History - Founding year:
The German Trauma Society, as it is called today, was founded on September 23, 1922 as "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Unfallheilkunde" (i.e. German Society of Traumatology). Two of its founding fathers were Hans Liniger and Oberhard Kühne. After a largely passive era during the Second World War and another period between 1940 and 1950 during which the society was dormant, it was re-founded in 1950 due to the initiative of Prof. Dr. Heinrich Buckle.

Aims of the society:
The aim of the German Trauma Society is the comprehensive and sustained promotion of scientific, practical, vocational and interdisciplinary activities in the field of traumatology, especially in trauma surgery.

We focus our efforts on:
- Organisation of the annual "German Congress for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery"
- Promotion of vocational and advanced medical training
- Promotion and improvement of the treatment of severely injured patients
- Promotion of quality assurance programs in different fields of injured patients, especially in the field of severe injuries from the site of accident to the reintegration into working and social life by means of:
  - Definition of standards for the medical education and the advanced training (training courses, hands-on workshops and interdisciplinary cooperation)
  - Practical and clinical, ambulant and in-patient treatment of accident victims on a high level of interdisciplinary cooperation (DGU White Paper on the Structure, Equipment and Organisation of Trauma Treatment in Germany, 2006)
- External and internal quality assurance through the foundation of a trauma network in Germany and neighbouring countries, across national boundaries by means of external certification and audits (www.traumaorganisation.de).
- DGU Trauma Registry which is designed to mirror the quality of results – www.dgu.de
- benchmarking processes and online data entry. The DGU Trauma Registry for the treatment of severely injured patients, ISS ≥ 16, was founded in 1993. It contains and uses more than 120,000 patient records which form the basis for the optimisation of treatment processes
- Optimisation of patient safety through active involvement in the action coalition for patient safety, offering training courses and publishing treatment guidelines on 'wrong side surgery', 'safe surgery according to WHO guidelines' etc.
- Hand Over Team Training (HOTT) – shock room training for physicians and nursing staff
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)
- Development of medical guidelines since 1995
- Promotion of international cooperation through scholarships and joint care studies

Development throughout the years:
In 2008, the German Society for Orthopaedics and Trauma was founded in cooperation between the German Trauma Society, the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopedic Surgery (DGÖÖG). With this new corporate society, a professional representation for the newly established 'specialist for orthopaedics and trauma surgery' could be created. In contrast to the Anglo-American orthopaedic surgeon, this training also includes acute care surgery and emergency medicine.

Membership:
(1) The society consists of full, extraordinary, international, associated and corresponding members as well as honorary members.
(2) Full members: all physicians specializing in or with a vocational interest in trauma surgery/traumatology can apply as full members.
(3) Extraordinary members: Persons and associations of individuals, other than physicians, who are actively involved in the field of traumatology or share a scientific or practical interest in this field, can apply as extraordinary members.
(4) International members: All physicians who are currently full members of a foreign scientific society for trauma surgery or traumatology, or another society whose tasks and objectives correspond to those of the German Trauma Society, can apply as international members.
(5) Associate members: All physicians who are currently full members of a German or international scientific society for trauma surgery or traumatology, or another society whose tasks and objectives correspond to those of the German Trauma Society, and who want to become member of only a section or working group of the German Trauma Society, can apply as associate members.
(6) Corresponding members: All foreign physicians or scientists who will be honoured may be appointed as corresponding members.


Milestones:
1970 Adoption of a new model ordinance for advanced training by the German Medical Assembly: Introduction of the surgical subspecialty trauma surgery
1970 Implementation of the first German Campus in Trauma Surgery at the Hannover Medical School
1990 Adoption of the DGU "Memorandum on Trauma Surgery": Call on political decision makers, faculties and medical associations in Germany to promote the structural development of trauma surgery in clinical practice and research
1990 Reception and admission of GDR trauma surgeons
1992 Amendment of the model ordinance for advanced training by the German Medical Assembly: Implementation of the surgical emphasis 'trauma surgery'
1992 Adoption of the DGU "Memorandum on Trauma Surgery": Call on political decision makers, faculties and medical associations in Germany to promote the structural development of trauma surgery in clinical practice and research
1994 Adoption of the DGU "Memorandum on the Status of Trauma Surgery in German Universities"
1997 Adoption of the DGU "Structure Paper": "Recommendations on the Structure, Organisation and Equipment of Preclinical and Clinical Treatment of Patients in Trauma Surgery Departments in Germany"
2001 Adoption of a new model ordinance for advanced training by the German Medical Assembly: Implementation of the new "specialist for orthopaedics and trauma surgery" and the additional qualifications "special orthopaedics" and "special trauma surgery"