

2023 World Symposium on Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Upper Limb

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The conference in Minneapolis proved to be a great opportunity for me to engage with experts in the field of congenital hand surgery and explore their innovative research and philosophies in this field.



Attending this meeting allowed me to enrich my knowledge in this specific Chapter. It was indeed a real opportunity to address some problems occurring in congenital hand surgery: diagnosis, classification and treatment.

The enlightening presentation by Prof. Marybeth Ezaki “the History of Congenital Hand Surgery” was very captivating, leaving a deeper understanding of this fascinating field. Prof. Terry Light’s talk “legacy lecture” was also very compelling as he shared his invaluable wisdom in this domain.

However what truly warmed my heart was a particular slide that showcased the Tunisian Flag. It was a happy reminder of the diverse backgrounds of the attendees throughout this event in Minneapolis.



Among all the interesting presentations in this meeting, there were three that really caught my attention:

- **Syndactyly symposium**, as in simple syndactyly the problem is to choose which flap is suitable for use to reconstruct the web, in complex syndactyly the difficulty is how to obtain 5 separate fingers with the better function.
- **Hypoplastic thumb reconstruction with free longitudinal hemimetatarsal graft** (Michael Mak) was interesting and the procedure was so appealing that I decided to use this technique in my next hypoplastic thumb.
- **Targeted therapy for patients with PIK3CA- related overgrowth spectrum** (Prof. Guillaume Canaud), the study was very impressive and the results are very hopeful for these hypertrophy with almost no surgical solution.

These talks combined with the sessions shed light on the crucial aspect that needs to be addressed in the field of congenital hand surgery. They also put a great emphasis on the importance of implementing the right techniques when dealing with complex malformations.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of this meeting, in particular to Prof. Ann E. Van Heest and her team, for their

hospitality and good organization of the meeting.



P.S. During the meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Raja Sabapathy, a renowned Hand Surgeon. I am eagerly looking forward to visiting him and his unit while attending the next meeting of the World congenital symposium in Coimbatore in India in 2026.