

AE – GERMAN ARTHROPLASTY SOCIETY



DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ENDOPROTHETIK

SEKTION

DGOJ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie

Editorial

Dear readers,

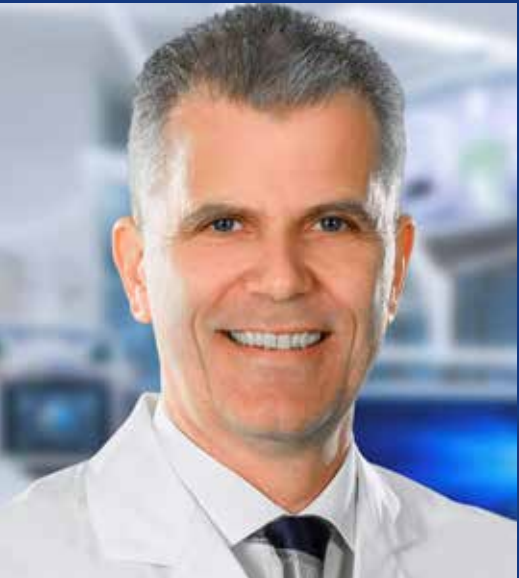
The AE's first and foremost objective is to sustainably improve the quality of life for patients with joint diseases or injuries. Joints that are damaged beyond repair can be replaced by modern implants. While joint replacement is among the most successful surgery techniques, the result strongly depends on the surgeon's knowledge and skill.

This is why providing continuous education and training in arthroplasty is at the center of our efforts. The AE offers a comprehensive and well-structured training program across different levels. They cover the whole range of skills and theoretical knowledge on joint replacement.

Another focus of our work is quality control and quality assurance in patient care. The AE supports both the German Arthroplasty Registry (EPRD) and the endoCert initiative for the certification of surgeons and centers specialized in arthroplasty. In Germany, successful participation in AE Courses is one of the basic conditions for the certification of individuals and hospitals.

We maintain a constructive dialog with leading manufacturers of joint implants. This is indispensable for providing the opportunity to practice the use of medical products and to promote the refinement of the technologies we need for our work.

Last but not least, the AE is a scientific society committed to clinical and basic research. Our members make important contributions and their ongoing mutual discussions provide inspiration for our field. As a section of the German Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (DGOU), the AE is responsible for all matters connected with arthroplasty within the community of medical scientific societies in Germany. We are there for you, and will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.



*Priv.-Doz. Dr. Stephan Kirschner
AE President*



*Prof. Dr. Georgi Wassilew
AE Secretary General*

Joints – movement – health

Keep going

Flexibility equals health and mobility. Movement literally keeps us going. It is the prerequisite for maintaining most physical functions. If we don't move, our risk of cardiovascular disease, obesity and metabolic disorders rises. If our mobility is restricted, our social lives also suffer.

It is our joints that make movement possible – but our joints are subject to wear. The medical term for this wear is osteoarthritis and usually sets in around the age of 30. Once we turn 65, we are all affected. While most people can live with osteoarthritis without a problem, about 25 percent will require some form of treatment.

Apart from wear, joint problems can also be caused by injuries and inflammatory joint disease such as rheumatoid arthritis. Once a joint is damaged, all movement causes pain and mobility is considerably limited. In the olden days, it was normal for old people to have trouble moving. Today, even as we get older, we want to stay active and mobile – and it's possible.



top: hip joint with cartilage degeneration (osteoarthritis)

below: healthy hip joint



Restoring quality of life

Injured or degenerated joints can be replaced with implants using modern medical procedures. Total joint reconstruction, or arthroplasty, is the most successful surgery we know. In Germany, around 450,000 patients receive a hip or knee implant every year. This procedure restores pain-free movement and thus health, mobility, the ability to work and quality of life for millions of patients.

The AE's most important goal is to ensure the best possible treatment of these patients on the basis of scientifically proven criteria and evidence-based medicine. The AE works at several levels towards achieving this goal. Everyone benefits from our activities, whether they are directly or indirectly affected by arthroplasty.

Facts and figures

In Germany, more than nine million people suffer constant pain caused by osteoarthritis or other forms of arthritis. Total joint reconstruction is a treatment that eliminates the cause of severe joint pain.

- Over 95 percent of patients with a hip implant are pain-free and satisfied with the result. The rate of satisfaction with knee arthroplasty is around 80 percent – this is due to the fact that the knee joint has a much more complex structure than the hip joint. One of the most important tasks of the AE is to improve the rate of satisfaction even further by providing training, carrying out research and integrating new technologies such as navigation and robotics.
- The great medical success of arthroplasty also benefits our economy because millions of sick days and many thousands of early retirements can be prevented each year by providing patients with a total joint replacement.
- Every year, around 450,000 Germans receive a hip or knee replacement.



Our services for you: Medical specialists

Your skill and your knowledge are the foundation for a successful joint surgery. A highly specialized training program for physicians specializing in arthroplasty is our core competence and key activity.

We offer surgeons the customized training required for high-quality arthroplasty surgeries. Our extensive program ranges from the basic theory to practical training, from easy-to-access online sessions to intensive hands-on courses. There is one thing that all of our trainings offer: a practical dialog with colleagues. These are our most important formats:

AE Tutorial

Basic knowledge for young surgeons looking to specialize: Implantation of standard endoprostheses, practical training using bone models

AE Course

The latest state-of-the-art, surgical techniques for implanting endoprostheses and joint-preserving surgery, particularly for younger surgeons starting out in the field of arthroplasty

AE Masterclass

For experienced surgeons: Repetition of basics and analysis of difficult treatment situations such as revision and infections. AE Masterclasses are required for the certification as endoCert lead surgeon.

AE Compact Course

One aspect of arthroplasty in one day, such as cementing technique or peri-implant fractures

AE Congresses, Symposia and Forums

The annual AE Congress presents the state-of-the-art of medical knowledge and research; the ComGen Symposium focusses on special surgical aspects as well as organization and leadership. The AE Forum focuses on particular specialist topics.

Online sessions

There is a trend towards conveying theoretical and scientific contents through online sessions. Some types of events take place exclusively online, others are split into an online theoretical part and a practical in-person training. Online sessions can be attended without having to travel and when time is of the essence.

Young doctors

Orientation and training We want to attract you to our specialty, and we want to take you to the top. This is why the AE offers forums and access to our field to young physicians straight out of university.

Skills in surgery

Training in the basic techniques of orthopaedic surgery and instruments

AE Tutorial

Basic knowledge for young surgeons looking to specialize:
Implantation of standard endoprotheses, practical training using bone models

ComGen promotion sessions

The promotion sessions take place during the AE Congresses.
Doctorate students can get targeted support for their research in arthroplasty.





By attending AE Courses, future or newly accredited specialist physicians will learn the basic theory and practice of arthroplasty. Additional courses and training units give them the opportunity to acquire specialist knowledge and skills. Meeting the leading experts in the area will help you towards excellence.



AE YOUTH

The AE *YOUTH* is our section for physicians in training and students with a particular interest in arthroplasty. For students and physicians undergoing specialist training, membership is free of charge.

Members benefit from a comprehensive, tailor-made program:

- Courses for junior orthopaedic surgeons
- AEactivity – field trips to renowned AE clinics including case planning, discussions and surgical observation
- Free attendance of regular, compact AE "Topic of the Week" and AE-ComGen-ENDOFacts online sessions
- Attendance of AE Annual Congress with specific *YOUTH* program
- Opportunity to personally meet leading orthopaedic and trauma surgeons
- Reduced course fees

This is how the AE *YOUTH* paves the way for your career in this specialty. Members of the AE *YOUTH* are eligible for AE membership once they have finished the training. Our trainings prepare them well for a field which is both demanding and fulfilling.

Healthcare system

High quality of care not only benefits patients, but the healthcare system as a whole. In fact, our entire society profits from the excellent results of arthroplasty.



Sustainable quality assurance

Germany has the first arthroplasty certification system worldwide: endoCert. It was launched by the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery (DG00C) and the Professional Association of Orthopaedics and Traumatology Consultants (BVOU) in 2012, with the AE playing an important role. endoCert certifies approved arthroplasty centers according to objective criteria. These include intensive surgeons' training through AE courses as a requirement for the certification of a clinic's lead surgeons.

Evidence supported by data

The AE supports the German Arthroplasty Registry (EPRD), which records and evaluates total joint replacement surgeries across Germany. Members and board members of the AE participate in advancing quality assurance based on routine data from the healthcare system. The AE holds specific forums to discuss key aspects of quality assurance. We also foster a constructive collaboration with implant manufacturers to further improve product quality and product safety. We publish evidence-based recommendations on specific questions of arthroplasty that can give orientation in clinical practice.

Patient-oriented research

What is scientifically validated clinical practice? How can it be further improved? How can we achieve even better results for our patients? These are the questions the AE and its members work on every day by promoting research projects, publishing our own articles, and organizing scientific events to promote our speciality. The AE and the Arthroplasty Foundation annually present two well-endowed awards for outstanding clinical and scientific work in the field of arthroplasty.

The public and politics

Almost everyone will come into contact with total joint replacement – either as a patient or a patient's family member. Arthroplasty is a topic that affects everyone and that many are interested in. At the same time, it is an important factor for the healthcare system as a whole. Healthcare policy decisions affecting arthroplasty directly concern millions of people.

The AE is the point of reference for facts and figures and for reliable information about arthroplasty. We provide journalists with information that will enable them to report about our specialty based on proven facts. We regularly publish press kits and hold press conferences on current arthroplasty topics. We will also be happy to answer any questions to the press or refer to one of our leading experts.

We provide neutral, independent and science-based consultations for healthcare bodies. Political players and health insurance organizations can use information provided by us as a sound basis for fact-based decision making.



INFORM AND ENABLE FACT-BASED DECISIONS

Our organization

Non-profit association

The AE – German Arthroplasty Society is a medical-scientific society and a section of the German Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (DGOU). There, the AE has direct representation in a number of bodies. The AE provides guidance to the DGOU and the DGOOC on all arthroplasty questions and thus automatically contributes to the preparation of guidelines.

Any fundamental decisions are taken by the annual members' meeting of the AE. The board, chaired by the AE President and supported by the Secretary General, is responsible for ongoing business.

AE Academy

The AE Academy gathers those members who are particularly committed to regularly contributing to the AE's training work as speakers, trainers or scientific leads.

AE ComGen

The AE ComGen welcomes interested chief residents as members. The AE offers a special training program for these experts of the upcoming generation of leaders. The AE ComGen is responsible for the content and organization of training courses for surgical staff.

AE GmbH

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Endoprothetik GmbH is responsible for all commercial activities, such as the organization of training events on behalf of the AE.



Certification

The certification of surgeons and of clinics specializing in arthroplasty is a key element of quality assurance in health care. The AE plays a leading role by participating in endoCert's processes for the certification processes for medical centers specializing in joint replacement. The certificate is an assurance for patients that their clinic is approved in this specialty.

The endoCert criteria demand participation in specific courses for surgeons. The AE is the only scientific society that offers all required trainings and events.

We also issue personal certificates for surgeons. Certificates are divided into the specialty fields knee and/or hip and the title of arthroplasty surgeon and master arthroplasty surgeon. Certification requirements include structured training as well as a minimum number of surgical procedures performed by the person themselves annually.

BOARD

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Holger Haas



AE Co-opted Member of the Board
Prof. Dr. med.
Maximilian Rudert



AE Co-opted Member of the Board
Prof. Dr. med.
Dieter C. Wirtz

Found in Regensburg in 1996

7 Founding members:

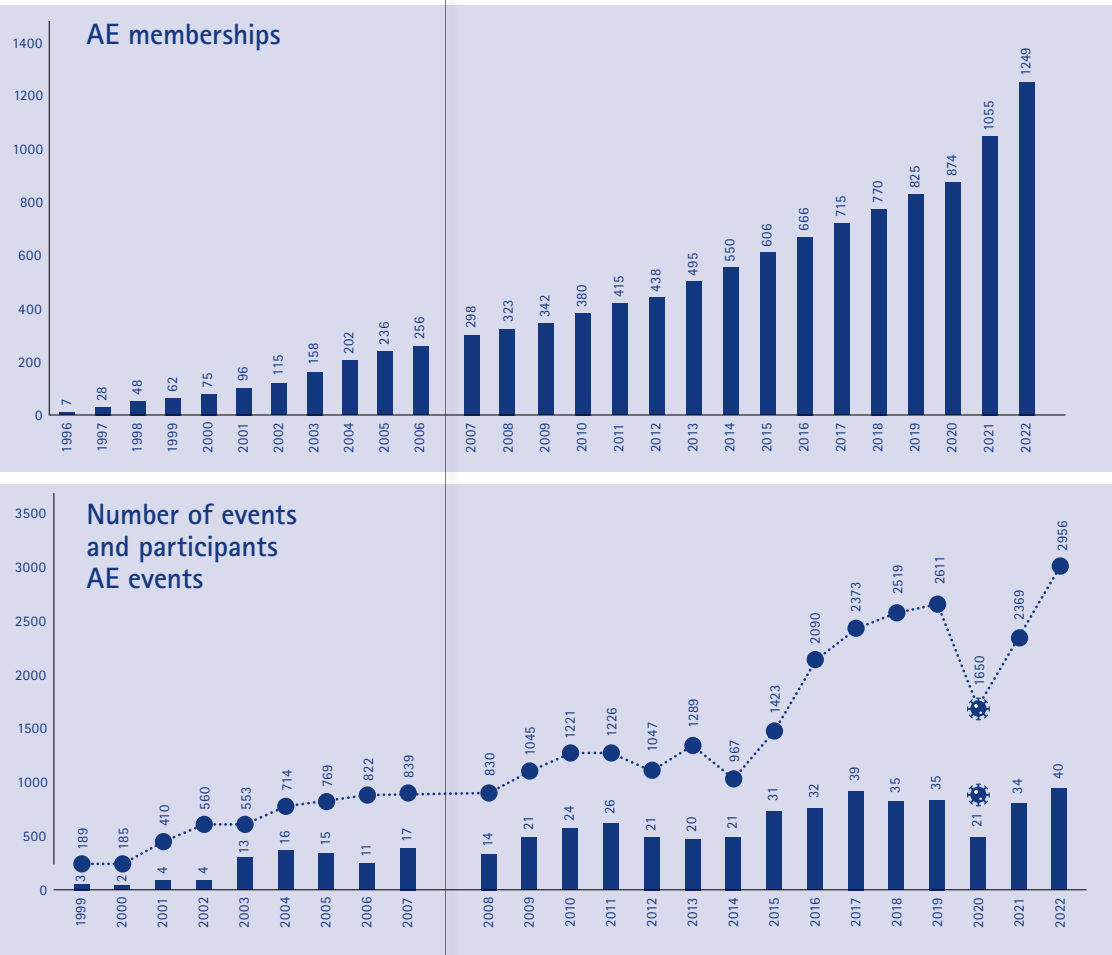
- Prof. Dr. Rudolf Ascherl
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Holz
- Klaus Hug
- Prof. Dr. Peter Kirschner
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Neugebauer
- Prof. Dr. Wolfhart Puhl
- Prof. Dr. Christian Trepte

Services 26 years of AE

Events held between 1996 and 2022: 501 with 30,628 participants

Of which:

» AE Congresses:	24
» ComGen Symposia:	19
» Quality and Safety Initiative Congress:	2
» AE Basic Masterclasses Tutorials Compact Courses Online Courses:	380
» AE Experts meet Experts forums:	12
» ComGen surgical staff trainings:	49
» AE sessions as contributions to DKOU:	13
» Health Care Policy Symposium:	1



AE Honorary Members



Jean-Noël Argenson



Ian Douglas Learmonth



Rashid M. Tikhilov



Clive P. Duncan



Stephen M. Howell



Michael A. R. Freeman



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