

Trauma in Argentina

Dr. Fernando Bidolegui
AATO 2021 President



The year was 1992, when Dr. Guillermo Vásquez Ferro, interested in advancing the trauma specialty in the world, asked Dr. Carlos Sancineto to attend the annual meeting of the *Orthopedic Trauma Association* (OTA) the following year. This is how the *Asociación Argentina del Trauma Ortopédico - AATO* (Argentine Association of Orthopedic Trauma) was founded on March 21, 1994, in the house of Vicente López 1878; its first president was Dr. Salomón Schachter.

More than 28 years have passed and there is no doubt that both Trauma and AATO have grown steadily to the present day. This is the result of the growing interest and demand in our country (and in the rest of the world) for physician-surgeons specializing in Trauma.

It is worth noting that trauma (defined as physical damage resulting from exposure of the human body to different energy levels), especially due to traffic accidents, represents the leading cause of death in our country in people under 40 years of age, and third overall.

The constant development of courses (biannual: basic and advanced; refresher courses; conferences specialized in different topics; etc.) and conferences by our association has been a fundamental advance in the training of doctors specialized in trauma throughout the country. Renowned national guests who are part of our association have participated in these events, as well as prominent international speakers, who further enrich these meetings.

Another important aspect of the growth of the AATO was the creation of its Interior Committee, made up of surgeons from different regions of our country. This has enabled us to interact and learn from each other in a federal way, allowing us to know and learn from different situations, which strengthens us as professionals, but above all, as people.

Our annual meetings have been a turning point for the development of knowledge and camaraderie. The last two years have certainly been different, but we have been able, through our ties, to continue our goal of educating and disseminating good trauma management globally.

The educational work carried out during all these years has earned it recognition by international entities, among which the OTA stands out, where our association has actively participated in its last annual conferences, and was a guest nation in 2019. And it is one of the associations that are part of and actively participate in the IOTA (*International Orthopedic Trauma Association*), which, without a doubt, gives prestige to our work.

Participating in this issue of our mother association's journal makes us proud, but also encourages us to move forward in the development and improvement of the specialty.

I want to thank all our fellows, the board of directors, colleagues, friends, and the administrative staff of the AATO, the *Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología*, and its Journal for their selfless help in achieving this important goal for all of us.

Received on July 20th, 2021. Accepted after evaluation on December 14th, 2021 • Dr. FERNANDO BIDOLEGUI • fbidolegui@gmail.com  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0502-2300>

How to cite this article: Bidolegui F. Trauma in Argentina. *Rev Asoc Argent Ortop Traumatol* 2022;87(2):141. <https://doi.org/10.15417/issn.1852-7434.2022.87.2.1520>