AO CMF

AO CMF Lighthouse Course— **Reconstructive Surgery in Head and Neck with Flap Harvesting**

Course with Human Anatomical Specimens

February 23–25, 2026 Madrid, Spain **PROGRAM**



Mission

The AO's mission is promoting excellence in patient care and outcomes in trauma and musculoskeletal disorders.

Purpose statement

Our purpose is promoting excellence in patient care and outcomes in craniomaxillofacial surgery across all specialties.

The AO principles of fracture management

1



Fracture reduction and fixation to restore anatomical relationships.

2



Fracture fixation providing absolute or relative stability, as required by the "personality" of the fracture, the patient, and the injury.

3



Preservation of the blood supply to soft-tissues and bone by gentle reduction techniques and careful handling.

4



Early and safe mobilization and rehabilitation of the injured part and the patient as a whole.

Welcome
Dear participant,

Wherever you are in the world, we welcome you to this educational activity!

Over the last few years, education and the way training is delivered has been revolutionized. You can now access and participate in educational events anywhere around the world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The AO offers you first-rate training courses and the opportunity to engage with experts and peers across specialties and from around the globe.

With the support of outstanding AO faculty, the AO Education Institute, and partners, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your goals and supporting your lifelong learning journey.

Enjoy this event, participate, and interact with your faculty, build new friendships, and get the most out of your experience. You are now part of the AO network, a group of over 215,000 healthcare professionals worldwide. Together, we take forward the mission of promoting excellence in patient care.

Please take some time to check out what we have to offer you. AO CMF membership will open many doors for you to learn and expand your network.

Yours sincerely,



Stefano Fusetti
Italy
Chairperson AO CMF
Education Commission



Amir Elbarbary
Egypt
Chairperson AO CMF
International Board

Continue to learn with AO CMF

No other organization provides as many learning opportunities in the craniomaxillofacial arena as AO CMF. Explore the AO CMF website to access additional educational tools and events, and discover new contacts in the fields of:

- Cranial trauma including skull base
- Midface trauma
- Mandibular trauma
- Dentoalveolar trauma
- Congenital deformities
- Secondary correction of posttraumatic deformities
- Orthognathic surgery
- Head and neck oncology and postablative reconstruction
- Nasal reconstruction
- Facial nerve paralysis and reanimation

The world of AO CMF

Discover all the benefits of being an AO CMF member:

Course and event finder—find upcoming events.

AO CMF Global Study Club—live online education with a monthly program

AO Surgery Reference—your step-by-step guide to the complete management of facial surgery from diagnosis to aftercare

AO Videos (members only)—skills training, recorded webinars, and online events

myAO—mobile app that allows you access to the AO global network and the wide array of available content

AO CMF community—meet some of the most prominent voices in AO CMF.

Journals and publications—must-have CMF books and latest scientific publications in the field

Fellowships—AO CMF-sponsored fellowships around the globe

Research—discover the latest research projects and grants sponsored by AO CMF.

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Goal of the event

This AO CMF Lighthouse Course shines a light on state-of-the-art techniques and best practices in head and neck reconstruction to optimize your ability to restore function and cosmesis in your patients.

Target participants

The course is aimed at experienced trainees, Consultants in Oral and Maxillofacial, Plastics, ENT and Head and Neck surgery.

Learning objectives

After the course, participants will be able to:

- Accurately predict the defect in the head and neck
- Choose the optimal reconstruction
- Decide if surgery is appropriate
- Perform reconstructive regional, pedicle, and soft-tissue flaps
- Perform reconstructive bone flaps
- Deal with complications and pitfalls

Event description

These 2.5 days course is a hands-on event encompassing state of the art reconstructive techniques using a variety of free and pedicled flaps in the head and neck performed on human anatomical specimens. The expert faculty will share their techniques, tips, and tricks for dealing with complications and salvage surgery. Participants will be introduced to computer-assisted planning for some bone flaps. There will be also a mixed reality demonstration.

Two participants will share one half of a human anatomical specimen for the flap harvesting procedures.

Chairperson



Susana Heredero Jung
Reina Sofía University Hospital
Córdoba, Spain

Course Director



Marius Bredell
Practice Bredell and Zweifel
Winterthur, Switzerland

International faculty

Juan Larrañaga, Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Rui Fernandes, University Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville, Jacksonville, USA

Regional faculty

Thomas Gander, Luzerner Kantonsspital, Luzern, Switzerland

Killian Kreutzer, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Majeed Rana, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany

Satyesh Parmar, University Hospital Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Valentino Valentini, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

National faculty

Oriol Bermejo, Bellvitge Hospital, Barcelona

Alvaro Fernández del Valle, Central de Asturias University Hospital, Oviedo

Guest speakers

Julio Acero Sanz, Ramon y Cajal / Puerta de Hierro University Hospitals, Madrid

Vicenç Gómez, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona

Joon Pio Hong *(ONLINE),* Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Gregorio Sánchez Aniceto, 12 de Octubre University Hospital, Madrid

Table Assistants

Miriam Estero Serrano de la Cruz, Hospital general universitario Ciudad Real, Ciudad Real

Irene Ruiz Martín, La Paz University Hospital, Madrid

Monday

February 23, 2026

10:45-11:15	Registration, Welcome coffee upon arrival	
11:15-11:30	Welcome introduction and course objectives	S Heredero, M Bredell
Module 1 **Moderator: S Heredero, M Bredell** **Introduction**		
11:30-11:50	Emerging technology in head and neck cancer and reconstruction	M Rana
11:50-12:10	Tips and tricks that make my anastomosis work every time	S Parmar
12:10-12:30	Aesthetic aspects in primary and secondary recon cases	M Bredell, O Bermejo
12:30-12:40	Questions and discussion	
12:40-13:20	*Lunch break*	
13:20-13:35	**Interactive mock Cases I:** Decision making soft tissue flap (selected Participant cases)	J Acero
13:35-13:50	**Interactive mock Cases II:** Decision making composite flap (selected Participant cases)	V Valentini
13:50-14:20	My worst case and what I learnt (3 x 10 min)	M Bredell, A Fernández del Valle, V Gómez
14:20-14:50	**Keynote lecture:** The Do's and Don'ts in Maxillary defect reconstruction	R Fernandes
14:50-15:20	**Keynote lecture:** Tips and tricks in nasal reconstruction	J Larrañaga
15:20-15:50	**Keynote lecture (ONLINE):** Super microsurgery / lymphatic microsurgery	JP Hong
15:50-16:20	Preventing and managing complications in head and neck reconstruction	G Sánchez Aniceto
16:20-16:30	*Coffee break*	

16:30-18:15	**Fibula dry bone exercise** (Mandible reconstruction with fibular graft)	K Kreutzer
18:15	Wrap-up, Evaluation. End of Day 1	S Heredero, M Bredell

Tuesday

February 24, 2026

08:30-09:00	Sign-in, Welcome coffee upon arrival	

Hands-on practical exercises with Human Anatomical Specimens

Module 2. Part 1 **Moderator: M Bredell** **Regional, pedicle, and soft tissue free flaps**		
09:00-10:30	**Practical exercise 1** Harvesting submental/parasternal/supraclavicular flaps	O Bermejo Assistant: J Larrañaga
10:30-11:30	**Practical exercise 2** Harvesting pectoralis major and deltopectoral flaps	V Gómez Assistant: M Rana
11:30-12:45	**Practical exercise 3** Harvesting a gracilis flap and a profunda artery perforator (PAP) flap	S Heredero Assistant: V Gómez
12:45-13:45	*Lunch break*	
13:45-14:45	**Practical exercise 4** Harvesting an ALT flap	V Valentini Assistant: R Fernandes
14:45-15:45	**Practical exercise 5** Lateral arm flap	M Rana Assistant: J Larrañaga
15:45-16:45	**Practical exercise 6** Harvesting a radial forearm flap	T Gander Assistant: A Fernández del Valle
16:45-17:15	*Coffee break*	
17:15-18:15	**Practical exercise 7** Nasal Reconstruction with Radial forearm and Forehead flap	J Larrañaga Assistant: O Bermejo
18:15-18:30	Wrap-up, Evaluation	S Heredero, M Bredell
18:30	End of Day 2	

Wednesday
February 25, 2026

08:30-09:00	Sign-in, Welcome coffee upon arrival	

Hands-on practical exercises with Human Anatomical Specimens

Module 2. Part 2 **Moderator: S Heredero** **Soft tissue free flaps & Bone free flaps**		
09:00-11:30	**Practical exercise 8** Harvesting a fibular and scapular flap	**Fibula:** R Fernandes Assistant: K Kreutzer **Scapula:** M Bredell Assistant: T Gander
11:30-12:00	*Coffee break*	
12:00-13:30	**Practical exercise 9** Harvesting a fibular and scapular flap (cont.)	**Fibula:** R Fernandes Assistant: K Kreutzer **Scapula:** M Bredell Assistant: T Gander
13:30-14:30	*Lunch break*	
14:30-15:15	**Practical exercise 10** Harvesting Medial Femoral Condyle Free Flap	K Kreutzer Assistant: S Parmar
15:15-16:00	**Practical Exercise 11** Temporalis Flap	A Fernández del Valle Assistant: V Gómez
16:00-17:30	**Practical exercise 12** Harvesting a deep circumflex iliac artery (DCIA) flap	S Parmar Assistant: S Heredero
17:30-17:45	Wrap-up, Evaluation	S Heredero, M Bredell
17:45	End of the course	

Event information

AO Foundation
Organization
Ariadna Guirao
Clavadelerstrasse 8 | 7270 Davos | Switzerland
Email: ariadna.guirao@aofoundation.org
Phone: +41 79 458 73 99

Participants' contact
E-mail: francisco.brito@aofoundation.org
Phone: +41 79 916 86 22

Registration fee
EUR 2,000
AO CMF Member: EUR 1,900

Included in the course fee are coffee & lunch breaks (as per agenda), and course certificates.

European CME accreditation
An application has been made to the UEMS-EACCME® in Brussels for European CME credits (ECMEC).

Cancellation policy
Cancellation policy: 50% until 30 days before the event. No refund thereafter.

Online Registration
https://eduevents.aofoundation.org/evt/s/evt-event/a1oTG00000Bl8dY

Language
English

Venue

Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Centro de Donación de Cuerpos y Salas de Disección (CDC&SD) / Bodies Donation Centre
Plaza de Ramón y Cajal, s/n – Facultad de Medicina
Pavilion 6, 1st floor
28040 Madrid
Spain
www.ucm.es/cdcysd

General information

Event organization compliance
In certain countries where AO has no office but offers educational events, the AO cooperates with third party companies to conduct local organization and logistics, as well as to communicate with participants in the local language. In these cases, the AO has put rules and guidelines in place to ensure that this cooperation has no impact on the curricula, scientific program, or faculty selection.

AO funding sources
Unrestricted educational grants from different sources are collected and pooled together centrally by the AO. All events are planned and scheduled by local and regional AO surgeon groups based on local needs assessments. We rely on industrial/commercial partners for in-kind support to run simulations/skills training if educationally needed.

Evaluation guidelines
The same evaluation process applies to all AO courses: via an electronic form that you can find active during the course dates by logging in through your AO profile. This will help the AO Foundation ensure that we continue to meet your training needs.

Disclosures and conflicts of interest
Disclosure information and potential conflicts of interest (COI) can be viewed at the event webpage.

Intellectual property
Event materials, presentations, and case studies are the intellectual property of the event faculty.
All rights are reserved. For more information, please see: www.aofoundation.org/legal.

Recording, photographing, or copying of lectures, practical exercises, case discussions, or any course materials is strictly forbidden.



The AO Foundation reserves the right to film, photograph, and audio record during its events. Participants must understand that in this context they may appear in these recorded materials. The AO Foundation assumes participants agree that these recorded materials may be used for AO marketing and other purposes and that they may be made available to the public.

Security
There will be a security check at the entrance of the building. Wearing a name tag is compulsory at all times during lectures, practical exercises, and group discussions.

No insurance
The event organization does not take out insurance to cover any individual against accidents, theft, or other risks.

Use of mobile phone
Mobile phone use is not allowed in the lecture halls and in other rooms during educational activities. Please be considerate of others by turning off your mobile phone.

Sponsor

We thank our major industry partner **DePuy Synthes** for contributing key in-kind support (material, technical staff, and logistics), without which this event would not be possible, as well as an unrestricted educational grant.



Principles of AO educational events

1. Academic independence
Development of all curricula, design of scientific event programs, and selection of faculty are the sole responsibilities of volunteer AO network surgeons.
All education is planned based on needs assessment data, designed and evaluated using concepts and evidence from the most current medical education research, and reflects the expertise of the AO Education Institute (www.aofoundation.org).
Industry participation is not allowed during the entire curriculum development and planning process to ensure academic independence and to keep content free from bias.

2. Compliance to accreditation and industry codes
All planning, organization, and execution of educational activities follow existing codes for accreditation of high-quality education:

- Accreditation Criteria of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, US (www.accme.org)
- ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities (www.accme.org)
- Criteria for Accreditation of Live Educational Events of the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (www.uems.eu)

Events that receive direct or indirect unrestricted educational grants or in-kind support from industry also follow the ethical codes of the medical industry, such as:

- Eucomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.medtecheurope.org)
- AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals (advamed.org)
- Mecomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.mecomed.org)

3. Branding and advertising
No industry logos or advertising (apart from the AO Foundation and its clinical divisions) are permitted in the area where educational activities take place.

Sponsors providing financial or in-kind support are allowed to have a promotional booth or run activities outside the educational area with approval from the event chairperson.

4. Use of technologies and products in simulations
In case simulations are chosen as an educational method to educate skills, we only use technology approved by the AO Technical Commission—a large independent group of volunteer surgeons developing and peer reviewing new technology.
More information about the AO Technical Commission and its development and approval processes can be found on the AO's website: www.aofoundation.org.

5. Personnel
Industry staff members are not permitted to interfere with the educational content or engage in educational activities during the event.