



AGCM
Asociación Guatemalteca
de Cirugía de la Mano

Guatemalan Hand Surgery Association, GHSA

(Asociación Guatemalteca de Cirugía de la Mano, AGCM)

<https://www.agcm.gt/>

October, 2023

At the beginning in 1980 a group of surgeons from different medical disciplines, and of Public and Private Hospitals, began reuniting with the interest of discussing hand surgery cases and innovations on hand surgery therapy. With time it matured to become a formal Guatemalan Hand Surgery Study Group, it had a monthly meeting and invited all those sectors from the health care services whom were interested on hand surgery topics. This study group became popularly known as the Guatemalan Hand Surgery Association, but it never went through the formalities of becoming a real association, so it was known as one just by name.

The growing interest of prestigious Hand Surgeons, Orthopedic and Trauma surgeons, Plastic surgeons and general surgeons, and all the other interested areas on health care dedicated to the hand, made it possible to give birth to a formal, renewed and reformed Guatemalan Hand Surgery Association, GHSA (Asociación Guatemalteca de Cirugía de la Mano, AGCM) and on the monthly session of the 22 of November of the year 2022 it was legally founded with the guidance of its first formal Chairman Doctor Juan Carlos Gonzalez Morales. This Association went through the formalities of getting registered as a formal nonprofit, educational centered association, dedicated to the sole purpose of enhancing the knowledge and diffusion of hand surgery trough Guatemala. From that year on the association has been conformed by prestigious practitioners with formal training on hand surgery, microsurgery, ortoplastic surgery, braquial plexus and peripheric nerve surgery. All of whom work as an important part of different institutions dedicated to health care on both the public and private sectors. Making it possible to have an organized inter relation with other specialties and sub specialties of health care as Physical medicine and rehabilitation, and therapy and medical education. Making the development of hand surgery and hand therapy the central objective of these inter relations with other specialties, to improve the learning and practice of the art of hand surgery and its global attention for the benefit of the Guatemalan population.

Through its existence the best of interests of the GHSA had been guided to advance in the learning and diffusion of the science and art of hand surgery, microsurgery, plexus and peripheric nerve surgery on Guatemala through its highly qualified specialists. Promoting and stimulating the upgrowing need of knowledge and educational spaces, giving the opportunity to Orthopedic and trauma surgery residents, Orthopedic and trauma surgeons and interested surgeons to quire the needed surgical abilities to facilitate the precise treatment of hand surgery pathologies. Giving the best options of treatments for the patients on Guatemala, and even facilitating information for the patients that helps the understand their pathology and the treatment needed for it on the private



AGCM

Asociación Guatemalteca
de Cirugía de la Mano

and public health care sectors. The association is working in the production of Guatemalan treatment protocols, based on the economical, physical and existential realities of our country, to

ensure that the hand surgeries are being made with the international quality standards needed to guarantee its results. All this is of a major interest to the GHSA because there are not enough hand surgeons on Guatemala, looking at the fact that Guatemala has only 20 hand surgeons for a upgrowing population of more than 17 million there is not enough surgeons for the hands that need to be treated. So, the responsibility since a long time ago has been taken by other surgeons (Orthopedic and Trauma, Plastic surgery and General surgeons) to help the patients get the needed attention for their hands.

Nowadays the GHSA has eighteen full members and 2 prospect members for the ongoing year, and 4 possible prospect members for the next year. All of its members are listed below:

Name	Educational system	Type of Member
Juan Carlos Gonzalez Morales	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Victoria Choquin	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Marcos Sanchez	Plastic Surgeon	Founding Associate
Heydi de Leon	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Fernando Romero	General Surgeon	Founding Associate
Jose Francisco Arce	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Rodrigo Bolaños	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Ernesto Cofinio	Plastic Surgeon	Founding Associate
Samuel David Wug	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Carlos del Valle Monge	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Leonel Foncea	General Surgeon	Founding Associate
Francisco Hernandez	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Gabrien Hernandez	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Giovanni Lopez	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Horacio Lopez	Plastic Surgeon	Founding Associate
Carlos Quintero	Plastic Surgeon	Founding Associate
Federico Rosales Arzu	Plastic Surgeon	Founding Associate
Luis Carlos Urzua	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Founding Associate
Carlos Rios	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Associate
Lucia Dominguez	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Eligible Associate Candidate 2023
Faduah E. Salazar L.	Orthopedic and Trauma Surgeon	Eligible Associate Candidate 2023



AGCM

Asociación Guatemalteca
de Cirugía de la Mano

And its executive board for the 2023-2024 period consists of the following hand surgeons:

Juan Carlos Gonzalez Morales	Chairman
Victoria Choquin	Vice Chairman
Marcos Sanchez	Treasurer
Heydi de Leon	Secretaire
Fernando Romero	Member at large

The GHSA has an annual national meeting, and this year the association has shown interest on an upcoming event for November 2024 with the help of the Latin American Hand Surgery Federation, and if possible, with the participation of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand. The GHSA is working up closely with the educational programs of Orthopedic and Trauma surgeon's trough the republic, to promote the participation and preparation of younger generations on the art of Hand Surgery, with the objective of opening the possibilities and increasing the number of hand surgeons working on behalf of the Guatemalan population. The association is also working on a patient-oriented series of publications and hopes to advance on an ongoing proposition of academical publications.

Many of the GHSA members have been invited as speakers, faculties, moderators and instructors in various international hand surgery meetings. Giving the opportunity to the GHSA to create more direct opportunities for upcoming hand surgeons to get the best educational opportunities available.



Monthly session of the 22 of November of the year 2022, when GHSA as such began. Guatemala, 2022.



AGCM

Asociación Guatemalteca
de Cirugía de la Mano



Founding Associates of the GHSA.
Guatemala 2022.



Associates of the GHSA on a
monthly meeting. Guatemala 2022.



Associates of the GHSA on a monthly
meeting. Guatemala 2022.

Submitted October 2023

Authors

Juan Carlos Gonzalez, MD; 2019 Founding associate, Chairman

Fernando Romero, MD; 2019 Founding associate, Member at large

Faduah E. Salazar L., MD; 2024 Eligible associate candidate, International Educational Committee Delegate