

## Press release

Change in leadership at the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma (DGOU)  
**New DGOU presidents from Würzburg and Marburg**

Berlin, January 2023: The [German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma](#) (DGOU) has come under new leadership. From 1 January 2023, Prof. Dr. Maximilian Rudert will take up the position of President of the DGOU. He is the Medical Director of the Orthopaedic Department König-Ludwig-Haus and a full Professor in Orthopaedics at the University of Würzburg. The Deputy President is Prof. Dr. Steffen Ruchholtz, the Executive Director of the Centre of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery at the University Hospital of Giessen and Marburg GmbH. Prof. Dr. Bernd Kladny, senior physician of the Orthopaedic Department of the Herzogenaurach Specialist Clinic will continue in his role as Secretary-General. Likewise, Prof. Dr. Dietmar Pennig, a retired senior physician at the Hospital for Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery and Hand Surgery and Orthopaedics at Cologne University's St. Vinzenz Hospital, will retain his position as Deputy Secretary-General.

The General Assembly of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma elected Rudert and Ruchholtz to the leadership of the professional society for the term of office from 1 January to 31 December 2023. In 2023, the pair will also take over the presidency of their parent companies: Rudert is President of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery (DGOOC); and Ruchholtz is President of the German Trauma Society (DGU).

### Short bios

**Maximilian Rudert** (58) studied between 1984 and 1991 at the University of Würzburg, in Munich, in Oxford, and in Ann Arbor (USA). He graduated in 1991 in Tübingen. He then worked as an assistant at the Kiel University Anatomy Institute until 1992, and then as an assistant in trauma surgery at the St. Vincenz and Elisabeth Hospital of the City of Mainz until 1994. In 1998 he qualified in orthopaedics, and in 2000 he obtained an additional specialisation in sports medicine; in 2004 he acquired a further specialisation in specialist orthopaedic surgery. Up to 2002, he worked as Assistant Medical Director at the Orthopaedic Hospital of the Hannover Medical School, and then until 2006 he served as the Head Assistant Medical Director of the Orthopaedic Department of Tübingen University Hospital. In 2006, he qualified as a consultant of orthopaedics and trauma surgery. Until 2009, Rudert was the Head Assistant Medical Director and Deputy to the Hospital Director at the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Orthopaedics at the Hospital of the Technical University of Munich (MRI). Since 2009, he has been Medical Director at the König-Ludwig-Haus Orthopaedic Hospital and a tenured professor in orthopaedics at the Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg. From 2012 to 2019 he was Vice Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University. Rudert is a member of multiple national and international professional societies, as well as sitting as a voluntary member on a diverse range of scientific committees. Rudert is the author of over 300 listed publications, book contributions, and books. He sits on the publishing board of the periodicals Operative Orthopädie und Traumatologie [Surgical Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery], International Orthopaedics, SICOT-J, and the Journal of Personalized Medicine.

**Steffen Ruchholtz** (59) studied medicine between 1985 and 1991 in Ulm, Munich and Madrid (Spain). He graduated at the University Hospital of Ulm in 1991. From 1993 to 1998, he worked as a scientific assistant at the Surgical Department of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University-Hospital in Munich. Subsequently he moved to the Hospital for Trauma Surgery of the University Hospital in Essen where he would obtain his specialist qualifications in trauma surgery, and from 1998 would work as the Assistant Medical Director; from 2000, he stepped up to work in the role of Head Assistant Medical Director. That same year, he qualified as a professor at the University of Essen. In 2000, he achieved his further specialisation in special trauma surgery; in 2004, he went on to obtain an additional

specialisation in the area of specialist orthopaedic surgery; and in 2006, also became a consultant in orthopaedics and trauma surgery whilst also further specialising in hand surgery. Since 2007, Ruchholtz has been the university professor of trauma surgery at the Marburg University Hospital. Since 2015, he has been the executive director of the Centre of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery of Marburg University. Ruchholtz is the author of over 300 listed publications, member of countless medical professional societies, and recipient of several awards in the scientific sphere. Amongst his many other activities, he has been actively involved with the German Trauma Society for more than 20 years, and played a significant role in establishing the TraumaNetzwerk DGU® [TraumaNetwork DGU®]. He works on various advisory boards as well as in the capacity of reviewer for both national and international specialist publications.

### **Congress President of the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery**

In their roles as president, Prof. Dr. Rudert and Prof. Dr. Ruchholtz will also act as congress presidents for this year's edition of the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery (DKOU), alongside the congress president of the Berufsverband für Orthopädie und Unfallchirurgie (BVOU) [Professional Association for Orthopaedics and Trauma], Prof. Dr. Christoph-Eckhard Heyde. With over 10,000 visitors, the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery is Europe's largest congress in its field. Its 2023 iteration will take place in Berlin from 24 to 27 October. Key topics will include imaging and robotics, digitisation and big data, conservative therapies, sustainability, recruitment and teaching, new technologies, personalised patient implants, quality and register research.

In 2023, the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery has adopted the motto of "Kompetent in Qualität und Fortschritt" [Competence in Quality and Progress]. The patients of today expect high-quality healthcare as a matter of course. For this reason, orthopaedics and trauma surgery societies and organisations are constantly advancing quality standards on behalf of the profession. With the introduction of registers and certifications for both hospitals and staff, they have taken the initiative to bring improvements to treatment quality in many different fields. As such, we can see how the Endoprothesenregister Deutschland (EPRD) [German Endoprosthesis Register], TraumaRegister DGU® [TraumaRegister DGU®], EndoCert, and the certification for Trauma Centres have come to form part of the essential foundations on which the Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery landscape has been built. "At the 2023 iteration of the German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, we would like to come together to critically review these quality initiatives, as well as others, in order to find a pragmatic way to further develop the management of treatment quality through effective strategies," Rudert said.

Striving for progress in diagnosis and treatment has always been the major driving force in medicine. Searching for new treatment solutions is what transforms medicine into science. "At the same time, we are faced with a large volume of new knowledge and an ever-growing technical potential, where the significance of these advances for clinical care can only be proven through critical scrutiny," Ruchholtz said. At the 2023 German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery attendees will have the opportunity to find out more about the newest developments in the field of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery.

[Watch DKOU trailer](#)

The work of the two new presidents of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma, Prof. Dr. Rudert and Prof. Dr. Ruchholtz is supported by the executive board and the board as well as 20 other committees.

**Download from [www.dgou.de](http://www.dgou.de)**

Portrait photo of Professor Dr. Rudert (photo documentation: Intercongress)  
Portrait photo of Professor Dr. Ruchholtz (photo documentation: Intercongress)  
Portrait photo Professor Dr. Bernd Kladny (photo documentation: Intercongress)  
Portrait photo of Professor Dr. Dietmar Pennig (photo documentation: Intercongress)

**Important dates:**

24 to 27 October 2023: German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma (DKOU)  
Online abstract submissions to the DKOU: by 15 January 2023

**Find out more:**

[www.dgou.de](http://www.dgou.de)  
<https://2023.dkou.org/en/>

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