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HANDS-ON

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



Editor's Message

Dear APFSSH Members.

2025 was a busy year- the highlight being the APFSSH congress which dominated the calendars of our members. Esteemed hand surgeons in the APFSSH community were awarded the prestigious 'IFSSH Pioneer of Hand Surgery' title at the IFSSH congress earlier in March. Our member societies' efforts in educational and regional outreach efforts are showcased in their reports.

In this issue, we have two new sections. The first is 'Surgeon's Perspective', where a hand surgeon shares a tale on a skill, encounter or reflection that has shaped his or her practice. The other is 'Artful Hands' a section where we honour the craft and beauty created by the hands.

As always, we welcome society updates and personal contributions for our future newsletters- please reach out to us at admin@apfssh.net.
Happy reading!

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APFSSH PRESIDENT MESSAGE

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS
FUMINORI KANAYA

We are able to look toward more distant horizons thanks to the achievements of our predecessors. Over the past decade, remarkable advances have been made in fracture treatment, tendon and nerve repair, and microsurgery, with dramatic improvements in clinical outcomes. It is our responsibility to further enhance these achievements so that the next generation may see even farther.

My name is Fuminori Kanaya, Professor Emeritus of the University of the Ryukyus in Japan, and as of September 13, 2025, I have assumed the presidency of APFSSH. The year 2025 brought two significant events in my career.



The first is my appointment as president. It is the highest honor, as the founding president of APFSSH was my mentor, the late Professor Emeritus Tatsuya Tajima. I would like to continue developing the APFSSH further, building on the progress achieved by the past presidents (fig.2).

The second is my nomination as a Pioneer of Hand Surgery at the IFSSH Opening Ceremony on March 24, 2025 (fig.2). To date, 284 hand surgeons have been nominated as Pioneers of Hand Surgery, including 59 from the Asia-Pacific region (22 from Japan). For Crafting a Legacy, the commemorative book published for the 2023 APFSSH Congress in Singapore, I served as coordinator for the 17 contributors at that time from Japan. I never imagined that I would be nominated just two years later, and it is a deeply humbling honor.



Figure 2
Presidents of APFSSH (left to right)

13th , Dr. Raja Sabapathy
12th , Prof. Goo Hyun Baek
15th . Prof. Fuminori Kanaya
14th , Mr. Anthony Berger

The hand is the most versatile tool possessed by humankind and a vital means of communication. Impairments of hand function lead to reduced ADL and cause social and economic disadvantages. The mission of hand surgeons is to restore lost or diminished hand function and to eliminate physical, functional, and social difficulties faced by patients. This mission remains the same in both developed and developing countries, and developed nations have a responsibility to support the advancement of hand surgery in developing regions.

The IFSSH divides the world into four regions: Asia-Pacific; Europe and Africa; North and Central America; and South America. The Asia-Pacific region comprises 20 countries. APFSSH is composed of 15 countries within this region; however, the Chinese Speaking Association, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, and Sri Lanka—although part of the IFSSH Asia-Pacific region—are not APFSSH members.

In 2025, the world population reached 8.232 billion. Even excluding China, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 3.473 billion people, or 42% of the global population. Thus, APFSSH plays a significant role within IFSSH.

The APFSSH was originally formed by 12 countries through the dedication of giants such as B.B. Joshi (India), Michael Tonkin (Australia), Robert Pho (Singapore), Tatsuya Tajima (Japan), Wayne Morrison (Australia), and Lam-Chuan Teoh (Singapore) (in the order listed in the APFSSH history). At the outset, there was no central office, and financial support was managed at the society level. The 5th APFSSH Congress was held in Osaka in 2005, and the surplus funds enabled the establishment of the Japan Fellowship for developing countries.

Through the continued efforts of past presidents, ex-co members, and national delegates, APFSSH has succeeded in establishing its official journal (Journal of Hand Surgery Asia-Pacific), setting up a central office, and building a strong financial foundation.

As stated in Article II of the APFSSH Constitution, the objectives of our federation are:

- To maintain liaison and communication among constituent societies.
- To promote the free exchange of knowledge.
- To enhance opportunities for hand surgery training through friendly exchange programs.
- To enhance opportunities for hand surgery training through friendly exchange programs (duplicate in original).
- To enhance teaching by organizing scientific meetings and regional instructional courses.

These aims have been steadily achieved through regular congresses, publication of Hand Surgery (Asia-Pacific), communication via newsletters, educational programs such as travelling fellowships and visiting professorships, and the organization of Foundation Courses. I hope to further strengthen the accomplishments attained by past presidents, particularly in fostering collaboration among member countries, supporting education, and expanding outreach programs. For details of APFSSH achievements thus far, please refer to the newsletter message from President Mr. Berger.

Our federation will continue to advance through the efforts of the ex-co members, Members-at-Large, and national delegates, striving toward even greater development.

Fuminori Kanaya
APFSSH President



Figure 3
Pioneer of Hand Surgery Award Ceremony:
Fuminori Kanaya received the award from IFSSH
President Daniel Nagle

***“If I have seen further,
it is by standing on the
shoulders of giants.”***

Isaac Newton, 1675

IFSSH'S GROWING GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL IMPACT: FROM ASIA TO AFRICA

Dear Colleagues,

The IFSSH places increasing emphasis on global education, and we are very happy to see the educational activities spreading across different regions. To further the impact of IFSSH educational efforts in Asia, IFSSH has provided funding. The workshops run during the recent APFSSH Congress in Mumbai, India, were sponsored by IFSSH. These workshops covered a range of important topics and techniques of the specialty. They were well-executed with very positive feedback from the congress attendees. In 2026, IFSSH will co-sponsor a course in Hong Kong (4–6 March) organised by the APFSSH and FESSH with an invited global faculty. IFSSH is playing an important role in education of hand surgeons in the Asian Pacific region.

A course in Bujumbura, Burundi, Africa led by Professors Donald Lalonde and Pankaj Jani on November 29th 2025 was also sponsored by the IFSSH. This course emphasised on wide-awake hand surgery. This is a continuing effort led by two professors to promote green and affordable hand surgery in Africa. The two professors have invited as many surgeons as they can from neighbouring East Central African countries to attend the course, with the vision of expanding the use of wide awake hand surgery and minor procedure room surgery to help alleviate the issue of limited resources in Africa.

The next IFSSH-IFSHT Congress is 3 years away in October of 2028. Our Singapore colleagues have already started their well-planned preparations for this congress. Before this, we have another major event: the 2nd IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery, which is only 1.5 years away in Italy. The IFSSH Executive Committee has great pleasure in seeing the planned structures and contents of the Course and we wish that many colleagues around the world will go to Venice in early April of 2027! The IFSSH executive committee is keeping a close contact with organizers of both events.

IFSSH'S GROWING GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL IMPACT: FROM ASIA TO AFRICA

While writing this, I had just completed a return visit from Poland (8-14 October 2025), a follow up visit at the invitation of Professor Paweł Reichert in Wrocław who invited me as the IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship to Poland two years ago (16 September - 3 October 2023). Professor Paweł Reichert and his colleagues organized a wonderful congress from 8 to 11 October, and I extended my stay in historical Krakow after the congress. This is truly a symbol and demonstration of the power of the Kleinert Visiting Professorship. The bond and friendship, and professional discourse continue beyond the period of the Visiting Professorship to form long-lasting professional and personal relationships. I had many in-depth conversations with colleagues at the event and I was very happy to have the opportunity to revisit and see many colleagues in Poland and enjoy the beautiful Polish autumn again after two years.

Jin Bo Tang
IFSSH Secretary General



A REPORT OF 2025 APFSSH VISITING PROFESSOR TO INDIA

GOO HYUN BAEK, MD, PHD

On a sunny day of 8th September 2025, I arrived in Mumbai airport.

On 9th September, I visited Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Center which is one of the oldest private hospitals in Mumbai. It was a teaching institute for Post Graduate Training and a center of excellence in Birth Brachial Plexus and Paediatric Hand Surgery.

Dr. Mukund Thatte was the host, and he organized a symposium on Hand surgery. About 60 residents from the major teaching units in the city as well as a lot of the teachers were in attendance. I gave several talks – Surgical strategy for radial polydactyly, Apert hand, How to mobilize symphalangeal joints of the hand, Kienböck's disease, Ulnar impaction syndrome, Camptodactyly, and Clinodactyly. There were hot and productive discussions with the audience.

I had an opportunity to discuss a surgical plan of a boy who visited OPD for known symbrachydactyly, with Dr. Thatte. In the afternoon, I attended a cadaveric workshop on flap surgery which was held in the anatomy lab of Nair Charitable Hospital.



During the 2025 APFSSH Congress, I was lucky enough to present 3 podiums including APFSSH Presidential Lecture. When I finished the APFSSH Presidential Lecture, the audience gave me a standing ovation. It was one of the greatest moments in my life.



Next I visited Ganga hospital, and stayed for 2 nights. I was surprised there were more than 30 international visitors, trainees and fellows. Dr Sabapathy, guided me through operating rooms, OPDs and emergency care units. The hospital was well organized and had a world class training facility. One of the faculty members asked me to talk about 'congenital synostosis of 4th-5th metacarpal bones', and I gave 3 lectures – One stage correction of Congenital Ring-Little Finger Metacarpal Synostosis, Symphalangism of the Hand, and Apert Hands and Feet. The audience were so enthusiastic that I had to discuss with some of them for more than two hours after my lectures.

I arrived in Mangalore early in the morning of 17th September, 2025. I visited OPD clinics at 9 am, where I had opportunity to discuss treatment plans for patients with faculty members. I was asked to examine a female doctor who was diagnosed as neurogenic thoracic outlet syndrome. Kasturba Medical College is a top-notch in research as well as clinical excellency. Under the leadership of Professor Anil Bhat, all the faculty members synergise together to publish scientific papers. I gave 4 lectures – Camptodactyly, Symphalangism, Personal opinions on Kienböck's disease, and Surgical strategies for radial polydactyly. The eyes of the audience were so sparkling. I visited the operation theatres and discussed surgical cases with faculty members.



It was truly an honor and wonderful experience for me to visit distinguished hospitals of India, as a visiting professor. And I learned a lot.

Overall, I could feel strong energy, and see the bright future of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand. Of course, it was a joyful bonus to taste Indian cuisine!

Goo Hyun BAEK, MD, PhD
Emeritus Professor, Seoul National University
Member, National Academy of Medicine of Korea
Honorary Chief Director, YESON Orthopaedic Hospital



Pollicization: The Gift of A Thumb

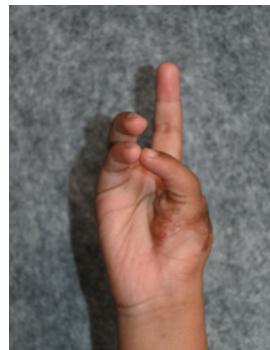
Before and after Pollicization

Below is the real life story and experiences shared by the mother of a child born with absent thumb.

"After years of prayers and treatments, we were blessed with our daughter. It was only after her birth that we realized she was missing her right thumb. For both me and my husband, the pain was unbearable.

In search of what to do next, we reached the hospital. The doctors provided us with the necessary guidance, but the tension in our hearts did not completely fade. They also introduced us to another child who had undergone pollicization surgery and was there for a review.

Amidst all our worries, our daughter's pollicization surgery was successfully completed. Now, she has overcome her limitations—she writes and even eats by herself. From the bottom of our hearts, we express our gratitude and love to the doctors, who are nothing short of divine beings."



Before & After Pollicization

The child writes comfortably with the new thumb. She is seen *colouring at her school desk. She is holding the crayons with her 'new thumb'.*





Another child with a floating thumb that required pollicization.

Left: The pattern of holding objects when the thumb is underdeveloped or hypoplastic.

Below: The better grasp and grip of objects noted following pollicization of the index finger to create a new thumb



Surgeon's Perspective

It is deeply heartwarming to hear testimonials like this. After pollicization, parents often tell us that others do not even realize their child has a four-fingered hand. At such moments, we can only wish these words reach other parents facing similar hand differences. Counselling the parents for pollicization of the index finger, takes time; often requiring multiple visits. Most parents need time to arrive at a decision. An often quoted statement in counselling is that the thumb forms 40% of our hand function. The position of the thumb is also important in opposition, precision grip and power grasp.

A child born with a hypoplastic or absent thumb, may grasp or pick up tiny objects using the index/middle finger or ring/little finger side-to-side pinch. This scissoring pinch is often assumed by parents to be sufficient. We counsel them that this type of pinch involves fingers that are not designed for opposition like the thumb. As the child grows, their functional demands increase—writing, dressing, eating independently, holding heavier objects. Without the thumb, they lack the tripod support. Though these children can pick up small objects they cannot securely hold them. Moreover, the compensatory method of using the fingers requires excessive flexion and adduction, with compensatory movements of the wrist or elbow or shoulder. This can lead to rapid fatigue. Thumb is also required for cylindrical grasp, for holding bigger or heavier objects.

Our photo archives aid us in counselling where parents see images of similar children well adapted to the new thumb. Pollicization is a complex congenital hand procedure that is one of the most satisfying operations a hand surgeon does.

**Dr Monusha Mohan, MS, FNB (Hand and Microsurgery)
Consultant, Department of Plastic, Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery and Burns
Ganga Hospital, India**

Artful Hands: Crafting Flower Garlands

Flower garland making is not exclusive to Asia, but Asia is one of the few regions where the craft is still widely practised in everyday life, especially for worship and ceremonies. One learns how to make a flower garland for daily worship from one's mother or grandmother. This muscle memory is passed down through generations.



At our hospital, a day in our outpatient department starts with offering prayers and tying a flower garland with flowers from our own garden. The nurses often tie the flowers and it is a beautiful sight to watch how their hands move. They move with speed, yet with precision. The left hand holds the string of flowers while the right thumb and index finger pinch each flower and middle finger loops the cotton thread or the banana plant fibre, that is usually moistened with water. The thread is tightened at the base of the flower in a quick flick and twist. The hands move in a constant motion. The flowers that are usually used are jasmine and oleander.

**Dr Monusha Mohan, MS, FNB (Hand and Microsurgery)
Consultant, Department of Plastic, Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery
and Burns
Ganga Hospital, India**

RADIATION AWARENESS FOR WOMEN IN THE OR: UNDERSTANDING AND REDUCING RISKS

Fluoroscopy is indispensable in orthopaedic surgery, and with it comes unavoidable radiation exposure. Despite this daily reality, studies repeatedly show significant knowledge gaps among surgeons regarding radiation safety.

Surveys worldwide show that there is a lack of knowledge on safe exposure limits, safety distance, proper C-arm positioning, and pregnancy-related concerns. (1-5) The gap is clear: We rely on radiation daily but underestimate its risks. So clearly, this discussion topic is important as our understanding of sex-specific occupational risks is still limited despite the growing number of female orthopaedic surgeons.

IRRADIATION ASSOCIATED HEALTH ISSUES

Breast cancer

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) sets strict limits for occupational exposure for specific body parts like the eyes, skin and hand. Interestingly, breast tissue does not yet have a dedicated threshold—and given cancer risk, vigilance is essential.

Multiple studies from the U.S. show that female orthopaedic surgeons have a 3–4 times higher risk of breast cancer compared to the general population. (6) Radiology technicians, who face similar long-term low-dose exposure, show a similar trend. (7,8) Indian data echoes the same concerns - in a recent survey of 51 female surgeons, ~4% were diagnosed with breast cancer irrespective of family history, and the risk was significantly higher (~11%) among those who had over 10 years of experience. This suggests long term exposure has a significant impact. (9)

Radiation exposure tends to affect the area closest to the beam, which is the upper outer quadrant (UOQ) (and the most common site for primary breast cancer), and is exactly where scattered radiation hits during fluoroscopy procedures. This pattern is also seen in patients who develop secondary breast cancer after receiving radiation therapy for Hodgkin's lymphoma. (10)

To better understand how radiation exposure affects females, especially the breast, researchers designed an experiment using an anthropomorphic torso phantom (11) to assess how radiation exposure is affected by apron design, fit, surgeon position and C-arm orientation. They found vest design aprons protected the UOQ better while cross back aprons provide more coverage for inner areas. The size of the apron and the projection also impact the amount of received radiation. Therefore, choosing the right kind of apron for the body type is very essential.

Reproductive health

Apart from breast cancer, radiation exposure can have serious ill effects on reproductive health. Over exposure has shown to disrupt the hypothalamic pituitary axis (HPA) which can lead to diminished hormonal feedback loop between the ovaries and the brain. This further compromises fertility and overall endocrine health.

Pregnancy

Prenatal exposure of more than 0.1 Gy may lead to miscarriages, stillbirth and neurodevelopment anomalies, depending on the stage. Exposure in early pregnancy (2-8 weeks) can cause miscarriages and congenital deformities whereas exposure after 8 weeks can lead to neurodevelopment anomalies and in some cases infertility in the offsprings.(12) This is why adequate protection is of utmost importance for pregnant surgeons and staff.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DEVICE

Mini C-arm vs Standard C-arm

If you are a hand surgeon, you probably love the mini C-arm. But remember: the closer you are, the higher the scatter. Mini C-arms give great clarity but expose us to more radiation simply because we stand right next to them.(13) In fact, orthopaedic surgeons who work with mini C-arms have higher incidence of breast cancer compared to urologists and plastic surgeons who usually work with standard C arms.(14)

Flat Panel vs Image Intensifier

A quick comparison of Flat Panel Detectors and Image Intensifiers reveal the former is newer, has clearer images and lower dose while the latter is older and produces more radiation. Hence, it's time to push for flat panels if your hospital has not shifted to them.

Positioning the C-arm

When the tube is low and under the table, most of the scattered rays is directed downwards and away from the surgeon. As a bonus, it actually gives you sharper, clearer images.(15) (Figure 1 & 2)

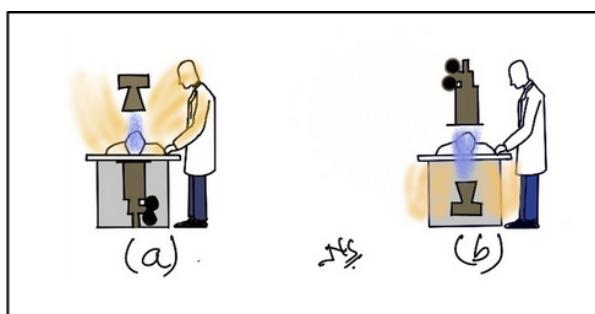


Fig 1: Positioning of the C arm tube
 a) tube positioned above the table causing higher exposure to scattered radiation.
 Tube positioned below the table reduces the exposure to scattered radiation.

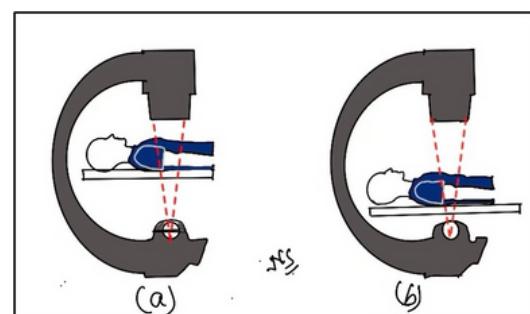


Fig 2: Correct distance of the C arm tube.
 a) correct positioning : tube as low as possible gives clearer images with low radiation dose.
 b) Incorrect positioning: higher radiation when the tube is kept close to the table.

SAFETY AWARENESS

The ALARA Rule: The Golden Safety Formula (ICRP 1977)

Three things matter for radiation to be As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA): time, distance and shielding.

Time: Less exposure equates to less risk. Use pulsed fluoroscopy, collimate tightly (Figure 3) and save images instead of running the machine continuously

Distance: Every step away matters. The inverse square law: radiation exposure is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the source. Double the distance reduces to $\frac{1}{4}$ radiation. It is also important to remember that as we protect ourselves from scattered radiation, the source is actually the patient and not only the x-ray tube. Anyone not needed within 6 feet should step back.

Shielding: Your apron is your armour. 0.25 mm lead blocks 90% scatter, while 0.5 mm lead blocks 99% scatter. Vest-style aprons give better breast protection (especially UOQ). Newer lead-free aprons are lighter and just as effective for most OR settings.

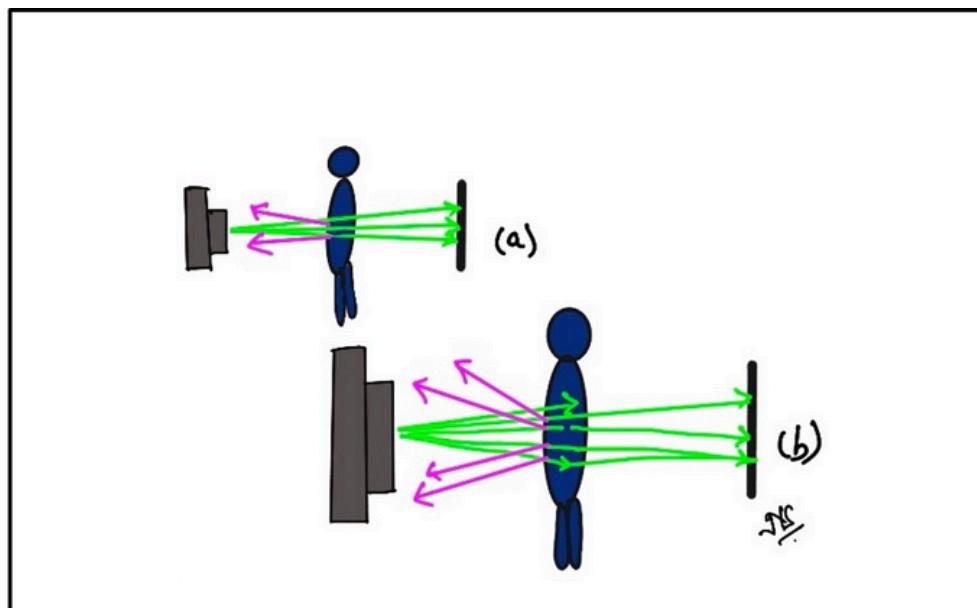


Figure 3: Exposure and Risk

- a) Narrow collimation gives better images and reduces scatter.
- b) Wider collimation produces more scatter and reduces the quality of the image.

Dosimetry: Please Wear Your Badge!

Only 15% of Indian women orthopaedic surgeons actually wear a dosimeter.(10) That's scary! The data from the dosimeter is only reliable when the dosimeters are properly worn, receive proper care and are returned on time. Proper care includes not irradiating the dosimeter except during occupational exposure and ensuring proper environmental conditions. When using the dosimeter, wear it at collar or chest level. ICRP suggests outside the apron; AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) suggests inside. For pregnant surgeons, wear two badges can be worn, one inside over the abdomen to measure metal radiation and one at the collar to measure radiation to the mother. Fetal dose should stay below 1 mSv for the entire pregnancy. If your reading crosses limits in any quarter, you must step away from radiation areas temporarily. Safety first.

The bottom line...

Radiation safety isn't just a formality—it's part of taking care of ourselves. As more women enter orthopaedics, it's important we stay informed, stay protected and support each other in demanding safer practices.

Shield up... Stay safe!

With appreciation to WOICE for inspiring conversations around safety and empowerment.

Presented at the APFSSH 2025

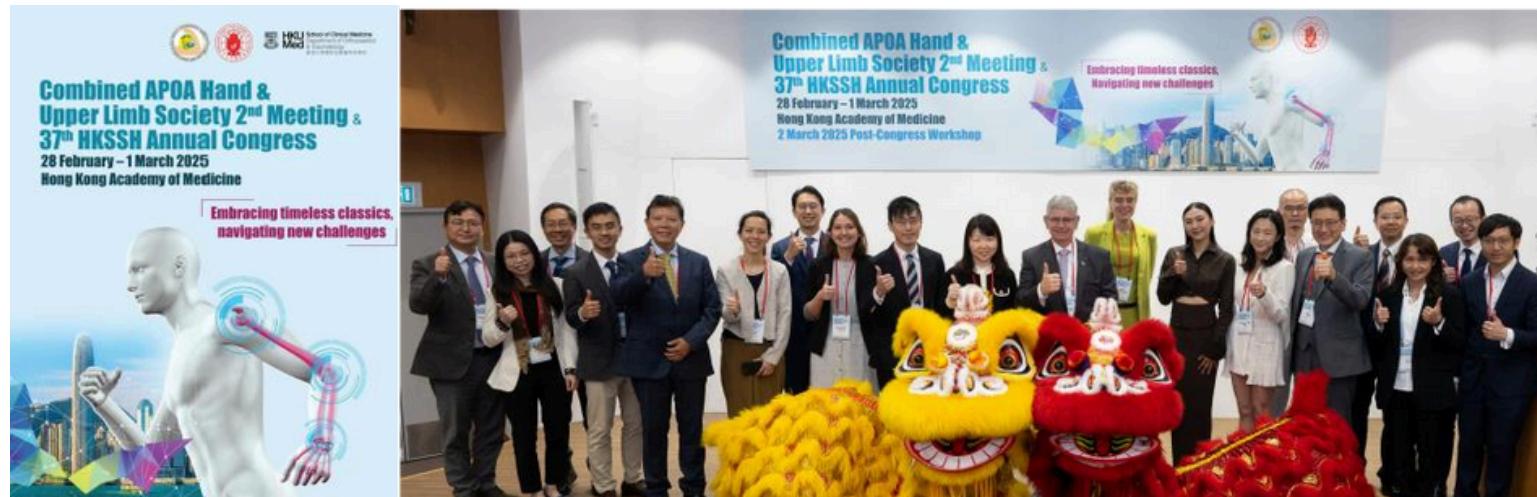
Nikita Shetty, MD
Sportsmed Mumbai, India

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**UPDATE FROM THE
THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND**

LEE SYNUK MICHELLE



**APOA Hand and Upper Limb Society 2nd Meeting
& 37th HKSSH Annual Congress**

The APOA Hand and Upper Limb Society 2nd Meeting & 37th HKSSH Annual Congress was successfully held on 28 Feb 2025 – 1 Mar 2025 in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM). We were privileged to invite Ms Cecilia Yeung Man Wai, an elite high jumper and Hong Kong record holder to deliver a speech during the opening ceremony. She gave an inspiring talk on her athletic career, how she overcame injuries, and how athletes and surgeons resonate that precision is not just a value, it could be a dream and a lot more. The Congress consisted of concurrent sessions covering topics from shoulder, elbow, to the hand and wrist. We were honoured to have invited experts from overseas and Hong Kong to share with us on these fields. It was a fruitful and educational meeting. We hope all our participants and guests enjoyed the Congress and social events. Participants were able to perform hands-on during the ultrasound workshop, as well as a fulfilling day of cadaveric workshop on carpometacarpal joint arthroplasty, total elbow replacement and reverse shoulder arthroplasty on the Sunday following the Congress.





2025 IFSSH-IFSHT Triennial Congress 24-28 Mar 2025, Washington DC

The 2025 IFSSH-IFSHT Triennial Congress took place at the start of the season of cherry blossom in Washington, USA. The Congress was held in the middle of numerous attractions of Washington, such as the White House, The United States Capitol, the Washington Monument, and a vast number of museums. Professor Hung Leung Kim was awarded the "IFSSH Pioneers of Hand Surgery" in this year's congress. To be a recognized Pioneer has strict criteria, and Professor Hung is a leader in hand surgery and has contributed to the development of Hand Surgery nationally and internationally.



Multidisciplinary Symposium on Rheumatological Hand Disorders, USG and Splint Workshops 6 July 2025

The Symposium was jointly organized by the Hong Kong Society for Surgery of the Hand, the Hong Kong Society of Rheumatology, the Hong Kong Society for Hand Therapy and Tung Wah College.

Organiser:
The Hong Kong Society for Surgery of the Hand
Supporting Organiser:
The Hong Kong Society of Rheumatology
The Hong Kong Society for Hand Therapy
Co-Organiser:
Tung Wah College



We were grateful to have invited experts from the field of Rheumatology, Hand Surgery, Hand Therapy and Radiology to come and deliver the latest advancement in the diagnoses, medications and management, surgical options, timing of intervention, different splinting programs, as well as radiological and sonographic knowledge in rheumatological hand disorders to our audiences.





Following a series of lectures in the morning, the program in the afternoon consisted of hands-on workshops on the application of ultrasound in the hand, wrist and elbow, as well a workshop on fabricating splints in patients with rheumatoid disease. Orthopaedic surgeons, rheumatologists and therapists could all have a go on performing ultrasound and molding a splint on each other. In addition, participants gained opportunity in learning about different remedies for the disease from other specialties.

2025 Autumn Scientific Meeting of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH)



The BSSH 2025 Autumn Meeting took place in the Eastside Rooms, Birmingham, UK on 27-28 Nov 2025. HKSSH was honored to be the guest society of the Meeting. The venue was grand and accommodated 3 halls running in parallel over two floors, with a spectrum of fulfilling and educational program, including seminars, free paper presentations, therapist workshops, hand and wrist examination workshops, as well as hot debates on different topics regarding hand and wrist injuries. Five travelling fellows were awarded the opportunity to visit various hand units in the UK, including the Pulvertaft Hand Centre in Derby, the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. These were valuable and eye-opening experiences.

HKSSH Scholars and Ambassadors of 2025

Overseas Scholar/Ambassador	First Name	Surname
AP Scholar	Wee Leon	Lam
AP Scholar	Shilu	Shrestha
Chinese Scholar	Yuzho	Liu
Chinese Scholar	Yang	Guo
JSSH Ambassador	Kuroiwa	Tomoyuki
KSSH Ambassador	SeongJu	Choi
RHSS Ambassador	Saetgaraev	Bulat
SSHS Ambassador	Camelia	Tang
TSSH Ambassador	Chiu	Yung-Cheng

Local Scholar/Ambassador	First Name	Surname
JSSH Ambassador	KaChi	Lau
KSSH Ambassador	Man Ting Marvin	Chung
RHSS Ambassador	TszChing,Leo	Chau
SSHS Ambassador	KaWai	Cheng
TSSH Ambassador	Tse	Wing Lim
Lam Cho YeeScholarship	Tsang	Yeung
BSSHTravelling Fellow	SynYuk Michelle	Lee
BSSHTravelling Fellow	Mun Yee Amanda	Slocum
BSSHTravelling Fellow	Lam	Chi Yan Miko
BSSHTravelling Fellow	Leung	Ngan Chung
BSSHTravellingFellow	Lam	Ling Chi

Saturday Inter-hospital Meetings, HKSSH Certificate Courses and Others

Date	Event Name
6 July 2025	Multidisciplinary Symposium on Rheumatological Hand Disorders, USG and Splint workshops
26 July 2025	HKSSH Hand Preparatory Course for FRCS Examination
22 January 2025	HKSSH Certificate Course Module V (Radiology and Rehabilitation)
6 September 2025	Saturday Inter-hospital Meeting by HKSSH –Unusual Carpal Fractures
6 September 2025	HKSSH Certificate Course Module VI (Fractures and Dislocations of the Upper Limb)
1-2 November 2025	Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association (HKOA) Annual Congress –HKSSH Concurrent session
22-23 November 2025	International Conference of Chinese Rheumatologists 2025 (HKSSH as supporting organizer)

40th Anniversary of HKSSH Upcoming Events



APFSSH-FESSH Academy
FOUNDATION COURSE
co-organised by HKSSH

395 USD
Until 28 DECEMBER 2025

Join the 3 day course with lectures, practicals, discussions in small groups with experienced international faculty.

4-6 March 2026
Hong Kong

www.handsurgerycourses.com apfc@congressworks.com [REGISTER NOW](#)

The three day course covers the whole breadth of hand surgery with lectures, practicals and discussion groups. It will be held in Innocentrein Hong Kong. It is suitable for senior trainees preparing for their board exam, and for more experienced surgeons wanting to update their knowledge. The course has an experienced International faculty and is sponsored by our Industry partners. It represents excellent value for money. Do not miss the opportunity and register now.



Organizer:
40th ANNIVERSARY
THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND
www.hkssh.org

The 38th HKSSH Annual Congress
Reconstruction Without Boundaries

Call for Abstracts
Deadline for Submission: 10 December 2025

7th-8th March 2026
Eaton Hotel Hong Kong
380 Nathan Road,
Jordan, Hong Kong

Guest Society:
BSSH THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND



THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND (HKSSH)

PRESIDENT: DR. CHOW ESTHER CHINGSAN

VICE PRESIDENT: DR. YIP KAYAN EMILY DR. YAU

PRESIDENT ELECT: LEUNG KAI EDMUND DR. LEE

HONORARY SECRETARY: SYNYUK MICHELLE DR. FOK

HONORARY TREASURER: WOONMAN MARGARET DR. KOO

COUNCIL MEMBERS: SIU CHEONG JEFFREY JUSTIN

UPDATE FROM THE INDONESIAN SOCIETY FOR HAND AND UPPER LIMB AND MICROSURGERY

Grip the Future: Empowering the Next Era of Indonesian Hand Surgeons

BRAMANTYA KARNA



Figure 1. Gathering Night in Natra Hotel, Bintan

Introduction

“Grip the Future” brought Indonesia’s hand surgery community together for a focused week that combined education, service, and society stewardship. The program linked a national webinar, a hands on medical outreach at a public hospital, a compact mini symposium with regional experts, an executive committee meeting, a community gathering (Figure 1), and shared cultural visits across Batam and Bintan.

Webinar

On Saturday, 5 July 2025, a theme aligned national webinar gathered about two hundred participants from across Indonesia.

Sessions emphasized practical decision making for wrist arthroscopy, tendon reconstruction that preserves gliding, peripheral nerve strategies, and outcomes oriented rehabilitation.



Figure 2. Webinar held on 5 July 2025

Medical Outreach

On Thursday, 10 July 2025, INASHUM and PABOI Kepulauan Riau conducted a community service day at RSUD Embung Fatimah in Batam that provided definitive operations for seven patients. Procedures included arthroscopic TFCC repair, tendon release with pulley reconstruction, Zancolli lasso and opponensplasty to restore thumb opposition, debridement and wrist fusion for painful end stage disease, and contracture release including trigger finger (Figure 3). The outreach also served as a teaching platform for residents, with close collaboration among surgery, anesthesia, nursing, and rehabilitation teams.



Figure 3. Medical Outreach on Thursday, 10th

Mini Symposium

On Friday, 11 July 2025, more than one hundred participants attended a high yield mini symposium at Yello Harbour Bay Hotel in Batam. Invited faculty were Prof. Alphonsus Chong from Singapore and Dr. Muh Iskandar from Malaysia. Sessions featured indication driven panels, step by step technique videos, complication avoidance pearls, nerve reconstruction updates, and postoperative pathways suited to both tertiary centers and resource limited hospitals (Figure 4 & 5).



Figure 4. Plenary Lecture, 11th July 2025



Figure 5 .Mini Symposium

Committee Meeting

On the evening of 11 July 2025, the organizing committee met at Natra Hotel in Bintan. Discussions centered on educational roadmaps, scaling future outreach with provincial partners, standardizing perioperative protocols, strengthening data capture for service days, and formalizing cross border faculty exchanges into recurring workshops.

Gathering Night

That same evening the community gathered on the pool deck at Natra Hotel for a collegial celebration.



Figure 6 .Leadership Handover

The society witnessed a leadership handover from Dr. Bramantya Karna to Dr. Tito Sumarwoto (Figure 6). The transition affirmed continuity of mission that prioritizes training, equitable patient service, and collaborative research.

Ladies Program

The Ladies Program ran alongside the scientific agenda to provide companionship, networking, and light cultural appreciation in a relaxed setting. Activities were paced for comfort with dedicated guides, clear meeting points, and arranged transport (Figure 7). The focus was togetherness and support for families and partners, allowing them to connect while participants attended academic sessions.

City Tour

Between 11 and 12 July 2025, the family-gathering program included city tours across Batam and Bintan, organized and joined by the INASHUM Ladies and their families. In Batam, participants visited the "Welcome to Batam" sign, Golden City, Cheng Ho Mosque, a luwak coffee facility, the Miniature Houses park, a layer-cake outlet, Barelang Bridge, MJA Tower, and Maha Vihara Duta Maitreya.



Figure 7 Ladies Program

On Saturday, 12 July 2025, the itinerary continued to Telaga Biru and a kelong (floating fish-farm) island trip in Bintan, closing the week with shared experiences that deepened camaraderie and will support future collaboration.

Conclusion

"Grip the Future" showed that a one week program can unite education, service, and governance to real effect, reaching large audiences and treating seven patients. The leadership transition ensures continuity, and the model is feasible and ready to scale for future editions.



UPDATE FROM THE JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

TOSHIYASU NAKAMURA

History of JSSH

The Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand (JSSH) was established in 1957 and the first meeting was in Kobe Oriental Hotel (President, Prof Tamikazu Amako). Since then, the number of active members of the JSSH has grown to greater than 3400, including those who continue to research “the hand” clinically or experimentally. Hand specialists number 1110 throughout the country and there are 552 nominated Hand instructors to establish education system of hand surgery in Japan. Every April, we hold an Annual meeting.

Activities in 2025

We held the 68th Annual Meeting of the JSSH in Yokohama (Congress president, Dr Yoji Mikami) on April 10-11, 2025 with great success, conducted in a hybrid style (in-person and subsequent on-demand on web). Most of the participants attended the meeting face to face in Pacifico Yokohama North Congress Center. We also had 3 foreign guests, 2 from Europe and 1 from USA at this meeting. Travelling fellowship programs with HKSSH (Hong Kong), TSSH (Taiwan) and KSSH (Korea) were initiated this year. We had 2 fellows from Korea, 1 from Taiwan and 1 from Hong Kong. The travelling fellow session held on the second day, with the 4 foreign fellows and 4 Japanese fellows, was well received.

We organized the cadaver training course for wrist arthroscopy and flap in Sapporo Medical University on Aug 2025 to a great success.

Executive committee meeting was held three times (Aug 2024, January 2025 and March 2025). January meeting were in-person and the others were in webinar style under the leadership of our president of the JSSH, Prof. Akinori Sakai of University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan.

Plans for 2026

We will continue to have the exchange travelling fellowship program between the Hong Kong Society for Surgery of the Hand (HKSSH), Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand (KSSH), and the Taiwan Society for Surgery of the Hand (TSSH). Two Japanese fellows will attend the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH, Boston, MS, USA) as JSSH-ASSH travelling fellow. We plan to hold the 69th Annual Meeting of the JSSH in Fukuoka in April 9-10, 2026. Fukuoka is the old port city in Southern part of Japan, which is famous for the food. Welcome all APFSSH members to feel coast atmosphere in Fukuoka.

JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND EXECUTIVE BODY 2024-2026

PRESIDENT: AKINORI SAKAI, MD, PHD

VISE-PRESIDENT: YASUHITO TAJIRI, MD, PHD

VISE-PRESIDENT: KEN MATSUDA MD, PHD



UPDATE FROM THE NEPAL HAND SURGERY SOCIETY

SHILU SHRESTHA

The journey of hand surgery as a specialty in Nepal began with a small but determined group of enthusiasts who envisioned developing this field in the country. Since 2016, we have organized around twelve national and international meetings, which eventually led to the formal establishment of the Nepal Hand Surgery Society (NHSS).

With great pride and joy, NHSS was officially registered in August 2023, making it one of the newest hand surgery societies in the world.



Official announcement after Nepal Hand Surgery Society (NHSS) has been registered. In picture from left to right: Dr Niraj Ranjit (Member), Dr Basanta Maharjan (Treasurer), Dr Shilu Shrestha (General Secretary), Dr Nirajan Parajuli (President), Dr Niresh Shrestha (Member).



Inaugural Hand Symposium on March 30 2024 at Aloft Hotel, Kathmandu.

In the picture from Left to Right: Dr Sandeep Jacob Sebastin Muttath, Dr Nirajan Parajuli, Dr Basanta Maharjan, Dr Ajeet Tiwari, Dr Shilu Shrestha, Dr Dr. Raja Sabapathy, Dr Parag Lad, Dr Alphonsus Chong, Dr Jayan Man Shrestha, Dr Lim Jin Xi, Dr Anthony Berger.

Our inaugural hand surgery meeting was held on March 30, 2024, graced by eight distinguished international faculties, including:

- *Dr. Raja Sabapathy, President Elect, IFSSH*
- *Dr. Anthony Berger, President, APFSSH*
- *Dr. Alphonsus Chong, General Secretary, APFSSH*
- *Dr. Sandeep Jacob Sebastin Muttath, Editor in chief and the main driving force whose vision and perseverance were instrumental in the formation of NHSS.*

The event was attended by 120 participants and marked a significant milestone in Nepal's hand surgery community. Another landmark achievement was NHSS officially joining the Asia-Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) on August 23, 2024.



Following this, NHSS successfully hosted surgical workshop with hand symposium on August 20–24, 2024 at the National Trauma Center, Kathmandu in collaboration with AUSNEP Nepal. The event included a three-day operative course, during which 15 complex cases were performed with participation from 40 surgeons and residents. This was followed by a one-day symposium and a hand therapy workshop. We were honored to have three hand surgeons from Australia, Dr David J Graham, Dr Trevor G Gervais and Dr Brahma S Sivakumar, along with two senior hand therapists. The symposium drew 80 participants, while 42 attended the hand therapy workshop.

NHSS organized a one-day Hand Symposium on October 7, 2023, followed by a Cadaveric Hand Course on January 20, 2024, in Chitwan in collaboration with NOA-Chitwan.

As always, NHSS conducted the Hand Surgery Session during the Annual National Orthopaedic Meeting organized by the Nepal Orthopaedic Association in February 2025.



In March 2025 (22–24), NHSS hosted a three-day workshop in collaboration with three surgeons and two therapists from the United Kingdom, including:

- *Dr. Sarah Tucker, Chief Plastic and Hand Surgeon, Oxford University*
- *Dr. David Izadi, Consultant Plastic and Hand Surgeon, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire*
- *Dr. Conrad Harrison, Academic Plastic Surgery Resident, Oxford University*
- *Ms. Yanni Tse, Senior Hand Therapist, Frimley Park NHS Trust, London*
- *Ms. Anychia Ramracheya, Senior Hand Therapist, Frimley Park NHS Trust, London*

The theme of the seminar was “Advancing Hand and Upper Limb Osteoplastic Reconstruction,” followed by a two-day operative course.

**Advancing Hand and Upper Limb Osteoplastic Reconstruction March 22-24, 2025.**

In picture from Left to Right, Dr Basanta Maharjan, Dr Shilu Shrestha, Dr Sarah Tucker, Dr Apar Lamichhane, Director of hospital, Dr Conrad Harrison, Yanni Tse, Dr David Izadi, Anychia Ramracheya.

Most recently, NHSS organized its 2nd Biennial Hand Conference 2025, jointly held with the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH), held on May 30–31, 2025, in Kathmandu. The theme was “Hands-on Progress: Education, Expertise, Excellence.”

The conference featured five Indian and five national faculties, including both ISSH President Dr. Pankaj Ahire and President-Elect Dr. G. Karthikeyan. The two-day event included:

Day 1: Hands-on cadaveric workshop with masterclasses, faculty demonstrations, and practice sessions on hand fracture fixation, wrist anatomy, distal radius fracture fixation, office hand problems, and flexor tendon repair.

Day 2: Didactic lectures and academic presentations.

There were 42 participants for the cadaver course and 112 participants for the seminar.

2nd Biennial Hand Conference 2025

From Left to Right: Dr Chandan Jayswal, Dr Basanta Maharjan, Dr Nirajan Parajuli, Dr GK Karthikeyan, Dr Anil Mathew, Dr Shilu Shrestha, Dr Ashok K Banskota, Dr Pankaj Ahire, Dr Darshan Jain, Dr Niraj Ranjeet, Dr Ramesh Shrestha.



Though NHSS was established relatively recently, it has rapidly achieved significant milestones. We remain optimistic that NHSS will continue to grow stronger and play a vital role in advancing the field of hand surgery in Nepal. We look forward to ongoing guidance and support from our esteemed member societies within APFSSH as we continue this journey.

NEPAL HAND SURGERY SOCIETY**PRESIDENT: DR NIRAJAN PARAJULI****GENERAL SECRETARY: DR SHILU SHRESTHA****TREASURER: DR BASANTA MAHARJAN****MEMBERS: DR NIRAJ RANJEET AND DR NIRESH SHRESTHA**

UPDATE FROM THE KOREAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

MYUNG CHUL LEE

On December 1, 2024, the Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand began its new leadership with the 32nd board committee members. The president and chairman had been elected at the previous committee meeting. The new president is Professor Bong Cheol Kwon (Hallym University College of Medicine), and the chairman is Professor Saehwi Ki (Inha University College of Medicine). Our society comprises twelve committees and eighty committee members, each dedicated to addressing various current issues.

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter (Volume 4, Issue 1, December 2024), the disagreement between our government and medical personnel has not been resolved at the early stage of our period. A significant portion of medical personnel maintained their assertion, and the gap between the government's opinion and that of the medical society was not resolved smoothly. Nonetheless, medical staff dedicated to the current situation and concurrence between parties has complemented. In this regard, the residents eventually came back to their field in September 2025.

With regard to the annual schedule, the joint symposium of KSSH, the Korean Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (KSRM), and the Korean Society for Surgery of the Peripheral Nerve (KSSPN) has been held at Soon Chun Hyang University Cheonan Hospital on May 24th, 2025. The academic program was composed of presentations on hand surgery, reconstructive microsurgery, and peripheral nerves. Notably, the internationally invited speaker, Dr. Bauback Safa (Buncke Clinic, United States), presented his expertise in a lecture entitled, "The Mind of a Microsurgeon: Thinking Beyond Step One." The symposium provided an opportunity to learn fundamental knowledge for hand surgeons and participating medical personnel.

In addition, there have been academic instructional courses for junior hand surgeons. On July 12th, an academic workshop for basic surgical skills was held at Korea University College of Medicine. Fifty junior surgeons, including residents, participated in the workshop.

Various surgical techniques (i.e., skin closure, tenorrhaphy methods, and arterial anastomosis) were taught by professional instructors using both lectures and surgery models (Figure 1). Furthermore, another academic workshop on the ultrasonography learning course was held on August 9th. Samsung Medison company provided their instructional facility for KSSH, and fifteen junior hand surgeons, including clinical fellows, participated in the instructional course. Professional instructors showed how to visualize the anatomic structures of the hand, wrist, and elbow joints. The on site practical teaching methods demonstrated concepts that are not easily grasped.



Figure 1. Fifty junior surgeons participated in the academic workshop focused on basic surgical skills. Various surgical techniques (i.e., skin closure, tenorrhaphy methods, and arterial anastomosis) were taught by professional instructors.

On November 1st, the annual congress of KSSH was held at Yonsei University Severance Hospital. Our committee members designated a catchy phrase, “Against all odds, Hand-in-hand,” that had been voted on before the resolution of the previous conflict, hoping the hardship would be alleviated (Figure 2).

Our annual congress comprised five symposium sessions (i.e., Toward Human-Robot Collaboration in Microsurgery, Special Humanities Lecture, AI Strategies for Clinical Research and Presentation, Flexor Tendon Surgery: Expert Techniques & Interactive Discussion, Mastering Scaphoid Nonunion Surgery: Expert Talks). Artificial intelligence and robot-assisted surgery are current issues, sparking numerous discussions and shaping future knowledge. The audience could learn from the professional lectures.



Figure 2. The annual congress of KSSH was held on November 1st, 2025, with the catchy phrase, “Against all odds, Hand-in-hand”.

Furthermore, seven notable invited speakers visited our annual congress. Professor Jeffrey B. Friedrich (University of Washington) presented a special invited lecture, entitled "Multidisciplinary Management of the Mangled Hand," showing various hand injuries that have been restored using bone and soft tissue reconstructions. The Taiwan Society Surgery of the Hand (TSSH) invited lecture was presented by Professor Chung-Chen Hsu (Chang Gung Memorial Hospital), and the lecture title was "Medial Femoral Condyle Flap for Extremity Reconstruction". The surgical strategy is so delicate that it necessitates meticulous technique to achieve the outcome.

Another special lecture was presented by Professor Osamu Soejima (Fukuoka University), entitled "Treatment of Thumb CMC Arthritis: LRSA – From Concept to Clinical Experience". The Ligamentous Reconstruction and Suspension Arthroplasty (LRSA) technique requires profound clinical experience and fundamental knowledge, and Professor Soejima provided his expertise based on extensive experience over an extended period.

Professor Satoshi Ichihara (Juntendo University) presented his lecture entitled, "For the Development of Hand Surgery – From Europe to Asia-Pacific". Specifically, Professor Ichihara supervised the comic book "Hand Surgery," originally written in Japanese and translated into Korean. Professor Il-Jung Park (Catholic University) also supervised the Korean version, and the book has been praised by readers, as it includes both educational content and interests. The friendship was strengthened due to the book "Hand Surgery" as well as our annual congress (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Professor Satoshi Ichihara and Professor Il-Jung Park supervised the book, "Hand Surgery". The friendship was strengthened due to the book "Hand Surgery" and our annual congress.

The keynote speech was presented by Professor James Chang, titled "Ten Recurring Lessons in Hand Reconstruction." Soft tissue reconstruction is sometimes considered by surgeons; nonetheless, the lecture taught us a discipline of functional recovery and provided one step ahead knowledge.

In the KSSH W-Grand Lecture Session, two invited speakers, Professor Lam Wee Leon (Singapore General Hospital, Presentation Title: Ten questions I Always Have About Congenital Hand Differences), and Professor Yuan-Kun Tu (E-Da Hospital, Taiwan, Presentation Title: The Current Trends in the Treatment for Brachial Plexus Injury and Spinal Cord Reconstruction) presented their expertise based on profound experiences.



Figure 4. The travelling fellows presented their talks, and visited hand surgery institutes and university hospitals. We hope their stay was a fruitful moment both academically and mentally.

Furthermore, there were five travelling fellows from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Greece (Figure 4). The ambassadors (traveling fellows) presented on their own title, and visited hand surgery institutes and university hospitals. We hope their stay was a fruitful moment both academically and mentally. Our committee members appreciate their dedication and friendship during the KSSH annual congress.

We experienced a great moment and learned a lot from the experts in hand surgery and invited speakers. The year 2025 was a gifted period in our lives, since we could listen to the real voice and sincerity. Our work could be a burden; however, the great lecture and thoughtfulness surpassed fatigue. Furthermore, we learned how important friendship is during our annual congress. The friendship between the invited speakers and our professors have lasted for more than ten years. We sincerely wish all APFSSH members success in their career and good health in the future. Thank you.

KOREAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND
PRESIDENT: PROFESSOR BONG CHEOL KWON
CHAIRMAN: PROFESSOR SAEHWI KI
GENERAL SECRETARY: MYUNG CHUL LEE

UPDATE FROM THE THAI SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

VANASIRI KUPTNIRATSAIKUL

As the year comes to a close, the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand (TSSH) is delighted to share updates from our vibrant hand surgery community. In this issue, we feature five key events—two past highlights and three upcoming activities—reflecting our society's continued commitment to education, collaboration, and innovation in hand and upper extremity surgery.

Regional Hand Meeting 2025 “Precision, Passion, Progress: The Pulse of Regional Hand Surgery” 21–22 August 2025 Centara Udonthani

Our Regional Hand Meeting 2025 was a great success, bringing together hand surgeons from across Thailand and neighboring regions. The meeting centered around the theme “Precision, Passion, Progress: The Pulse of Regional Hand Surgery,” emphasizing practical approaches for surgeons working in urban and resource-limited settings. Participants enjoyed lively discussions and hands-on sessions designed to promote adaptive surgical solutions with available equipment.



Figure 1 : Poster of the Regional Hand Meeting 2025, held on August 21–22, 2025, at Centara Udonthani, under the theme ‘Precision, Passion, Progress: The Pulse of Regional Hand Surgery.’ The meeting focused on practical approaches and adaptive techniques for surgeons working in resource-limited regional settings.



Figure 2 : All speakers and organizing committee in the Regional Hand Meeting 2025

47th Annual Meeting of RCOST 2025
“Artificial Intelligence in Orthopaedics: The Power of Future”
23–25 October 2025 Royal Cliff Hotel, Pattaya

This year's RCOST Annual Meeting was a special collaboration between the Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of Thailand (RCOST), the Chinese Orthopaedic Association (COA), and the Hong Kong Orthopaedic Association (HKOA). The meeting focused on the transformative role of artificial intelligence in orthopaedics. TSSH was honored to invite Prof. Jeffrey Justin Siu-Cheong Koo from Department of Orthopaedics & Traumatology at Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital, Hong Kong, as one of our distinguished international speakers, contributing valuable insights into the integration of AI and surgical precision in the field of hand surgery.

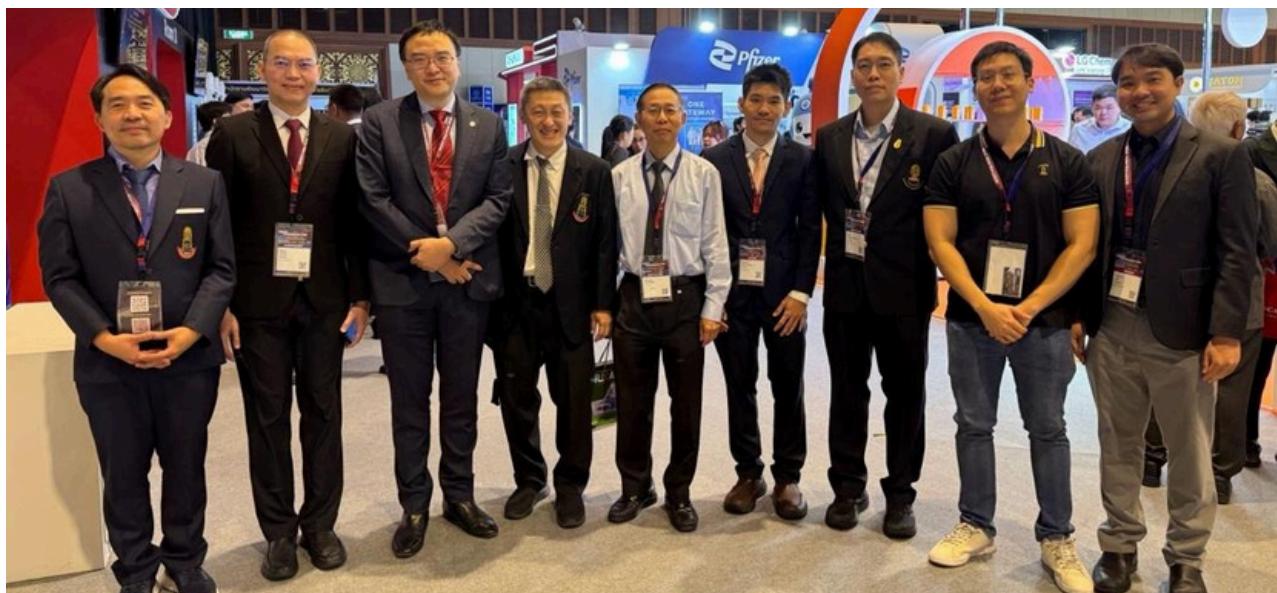


Figure 3 : TSSH members at the RCOST 2025 meeting welcoming Prof. Jeffrey Justin Siu-Cheong Koo. From left to right: Tulyapruet Tawonsawatruk, Suriya Luenam, Prof. Jeffrey Koo, Pravit Kitidumrongsuk, Nattawut Sastrawaha, Veeranon Chunyawongsak, Pobe Luangjarmekorn, Piyabuth Kittithamvongs, and Parunyu Vilai.



Figure 4 : Main theme of 47th Annual Meeting of RCOST 2025 “Artificial Intelligence in Orthopaedics: The Power of Future”

Upcoming: Cadaveric Flap Dissection Workshop
22–23 January 2026 | CareLab, Chakri Naruebodindra Medical Institute
Ramathibodi Bangplee



We are pleased to announce our Cadaveric Flap Dissection Course, designed to strengthen anatomical understanding and microsurgical skills. The course offers 20 hands-on seats and 10 observer positions—and as of now, two hands-on seats remain available. This will be a valuable opportunity for surgeons to enhance their reconstructive capabilities in a practical and interactive setting.

Figure 5 : Promotional poster for the upcoming Cadaveric Flap Dissection Workshop, scheduled for January 22–23, 2026, at Carelab, Chakri Naruebodindra Medical Institute (Ramathibodi Bangplee). The course offers 20 hands-on and 10 observer seats, providing participants with an excellent opportunity to enhance practical skills in flap dissection

Upcoming: Annual Hand Meeting 2026
19–20 February 2026 | Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam, Bangkok

Our next TSSH Annual Hand Meeting will take place at the Berkeley Hotel, featuring two international invited speakers and an engaging scientific program. The full schedule and speaker lineup will be released soon—stay tuned for details!

Figure 6 : Promotional poster for Annual Hand Meeting 2026, scheduled for February 19–20, 2026 at Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam, Bangkok, Thailand



Exciting News: Thailand Selected as Host for APWA 2027

We are thrilled to announce that **Thailand has been officially selected to host the Asia Pacific Wrist Association (APWA) Meeting in 2027**. Following the APWA 2025 Meeting in Mumbai, India, the 2027 event will mark **the first time Thailand serves as host**. The meeting will be held in **Bangkok in November 2027**, under the inspiring theme:

“Precision in Practice, Power in Partnership.”

This is a significant milestone for TSSH and an exciting opportunity to welcome our colleagues from across the Asia-Pacific region to experience both the scientific excellence and hospitality of Thailand.

We look forward to continued collaboration and knowledge exchange with our colleagues across the Asia-Pacific region in the coming year.

On behalf of the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a successful year ahead!

THAI SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND
PRESIDENT: PRAVIT KITIDUMRONGSOOK
PRESIDENT-ELECT: SURUT JIANMONGKOL
SECRETARY: POBE LUANGJARMEKORN
TREASURER: TORPON VATHANA

UPDATE FROM THE EMIRATES HAND SURGERY SOCIETY

A NEWLY ESTABLISHED SOCIETY WITH AIM TO BUILD STRONG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION IN MIDDLE EAST

KHALID ALAWADI

In 2022, the Emirates Hand Surgery Society (EHSS) has emerged as a leading force in advancing hand and wrist surgery across the UAE and the Gulf region, hosting world-class events, educational programs, and collaborative initiatives.

The Emirates Hand Surgery Society (EHSS) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in hand and wrist surgery through education, research, and collaboration. Based in the United Arab Emirates, EHSS serves as a hub for surgeons, therapists, and healthcare professionals focused on treating hand, wrist, forearm, and elbow conditions. Their mission is to elevate standards of care and empower both practitioners and patients through knowledge-sharing and innovation. The Society have been established in 2022 with 40 active members and steadily growing in number.

Key Activities in 2025

EHSS has curated a dynamic calendar of events and initiatives in 2025, reinforcing its role as a regional and international leader in hand surgery.

1. International Hand & Wrist Congress (IHWC 2025)

- Dates: November 7–8, 2025
- Venue: Raffles Dubai Hotel
- Cadaveric Workshop: November 9 at Sharjah Surgical Institute

This flagship event brought together global experts for keynote lectures, instructional courses, clinical case discussions, and a dedicated Hand Therapy Symposium. The congress spanned over 2 days and hosted more than 80 lectures and scientific research. As every year, the congress hosted this year featured another guest society to exchange knowledge and build experience in the community. Our guest society this year was the Singaporean Society for Surgery of the Hand. The meeting is CME-accredited and features a cadaveric workshop for hands-on surgical training.



Picture from past congress 2023



Picture from cadaveric workshop 2024

Webinars and Online Education

EHSS continues to offer a robust series of webinars throughout 2025, covering topics from surgical techniques to rehabilitation strategies. These sessions are accessible to practitioners across the region and beyond, fostering continuous learning.



EHSS WEBINAR SERIES

October 28, 2025

20:00 - 21:00 UAE TIME

Accredited by Dubai Health Authority

TOPIC
Useful, practical details you should know about WALANT



DR. DONALD H. LALONDE, MD, BSC, MSC, FRCSC
Professor Emeritus of Surgery Dalhousie University Saint John Canada
Past President of the Canadian Society for Surgery of the Hand, the American Association for Hand Surgery, and the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons
First Canadian Chairman of the American Board of Plastic surgery
Over 200 papers and 50 book chapters
Editor of the two editions of the book *Wide Awake Hand Surgery* 2016 and 2021
Over 500 international presentations in over 70 countries



EHSS WEBINAR SERIES

September 9, 2025

17:00 - 18:00 UAE Time

Accredited by Dubai Health Authority

TOPIC
SURGERY FOR POST-STROKE SPASTICITY



DR. VAIKUNTHAN RAJARATNAM
Dr. Vaikunthan Rajaratnam is a practising surgeon, educator, and AI strategist with over 40 years of experience in global health and medical education. He is Senior Consultant in Nerve Surgery at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) and a UNESCO Chair partner. He leads the AIDE Program, empowering professionals across Asia and LMICs to apply Generative AI in healthcare, teaching, and research. His work bridges surgical expertise, digital innovation, and ethical leadership - advancing equitable, tech-enabled futures in health and education.



EHSS WEBINAR SERIES

March 18, 2025

20:00 - 21:00 UAE TIME

Accredited by Dubai Health Authority

TOPIC
Patient-Specific Implants with 3D Reconstruction Planning

Moderator: Dr. Nebojsa Jovanovic - UAE



PROF. MASSIMO CORAIN
Head of Hand Surgery & Microsurgery Unit
Verona University Hospital, Italy
European Hand Trauma & Replantation Center
Chair FESSH Clinical Practice Committee
Member FESSH European Diploma Examination Committee
Past President of the Pediatric Hand International Society of Surgeons (PHIOS)



EHSS WEBINAR SERIES

April 16, 2025

20:00 UAE TIME
21:30 MUMBAI TIME

Accredited by Dubai Health Authority

TOPIC
Hand Transplantation - The Game Changer

Moderator: Dr. Chaitanya Dodakundi



DR. NILESH G SATBHAI
Senior Consultant and Head - Dept. of Plastic, Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery - Gleneagles Hospital, Parel, Mumbai
Hon. Consultant in Pediatric Plastic Surgery - BJ Wadia Hospital for Children, Mumbai

Collaborative Research and Innovation

The society actively promotes research in hand surgery and collaborates with international bodies to introduce cutting-edge techniques and technologies. Their platform showcases innovations in microsurgery, nerve repair, and minimally invasive procedures.

Patient Empowerment Initiatives

EHSS emphasizes holistic care by educating patients about the importance of timely intervention and rehabilitation. Their outreach programs aim to improve public awareness and access to specialized hand surgery services.

Global Partnerships and Impact

Each year, EHSS invites an international guest society to participate in its congress, enriching the regional dialogue with global best practices. Since 2022 we had the Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand, The Scandinavian Society for Surgery of the Hand, and the Dutch Society for Surgery of the Hand as the guest society. This collaboration has expanded to include joint training modules and shared research projects, reinforcing the UAE's position as a center of surgical excellence.

Looking Ahead

With its commitment to education, innovation, and patient care, the Emirates Hand Surgery Society is shaping the future of hand surgery in the Middle East. Through its 2025 initiatives, EHSS continues to build a vibrant, interconnected community of professionals dedicated to restoring function and improving lives.

EMIRATES HAND SURGERY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: DR. KHALID ALAWADI

VICE PRESIDENT: DR. EHAB BASIM AL DLYAMI

GENERAL SECRETARY: DR. NEBOJSA JOVANOVIC

SCIENTIFIC CHAIR: DR. JOSE MANUEL ROJO MANUATE

CULTURAL CHAIR: DR. BASEM SARAJ

UPDATE FROM THE VIETNAM HAND SOCIETY

21 YEARS OF THE HAND SURGERY TRAINING COURSE -TWO DECADES OF KNOWLEDGE, EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY

HO MAN TRUONG PHU
DO PHUOC HUNG

In September 2025, the 20th Hand Surgery Training Course was held in Hue, Vietnam—the nation's historic former capital—just days after Typhoon Bualoi had passed through.



The journey began in 2004 at Hue Central Hospital with the inaugural Hand Surgery Training Course, a landmark initiative in specialized hand surgery education in Vietnam. This visionary effort was born from the dedication and shared dream of two remarkable mentors: Professor William Conolly (1935–2017) and Dr. Pham Dang Nhat (1957–2022). More than just a training program, they envisioned a thriving medical community—where young surgeons could master complex hand reconstructions, restore vital hand function for patients, and carry forward a legacy of excellence in care.



Examine the patient and discuss the plan of treatment

Discuss with the Physiotherapist team to make a decision of intervention

Twenty-one years later, in 2025, we proudly celebrated the 20th iteration of the course. The Australian delegation included six surgeons and four physiotherapists, many of whom have participated multiple times. Leading the team each year without fail was Dr. Peter Scougall, whose unwavering commitment has been central to the course's enduring success.



Teamwork in Live operation between the Australian and Vietnamese surgeons **Dr Peter Scougall with young surgeons during Hands-on of hand internal fixation**

Spanning three intensive days, this special anniversary event honored two decades of surgical education and reuniting generations of mentors and trainees. Through live surgeries, hands-on workshops, and real-time case discussions, it fostered deep collaboration and renewed a shared passion for the field.



Dr Richard Lawson with participants in practising microsurgical neurovascular repair on chicken model

Over the past 21 years, the course has trained more than 500 surgeons and 300 physiotherapists from across Vietnam. Participants came as learners—and returned as skilled practitioners, transformed by knowledge they applied directly to improve their patients' lives.

Yet beyond the techniques, the textbooks, and the triumphs in the operating room, what truly endures is something deeper: friendship—forged across borders, disciplines, and decades. Thank you—our Australian colleagues—your generosity, your expertise, your humility, and your heart. You did not simply teach — you gave of yourselves. You traveled great distances, not just across oceans, but into the very fabric of our medical community. Your presence, year after year, has been a gift — one we do not take for granted. You are not just partners—you are family.



Prof Conolly and Dr Nhat. In 2004

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>



The Thai Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery and The Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand
and Orthopaedic Ramathibodi & CNMI

Cadaveric Workshop Flap Dissection Course

Save the Date

22-23 January 2026

@ CNMI

Highlight Topics:

Radial forearm flap
PIA flap
Lateral arm flap
ALT flap
Digital artery skin flap
Sural and muscle flap
Medial plantar flap

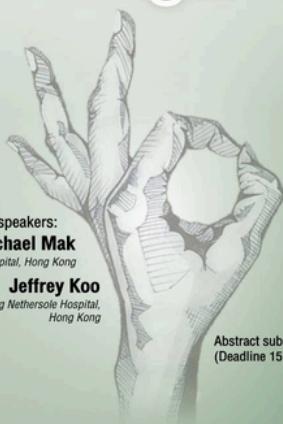


**Hands-on
20 seats**

Observer 10 seats

The Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand
and The Thai Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery

The 41st Annual Hand Meeting 2026



Guest speakers:

Michael Mak

Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong

Jeffrey Koo

Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital,
Hong Kong

Abstract submission for free paper
(Deadline 15 Jan 2026)

19-20 FEBRUARY 2026

Berkeley Hotel Pratunam Bangkok

SAVE THE DATE



The Hong Kong Society
for Surgery of the Hand
www.hkssh.org

The 38th HKSSH Annual Congress

Reconstruction Without Boundaries

Call for Abstracts

Deadline for Submission: 10 December 2025

7th-8th March 2026

Eaton Hotel Hong Kong

380 Nathan Road,

Jordan, Hong Kong



Guest Society:






Ganga Hospital Presents

13TH
World Symposium on
Congenital Malformations
of the Hand and Upper Limb 2026

Feb 25th - 28th 2026
Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India.

Feb 25th
Live Surgical Workshop

Feb 26th-28th
Meeting

For Registration

Scan Here

For Registration and more info, log on to www.wcs2026.com




13th World Symposium on
Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Upper Limb

25th to 28th February 2026

Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India.



LEGACY LECTURE



Dr Kerby Oberg
 USA

"Developing a Limb: Genetics, Mechanics, and Cellular Intelligence"

SPECIAL LECTURE



Dr Terry R. Light
 USA

"Pathologic Anatomy of the Anomalous Hand - Implications for growth and treatment"

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & TITLES



The importance of assessment and management of the 1st web in children with congenital hand differences

Dr Chris Coombs
 Australia



Surgical Techniques for Cleft hand

Dr Keizo Fukumoto
 Japan



The value, power, and community benefits of congenital registries

Dr Charles Goldfarb
 USA



Microsurgical reconstruction of hypoplastic thumb

Dr Amit Gupta
 USA



Congenital anomalies of the thumb - My journey and lessons learnt

Dr Bhaskaranand Kumar
 India



Congenital hand surgery in the older or adult patient

Dr Wee Leon Lam
 Singapore



Development of our national CULD registry and the psychosocial and appearance outcomes of CULDs

Dr David B McCombe
 Australia



Pollicization and beyond: The evolving landscape of congenital hand surgery

Dr Scott Oishi
 USA



Surgical Strategy of the Congenital Hand Difference Based on MRI and Sonography

Dr Woo Sang-hyun
 South Korea



Role of comprehensive care in children with syndromic hand differences

Dr Gill Smith
 UK



Reflections on a Career in Paediatric Upper Extremity: Solutions and Ongoing Problems

Dr Ann Van Heest
 USA

APFSSH-FESSH Academy

FOUNDATION COURSE

co-organised by HKSSH

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until 28 DECEMBER 2025



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Federation of European Societies for
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Hong Kong

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REGISTER NOW

2026 SSHS

Hand Review Course & Annual Scientific Meeting

Shaping Tomorrow, Guided by Legacy

Where

Level 3 Grand Ballroom
Voco Hotel, Orchard
S238883

When

Date: 29 and 30 Jan 2026
Time: 7.30 am to 5.00pm

Highlights

- Foundational Revision Course for Hand Surgery
- Learning From the Experts - How I do it? My Most Challenging Case
- Concurrent Nursing Symposium on 30 Jan 2026



Organized by

Singapore Society for Hand Surgery
secretariat@sshs.sg
www.sshs.sg



Asian Pacific Federation of
Societies for Surgery of the Hand

1st Announcement

15th APFSSH Congress 2027

Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand

Join us in Korea for the 2027 APFSSH Congress!

Let's shape the future of hand surgery together!

May 26 – 29, 2027

KINTEX, Ilsan, Seoul Metropolitan Area, Korea

Key Dates

- Abstract Submission : May 1 - October 31, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance : December 7, 2026
- Registration : Early Bird May 1 – December 31, 2026
Pre-registration January 1 – March 31, 2027

Website <https://apfssh2027.com>



APFSSH 2027 Secretariat

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