

## The History of the SBCM

In a wartime scenario, specifically World War II, from the push given to the evolution of the techniques and medical knowledge that gave rise to the specialist area of Hand Surgery.

In the United States, Bunnell created nine training centers focused on the hand - the “hand centers” - which trained surgeons such as Barski, Littler, Fowler, and others - whilst 1946 saw the foundation of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. In Brazil, being enormously influenced by their British and French colleagues, a few general and plastic surgeons performed surgery on hands, and these individuals became pioneers in the specialist area. In the period immediately following World War II, the country received visits from well-known specialists such as Guy Pulvertaft, Watson Jones, Trueta and Sterling Bunnell. These visits provided the incentive for the creation of our society.

### BRAZIL'S PIONEERS

Alípio Pernet - Worked as an intern at the Brook Army Medical Center in Texas, and trained under Pulvertaft, Gillies and Watson Jones. He was the President of the Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery and the Brazilian Society of Hand Surgery (SBCM), for the periods 1965-67 and 1971-73. President of the First Brazilian Congress of Hand Surgery.

Danilo Gonçalves - In 1951, received a scholarship from the British Council allowing him to train with Trueta, Allen, Pulvertaft and Agnes Hunt. He was the first President of the SBCM and Chaired the Second Brazilian Congress.

Henrique Bulcão de Moraes - Trained under Allen, in Boston, in 1951. In 1952, he began a residency at the Baltimore City Hospital. He started his training in hand surgery with Raymond Curtis. Upon returning to Brazil, he founded the Santa Casa Hand Surgery Service in Rio de Janeiro. Was President of the SBCM (1963-65) and chaired the Society's First International Congress.

Orlando Graner - Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo (FMUSP) in 1941, and soon thereafter started an internship at the Pavilhão Fernandinho Simonsen. It was there, with the support of Professor Domingos Define, that he created and led the first Hand Surgery group in Brazil, between 1945 and 1968. He was President of the SBCM from 1969 to 1971, and organized the Services at the Public Workers' State Hospital and the Paulista School of Medicine.

Lauro de Barros - Received a scholarship from the British Council in 1944 and, taking up the challenge, decided to travel to England. He was advised not to travel from Brazil, since the coastal waters were teeming with German and Italian submarines on their way to Argentina. After 28 days at sea, he disembarked in Liverpool. He worked as an intern with Gillies, Watson Jones, Seddon and others. In 1952, he founded the hand surgery group as part of the FMUSP's Hospital das Clínicas in São Paulo. In 1953, the father of hand surgery, Sterling Bunnell, visited Brazil, which encouraged Lauro de Abreu to work towards the founding of the specialist society.

Lauro correctly notes that: "Our specialty is not Orthopedics, and nor is it Plastic Surgery. It has its own characteristics - it is Surgery of the Hand and the Upper Limbs."

Thus, in Rio de Janeiro on June 17, 1959, 57 doctors signed the Minutes of the Foundation of the Brazilian Society of Hand Surgery. After a number of conferences and courses, the SBCM's first large-scale event was the First International Congress, held in Rio de Janeiro between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1965. Bulcão chaired the Congress, which welcomed around 400 participants, with simultaneous translation provided for a number of different languages, whilst it also boasted the participation of recognized names from the field of Hand Surgery at the time, such as: Erik Moberg, Joseph Boyes, Starck, O'brien, Kauko Vainio, the Argentines Firpo and Loda, as well as our own Brazilian pioneers.

The IFSSH - the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand - was founded in 1966. The SBCM, represented by Alípio Pernet, performed an active role in its foundation, being one of the eight founding societies alongside those from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany, Scandinavia and Japan. During the first presidency of Alfred Swanson, Pernet was nominated to chair the Commission for Classification of Congenital Malformations of the Upper Limbs, which is still used today, and is generally referred to as the "Swanson Classification". The British Society was not officially recognized as a Society until 1968.

"The SBCM is a tree with a good lineage, planted and cared for by men of culture and of

exemplary character, who battle without rest. Upon their succession, they proudly saw it develop, guided by a large group of professionals who treated it with care." This tree, which has such good lineage, has provided many fruits. The fruits that have been Presidents of the SBCM, since its foundation, in order of frequency, are:

Danilo Coimbra Gonçalves, Lauro Barros de Abreu, Henrique Bulcão de Moraes, Alípio Pernet, Orlando Graner, José Raul Chiconelli, Christovão Gama, Luis Carlos Sobania, Edmur Isidoro Lopes, Arlindo Gomes Pardini Júnior, Ronaldo Jorge Azze, Walter Manna Albertoni, Jacy Conti Alvarenga, Heitor Ulson, Mauri Alves de Azevedo, Fernando Barros, Edie Benedito Caetano, Ronaldo Percopi, José Maurício de Moraes Carmo, Arnaldo Valdir Zumioti, Flávio Falloppa, Osvandré Lech, Claudio Henrique Barbieri, Rames Mattar Júnior, Afrânio Donato de Freitas, Nelson Mattioli Leite, Luiz Carlos Angelini, Jefferson Luis Braga Silva, Nilton Mazzer, Fernando Baldy dos Reis, Gilberto Hiroshi Ohara, Paulo Randal Pires, Anderson Vieira Monteiro, Ivan Chakkour, Giana Silveira Giostri, Luiz Koiti Kimura, Pedro José Pires Neto and Carlos Henrique Fernandes.

Dates and some of the many notable events that have built the history of the Brazilian Society of Hand Surgery.

In 1965, Ronaldo Azze and Marcus Castro Ferreira start performing the first reimplants of limbs at the FMUSP Hospital das Clínicas, creating South America's first Microsurgery Service in 1974.

In 1966, the JBJS publishes "Arthrodesis of the carpal bones in treatment of Kienböck's disease", an article by Orlando Graner, that for decades has been extensively cited as a benchmark in the field.

In 1975, Donald Brooks recognizes Graner's contribution to the treatment of mallet finger, and embraces the technique that comes to be known as 'Brooks-Graner'.

In 1985, Arlindo Pardini publishes the first edition of the multi-authored book on the specialist area of "hand traumas" in Brazil, which has since seen two further editions.

In 1992, the SBCM takes part in the founding of the South American Hand Surgery Society, in São Paulo. In 1998, the FDA approves the "ulson external fixator device", developed by Heitor Ulson (former president of the Brazilian Hand Society), within the US scientific community.

In 2004, Arlindo Pardini assumes the presidency of the IFSSH, a position never before held by a professional from Latin America.

The SBCM thus has almost seventy years of history and, since its beginnings, it has been committed to staging national and international events and courses, as well as contributing to meetings with important international scientific knowledge, and in the form of publications in periodicals and books focusing on hand surgery. The Society publishes an informative quarterly periodical, the 'Manus', and is a member, as an official society, of 'Hand', the journal of the American Association for Hand Surgery.

With its head offices in São Paulo, the SBCM has over 700 members and is one of the biggest IFSSH affiliate societies. It has 33 Hand Surgery training centers in Brazil, with around 105 residents performing their first and second years of training. The following commissions, working with different aims, form an integral part of the Society's structure:

- The Teaching and Training Commission, that supervises and plans the standardization of teaching programs and training in the specialist area;
- The Continued Education Commission, that organizes, plans and publishes the calendar of scientific events, and collaborates with scientific production in the area of Hand Surgery;
- The Professional and Ethical Defense Commission, that assists the board of directors in all matters that concern compliance with ethical principles and defense of the professional exercising of this specialist work;
- The Strategic Matters Commission, that supports the board of directors and the other Permanent Commissions in their contact and participation in activities with government entities such as the Ministry of Health.

The Society is divided into five regional divisions, such being: South, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Center West/North and Northeast, each of which create and develop regional courses in the first half of the year, and work towards the staging of the Brazilian hand surgery congress that takes place annually in August. Every year, it develops national and regional programs designed to raise awareness of the pathologies that affect the hands. These include the prevention of accidents with fireworks, which are very common during the regional Brazilian folk festivals held every June, and during

the World Cup.

In 2017, the Society announced its intention to host the “2025 IFSSH Triennial Congress” that, in accordance with the rotation regulations, should be held in a country in one of the American continents.

Members of the current Board of Directors: Presidents of the 2018 and 2019 two-year term: Milton Bernardes Pignataro and Marcelo Rosa de Rezende. General Secretary: Samuel Ribak; Assistant Secretary: Antônio Tufi Neder Filho; and Treasurer: João Baptista G. dos Santos.