Polish Hand Surgery

A father of polish Hand Surgery was Hieronim Strzyżewski, who started his work in Poznan Orthopaedics Department after getting experience in Great Britain and USA. He organized first Hand Surgery Department at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in 1970 which was a start of fast hand surgery development in Poznan and Poland. (Fig. 1)

Pioneers and important developments

The IFSSH recognized the following Polish surgeons as Pioneers in Hand Surgery:

1. Władysław Manikowski – 2007 – primary and secondary tendon and nerve reconstruction, congenital deformations and rheumatoid arthritis surgery (Fig. 2)
2. Jan Haftek – 2007 – significant improvement in peripheral nerve surgery after trauma and secondary reconstruction (Fig. 3)
3. Bolesław Nagay – 1998 – multiple studies on Duputren’s contracture, treatment after hand injury and hand infections (Fig. 4)

Developments

- second European hand replantation (Ryszard Kocięba, Trzebnica, 1971)
- replantation service including 8 centers
- CRPS research and original treatment protocol (Andrzej Żyluk, Szczecin),
- transplantation in upper extremity (Jerzy Jablecki, Trzebnica, Adam Domanasiewicz, Wrocław),
- technique of tension-free nerve repair (Władysław Manikowski, Poznań),
- unique T-shaped silicone rod for II stage flexor tendon reconstruction (Tomasz Mazurek, Gdańsk),
- unique U-shaped external fixator for elongation of finger phalanges (Leszek Romanowski, Poznań).
- XIV FESSH Congress was held in Poznan from 3 to 6 June 2009, and was attended by over 1300 hand surgeons and physiotherapists from 64 countries.

Date of establishment and member numbers of the society

Polish Society for Surgery of the Hand was founded in 1998 in Poznan as a continuation of the previous hand section in orthopaedic society. Previously, Poland with hand surgery section of orthopaedic society became a member of the European Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) in 1991 and a member of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the hand (IFSSH) in 1992. At this moment it has around 150 members. (Fig. 5)
Founding members and presidents, important persons (photos)

Presidents of Polish Society for Surgery of the Hand:

2. Jan Skowroński 2002-2006
3. Leszek Romanowski 2006-2011
4. Andrzej Żyluk 2011-2013
6. Tomasz Mazurek 2015-2017
7. Mariusz Bonczar 2017-2019
8. Piotr Czarnecki 2019 -

National Journals

Polish Hand Surgery Journal was published until 2013.

National congresses – how often, number of participants if available
National Congress has been held every 2 years since 1999 (Poznań), and recent congresses have been attended by around 300 participants. These congresses include both scientific sessions with oral and poster presentations, workshops and instructional lectures. (Fig. 6)

Hand therapy – dates / photos

There is no separate speciality or training in hand therapy in Poland. Polish Society of Hand Therapy is being recently formed.

Education

Hand training consists of a fellowship in a hand surgery department (Polish or foreign) and courses in hand surgery. There is no national certification for a hand surgeon. Our national society is developing training and examination procedures. Polish hand surgeons can obtain EBHS certification.

Hand surgery is mainly performed by orthopaedic surgeons. Plastic and general surgeons treat a much smaller number of cases, mainly soft tissue problems and reconstructions.

Every year international and national courses are organised and endorsed by Polish Society. Two main activities are Poznan International Course in Upper Extremity Surgery (12 editions) and Hand Surgery Academy (twice a year). They include profiled, instructional lectures, workshops. Cadaver workshops are organized separately few times per year.
Important hospitals / centers of hand surgery

Main hand surgery units are in Poznań, Wrocław, Szczecin, Trzebnica, Białystok, Gdańsk, Kraków which are dealing with both clinic and scientific work. More smaller units are involved in hand treatment at appropriate level. Gdańsk, Poznań, Szczecin, Trzebnica and Wrocław are recognized as FESSH Hand Trauma Centers.