

IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship 2023

Meeting Professor Jin Bo Tang: A Special Time for Polish Hand Surgeons

Thanks to the generous funding from the IFSSH, the realm of Polish hand surgery witnessed a truly remarkable event, as surgeons and enthusiasts alike seized the extraordinary chance to connect with and learn from the esteemed Professor Jin Bo Tang. Arriving in our country on the 17th of September 2023 for a fortnight, the Professor embarked on an educational journey, gracing six academic centres and cities with his expertise.

Prof Jin Bo Tang, a luminary in tendon surgery and the treatment of hand trauma, brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. His influence extends globally, with numerous publications, ground-breaking techniques, and a philosophy that resonates across the field of treatment.

The primary goal of this visit was to elevate the standards of treatment and knowledge among resident doctors and specialists engaged in hand surgery across our country. This initiative spanned not only academic hubs but also smaller, non-academic hospitals.

Our crafted program featured a rich tapestry of lectures, seminars, and hands-on courses employing models and human specimens in selected units. We also integrated participation and lectures into our national biannual meeting of Polish Hand Society Congress, ensuring a targeted approach that left a lasting impact on a significant number of surgeons.

Commencing on the 17th of September 2023 in **Poznan (local host: Piotr Czarnecki)**:

Prof Tang was warmly welcomed at the airport by President of Polish Society, Paweł Zejler and local host, Piotr Czarnecki. The three-day visit was filled with a two-day cadaver course with lectures and practical demonstrations (Figure 1), hospital visits in Traumatology, Orthopaedics and Hand Surgery Department (Figure 2), collaborative case discussions and working together in the operating room (Figure 3), and honorary lectures for the Department and members of the local division of the Polish Orthopaedics Society. Prof Tang's free time was filled with a guided Poznan tour and evening socializing in the city.



Fig. 1: Prof Tang at the cadaver lab, Poznan.



Fig. 2: The Orthopaedic Clinic team



Figure 3: Prof Tang joining the Operating Room

Moving to **Lodz (local host: Robert Rokicki)** on the 20th of September 2023, the momentum continued with a two-day stint featuring visits to the Hand Department (Figures 4 and 5), lively case discussions, surgery demonstrations, and lectures for the local Orthopaedic society, concluding with a convivial dinner.



Fig. 4-5: Prof Tang with patients at the Lodz Hand Surgery clinic

The tour then took on the vibrant backdrop of **Warsaw (local host: Maciej Klich)**, our capital, on the 23rd of September 2023. The main event here was an engaging course on human specimens, replete with practical activities and lectures on tendon repair and rehabilitation (Figures 6 and 7). The participants - a mix of hand surgeons and therapists - enjoyed both professional insights and a bit of leisure, with time allocated for sightseeing and a delightful dinner with the national faculty.



Figure 6: Course participants, Warsaw



Figure 7: Prof Tang demonstrating techniques

Wroclaw (local host Paweł Reichert), another academic hub, hosted the visit from the 24th of September 2023 for three days, featuring a dynamic program in the Department of Orthopaedic, Traumatology and Hand Surgery. Highlights included a Hand Surgery and Reconstructive Surgery Course for residents, live surgery, and lectures for doctors and residents, all capped off with a splendid gala dinner. (Figures 8 and 9)



Figures 8 and 9: Prof Tang with Wroclaw course participants

Between the 28th and 30th of September, the Congress of the Polish Society for Surgery of the Hand unfolded in **Czestochowa (local host: Paweł Zajler)**. It proved to be a high-energy gathering, allowing the entire Polish surgery community to bask in the brilliance of Professor Tang's honorary lectures. Social festivities, including a gala dinner for the entire Polish Federation of Hand Surgery, created memorable moments (Figure 10). Prof Tang also took time to visit the revered religious site of Jasna Góra, adding a touch of cultural significance. (Figure 11)



Figure 10: Participants of the National Congress



Figure 11: Prof Tang visiting Jasna Góra Monastery

The grand finale of the educational odyssey was in **Szczecin (local host: Ireneusz Walaszek)**, an academic centre. This component of the tour started on 1st October 2023. Here the program deviated slightly, aligning with the commencement of the academic year. Social activities, including a guided tour around the old town, a visit to the museum of regime change, and a concert at the Szczecin Philharmonic, added a delightful touch. An unusual yet enriching opportunity involved a stroll in the manifestation of the academic community of Szczecin's universities. (Figure 12)

The scientific program in Szczecin was equally vibrant, with meetings with young scientists, enthralling lectures on ethics in scientific work, hands-on workshops on scientific paper writing with medical students, and spirited discussions on upper limb fracture cases and lectures on expert tendon reconstruction and rehabilitation. The visit concluded with a poignant farewell dinner, a summary of the enriching journey with the president of the Polish Hand Society and the hosts of the various centres. (Figures 13-15)



Figure 12: Prof Tang joins the academic walk with university authorities



Figure 13: Anatomical model course



Figure 14: Meeting with young scientists



Figure 15: Prof Tang's farewell dinner with the Polish Society's President and the local hosts

To summarise, several teaching activities took place:

- Two cadaver courses were conducted with 40 attendees.
- Live surgeries, clinical discussions, and clinical evaluations occurred in four academic centres.
- The biannual meeting of the Polish Society for Surgery of the Hand took place, including an honorary lecture.
- The inauguration of the Academic Year at Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin featured Professor Jin Bo Tang as the honorary guest.
- A workshop for young scientists with 40 attendees included ethical lectures.
- A meeting with young surgeons and two practical courses on tendon surgery were held.
- Numerous lectures were conducted in five hand surgery centres (Poznan, Warsaw, Lodz, Wroclaw, Szczecin).

As the visit drew to a close, it was time to bid adieu to Professor Tang. Undoubtedly, this unique period marked a turning point for Polish hand surgeons — an unparalleled opportunity to forge connections, amass knowledge, and foster enduring friendships. Personally, meeting the professor in the flesh and delving into his treatment philosophy has been profoundly enriching, undoubtedly elevating my surgical prowess. Here's to hoping for similar experiences and pathways of improvement for myself and all hand surgeons!

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