

PART ONE HISTORY

Hand Surgery Worldwide: International Reconstruction of a "Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind"

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Iran

22 CHAPTER



Founded 1984

F A Lahiji,
M G Massoumi



Society was Formed by 2 Groups

1. In 1971 Dr. Shojaedine Sheikholeslamzadeh, who is an American-trained Iranian orthopedic surgeon, started the Rehabilitation Hospital "Shafa Yahyaian" and invited many Iranian surgeons who were trained in the United States and Europe, to join as members of the teaching staff.

Among them were two orthopedic surgeons with a history of fellowship training in surgery of the hand: Dr. Korush Sajadi and Dr. Feraydun Ghobadi; and three plastic surgeons: Dr. Mo-hamed Reza Samiian, Dr. Reza Shaysteh and Dr. Manuchehr Fayz. These five surgeons introduced hand surgery to the Iranian Medical Community.

In 1979 the fellowship training for surgery of the hand and upper extremity was started by

Dr. Feraydun Ghobadi and Dr. Aziz Ahmadi at the "Shafa Yahyaian" Hospital. The first fel-

lowship training for surgery of the hand was offered to board certified orthopedic surgeons, and included a year of fellowship training.

Subsequently the curriculum for this fellowship training adopted the American guidelines of the American Board of Medical Specialties to award these surgeons the Added Qualifications in Surgery of the Hand. This Fellowship process was presented to the University of Medical Sciences to be introduced to the Ministry of Health and Science to confirm and recognize the qualifications as fellowship-trained hand surgeons, which is now 18 months of training following orthopedic training.

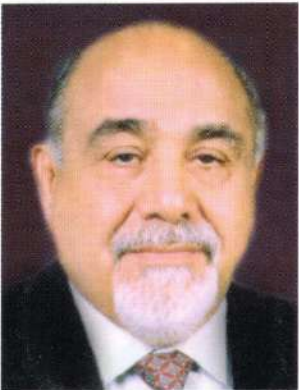
2. The second group is The Iranian Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Organization, under the direction of Professor Jamal Goosheh, who is a French-trained Iranian plastic surgeon in association with Dr. Ahmad Maghari, an Australian-trained Iranian plastic surgeon, Dr. Sayed Kamal Forutan, Dr. Mohamed Ali Hosseinian and Dr. Raheem Matloobi. In 1981 they started training plastic surgeons to concentrate on surgery of the upper extremities, peripheral nerve surgery, and especially brachial plexus injuries and reconstruction, as well as burn injuries, which unfortunately there were many due to eight years of the Iran/Iraq war. This fellowship program is offered at the Beheshti University Medical Science.

The Development of Hand Surgery and National Personalities

Historically a Persian (IRANIAN) scientist named ABU ALI SINA (980-1037 A.D.) whose medical textbook, The Laws of Well Being or The Books of Law, was used by many Europeans and Middle Eastern scholars. At the time he was the first one who differentiated between anatomical structures of the UP-



FIG. 1 Ancient Persian Empire.



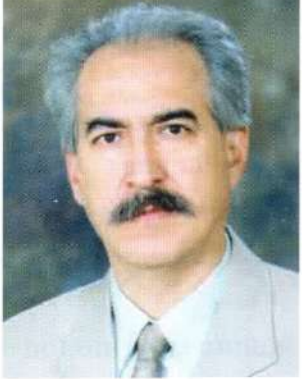
Dr. Shekholeslamzade, 2nd Pioneer Hand Surgeon.



Dr. Ahmadi, Immediate Past President I.S.S.H.



Dr. Goosheh, First Iranian Pioneer Hand Surgeon.



Dr. Lahiji, Current President, I.S.S.H.

FIG. 2



FIG. 3 Persepolis Palace Ruins.

PER EXTREMITY. He explained in his book that there was a difference between the TENDONS, which could have been repaired, and the NERVES, which were extremely painful to touch, and must be left alone.

Currently Iran has a population of 71 million (2008 Statistics), with 45 medical schools, 18 general surgery residency programs, 11 orthopedic residency programs, and 4 plastic and reconstructive surgery residency programs, with 2 recognized hand fellowship programs.

In 1979 after the Iranian revolution, no organization, whether political or scientific, was allowed to be registered by the government. In the meantime while general, plastic and orthopedic surgeons were having various meetings in their teaching or community hospitals, providing conferences and educating their fellows and residents, they could not be officially organized to join the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (I.F.S.S.H.).

During this period, without the knowledge of Iranian physicians or participation of any Iranian physician, the name of Iran was registered

among the Eastern Mediterranean Hand Societies, by one of the Egyptian hand surgeons!

In 1983 during the second I.F.S.S.H. meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Jamal Goosheh was a guest speaker for brachial plexus injury, sharing his experience with this prestigious Society (*Fig. 2*).

Dr. Massoud (Mas) Massoumi, Iranian-born and Iranian-trained physician, who did his post graduate training in orthopedic and hand surgery in the U.K. and the United States, and is currently practicing in the United States, met Dr. Goosheh for the first time at this meeting in Boston,. They were encouraged by Dr. Alfred Swanson, who was the President of the I.F.S.S.H., that the Iranian Society must be formed independently and apply for membership in the I.F.S.S.H.

Since Dr. Goosheh could not register such a society in Iran at that time, Dr. Massoumi encouraged him to gather a minimum of 25 surgeons, whether general, plastic or orthopedic surgeons, whose practice was at least more than one-third upper extremity surgery to develop a

format to meet the requirements according to I.F.S.S.H. to be able to apply for membership. After Dr. Goosheh complied with that, membership application was sent to the I.F.S.S.H.

In 1986 during the Congress of I.F.S.S.H. in Tokyo, Japan, the Iranian Society for Surgery of the Hand (I.S.S.H.) was nominated by India's delegate, and seconded by the Italian's, as well as the Australian's delegates, and Iran, for the first time, was unanimously approved to be an active member of the I.F.S.S.H.

In 2001 the I.S.S.H. endorsed Professor Goosheh to be recognized as one of the pioneer hand surgeons, and the International Federation recognized him in 2001 in Istanbul, Turkey, as the first Iranian to become a pioneer hand surgeon.

In 2003 Dr. Aziz Ahmadi (*Fig. 2*) was voted by the Iranian Society for Surgery of the Hand to replace the Founding President, Dr. Goosheh, as the new President. During Dr. Ahmadi's first year as the President, since the laws were changed and the Iranian government allowed organized medical societies to be registered and recognized by the government, the Board of Directors, which included Dr. Javad Vazirzadeh Ebraheemi, Dr. Mehdi Shokuhzanganeh,

Dr. Hamid Taheri, Dr. Ali Dianat, and Dr. Farivar A. Lahiji (*Fig. 4*), registered the Iranian Society for Surgery of the Hand. For the first time this organization was officially recognized by the Iranian government as a scientific organization.

During this period several hospitals were designated by the Ministry of Health for treatment and education primarily limited to surgery of the hand and upper extremity. Prior to this designation these hospitals were mainly giving treatment under the direction of primarily plastic and reconstructive surgeons for management of soft tissue injuries affecting upper extremities.

In 2007 the I.S.S.H. awarded Dr. Shojaedine

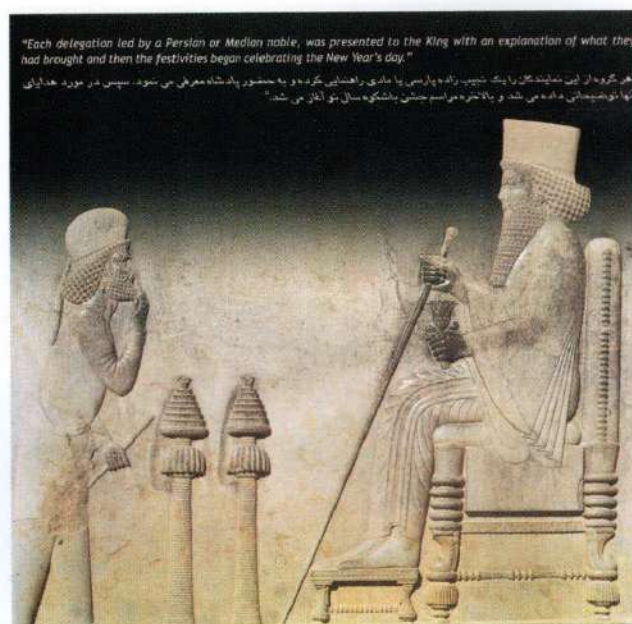


FIG. 4 Cyrus The Great Receiving Dignitary.

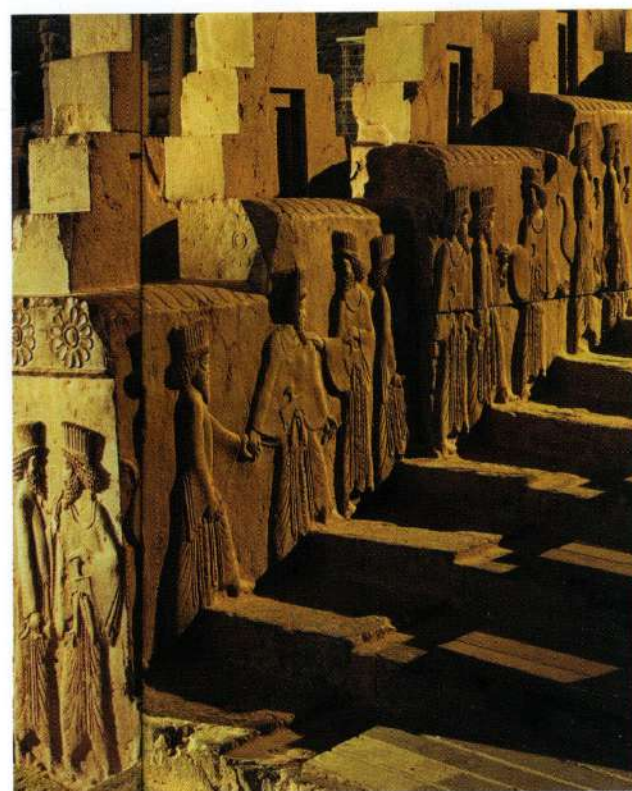


FIG. 5 Persepolis Palace Stairs.

Sheikholeslamzadeh (*Fig. 2*), who was the founding father of the orthopedic residency program and rehabilitation education, as the second Irani-

an pioneer hand surgeon, during the World Congress of Hand Surgeons in Sydney, Australia.

During the Annual Iranian Orthopedic Association (I.O.A.) Educational Meeting, which not only covers upper extremity and hand surgery, but also has a Specialty Day wherein each specialty group, such as spinal surgeons, hand surgeons, sports medicine, etc., has one day of their own meeting. Many non-orthopedic surgeons such as plastic, general surgeons or hand therapists who do not belong to the I.O.A, participate on the scientific program.

The Society Secretariat is based in The I.O.A. office, 94, 1st floor, Keshavarz Blvd., Tehran-14166-Iran, Tel: (+9821) 88966583, Fax: (+9821) 88983610; Email: anjomanedast@yahoo.com; website: www.ISSH.org.ir

Persian (Iranian) History

The word “**HAND**” in Farsi (Iranian) language has been conjugated as different parts of speech, such as noun, verb, adverb, adjective, pronoun, etc., and has been used in more than 176 various expressions, which shows how important the word “**HAND**” is in this ancient country with more than 5,000 years of civilization.

Please see the Ancient Persian Empire map in the first photograph, which extended during the reign of Dariush (A.K.A. Darius or Cyrus The Great), from The Ural Mountains in Siberia to The

Black Sea and The Mediterranean Sea in Eastern Europe, and to Egypt and Libya in Northern Africa; and the current Iranian map which covers the area from The Caspian Sea, in the north to The Persian Gulf, in the south (*Fig. 1*).

The third photograph is of the Persepolis Palace (*Fig. 3*), which is a testament to Persian power established by Cyrus the Great (522 to 486 B.C.). The Persepolis awed distinguished visitors who came from the far ends of the largest empire of the age to present gifts (*Fig. 4*). This historic palace, which Iranians call “Takhteh Jamsheed”, is just north of the city of Shiraz.

In the fifth photograph, Persian nobles are ascending stairs HAND IN HAND to the Tripylon Hall, which signaled a fraternity among the Empire’s elites (*Fig. 5*). Four hundred years ago Isfahan was larger than London and more cosmopolitan than Paris. The City’s most famous bridge is Si-O Seh Pol (Bridge of 33 Arches) over the River of Zayandeh, which is nearly 1,000 feet long and 45 feet wide. At the time Isfahan used to be called “Half of the World”. Elegant bridges crossed its modest river. Lavishly outfitted polo players dashed across the world’s largest square and hundreds of domes and minarets punctuated the skyline. Europeans, Turks, Indians and Chinese flocked to the glittering Persian Court, the center of a vast empire stretching from the Euphrates River in what is today Iraq, to the Oxus River in Afghanistan.