

Hong Kong

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CHAPTER



Founded 1986

S P CHOW



Hand surgery in Hong Kong after the Second World War was performed mainly by Orthopaedic Surgeons and occasionally by general surgeons. In 1965, DR. Y S Tsao from the University of Hong Kong was sent for special training under DR. Joseph Boyes for one year. He practiced for a couple of years after returning to Hong Kong, but had to resign because of health reasons.

The real impetus came when DR. P C Leung from the government hospital and DR. S P Chow from the University were sent abroad for hand surgery training in the 70s (Fig. 6). Upon their return, they separately set up an integrated team of surgeons, trainees, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, prosthetists, nurses and research fellows. With this platform, all aspects of hand problems were managed. In particular, hand trauma including microsurgical replantation and



FIG. 1 Goddess "Guan Yin" with many Hands to relieve many sufferings.



FIG. 2 The "Mahjong" game block can be recognized by stereognosis without looking with the eyes.



FIG. 3 Tenosynovitis caused by *Mycobacterium marinum*, common in Hong Kong.

microsurgical reconstruction were performed. Research at clinical, basic, and social levels were productive. They soon became regional leaders instrumental in the development of hand surgery in South East Asia. They also trained the second and third generations of hand surgeons such as Dr. L K Hung, Dr. Y C So, and Dr. P C Ho.

Hand surgery training in Hong Kong is undertaken for a three to six months period during Orthopaedic residency, and again as post-residency training for six months to one year. Many



FIG. 4 The first successful microsurgical replant in Hong Kong in 1977.

will also take a period of time for overseas training. Hand surgery fellowships are also offered



FIG. 5 DR. Joseph Boyes performing an intrinsic reconstruction for a leprosy patient in Hong Kong during the 60s.

to surgeons all over the world. At the moment, a very intense debate is ongoing on the issue of added Certification for Hand Surgery.

The Hong Kong Society for Surgery of the Hand (HKSSH) was set-up in 1986, and it became a member of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) also in 1986. It was one of the Founding Mem-



FIG. 6 Two pioneers of Hand Surgery in Hong Kong: Prof. P C Leung (left) and Prof S P Chow (right).

bers of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) when it was founded in 1995.