

Thailand

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CHAPTER



Founded 1973

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The Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand was first established in 1973 by a group of orthopedics, plastic and general surgeons who had training in hand surgery from abroad (U.S.A., U.K, Germany, etc.) and practiced most of the time in the field of hand surgery. Due to the limited number of hand surgeons, the regular annual academic meeting of the society in the first few years was held in collaboration with the Thai Orthopedic Association, the Thai Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Society against Rheumatism of Thailand. Beginning in 1984, the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand held its own separate annual academic meeting. At present the Thai Society for Surgery of Hand has 10 full time members exclusive in hand surgery practice and 128 associate members. The vast majority of members are orthopedic surgeons with plastic and general surgeons as a



FIG. 1 Intrinsic augmentation by Dr. Dumronk Thanachanant.



FIG. 2 Thailand Greeting - "wai".

minority. In 1989, the Thai Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (the sister society of the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand) was established with great support from Professor T. Tamai (Nara University, Japan) who is a pioneer in the field of hand and microsurgery. Since then, the annual academic meetings of the two societies have been combined together.

The Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand hosted two international meetings. In 1991, the 4th Congress of Hand Section of the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association, in Bangkok (Congress Chairman – Dr.Charoen Chotigavanich) and in 2006 the 6th Congress of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand in Bangkok (Congress Chairman – Dr.Panupan Songcharoen).

Training

A formal hand surgery training program was first established in Thailand in 1997 at the Hand and Microsurgery Unit, the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital Mahidol University. The surgeons applying for a one year clinical fellowship program

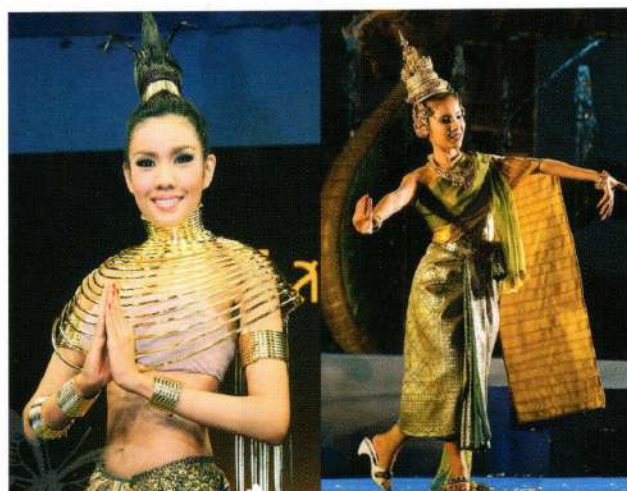


FIG. 3 Thailand dancers emphasize supple and graceful hand movements.

in hand surgery and microsurgery have to be a board certified orthopedic, plastic or general surgeon (4-5 years training). A second clinical fellowship program in hand surgery was started in 2004 at the Institute of Orthopedics, Lerdsin Hospital with similar basic requirements. At the end of each training program the candidate has to submit a research project and pass an oral and written examination. The training program is monitored by the university, the Royal College

of Orthopedics, the Royal College of Surgeon and the General Medical Council.

Pioneers and National Personalities in Hand Surgery

The pioneers of Hand Surgery of Thailand include: Dr.Natee Rakspolmuang, Dr.Thamrongrat Kaewkarn, Dr.Charoen Chotigavanich, Dr. Pongsak Vathana, Dr.Vivat Visuthikosol who are past

presidents of the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand. Also included are: Dr.Ek Tardthong in hand surgery in Leprosy. Dr.Dumronk Thanachanant (*Fig 1*) who designed the Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand logo, Dr.Surasak Muangsombut and Dr.Adisorn Patradul in microsurgery and re-plantation, Dr.Panupan Songcharoen, Dr.Preecha Chalidapong and Dr.Somsak Leechavengwong in brachial plexus surgery and hand surgery training in Thailand.