Pressemitteilung

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie e. V.

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New leadership at the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma (DGOU)

Presidents Focus on Patient Welfare

The German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma (DGOU) is under new leadership. Assistant medical director Prof. Dr. Benedikt Friemert, Clinical Director of Klinik für Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie, Septische und Rekonstruktive Chirurgie und Sporttraumatologie am Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Ulm (Clinic for Trauma Surgery and Orthopaedics, Septic and Reconstructive Surgery and Sports Traumatology at the Hospital of the German Armed Forces in Ulm), has been the new President since 1 January 2022. This is the first time that an officer of the medical service of the German Armed Forces holds this office.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Halder, Medical Director and Director of the Department for Surgical Orthopaedics Hospital of Sana Kliniken Sommerfeld (Sana Clinics Sommerfeld), is Deputy DGOU President. The office of Secretary General is held by Prof. Dr. Bernd Kladny, senior physician of the Orthopaedic Department at Fachklinik Herzogenaurach (Herzogenaurach specialist clinic). His deputy is Prof. Dr. Dietmar Pennig, senior physician and Medical Director of Klinik für Unfall- und Wiederherstellung chirurgie, Orthopädie und Handchirurgie im St. Vinzenz-Hospital Köln (Clinic for Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery, Orthopaedics and Hand Surgery at St. Vinzenz Hospital in Cologne) until September 2021.

Friemert and Halder were elected to lead the DGOU for the term from 1 January to 31 December 2022 at its General Assembly in October 2021. Both are also presidents of their respective parent societies in 2022: Friemert at the German Trauma Society (DGU) and Halder at the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery (DGOOC).

Short bios:

Benedikt Friemert (58) studied human medicine at the University of Cologne from 1986 to 1992 after being drafted to join the German Armed Forces in 1983. He gained his doctorate in 1993 and his postdoctoral lecturing qualification in surgery (specialising in the knee) at the Technical University of Munich in 2004. He was then appointed Clinical Director of the Klinik für Unfallchirurgie und Orthopädie, Septische und Rekonstruktive Chirurgie und Sporttraumatologie am Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Ulm (Clinic for Trauma Surgery and Orthopaedics, Septic and Reconstructive Surgery and Sports Traumatology at the Hospital of the German Armed Forces in Ulm), in 2009. He subsequently held an extraordinary professorship at the University of Ulm in 2010. His scientific focal points include trauma care, tactical-strategic surgery and surgery in disasters and on military assignments. Friemert is also the coordinator for research and teaching and has been a member of the board of directors at BWK since 2017. He went to Afghanistan twelve times between 2000 and 2020 as part of various missions of the German Armed Forces. His voluntary work in the DGU includes membership of the non-permanent advisory board and the TraumaNetzwerk (TraumaNetwork) advisory board, as well as chairing the working group for ultrasound and the working group for emergency, disaster and tactical surgery (EKTC). He has been a member of the scientific advisory board of the German Medical Association since 2016, and of the DGOU executive board since 2020.

Andreas Halder (56) studied medicine at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Münster from 1984 to 1990 and received his doctorate there in 1992. He worked at Orthopädischen Klinik Birkenwerder (Birkenwerder orthopaedic hospital) between 1993 and 1997, where his last post was that of assistant medical director. Halder went to the
Orthopedic Biomechanics Laboratory of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA, as a fellow from 1998 to 1999. He completed his postdoctoral lecturing qualification at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg in 2004 and subsequently held an extraordinary professorship at the University in 2013. He is Director of the Department for Surgical Orthopaedics Hospital at Sana Kliniken Sommerfeld (Sana Clinics Sommerfeld) since 2001 and was appointed Medical Director there in 2015. His clinical and scientific focus is endoprosthetics as well as quality assurance and health services research. Halder has held and continues to hold numerous honorary positions in various professional societies and associations, such as President of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery (DGOOC) and Chairman of the Guidelines Commission of the DGOU. He is a member of the DGOU section of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Endoprothetik (AE) as well as the board of examiners of the Brandenburg State Medical Association, among others. In addition, he is a member of numerous other national and international professional societies.

Congress Presidents of the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery
As Presidents of the DGU and DGOOC, Prof. Dr. Benedikt Friemert and Prof. Dr. Andreas Halder are also Congress Presidents of this year’s German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery (DKOU), together with the Congress President of Berufsverbandes für Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie (BVOU), Dr. Wolfgang Willauschus. With over 10,000 visitors, DKOU is the largest congress in its field in Europe. The 2022 edition is to take place in Berlin from 25 to 28 October under the motto "With enthusiasm for our patients". The congress motto also reflects a key theme, namely orientation towards patient welfare, which is to be brought back into focus more sharply. "It should become clear that the care which orthopaedic surgeons and trauma surgeons all over the country provide is not only important, but also high-quality. This quality serves patients’ welfare," says Friemert. At the same time, the significant appeal of this discipline with its many facets, opportunities and challenges should be highlighted in order to inspire up-and-coming talent. "Work-life balance is an important topic in this context," says Halder.

The work of the two new DGOU Presidents Prof. Dr. Friemert and Prof. Dr. Halder is supported by the executive board and the board as well as 20 other committees.

Date notice:
25 to 28 October 2022: German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery (DKOU)
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