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HANDS-ON

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER
ASIAN PACIFIC FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES
FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND



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Editor's Message

It's my great pleasure to present this issue featuring the achievements and ongoing initiatives that continue to strengthen our APFSSH community. In these pages, you'll find inspiring updates from both our APFSSH President Dr. Tony Berger and IFSSH President Dr. Raja Sabapathy, who share insights into how our Federation is successfully advancing hand surgery excellence across the Asia Pacific. These include welcoming new member societies, expanding educational efforts and ensuring seamless leadership transitions within the APFSSH committees. Our member societies and fellowship recipients also share their accounts of building meaningful impact in their communities. As always, we welcome your contributions to future newsletters- please reach out to us at admin@apfssh.net. Happy reading!

*Editorial Team
Dawn Chia
Gaston Roces
Monusha Mohan
Melanie Amarasooriaya*

APFSSH PRESIDENT

ANTHONY BERGER

As I am heading towards the end of my term as APFSSH President it seems timely to reflect on our achievements over the past 2 years. I stress the word “our” as the APFSSH has become a much larger and well organized Federation and it is due to the efforts and commitments of all members of the Executive, society delegates and Members-at-large that I feel we have achieved a lot over this time. We have welcomed two new member societies into the Federation, Nepal and Emirates and associate members from Vietnam. We have had early discussions with other societies in our region and hopefully their membership will be confirmed during the next President’s term.



Our primary reason for existence is to promote excellent hand surgery in our region through educational programs. The travelling Fellowship and Visiting Professorship programs are well established and we have recently commenced an Advanced Training Fund. With the encouragement and guidance of Jonathon Hobby we ran a very successful combined FESSH/APFSSH Foundation Course in Hand Surgery in Malaysia last year. This was well run and supported by the Malaysian Hand Surgery Society. We look forward to continuing this model into the future with the next course being held in Hong Kong. These and other ventures have been well run by the Chairman of our Educational Committee, Dr. Clara Wong.

Keeping such an organization afloat requires a stable financial basis where funds are raised and expended towards our programs and support for related educational activities. Our Finance Committee has been headed by Hyun-Sik Gong with great skill. We are financially stable at present and will be looking forward to being able to expand our activities with financial security. There is a lot of work involved in chasing up subscriptions and satisfying the relevant financial authorities and maintaining compliance with these regulations.

Last year the APFSSH joined IODA (international Orthopaedic Diversity Alliance) to lend our support and to acknowledge the need for everyone to do more to remove the visible and invisible barriers to equity and equality. The APFSSH, representing hand surgery societies in

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the most diverse region of the world, is ideally placed to be proactive in this area and to demonstrate the values of a diverse and inclusive society and organization. We are grateful to Margaret Fok for heading our Diversity Committee and for guiding our endeavours.

Our Journal has been very well run through the work of the Journal Management Committee and the past Editor in Chief, Raja Sabapathy and the new Editor in Chief Sandeep Sebastin. It takes a lot of dedication and work to maintain a Journal such as this including negotiating subscriptions with our member societies and encouraging quality publications. This is our journal that reflects the excellent work being performed by our members. Our journal will only improve in impact and value with the continuation of your support and the increase in submission of quality papers. Our Newsletter has been passed on to Dawn Chia after being established and edited by Sandeep Sebastin for many years. Communication between a Foundation such as ours and our member societies is critical for coordinating educational activities, keeping everyone up to date with member activities, courses and conferences etc. This Newsletter and the work of our member delegates is vital in keeping all members and the Federation up to date with all that is going on in our busy lives.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the wisdom and guidance of my predecessor Raja Sabapathy and the great work of our Secretary General Alphonsus Chong who has held everything together. We are also grateful to our administrative Assistant Bened, who with Alphonsus Chong coordinates the administrative activities of the Federation keeping everything running so well. I also am looking forward to handing over the Presidency to Fuminori Kanaya at the Mumbai meeting. The Federation is in great hands and will grow in importance and influence in our region to the benefit of all our patients.

IFSSH PRESIDENT

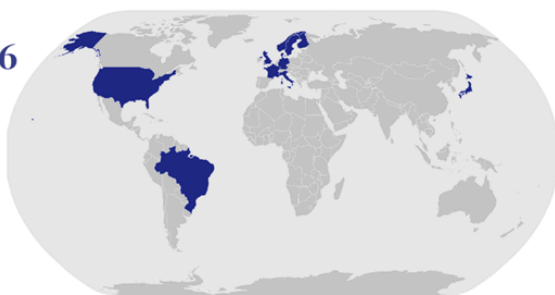
S. RAJA SABAPATHY



Writing a piece for APFSSH newsletter is an old habit for me. I did this in the initial years as the Secretary General of APFSSH. When Sandeep took over the production of the newsletter and brought in a better format, I was writing the piece as the APFSSH President and followed in the role of the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Hand Surgery (Asia Pacific). Now I am writing for the newsletter of the APFSSH as the President of the IFSSH. While all the previous pieces related to the issues of the Asia Pacific region, now this one will have a broader perspective. Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation of India is reported to have said, 'You can remove an Indian out of India, but you cannot remove India out of him!'. So, the experience in the Asia Pacific region is bound to reflect in our international activities too.

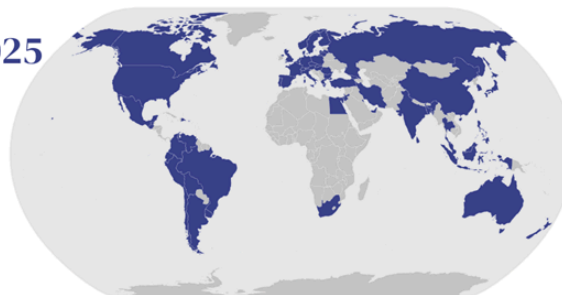
I have put in two maps of the world, one showing the countries who were the founding members of the IFSSH and the other showing the current membership. Still a lot of gaps exist to fill. A large part of Africa remains uncovered as well as many countries in the Asia Pacific region. It is exactly in these countries and regions that there is a pressing need for the services of skilled hand surgeons. The demands on the hand surgeons in these areas are higher as they have to deal with neglected injuries, severe post burn deformities and simple conditions which have become a challenge due to inappropriate primary care. The theme for this IFSSH triennium is to 'provide quality hand surgical care to the millions who are less privileged', and that also involves increasing the membership.

1966



8 founding societies

2025



65 member societies from 63 countries

The IFSSH plans to address the challenge in two ways. The first is by providing access to knowledge. Presently the IFSSH provides access through its website to Hand Surgery Resource, a platform with abundant knowledge created by Dr Larry Hurst. The IFSSH has acquired HSR and its suite of educational products are now open to all. Secondly, Handthology, an educational program of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, is available to all the members of the IFSSH. This educational resource is available electronically worldwide. But to address the second component of the IFSSH challenge and make a difference in the lives of people, the surgeons in these areas also require upskilling and training. They need to travel to centres of excellence. That needs funding. The IFSSH has been doing a good job at that, but we need to do more. For this we have started an IFSSH Patron of Hand Surgery program: soliciting donations from Hand surgeons and well-wishers. All donors will be prominently acknowledged in our website. I request every reader of this newsletter to visit the Patron page in the IFSSH website to know what has been done and what we intend to do. Reading the November 2024 IFSSH Ezine issue will show you the impact that can be made through this program. I request you to help us in this endeavor by your contribution. Very many small drops make an ocean. Every contribution will make a difference.



In between the triennial congresses, the IFSSH holds its Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery. The next Mid-Term Course is in Venice from the 4th to 8th of April, 2027. Please visit the website for more information.



In addition, the IFSSH is also part funding the APFSSH – FESSH foundation course to be held in Hong Kong (March, 2026) to provide bursaries for participation of delegates from LMIC countries in the Asia Pacific region. You will see that the main thrust of the IFSSH is in education. We appeal to every one of you to contribute to the IFSSH Patron programme so that we can do what needs to be done.

Dr Satoshi Ichihara from Japan is the IFSSH Member-at-Large representing the Asia Pacific region in the IFSSH Executive Committee. He is doing a commendable job in the activities of the IFSSH. You can contact him at sichihara1010@gmail.com or via me to reach out to IFSSH.



Meanwhile all of you mark the dates of 23rd to 27th October, 2028 in your diary. We will meet in Singapore for the 17th Triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress. After 15 years an Asian Pacific venue will play host to the IFSSH congress again. There is strength in numbers. We all must be there! Please sign up to the mailing list on the congress website to stay informed of news and important dates. Look forward to welcoming all of you.

THE JOURNAL OF HAND SURGERY (ASIAN-PACIFIC)MS RAMA SUDAKAR, *JOURNAL MANAGER*

The Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume), the official organ of the Asia-Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH), continues to strengthen its role as a premier forum for advances in hand and upper limb surgery. In 2024, JHS has maintained an Impact Factor of 0.5, a CiteScore of 1.0, a SNIP of 0.409, and an SJR of 0.307, reflecting steady recognition within the surgical community. Publishing six issues annually, the journal consistently delivers rigorously peer-reviewed original research, comprehensive reviews, and expert commentary that shape clinical practice across the region.

In recent years, JHS-AP's pages have become home to some truly resonant scholarship. Articles such as "Does the Surgical Assistant Influence Perioperative Outcomes Surrounding Cubital Tunnel Surgery," "Unique Considerations for Paediatric Proximal Phalanx Fractures," and "Palpable Bony Landmarks of the Wrist" have captured attention, offering fresh insight into surgical techniques, diagnostic nuance, and patient outcomes. Likewise, the most cited contributions including the WALANT systematic review (Vol. 24 No. 4) and the landmark study on volar fixation of distal radius fractures (Vol. 5 No. 2) underscore the journal's impact on both practice and research paradigms.

August 2025 marks an exciting milestone, as the journal launches a special issue in tandem with the APFSSH 2025 Congress in Mumbai. Under the editorial guidance of Dr Praveen Bhardwaj and Dr N C Madhusudhan, this issue features reports ranging from advanced tendon transfer strategies in brachial plexus injuries to fresh perspectives on anatomical landmarks for wrist procedures, along with the IFSSH newsletter. Contributors and readers alike are treated to a curated selection of work that not only complements the Congress program, but also captures the spirit of innovation and collaboration that defines the Asia-Pacific hand surgery community.

Beyond thematic issues and rigorous peer review standards, the Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume) has increasingly positioned itself as an interactive and innovative platform for the hand surgery community. It offers robust author services including detailed guidance on manuscript preparation, technical compliance, and language quality checks, which help both new and seasoned researchers enhance the clarity and impact of their submissions. For the past year, authors have also had the opportunity to share pre-publication versions of their articles through online early access, allowing them to freely share their work with colleagues before print publication, though these pre-publication copies remain non-downloadable.

Recent activities reflect a dynamic engagement with both regional and global audiences. Through webinars, JHS-AP brings together leading experts and practitioners to discuss contemporary topics in hand surgery, fostering interactive learning. At the same time, an expanding presence on social media platforms has significantly broadened the journal's reach, ensuring that updates on new publications, conferences, and scholarly dialogue are shared with a wider community of hand surgeons and researchers. By fostering collaborations with international societies such as FESSH and IFSSH, and by spotlighting editorial perspectives through a dedicated column titled "Things I wish I knew before", the journal ensures ongoing dialogue among surgeons, researchers, and educators dedicated to advancing hand surgery.

Editor's Note

We have selected 2 useful articles from the recent JHS AP issues for your enjoyment.

Complimentary access to full text of the articles has been provided by the World Scientific Publishing Co. (Singapore) and requires registration at the journal website. Registration is free.

Evaluating Function of Extensor Carpi Radialis Brevis Prior to Transfer of Extensor Carpi Radialis Longus (Surgical Technique)

Praveen BHARDWAJ. The Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume) 2025 30:01, 111-112

<https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/S2424835525010027>

How I Approach a Patient with CRPS - A Shifting Paradigm (History, Examination, Investigations, Classification and Treatment) (Review article)

Francisco del PIÑAL. The Journal of Hand Surgery (Asian-Pacific Volume) 2025 30:03, 229-234

<https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/S2424835525400028>

APFSSH VISITING PROFESSORSHIP 2024 REPORTANTHONY BERGER *President APFSSH*

VISIT TO KOREAN HAND SURGERY SOCIETY ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2ND NOVEMBER 2024

It was a great privilege and honour to be invited as the APFSSH Visiting Professor to the 2024 Congress of the Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand held in November 2024 at the CHA Bio Complex, Pangyo, Seoul. At this meeting I was asked to present my talk on “The Sensation of Touch and the real function of the Hand”. This was a talk exploring the broader aspects of the sensation of touch and the emotional and psychological impact of the loss of sensation on the individual. On the evening before the KSSH conference I was invited by Hyun-Sik Gong to present a talk to the resident and surgical staff at his hospital, the Seoul National University Bundang Hospital. Here I presented a talk on “Rheumatoid Surgery. Is there still a place?” This talk explored the changing indications for surgery to help patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in the hand based on my experience of rheumatoid surgery over 35 years. This was followed by a good discussion around the topic.

I am very grateful to Dr. Seongeon Kim, President of KSSH, Dr. Jun-Ku Lee, Secretary General of the KSSH, Dr. Soo-Hong Han, the Chairman of the meeting and Dr. Hyun-Sik Gong for the kind invitation and the wonderful hospitality shown to me and the other members of the APFSSH executive. I enjoyed meeting new friends and renewing old friendships during the congress and at the social events. I am also grateful to the APFSSH for their sponsorship of the Visiting Professorship program and encourage other APFSSH member societies to embrace this initiative.

THE BASIC SKILLS IN UPPER LIMB SPASTICITY

AGA S. P. KETAREN



SEMMELWEIS UNIVERSITY, 1ST DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY ([HTTPS://SEMMELWEIS.HU/PATOLOGIA1/EN/](https://semmelweis.hu/patologia1/en/))
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 31/10/2024 - 02/11/2024
ORGANIZED BY CAROLINE LECLERCQ

The Basic Skills in Upper Limb Spasticity in Budapest was the first course I attended for spasticity treatment. The course was for surgeons and PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, lasted for 3 days, and consists of lectures and cadaver workshop by renowned faculty, such as Caroline Leclercq, Nathalie Bini, Tamsyn Brown, Mc Grainne Colgan, Charlotte Jaloux, Paolo Panciera, Jean Gabriel Prévinaire, Marjorie Salga, and Nadine Sturbois-Nachef.





The lectures were presented by the same faculty for surgeons and physiotherapists at the same time and class, but the workshops were separated. The lectures were presented in a structured manner so that the participants understand easier about the treatment of spasticity conservatively and surgically. After each session of lecture, there was a direct workshop of the previous session. I think I was very helped during the

workshop because I have an orthopaedic based as a hand surgeon. I gained so much knowledge and new way of thinking after the course, especially after further explaining about the basics of hyper selective neurectomy (HSN). At the end of the course, there was a sharing session about "Setting up a Spasticity Service" from all of the faculties. All of the faculties shared their experiences, hard work, and difficulties to set up spasticity service, especially dr. Caroline Leclercq as the pioneer of spasticity service in France.

Although it was quite far from Indonesia to Hungary, it was a great experience for attending the course in beautiful Budapest. I got new knowledge, new skills, new experiences, and met new colleagues.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN HAND SURGERY

DR. SUBASHINI RAJENDIRAN

Introduction

The word “diversity” originates from the Latin word “diversitas” meaning difference or variety.(1) From time immemorial, humans as a species is a diverse group and there have been stories of struggle for inclusion throughout the history. Of the stories many have not seen the light or reached us. Fast forward today, is it still there? Are there people feeling left out? What is its status in Hand Surgery?

Discussion

In the medical community, diversity often includes healthcare professionals, trainees, educators, researchers, and patients from diverse backgrounds, including race, ethnicity, gender, disability, social class, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, primary spoken language, and geographic region.(2) On one hand we are celebrating the advances in robotic surgery and artificial intelligence and on the other hand we are still finding ways to achieve the dream of inclusion.

Hand Surgery is a unique specialty with the need to address different type of tissues and a knowledge base of orthopedic and plastic surgery principles. The spectrum of surgeries varies from short duration surgeries with precision in need to long duration surgeries with decision making being the key. It needs a unique blend of skill and knowledge. Almost all surgeries, don't end there and need to be followed up by the rehabilitation for the optimal outcomes. Of the surgical specialties, it is among the few having more emergency surgeries.

Trainee

Most of the times Hand Surgery is the third or fourth degree in the trainee's career. Hence the trainee is in his or her early phase of family life with a role to do domestic chores and take care of the kids and/or parents. There is also the challenge of understanding bone behavior by the trainee from Plastic Surgery or General Surgery background and the challenge of understanding flap behavior by the trainee from Orthopedic background. Shittu et al, found in their study on Trends in hand surgery fellows from 2007-2021 that there was a significant increase in the percentage of hand surgery fellows who are women (20.7% to 30.7%) and Asian or Pacific Islander (13.3% to 25.3%). There was no significant change in the percentage of Hispanic or Black, Non-Hispanic.(3) This only shows that more improvement should happen in this area.

Patient

Some of us work in a system where the patient reaches the needed consultant whereas some of us work in a system where the onus of finding the consultant lies with the patient. The trainee and consultants are bound to receive patients with emergency ailments who are not prepared to handle it. These patients should be received with compassion and patience. The medical personnel should be accommodative to receive all patients without prejudice.

We should also understand that the patient can decide for themselves under whom to take treatment and to accept their decision magnanimously. After assessing the patient, if the attending consultant feels one another doctor in the team can do a better job, there should not be any hesitancy in doing the right thing.

Consultant

As a practicing consultant, the person has to understand the need for change and be aware of the way the colleagues are being treated. Being proactive and addressing the issues of diversion, equality and inclusion even before any problem arise is prudent. A junior consultant should make sure that the trainees receive fair treatment and also should be able to convey the important things and bring in to the notice his or her immediate supervisor. The senior consultant or team leader should not presume everything is going well and should do periodical checks to find out if everything is going well.

Many a time the work is not divided equally among the workforce but divided strategically so that the outcome is the best. The senior consultant or team leader's responsibility also includes addressing such issues and talking with workforce frequently so that false beliefs are corrected. At this phase many consultants choose to do only elective surgeries or operate on particular region alone. These decisions should be accepted with respect.

Research and publications

Apart from individual interest and inclinations weather the diverse factors has a significant impact on doing research and publications is difficult to study. Though we don't have data from hand surgery per se, data from orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery might provide similar picture. Women society members were proportionately represented as annual meeting speakers however women were more likely than men to have nontechnical speaking roles. (6% vs 2%).(4) Although the number of female authors in prominent medical journals has increased five-fold from 1970 to 2004, women still constitute less than one-third of first and senior authors.(5) The need of research and art of converting research to publication should be taught again and again so that a visible difference can be made in a decade.

Leadership roles

Of the 14 APFSSH presidents, we can see that there are no females. Mentorship and sponsorship are also imperative for elevation into positions of influence and power.(6) A lot of effort is being put on developing inclusive mentorship and is believed that it will pave way for the under represented to take leadership roles.

Conclusion

There is an increasing awareness regarding the need of fair practice of inclusion and the collective benefit the society will receive due to it. The most powerful tool to achieve this is through repetition of the idea through invited lectures in conferences and invited articles in journal. The change has to happen in institutional and individual level.

To conclude, I share the quote by Nellie Borrero “Diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice we make every day.” Let’s make the correct choice for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Subashini Rajendiran

MBBS, DNB (Gen Surg), MCh (Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery), MBA (Hosp Management), European Board Diploma of Hand Surgery, Senior Consultant & Associate Prof, Dept of Hand Surgery, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Porur, Chennai, India.

Executive committee member of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand

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3. Shittu A, Murdock CJ, Destine H, et al. Trends in Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Diversity Among Hand Surgery Fellows From 2007 to 2021. J Hand Surg Am. 2025;50(1):98.e1-98.e8. doi:10.1016/j.jhsa.2023.05.005
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5. Are Women Proportionately Represented as Speakers at Orthopaedic Surgery Annual Meetings? A Cross-Sectional Analysis. Gerull KM, Kim DJ, Cogsil T, Rhea L, Cipriano C. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2020;478(12):2729-2740.
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MID-YEAR UPDATE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN HAND SURGERY SOCIETY 2025

WILL ALEXANDER

It has been a productive start to 2025 for the Australian Hand Surgery Society.

We put a heavy focus on sub-specialty training hand surgeons, through our PFET (post-fellowship education and training) fellowships. We had five successful graduates of this two-year program in the new year, and these surgeons come from a mix of Plastic surgery and Orthopaedic surgery backgrounds. This program has gone from strength to strength, and our society is stronger for it.

Our society also has a developing focus in outreach programs in the Asia-Pacific region. The emphasis of these programs is less about providing valuable treatment, but rather focussed on advancing local skills through education, mentoring, and ongoing relationships. It goes without saying that our delegates typically learn a huge amount while away, also. Most recently, AHSS faculty Graham Gumley, Jennifer Green, and Sarah Coll joined Des Soares in Apia, Samoa, from 21–27 September 2024 for a teaching visit at Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association (PIOA). PIOA, an Australian-registered not-for-profit, runs a three-year, accredited orthopaedic training program for surgeons across the Pacific.

Twelve trainees from six Pacific nations took part in the program, which included clinical ward rounds, lectures on hand and wrist surgery, and afternoon practical sessions.



Congratulations!

AUSTRALIAN HAND SURGERY SOCIETY PFET GRADUATES



Dr George Miller

PLASTICS, VIC



Dr Michael Strong

ORTHO, NSW



Dr Ben Dowdle

ORTHO, VIC



Dr Humza Khan

ORTHO, WA



Dr David Dyer

ORTHO, WA



A standout element was the region's first microsurgical training, led by Graham Gumley. Trainees were equipped with microsurgical instruments and practiced vessel repairs on glove and chicken models. Many have since continued using these new skills in their local hospitals.

The experience was rewarding and impactful, strengthening surgical skills and building regional networks. Samoa's hospitality and culture left a lasting impression, and future participation in the PIOA program has been strongly encouraged. Furthermore, Associate Professor Graham Gumley was

recently awarded the special honour of being named an IFSSH Pioneer of Hand Surgery at the recent IFSSH meeting in Washington.



Pioneers of Hand Surgery 2025

Graham exemplified all the qualities of a true Pioneer in hand surgery. His profound impact on the field of hand surgery, both locally and internationally, over the past five decades, is truly commendable. He has shown an exceptional commitment to educating the next generation of hand surgeons at every level, from medical students to residents, registrars, and fellows—not only in Australia but worldwide. He has mentored numerous Orthopaedic and Plastic Surgery trainees at institutions such as the Sydney Hospital Hand Unit, Macquarie University Hospital, Liverpool Hospital, and beyond, extending his influence to Cambodia and the USA. He has been a transformative figure in hand surgery, not just for his clinical and academic contributions, but particularly for his global outreach and commitment to underserved populations. His leadership in Outreach has created what is now a well-worn path of many Australian surgeons, who have provided Outreach support across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

On a final note, the society is grateful also for our members now having access to the Journal of Hand Surgery (Asia-Pacific). This is a valuable resource.

AUSTRALIAN HAND SURGERY SOCIETY**PRESIDENT: MARK ROSS****PRESIDENT-ELECT: GREG BAIN****IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: DAVID MCCOMBE****SECRETARY: NICHOLAS SMITH****TREASURER: LIBBY ANDERSON**

MID-YEAR UPDATE FROM THE INDIA SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND 2025

The 47th annual conference of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand and the 11th annual conference of the Society for Hand Therapy was conducted at Clarks Exotica Resort and Convention Centre, Bengaluru, on October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2024. Dr Bharath K Kadadi was the organizing chairman, Dr Darshan Kumar Jain, organizing secretary, and Dr Satya Vamsi Krishna was the Joint organising secretary.



47TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND: ISSHCON 2024

ISSHCON 2024 was unique as there were 3 guest societies, Australia, Singapore and United Arab Emirates. The event witnessed more than 400 participants from all over India and abroad with 36 international participants from Australia, Singapore, Emirates, UK, USA, Japan, France, Germany, Finland and Nepal.

The Highlight of the conference was the Research session on Indian normative data of upper limb with the past president Dr Mukund Thatte. The ISSH research wing chair Dr Anil K. Bhat led the project, and 11 projects were completed and published in the Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery, August issue of 2024.

ISSH is proud to share that Dr. K. Sridhar, Senior Consultant, has been conferred the prestigious "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" by the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) 2024.



"Pioneer of Hand surgery" award by the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH)



Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy assumed the office of the President of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) at the triennial congress in Washington, DC, USA, on March 28, 2025. Members of ISSH participated in large numbers at the IFSSH event by delivering many invited lectures and presenting papers.

1st Inter- Varsity (IVY) Hand Meet 2025

This year marked the starting of a new type of academic program targeting the trainees. The Inter-Varsity Hand Meet prioritising the program schedule with exam important topics and clinical case discussions. The Paul Brand centre for Hand surgery, CMC Vellore hosted the "1st Inter- Varsity (IVY) Hand Meet 2025" on 18th January 2025 at Vellore.

Upcoming Event

ISSH invites you to the Congress of APFSSH, APWA, APSHT, ISSH and ISHT at Mumbai, September 10-13, 2025.

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

PRESIDENT: DR PANKAJ AHIRE

PRESIDENT-ELECT: DR KARTHIKEYAN .G

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: DR RAJENDRA NEHETE

SECRETARY: DR ANIL K.BHAT

TREASURER: DR ANIL K.BHAT

MID-YEAR UPDATE FROM THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND 2025

DR SHALIMAR ABDULLAH

The Malaysian Society for Surgery of the Hand (MSSH) has been on an unstoppable roll over the past three years—pushing boundaries, crossing time zones, and energizing hand surgery education like never before.

A World-First: Three Countries, One Nerve Course

In February 2023, MSSH made history with the first-ever combined Esser-MSSH Advanced Nerve Cadaveric Course, held simultaneously in Bristol (UK), Rotterdam (Netherlands), and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Thanks to time differences, the Malaysian team kicked off daily sessions at 5 PM and wrapped up at midnight, resulting in a room full of red-eyed, sleep-deprived—but highly inspired—participants.

The highlight? A *flawless, real-time global connection* that made it feel like everyone was in the same room. It was an ambitious logistical feat, and we nailed it.



Small Joints, Big Names

Later in 2023, MSSH hosted a joint replacement symposium headlined by none other than Dr Jonathan Hobby (UK), who also graced our Hand Session at the Malaysian Orthopaedic Association Annual Scientific Meeting (MOA ASM). That same season, our members travelled en masse to the APFSSH & APWA Conference in Singapore, making sure MSSH was well represented on the regional stage.

Congenital Hands & Culinary Delights

In August 2023, we brought our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to Ipoh, a scenic former tin-mining town renowned for its food. With a focus on Congenital Hand and Hand Trauma, the event drew 94 participants, including surgeons, trainees, and allied health professionals—proof that small towns can host big ideas.

Back to Basics—and Beyond

Fast forward to March 2024, where the Esser Course returned, this time covering *basic hand surgery principles*—flaps, tendons, nerves, and bones. With 26 eager participants, it was clear: while bone fixation courses are everywhere, comprehensive training in soft tissue work is still a rare gem.



A New Milestone: APFSSH-FESSH Foundation Program

Asia-Pacific hand trainees spoke—and we listened. August 2024 saw the launch of the first-ever APFSSH-FESSH Foundation Program, hosted at Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur. The course welcomed 84 participants and featured a stellar 20-member faculty of FESSH examiners. The momentum continued with our ASM in Nexus Connexion, Bangsar, where we broke records with 149 attendees.

Nerve Focus, Finger Flaps & Full Steam Ahead

In March 2025, we circled back to the Advanced Nerve Esser Course, this time more focused, with 16 dedicated participants. We also ran our now-popular Finger Flap Course, which again sold out with 22 attendees.

**Strategy, Scenery & Soft Rubber Arrows**

Our most recent event took us into the cool green hills of Janda Baik, Pahang in April 2025 for the Hand Circle Meeting. Surrounded by forest and fresh air, 19 of Malaysia's leading hand surgeons gathered to discuss subspecialty registration, fee structures, and the future of hand surgery training. The highlight? A no-holds-barred Combat Archery showdown—yes, hand surgeons shooting each other with rubber arrows!

MSSH: Educating, Innovating, Elevating

From late-night cadaver dissections to hilltop war games, MSSH has proven itself a global leader in hand surgery education and camaraderie. And we're only just getting started.

MALAYSIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND**PRESIDENT: DR MOHD ISKANDAR MOHD AMIN****IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: -****SECRETARY: DR CHUA WEI SIONG****TREASURER: DR SHAMS AMIR SHAMSUL BAHAR**

MID-YEAR UPDATE FROM THE TAIWAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND 2025

“Hand in Hand — Advancing and Shaping the Future”

YUN-JUI LU

In 2025, the Taiwan Society for Surgery of the Hand (TSSH) reached new heights in advancing hand surgery and fostering global collaboration, marking a year of innovation and achievement. Held on May 3–4, the Annual Meeting embraced the theme *“Hand in Hand: Advancing and Shaping the Future”* showcasing the spirit of innovation and partnership within the hand surgery community.



2025 TSSH Annual Meeting 3rd – 4th May, 2025, Linkou CGMH, Taiwan



2025 TSSH Annual Meeting 3rd – 4th May, 2025, Linkou CGMH, Taiwan



The meeting welcomed the American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS) as the guest society, alongside representatives from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and other esteemed international and domestic experts. Notable speakers included Kyle Eberlin, David Ruch, Miguel Pirela-Cruz, Bauback Safa, Akinori Sakai, Esther Ching-San Chow, and Hyun Sik Gong, who shared insights on cutting-edge surgical techniques, clinical research, and treatment strategies.

Key discussions focused on advancements such as thumb basal joint fusion, wrist arthroscopy, and innovative approaches to phantom limb pain management, including virtual reality applications. Complex cases like distal radius fractures, chronic elbow dislocations, and proximal phalangeal fractures were analyzed, offering attendees fresh perspectives and practical solutions.



At the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) meeting in Washington, Professor Fu-Chan Wei from Chang Gung Memorial Hospital received the prestigious Swanson Lecture Award, a milestone that underscored Taiwan's contributions to global hand surgery and brought immense pride to the nation's medical community.

In November 2024, TSSH collaborated with Tzu Chi University to host a cadaver workshop and conducted an advanced wrist arthroscopy workshop at IRCAD Taiwan. The society also successfully organized the 9th Asia-Pacific Wrist Association (APWA) meeting, fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange.





Looking ahead, TSSH is set to co-host the Chang Gung RPNI/TMR Symposium in December 2025, which will focus on groundbreaking advancements such as Regenerative Peripheral Nerve Interface (RPNI) and Targeted Muscle Reinnervation (TMR). The symposium will feature live surgery demonstrations, showcasing innovative techniques designed to enhance functionality following amputation. Highlighting the importance of the event, two world-renowned experts, Paul Cederna and Oskar Aszmann, will deliver keynote speeches and share their exceptional expertise during discussions and demonstrations.

With its unwavering dedication to advancing hand surgery techniques, fostering international partnerships, and contributing to global medical progress, TSSH continues to shape the future of the field. We warmly invite you to join us at the next Annual Meeting in mid-May 2026 to be part of this exciting journey.

TAIWAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND
PRESIDENT: CHUNG-CHEN HSU
PRESIDENT-ELECT: JUNG-PAN WANG
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: YIN-CHIH FU
SECRETARY: CHIAO-HUA WANG
TREASURER: CHIAO-HUA WANG

MID-YEAR UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF HAND SURGEONS OF THE PHILIPPINES 2025

AHSP HOLDS BASIC MICROSURGERY WORKSHOP

JOHN HUBERT C. PUA



Association of Hand Surgeons of the Philippines
in cooperation with the
UST Hospital Orthopaedic Learning Center



**BASIC
MICROSURGERY
WORKSHOP**
AUGUST 31, 2024
8AM-4 PM
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Course Fee: ₱10,000
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Last August 30, 2024, the Association of Hand Surgeons of the Philippines (AHSP) in partnership with the Department of Orthopaedics of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH), successfully held a Basic Microsurgery Workshop at the USTH Orthopaedic Learning Center. The course was spearheaded by the President of the AHSP, Dr. Eugenio Brito, together with Dr. Nelson Lim and Dr. John Hubert Pua as course director and co-director, respectively. A basic microsurgery lecture for the morning and afternoon sessions was given before the hands-on workshop commenced. A total of 14 residents from the Philippine Orthopedic Center, East Avenue Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Western Visayas Medical Center and Northern Mindanao Medical Center took part in the course with Drs. Ameena Tara Santos, Raymar Sibonga and Ian Jason Magtoto as table instructors. Microscopes were provided by Carl Zeiss Philippines while the micro-instrument sets were supplied by Neurospine Technology Trading Corporation. Participants initially practiced on rubber models using 7-0 sutures and then proceeded to do microvascular end-to-end anastomosis on chicken femoral arteries using 10-0 sutures. The table instructors assessed patency of the anastomosis using a standardized rubric afterwards.



ASSOCIATION OF HAND SURGEONS OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENT: JESSICA GANDIONCO
VICE PRESIDENT: PRECIOUS GRACE HANDOG
SECRETARY: HENRY CALLEJA
TREASURER: GASTON ROCES

Visiting Professorship

Aims:

The aim of this Visiting Professorship is to assist with the funding for a member society to attract a senior surgeon to attend their scientific meeting and to visit and teach in 1-2 other institutions before or after the conference. Ideally the Visiting Professor will be a keynote speaker for the conference and would be expected to make a significant contribution to the host meeting but does not have to have the title of Professor.

Application:

The conference organizing committee of member society will send requests to the APFSSH Education Committee outlining the name of the surgeon for whom they are applying, what is to be expected from the Visiting Professor and a program for the pre- or post-conference visits by the Visiting Professor.

The organizing committee of the member society conference will have already invited the speaker and established a program for them. Once the speaker has accepted the invitation then the organizing committee will apply to the APFSSH educational committee outlining their program and seek funding.

It is expected that the organizing committee will provide free registration for the Visiting Professor and assist where possible with travel and accommodation costs as well as assisting them in organising the additional education program.

The APFSSH Visiting Professor should be recognised as an expert in their field and be a published author. It is preferable that the Visiting Professor is from an APFSSH member nation.

The application should be received by the APFSSH Education Committee via the Secretariat before 1st December of the year prior the member society conference. Each member society may apply for only one Visiting Professor for the year.

Selection Criteria:

The decision of the Education committee will be based on the perceived value of the education program for the Visiting Professor and their planned contributions to the conference and the institutions that they visit.

Support:

The APFSSH will support one Visiting Professor to the value of SGD \$5000 each year paid to the organizing committee. The successful surgeon will be acknowledged in all advertising as the APFSSH Visiting Professor. Whilst additional funding for this Professorship may be sought from trade partners etc. this will not impact on the naming rights for this position.

Reporting:

It is a requirement of the Professorship that after the conclusion of the Visiting Professorship that the organizing committee provides a report to the APFSSH Education Committee on how the funding was used and what the Visiting Professorship achieved.

It is also expected that either the Visiting Professor or a member of the host organizing committee will present their experience of the Visiting Professorship at the following APFSSH congress or in the APFSSH Newsletter.

Liability:

The successful organizing committee and member society will indemnify the APFSSH and the Executive for any adverse events that may occur during the course of the Visiting Professor's travels.

Email applications:

To: admin@apfssh.net

cc: Dr Clara Wong, Email: clara.wongclara@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.apfssh.net/visiting-professorship.php>

Travelling Fellowship

Aims:

The aim of this travelling fellowship is to provide limited financial support to a young surgeon from an APFSSH member society to travel to an international hand surgery conference and then travel to at least one further hand surgery centre in that city or country to learn and gain further experience and to make new contacts.

One Fellowship will be offered each year.

Application:

Applications will be accepted by the APFSSH Education Committee from hand surgeons no later than 1st December in the year prior to their proposed Fellowship.

Pre-requisites:

Applicants must be under the age of 45 at the time of application.

Applicant must be a full member of their countries Hand Surgery Association / Society.

Applicant should outline the desired outcome of their Fellowship and what they hope to achieve.

Applicants must outline their travel plans in detail including the Congress they are to attend and what other centres they intend to visit. This should be accompanied by a letter from the host society confirming the program.

Application must include a current CV.

Selection Criteria:

The APFSSH Travelling Fellowship will be reviewed by the members of the APFSSH Education Committee and awarded based on the quality of the proposed educational activity, the detail of the application process and the perceived value of the Fellowship for the travelling fellow and their parent Society. Preference will be given to conferences in the Asian-Pacific region.

The successful candidate will be notified of the decision of the Education Committee within 4 weeks of closing date. The Fellowship must be concluded within the year following acceptance of the Fellowship.

Support:

The APFSSH will be offering one Travelling Fellowship each year with financial support of SGD \$5000 for each candidate. The successful candidate will arrange for any extra expenses themselves. The candidate may seek further support from their parent Society and the guest society. The APFSSH Executive will assist with introductions and contact details.

It is expected that the fellow will acknowledge the support of the APFSSH in any presentation and publication arising out of the Travelling Fellowship.

Post Fellowship obligations:

Following the Fellowship it is a requirement that the fellow provide to the Education Committee a reconciliation of how the grant was used. It is also expected that the Fellow will provide a written report to the Education Committee on their experience and to present their experience to the next APFSSH Biennial Congress.

Liability:

The successful candidate will indemnify the APFSSH and the Executive for any adverse events that may occur during the course of the fellowship.

Email applications:

To: admin@apfssh.net

cc: Dr Clara Wong, Email: clara.wongclara@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.apfssh.net/travelling-fellowship.php>

Advanced Training Program

Objective:

To provide financial support for hand surgeons to enhance their skills in specialized surgical areas, foster international collaboration, and improve patient care in their regions.

Target:

Recipients: Two hand surgeons per year.

Eligible Courses: Specialized courses offering advanced training in areas such as brachial plexus surgery, microsurgery, congenital hand surgery, arthroscopy, and related fields.

Eligibility: Surgeons requiring financial assistance to attend these courses.

Funding:

USD \$1,000 per candidate.

Selection Criteria:

Age: No limitation

Eligibility: Member or Associate Member of APFSSH member society

Professional Background: Practicing hand surgeons with a demonstrated interest or specialization in the course topic.

Personal Statement: Candidates must submit a statement outlining:

- Their career goals.
- How the course will benefit their institution and community.
- Their plan for applying the knowledge and skills gained from the course.

Recommendation Letter: A letter from his/ her Society attesting to the candidate's skills, dedication, potential impact, and legitimacy of the application.

Application Deadline:

Application Rounds: Two rounds per year:

- First Round: 1 December to 31 May.
- Second Round: 1 June to 30 November.

Selection Process:

- One candidate is selected in each round.
- If no applications are received by 31 May, two candidates will be selected in the second round.

Submission: Applications must reach the APFSSH Education Committee by:

- 31 May (for the first round).
- 30 November (for the second round).

Post-course Obligation:

After completing the course, recipients are required to:

- Submit a written report detailing their experience and learnings from the course, within three months of completion of the course.
- Provide the attendance certificate issued by the course organizers, within three months of completion of the course.

Email applications:

To: admin@apfssh.net

cc: Dr Clara Wong, Email: clara.wongclara@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.apfssh.net/advanced-training-program.php>



Asian Pacific Federation of
Societies for Surgery of the Hand

15th Congress APFSSH 2027

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Feb 25th - 28th 2026

Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India.



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 **Feb 25th - 28th 2026**

 **Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India.**

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The 69th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand

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Toward a Sustainable Standard



April 9(Thu)-10(Fri), 2026

Venue Hotel New Otani Hakata
Denki Building (Kyosokan and Main Building)

Congress President Osamu Soejima, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Director, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Fukuoka Sanno Hospital, Fukuoka International University of Health and Welfare

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