



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Handchirurgie **SGH**
Société Suisse de Chirurgie de la Main **SSCM**
Società Svizzera di Chirurgia della Mano **SSCM**

Swiss Society of Hand Surgery

12TH OF NOVEMBER 1966

Foundation of the "Swiss Study Group for Surgery of the Hand" ("Groupe Suisse d'Etude de Chirurgie de la Main", "Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Handchirurgie", "Gruppo Svizzero di Studio per la Chirurgia della Mano") by Prof. Claude E. VERDAN, approved by 50 general surgeons in the Lecture Room of the Surgical Policlinic of the University of Lausanne which was located at that time at the Clinique Longeraie in Lausanne. There was only one officer: the Secretary General.

7TH OF SEPTEMBER 1972

The first by-laws are approved by the General Assembly in Bern.

19TH OF NOVEMBER 1983

Under the impulsion of its president K. M. PFEIFFER, the Study Group becomes the Swiss Society for Surgery of the Hand. New by-laws are accepted by the General Assembly: the first Executive Committee is created, as well as the first IFSSH Delegate, as the Swiss Society becomes an IFSSH member.

11TH OF MAY 1988

Hand surgery is recognized as a sub-title by the Swiss Federation of Doctors (Federatio Medicorum Helveticorum = FMH, which represents the Swiss Medical Chamber). A specific curriculum is established, honored by a diploma of "Hand surgery", which is similar to the certificate for added competence in Hand surgery in the United States. The curriculum requires at least 2 years of special training in Hand surgery. One of the four main Specialty Boards - General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery or Pediatric Surgery - must be acquired before this training program in Hand surgery can be entered.

1ST OF JULY 2002

Recognition of Hand Surgery as a focus title of the Swiss Medical Association (FMH).

1ST OF JANUARY 2007

A recognition as a specialty on its own (as a private by law title) was given by the Federal Council in 2007. Another 6 years of certification process and political struggle passed until the accreditation as an acknowledged specialty by the Swiss Medical Association (FMH) was completed (**1st of July 2013**). Trainees who completed a structured und verified postgraduate training may then use the title "Hand Chirurgie FMH" - a title which is recognized in most European countries.

1ST OF JANUARY 2015

Full acknowledgement of the Title “Hand Surgery FMH” like General Surgery by the Swiss Medical Association.

19TH OF MAY 2016

2nd Revision of Educational Program has been accredited for the second time by the Federal Office of Public Health.

24TH/25TH NOVEMBER 2016

The Society celebrates its 50th annual meeting in Geneva.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

1966 – 1972 Professor Claude E. VERDAN, Lausanne, 1st Secretary General

1973 – 1976 Professor Henry NIGST, Basel

1977 – 1982 Professor Algimantas O. NARAKAS, Lausanne

1983 – 1986 Professor Karl M. PFEIFFER, Basel

1986 – 1987 Privat-Docent Andre CHAMAY, Geneva

1988 – 1989 Professor Viktor E. MEYER, Zurich

1989 – 1991 Privat-Docent Daniel V. EGLOFF, Lausanne

1991 – 1993 Professor Algimantas O. NARAKAS, Lausanne

1994 – 1995 Professor Ueli BÜCHLER, Bern

1996 – 1997 Privat-Docent Dominique R. DELLA SANTA, Geneva

1998 – 1999 Privat-Docent Beat René SIMMEN, Zürich

2000 – 2001 Dr. Chantal BONNARD, Lausanne

2002 – 2003 Dr. Michael STURZENEGGER, Lausanne

2004 – 2005 Dr. Walter KÜNZI, Zürich

2006 – 2007 Dr. Urs VON WARTBURG, Luzern

2008 – 2010 Dr. Daniel HERREN, Zürich

2011 – 2012 Professor Esther VÖGELIN, Bern

2013 – 2014 Professor Claudia MEULI, Aarau

2015 – 2016 Dr. Michaël PAPALOÏZOS, Geneva

2017 – 2018 Dr. Mario BONACCIO, Frauenfeld

FIRST DELEGATES TO THE IFSSH:

1983 – 1986 Professor H. NIGST

1987 – 1991 Professor A. NARAKAS

1991- xx? Professor V. E. MEYER

FIRST DELEGATE TO THE FESSH (FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND):

1990 Privat-Docent D.V. EGLOFF

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Since the original 50 founders in 1966, the members of the Society continuously increased in number. At the end of 2017, the Swiss Society for Surgery of the Hand counts 269 members, including 170 active members, 30 junior members as well as honorary and corresponding members.

THE SWISS SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

is the association of professional, active Hand Surgeons in the country. The Society supports and develops the specialty, as well as defending professional interests of its members. It is a member of the European (FESSH) and International Federations (IFSSH) of Hand Surgery. It represents the hand surgery specialty within its borders and abroad.

HAND TRAINING IN SWITZERLAND

- 22 hand training centers in Switzerland (8'418'000 inhabitants /41'285 km² /4 speech communities), from which 7 are at an university level.
- 15 emergency centers, from which 4 FESUM accredited centers (Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich).
- Training program in Hand surgery composed of 2 years in other surgical specialties (including General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Pediatric Surgery or Orthopaedic Surgery) before subspecializing in Hand Surgery during another 4 years after completion of the basic surgical competencies exam.
- Annual Research Fund to support clinical or experimental research for junior members.
- The Claude Verdan Fund supports a travelling young member each year.

REFERENCES:

www.swisshandsurgery.ch

Charta, signed 13th of January 1993 (Viktor E. Meyer)

History of the Swiss Society of Surgery of the Hand (1966-96), D.R. Della Santa

Hand Surgery Worldwide (ed J.R. Urbaniak) 2011 by Konstantaras Med Publ., ISBN:978-960-6802-27-0, Swiss history, p 189-92

