

# Contribution of the AAOT Research Committee to the Association growth

JORGE CASTELLINI, M.D.  
*President of Research Committee, AAOT*

We are grateful to the Editorial Committee of the AAOT Journal for the opportunity and the space they give to us to let the AAOT membership know what our Committee is doing. We are going to develop succinctly three issues:

First of all, we are going to deal with two “Knowledge Tools”, which are critical reading and scientific writing. Such are terms theoretically well known beforehand by everybody, but nowadays they are of outmost importance to interpret what we read “critically”, bearing in mind that available literature is huge, especially due to the Internet accessibility and by methodological writing, so as to add qualitative and quantitatively our colleagues’ publications. “Critical reading” in Orthopedics and “writing” work projects or reports to publish implies the need of methodological knowledge, which is unknown to the vast majority of orthopedists. There are few institutions in our country which have research teams, methodologists and orthopedists devoted to research who can go through the hard work of aligning their professional practice with systematic methodological research, assessing their work statistically and getting outcomes that allow us all to analyze what we are doing, making comparisons with other publications about the same subject and, by work design, making our activity part of the recommendations system for day-to-day professional practice.

Therefore, we are teaching the course “The ABC of Critical Reading in Orthopedics” which, over the past year, gave the AAOT membership the opportunity to participate receiving grants upon the AAOT Board of Directors’ decision. The first course ended with 50 participants that have already sat for the final exam, and right now other 50 participants are taking the second course in the year due to end in November 2017.

It is worth highlighting that, when we first summoned the prospective participants, 235 members applied for a vacancy, what conveys the increasing interest for research. The course is virtual, federal and non-scheduled, and it is permanently monitored by supervising methodologists.

We intend to increase the number of participants. It is of outmost importance that, at the time of reading scientific works, medical doctors are able to interpret whether or not what they are reading is plausible and it is structured in such a way that every element makes the work reliable to be considered in day-to-day practice.

Secondly, we are working on the redesign of the “Evaluation Grid”. Out of collaborative work with methodologists, we came to address the need of marking qualitative and quantitatively the items that should be included in the works that every year seek the opportunity to be included in the AAOT Congress, making a point of the differences between those works which can compete for an award, those which can be presented in other sessions, and those which do not fulfill the minimal requirements.

We are going through the final stages and we hope that it gets acceptance and approval by both the AAOT Subcommittee of Evaluation of scientific works and the Board of Directors so as to start using it as soon as possible.

Last but not least, at the current AAOT President's special request, we have concentrated efforts on orthopedic doctors' radiologic protection and control of ionizing radiation, given the increase in the use of fluoroscopy during our surgical procedures. This work is divided into two—on the one hand, the presentation of a report on the subject and a brief survey among the Orthopedics Departments which are accredited by the AAOT around the issue of ionizing radiation in surgical environments. On the other hand, we are willing to publish in the AAOT Journal a revision work about the subject that highlights the reported lesions caused by such radiation.

We are conducting this revision funded by the AAOT Board of Directors and under methodologists' supervision until its final publication.

We are determined to keep working ceaselessly, ensuring budget, attempting grants, donations and investment by joining collaborators, and thus produce the outcomes that the AAOT and its membership undoubtedly deserve.