to lead interactive discussion groups and helps you effectively run practical exercises for your participants

“AO Spine brings orthopedic and neurosurgery spine specialists together to improve surgical outcomes. AO Spine Education combines mentor’s surgical experience, instructional technology, and validated learning theory to provide learners with a personalized experience.”



Michelle Clarke
Neurosurgeon specializing in complex spine and oncology, Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota





“AO Spine is a unique and innovative intellectual platform, allowing you to interact with the most renowned spine surgeons from around the world and learn cutting edge skills and latest practices in spine care.”



Yan Wang
Chief Surgeon of 301 Orthopedics, Beijing



Connect

Membership is the **key that unlocks all** that AO Spine has to offer: access to free or discounted education, opportunities to receive grants or become faculty, voting or becoming an officer to shape the direction of our society, and more.

Members find a lot more than “member benefits”. They also enjoy belonging and being part of the world’s leading academic spine society.

Global Spine Congress

This annual meeting is unique in its ways of sharing knowledge and developing new approaches to the treatment of spinal disorders. It offers members an enhanced experience through members-only sessions led by key opinion leaders, and the Members Assembly, where the community takes the leading role. It’s the only truly international scientific spine congress in the world, and you can be part of it! Submit your abstract and get the chance to present your work to the world’s best spine experts.



AO Davos Courses

The AO Foundation flagship event offers an in-depth program for surgeons, which is directly related to their daily practice. Take part in an extraordinary and ambitious learning experience from Advanced to Master’s Level, and network with global key opinion leaders in an exceptionally inspiring environment. The AO Davos Courses is the place to learn and make lifelong friendships.



Diversity and inclusion

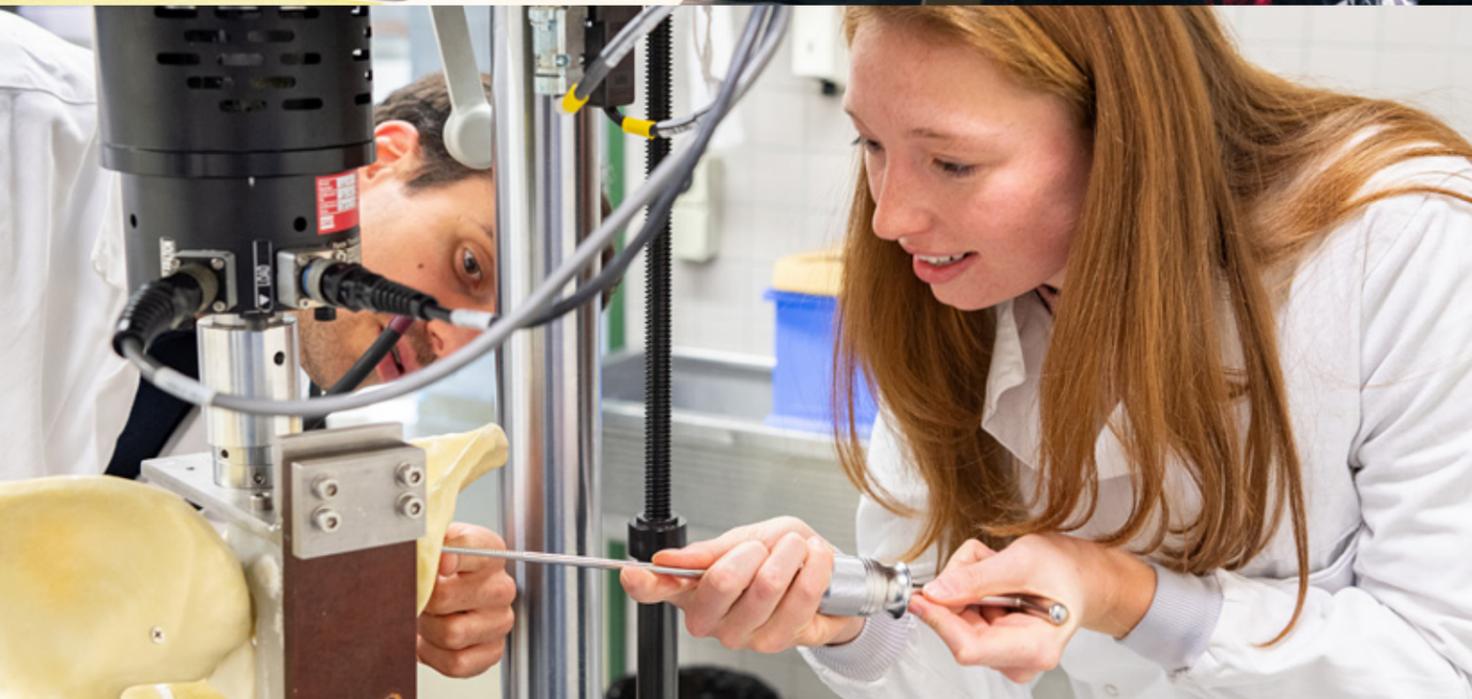
Under the umbrella of Access—the program through which AO delivers its diversity, inclusion, and mentorship initiative—AO Spine aims to empower female surgeons, as well as surgeons from underrepresented minorities, to provide strong and diverse mentors and role models, and greater leadership opportunities. We invite you to join our active members in their efforts to address the imbalance of surgeons working in spine.



“We aspire to provide simpler solutions for complex spinal problems via international research and global educational collaboration. Excellence through evidence.”



Jeremy Reynolds
Spinal Lead, The Oxford Sarcoma Service, UK, Regional Lead, Thames Valley Spinal Network



Research

AO Spine sponsors **innovative preclinical and clinical studies** adhering to the highest standards. We encourage our members to participate through open calls and to apply for our grants and awards.

The AO Spine Knowledge Forums are the engines of our evidence-based clinical research and have been singled out for being behind AO Spine's unique academic status among the spine societies. They develop AO Spine classifications, staging of the disease, treatment guidelines, and outcome measures—meaningful research to support you in your practice.

Clinical research

Contribute to clinical studies that will impact how we manage our patients in the future.



The AO Spine Knowledge Forums are expert-driven global study groups generating knowledge in the spine pathologies of tumor, deformity, spinal cord injury, trauma, and degenerative disease. AO Spine members are invited to participate through open calls and expert surveys.

The AO Spine Knowledge Forums are each led by a Steering Committee of up to 10 world-renowned researchers and have over 150 Associate Members representing all AO Spine regions. Membership is based purely on merit.

Through research, you have the potential to change how people are diagnosed and treated in the future.

Preclinical research

Novelty comes from where clinicians meet basic scientists and vice versa, where there is real collaboration between all contributors.



AO Spine performs preclinical research in collaboration with the AO Research Institute Davos (ARI). Focus is on intervertebral disc degeneration and repair and postoperative spinal infections. To make innovation happen, we support collaboration between clinicians and basic scientists.

We encourage AO Spine clinicians to participate in discussions and to interact with basic scientists.

Research training

Benefit from the wealth of research expertise within the AO.



The AO Program for Education and Excellence in Research (AO PEER) offers training in all phases of clinical research. If you have gaps in your knowledge, need to know more about the principles of research, or want to apply for grant funding but don't know how, you can profit from AO.

The AO PEER platform provides an array of trusted resources and online learning opportunities, including guidelines, courses, e-learning modules, articles, checklists, and templates covering all aspects of clinical research.

Governance

AO Spine operates under its **own governance model managed by the AO Spine International Board**. As a voting member you can vote for your Country Council representatives and participate in the Member Representative elections.



Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran
Chairperson
AO Spine International Board



Asdrubal Falavigna
Chairperson-Elect
AO Spine International Board



Norman Chutkan
Chairperson
AO Spine Community Development Commission



Emre Acaroğlu
Chairperson
AO Spine Education Commission



Dino Samartzis
Chairperson
AO Spine Research Commission



Manabu Ito
Chairperson
AO Spine Asia Pacific



Lorin Benneker
Chairperson
AO Spine Europe and Southern Africa



Mohammad El-Sharkawi
Chairperson
AO Spine Middle East and Northern Africa



Juan Emmerich
Chairperson
AO Spine Latin America



Michael Daubs
Chairperson
AO Spine North America

COMMISSIONS
responsible for coordinating and leveraging ideas, projects and resources across the regions

REGIONS
responsible for activities within the region

The AO Spine Commissions

The AO Spine Commissions in Education, Research, and Community Development are responsible for programs, strategies, and tools for implementation by the AO Spine Regions. They leverage and share resources across the AO Spine Regions, enforce AO Spine's brand, and manage alliances with AO Spine and other academic bodies.

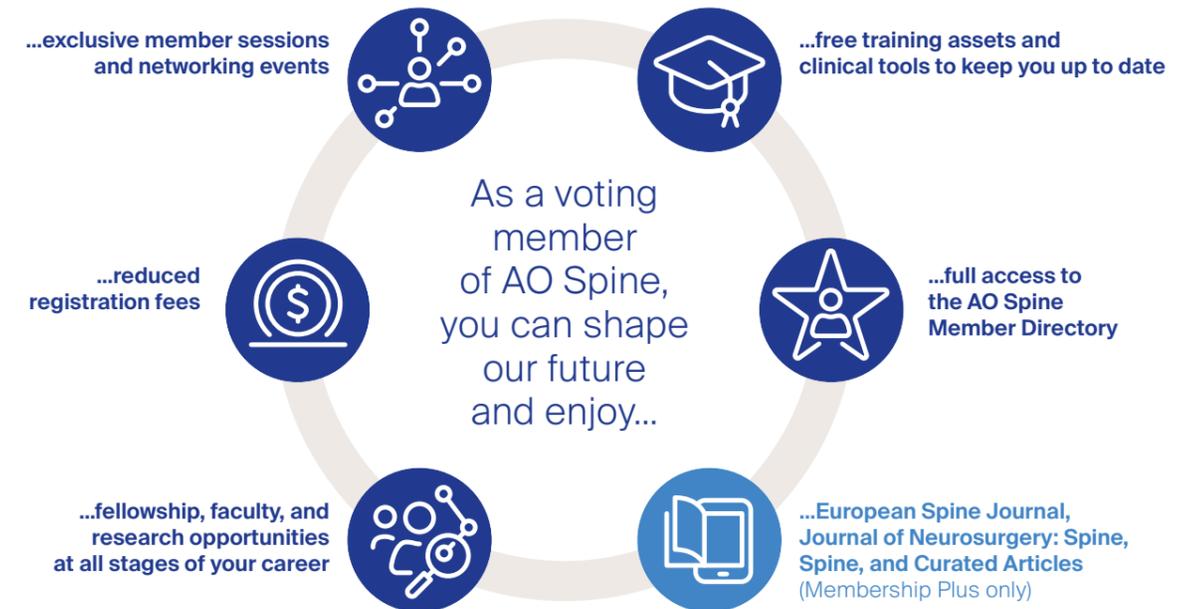
The Commission consists of a Chairperson, who is an Executive Member of the AO Spine International Board, and representatives of the AO Spine Regional Boards. The AO Spine Research Commission also includes the Chairpersons of the 5 AO Spine Knowledge Forums.

The Regional Boards

The Regional Boards are the operational bodies of AO Spine and focus on activities within their Regions. They have responsibility and accountability for delivering valued products and services to members. The Regional Boards are elected by the members of the AO Country Councils.

Membership

Get involved and **make a difference!**



Membership benefits

Learn

- Discounts on registration fees, including Global Spine Congress and AO Davos Courses
- Free access to the AO video hub with a wealth of recorded webinars, lectures, and training videos
- Discounts on e-books and books
- Access to AO Spine Fellowships
- Access to Faculty development opportunities

Practice

- AO Global Data
- myAO

Research

- Opportunities to participate in AO Spine studies
- Access research grants and awards
- Global Spine Journal publication fee waiver
- Access to AO PEER-Program for Education and Excellence in Research

Connect

- Invitation to exclusive member sessions and networking events
- Full access to the AO Spine Member Directory
- Participate in elections

Membership Plus benefits

Membership Plus includes all Membership benefits and access to 3 online journals and a list of curated articles from the community.

- European Spine Journal
- Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine
- Spine
- Curated articles

	Membership	Membership Plus
1 year	100 CHF	230 CHF
2 years	180 CHF	410 CHF
3 years	250 CHF	585 CHF
5 years	400 CHF	920 CHF

Students and residents, save 50 percent today on our one- and two-year Membership and Membership Plus packages.

Surgeons and researchers from low-income countries also enjoy a significantly reduced flat fee rate (discount does not apply for Membership Plus).



For more information, email us at membership@aospine.org or visit us at www.aospine.org/membership

Join the leading
global academic
community
in spine care

