

Taiwan

43 CHAPTER



Founded 1990

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History

The Taiwan Hand Association was established in 1990 with support of local orthopaedic and plastic surgeons. The number of registered members was initially 323. The President is elected alternatively from orthopaedists and plastic surgeons. Each President serves two years with a personal general secretary and 12 elected executive committee members. The first President was Prof. TK Liu, and the first general secretary was Prof. SM Hou who later became the chief of Taiwan National Health Care Administration (Fig. 1). Both are orthopaedists. The President in 2010 is Prof. David Chwei-Chin Chuang, the 10th President. The secretary is Prof. Chih Hung Lin. Both are plastic surgeons. For the period 2011-2012 Prof. Alvin Chao-Yu Chen will serve as the 11th President. During this same period, the secretary



FIG. 1

will be Dr. Ying-Chao Chou. Both are orthopaedists. Our future is full of challenges. We plan to have monthly CME (Continuing Medical Education) in cooperation with local hospitals and doctors for intellectual exchange and experience sharing, to set up scholarships, to encourage and facilitate the active participation of young hand surgeons, and to set up ambassador exchange programmes with other countries. In 2008, we invited hand therapists to join in our society. The first combined meeting of hand surgeons and hand therapists was held on May 23, 2009. Two international guests were invited: Dr. Richard Berger from Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN (an orthopaedist) and Miss Rosemary Prosser (Hand therapist from Australia). (Fig. 2A-B). We also had attractive lectures from our senior consultants (12 people) for so called "Experience Talks). The meeting was quite successful. The number of active members of hand surgeons is 235 and 20 hand therapists.

Hand Training in Taiwan

All hand surgeons must complete either orthopaedic or plastic surgery residency training prior to a qualifying examination (oral and written tests). After passing the quality examination he/



FIG. 2 First Combined Meeting of Taiwan hand surgeons and therapists. Distinguished guests: A) Richard Berger 2nd from left and B) Rosemary Prosser 3rd from left.

she will become a certified hand surgeon. Most hand surgeons are either orthopaedic or plastic surgeons.

Giants (or pioneers) and Major Contributions

Many of our pioneers had overseas training (USA and Japan are the most common). Dr. TK Liu is recognized for his work in infection and peripheral nerve disorders; Dr. SM Hou in bone fractures and allotransplantation; Dr. FC Wei in toe transplantation and allotransplantation; Dr. HC Chen in lymphedema and flap surgery; Dr.

MT Chen in anatomy and AV malformations; Dr. TY Wu in rheumatoid arthritis; Dr. YK Tu in fractures and brachial plexus injury; Dr. David Chwei-Chin Chuang in brachial plexus injury and peripheral nerve disorders; Dr. IM Jou in minimal invasive surgery; Dr. YC Ching in congenital hand; Dr. CH Lin in traumatic hand.

Hand Society

The name of the association name has been changed. The old name was “ Society of Surgery of the Hand, ROC” . The new name now is “Taiwan Society for Surgery of the Hand, TSSH) which was renamed in 2009 and a new logo was made.