

## **ASIF – Association for the study of internal fixation (Courses)**

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For more than 40 years, different AO-courses have been held yearly in Switzerland, and for more than 30 years also in Germany and Austria, and nowadays on all continents. In 1985 the AO-Foundation was established and annually more than 40 million SFR are being spent for research and teaching purposes. Whereas the AO-courses are financed in the industrialised countries partly by themselves, in many countries all over the world they are mainly supported by the ASIF with travel expenses for the faculty, but also by supplying with artificial bones, instruments and implants for these so important practical exercises.

Meanwhile there are not only the “principle courses“, but also courses for “advanced participants“ and those for spine-, hand-, foot-, maxillofacial- or pelvic-surgery and - for example in Graz – we have combined approaches and osteosynthesis-AO-courses at the Anatomy Institute annually in February and in September. Special care will be taken for the handling of the soft tissues, especially concerning the vessels and nerves in combination with the different types of osteosynthesis. From these courses not only patients benefit, but also surgeons and hospitals.