

## **Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Hand (HSSH)**

### ***A. HISTORY***

- The Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Hand (HSSH) was founded in 1984 as a section of the Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (HAOST), and in 1994 the HSSH became an independent scientific society.
- The HSSH is a founding member of the European Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH).
- HSSH is an active member of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) since 1991.
- From 1994, HSSH collaborated with the Hellenic Society for the Reconstructive Microsurgery (HSRM).
- The first units of hand surgery were founded at Laiko Hospital, KAT Hospital and Asclepeion Hospital in Athens and later at the University Hospital of Ioannina.

### ***B. MEMBERS***

- Today HSSH has more than 80 members, orthopaedic and plastic surgeons.

### ***C. HAND SURGERY PRACTICE***

- The current practice of hand surgery in Greece covers the entire spectrum of hand trauma including replantations, brachial plexus injuries, peripheral nerve injuries, congenital malformations, arthritis, occupational diseases, tumors, paralysis, spasticity, and infections.
- Today in Greece there are no exclusive hand surgeons in the public health system (university and National Health System (NHS) departments) except of those working in the Hand and Microsurgery Department of KAT Hospital, which is part of the NHS, and five private groups dealing exclusively with hand surgery.
- There are several active hand surgery centers located in university hospital departments and NHS departments in major cities including Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Ioannina, Patras, and Herakleion, and in several private hospitals in Athens, Larissa, and Thessaloniki.
- Currently there are 7 centers accredited by the Hand Trauma Committee (HTC) of FESSH in university & NHS departments and in the private sector, located in Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, and Ioannina.

### ***D. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS***

- HSSH in collaboration with the Hellenic Society for the Reconstructive Microsurgery (HSRM) is organizing annual congresses with domestic and international faculty.
- In June 2007 HSSH organized the annual congress of FESSH in Athens with approximately 1000 participants.
- Several annual hands-on and cadaveric workshops are organized for the training of young orthopaedic and plastic surgeons.