

# AO CMF Lighthouse Course— Surgical Approaches and Techniques in Facial Surgery (With Human Anatomical Specimens)

June 18–19, 2026

Padova, Italy

**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**  
Padua, Italy  
Chairperson AO CMF  
Education Commission



**Amir Elbarbary**  
Cairo, 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.

# Goal of the event

This AO CMF Lighthouse Course shines a light on the state-of-the-art techniques and focuses on surgical approaches in facial surgery to improve your skills and knowledge to achieve better outcomes for your patients.

## Target participants

The course is aimed at experienced surgeons who want to update their skills and knowledge in oral maxillofacial, plastic and ear, nose, and throat (ENT) surgery.

## Learning objectives

After the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the surgical approaches to the upper, mid, and lower face and neck
- Select the correct approach based on the procedure and other factors
- Perform the steps in each approach to the condyle, orbit, midface, and mandible
- Perform the steps in craniofacial osteotomies and local skin flaps
- Avoid and identify complications related to each approach
- Identify when and how to perform revision procedures
- Communicate with the patient and team regarding the treatment plan and expected outcomes

## Event description

This 2-day course is a hands-on event with human anatomical specimens covering the most relevant and modern surgical approaches and techniques in facial surgery. The expert faculty will present the approaches and procedures before performing them in the laboratory and will share tips and tricks in dealing with the procedures and complications.

Two participants will share one human anatomical specimen for surgical approaches and operative techniques.

## Chairpersons



**Guglielmo Ramieri**  
A.O.U. "Città della Salute e della  
Scienza di Torino"  
Turin, Italy



**Stefano Fusetti**  
Università degli Studi di Padova  
Padua, Italy

## International faculty

<b>Juan Larrañaga</b>	Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
<b>Mohammed Nadershah</b>	King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

## Regional faculty

<b>Mojca Knez</b>	MD Medical - Ljubljana, Slovenia
<b>Satyesh Parmar</b>	University Hospital Birmingham - Birmingham, United Kingdom

## National faculty

<b>Giovanni Gerbino</b>	Università di Torino, Turin
<b>Alice Palmiotto</b>	Ente Ecclesiastico Ospedale Generale Regionale F. Miulli, Acquaviva delle Fonti
<b>Pasquale Piombino</b>	Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples
<b>Emanuele Zavattero</b>	Università di Torino, Turin

## Table instructors

<b>Federico Baietto</b>	Azienda ospedaliera universitaria di Padova, Padua
<b>Vittorio Favero</b>	Università degli Studi di Padova, Padua

# Thursday

June 18, 2026

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08:00-08:30 Registration of participants

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08:30-08:45 Welcome and introduction to the course

G Ramieri, S Fusetti

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## Module 1

**Moderator:**

### Approaches to the condyle, temporomandibular joint (TMJ), and parotid

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08:45-09:05 Preauricular approach, transparotid approach, and others

M Knez

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09:05-09:25 TMJ: capsule, upper and lower joint space, and disk

E Zavattono

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09:25-09:45 Parotidectomy approach (anterograde and retrograde)

J Larrañaga

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## Module 2

**Moderator:**

### External approaches to the mandible and the neck (as for fracture access)

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09:45-10:05 External approach to the mandible, including the retromandibular approach

S Parmar

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## Module 3 (part I)

**Moderator:**

### Approaches to the orbit

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10:05-10:20 Transconjunctival and trans- and retrocaruncular approaches

A Palmiotto

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10:20-10:50 *Coffee break*

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## Hands-on practical exercises with human anatomical specimens

10:50-11:05	Introduction to the laboratory	S Fusetti
11:05-13:00	Preauricular approach	M Knez
	Trans-/retroparotid approach	M Knez
	TMJ: capsule, upper and lower joint space, and disk	E Zavattoni
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Parotidectomy surgical approach (identification of facial nerve and preparation of superficial musculoaponeurotic system [SMAS])	J Larrañaga
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	

### Module 2

Moderator:

#### External approaches to the mandible and the neck

16:30-18:00	Submandibular approach for a mandibular fracture (identification of marginal branch, facial vessels, with optional exploration of submandibular gland, lingual nerve, hypoglossal nerve, lateral surface of the mandible, mental foramen).  Optional: retromandibular/subparotid approach	S Parmar
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### Module 3 (part I)

Moderator:

#### Approaches to the orbit

18:00-18:30	Transconjunctival	A Palmiotto
	Trans-/retrocaruncular approach	A Palmiotto
18:30-18:40	Wrap-up, Evaluation	G Ramieri, S Fusetti
18:40	End of Day 1	

# Friday

June 19, 2026

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## Module 3 (part II)

Moderator:

### Approaches to the orbit

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08:00-08:15	Upper and lower blepharoplasty and others	M Nadershah
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## Module 4

Moderator:

### Open rhinoplasty

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08:15-08:35	Open rhinoplasty	P Piombino
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## Module 5

Moderator:

### Approaches to the midface

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08:35-08:55	Midfacial degloving and Weber Ferguson approach	G Ramieri
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## Module 6

Moderator:

### Coronal approach and temporalis flap

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08:55-09:15	Coronal approach and temporalis flap	S Fusetti
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## Module 7

Moderator:

### Craniofacial osteotomies

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09:15-09:30	Le Fort III osteotomy	G Gerbino
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**Hands-on practical exercises with human anatomical specimens**

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## Module 3 (part II)

Moderator:

### Approaches to the orbit

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09:30-10:30	Lower blepharoplasty approach	M Nadershah
	Upper blepharoplasty approach	M Nadershah
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	

## Module 4

Moderator:

### Open rhinoplasty

11:00-12:00	Open rhinoplasty	P Piombino
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## Module 5

Moderator:

### Approaches to the midface

12:00-13:00	Midfacial degloving	G Ramieri
	Weber Ferguson approach	G Ramieri
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

## Module 6

Moderator:

### Approaches to the frontal orbital and nasoorbitoethmoidal (NOE) region and temporalis flap (optional)

14:00-16:00	Coronal approach and temporalis flap	S Fusetti
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	

## Module 7

Moderator:

### Craniofacial osteotomies

16:30-18:00	Le Fort III osteotomy	G Gerbino
	Local skin flaps (rotational, island, transposition, etc)	J Larrañaga
18:00-18:15	Wrap-up, Evaluation	G Ramieri, S Fusetti
18:15	End of the course	

# Event information

## Organization

### AO Foundation

Ariadna Guirao  
Clavadelerstrasse 8 | 7270 Davos | Switzerland  
Phone: +41 79 458 73 99  
Email: [ariadna.guirao@aofoundation.org](mailto:ariadna.guirao@aofoundation.org)

### Participants' contact

Jessica Zanzottera  
Phone: +41 79 864 19 00  
Email: [jessica.zanzottera@aofoundation.org](mailto:jessica.zanzottera@aofoundation.org)

### Registration fee

Standard Ticket: EUR 1,930  
AO CMF Member: EUR 1,835

Included in the registration fee are coffee breaks, lunch breaks, course dinner, and course certificates.

### Cancellation policy

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

### Online registration

<https://eduevents.aofoundation.org/evt/s/evt-event/a1oTG00000BI8ej>

### Language

English

### European CME accreditation

This course has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) for a maximum of 15.5 European CME credits (ECMEC®s).

## Venue

### Institute of Forensic Medicine

Via Aristede Gabella 65-67  
35100 Padova  
Italy  
<https://www.unipd.it/en/>

# 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

All AO events apply the same evaluation process, which includes pre- and post-event online evaluation and on-site written questionnaires.

These evaluation tools help ensure that AO continues 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](http://www.aofoundation.org/legal)

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



The AO Foundation reserves the right to film, photograph, and audio record during their 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 made available to the public.

## Security

There will be a security check at the entrance of the building. Wearing a name tag is compulsory during lectures, workshops, 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.

## Sponsors

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](http://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](http://www.accme.org))
- ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities ([www.accme.org](http://www.accme.org))
- Criteria for Accreditation of Live Educational Events of the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education ([www.uems.eu](http://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](http://www.medtecheurope.org))
- AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals ([advamed.org](http://advamed.org))
- Mecomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals ([www.mecomed.org](http://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](http://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.