



Fig 1

Daniel Buchbinder (left), who received the AOTK Innovation Prize in 2016, presents the certificate for the 2018 award to Karl Stoffel.

AOTK Innovation Award

The 2018 winner of the AOTK Innovation Prize is Karl Stoffel, MD, PhD, who is Deputy Head of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology at the Kantonsspital Baselland. Based on the decision of the AOTK Executive Board (TKEB), this prestigious AOTK prize is awarded to individuals or groups for leading involvement and innovative contributions to a project. Daniel Buchbinder (TKEB Chair) presented the certificate to Karl Stoffel in an award ceremony on July 12, 2018 at the AOTK Chairmans Meeting, which was held alongside the Trustees Meeting in Basel (**Fig 1**). The prize was given to Karl Stoffel in acknowledgement of his outstanding contributions to two projects described below.

Femoral Neck system

Karl Stoffel, voting member of the Lower Extremity Expert Group (LEEG) since 2012, supervised and guided the development of the Femoral Neck system (see AOTK Innovations 2017). This implant is a fixed-angle gliding fixation device that allows minimally invasive fixation of femoral neck fractures. Karl's innovative ideas influenced the design of the implant and instrument set as well as the surgical technique, which allows the surgery to be performed with high efficiency. During the development of the product, he supervised a biomechanical study conducted in the AO Research Institute to analyze the stability of the Femoral Neck system as compared to traditional fixation methods (see AOTK Innovations 2015). The Femoral Neck system was released to the market in 2017 and Karl performed the first surgery worldwide. In collaboration with AOCID, AOTK initiated a focus registry study with Karl as the principal coordinating investigator, to analyze the clinical performance of the implant system. This study is part of the evidence generation strategy of the AOTK to prove the benefit of its new developments.

Modular plating system for periprosthetic femur fractures

Realizing the growing significance of periprosthetic fracture management, the AOTK formed a Periprosthetic Fracture Taskforce (PFTF) with Karl Stoffel as the Chair. The mandate of the PFTF was to develop new solutions for periprosthetic fracture fixation of the femur. Three parallel development projects were initiated in collaboration with DepuySynthes as industrial partner. One of these projects, a new modular plating system, heavily relied on Karl's design input and expertise. This system has the potential to set the new standard for plating of periprosthetic femur fractures. The LEEG is now the responsible group for the modular plating system until product launch.

The AOTK congratulates Karl on his achievements and is looking forward to a continuing fruitful collaboration with him to further advance patient care.