

The History of Hand Surgery in Turkey

Pioneers:

Rıdvan Ege (1925-2017)



Born in 1925, Rıdvan Ege finished his elementary, junior high and high school in Denizli. On May 1948 he graduated from Istanbul Faculty of Medicine with outstanding success. After one year of internship at Gülhane he served as flight physician for two and a half year in Erzincan and for six months in Diyarbakır.

After being a general surgeon in Turkey he went on to Colombia University in 1955 for specialization on Orthopedics and Traumatology. He came back to Turkey in 1959 as a specialist in orthopedics and traumatology.

After his return he was appointed as Clinical Director of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Gülhane in 1961. He was then appointed to Ankara University Faculty of Medicine as an instructor for 5 years by the council of ministers on the illness of the only instructor in the university.

He worked at Harvard University and Colombia University for a year in 1962.

He was sent to Southern California University and Colombia University for Hand Surgery with the Fullbright Program in 1968.

He worked as Dean of Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, member of the senate in Ankara and Gazi Universities, member of the Intercollegiate Committee, member of the Accident Research Institute and in Gülhane Military Medical Academy. He also worked as Head of Orthopedics and Traumatology departments at Antalya and Gazi Universities, Technical Director of the United Nations 1981 Year of the Disabled, consultant for WHO, consultant for Ministry of Health and Councilor in the Kızılay Management Board. He was a pioneer for the establishment of Antalya and Gazi Universities Faculties of Medicine and making the laws for these faculties.

He has published 111 books (16 of them in English), 316 articles that holds 47470 pages in total. He is the holder of 2 foreign language medical magazines and their editor as well.

Rıdvan Ege is the founder of MMOT (Association of Mediterranean and Middle-East Orthopedics and Traumatology) and he was the president of the association for 12 years. He was also the president of IAATM (International Association of Accidents and Traffic Medicine) for 8 years.

Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege has received many medals, plaques and honorary memberships from different scientific boards. He received Turkey's most successful President of the Foundation Award two times in 1996 and 2002. In 1996 he received Tübitak Service Award and World Medicine Service Gerin Medal. In 1998 he received Olympics Committee Career Branch and "Fair Play" Science Branch Great Award. In 2001 he was given the title of Honorary Doctor of Science by Selçuk University. In 2006 he was given the title Honorary Member by the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand (JSSH). Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege is the chairman of the board of trustees in Ufuk University which he founded in Ankara.

Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege built up kindergartens, elementary schools and Anatolian high schools in the name of his wife and daughter and donated all of them to Ministry of Education. With the assistance of Traffic Accidents Aid Foundation of Turkey he founded Dr. Rıdvan Ege Health Research and Practice Hospital and Ufuk University in 1999. These were made with the contributions of Ufuk Ege and Rıdvan Ege themselves.



F. Merih Eroğlu (1924-2019)

She was born in 1924 in Istanbul. She completed her primary, secondary and high school education in Zonguldak, Denizli, Adana and Istanbul. She graduated from Istanbul Medical Faculty in 1947. At the end of September 1957, she was appointed as an associate professor and on leave for 2 years. 1957 - 1958 at the Hospital for Special Surgery of Cornell University, New York, Clinical Orthopedics and Research Fellow Hartford Newington Children's Center for Crippled Children in Connecticut, From 1958 to 1959 she worked in the Children's Orthopedics Department for 6 months. In 1959 she returned to Ege University. Professor Dr. With İzzet Birand's departure, In 1960, she was appointed Clinical President. In July 1961 she was promoted to full professor. She established the Orthopedic Rehabilitation Unit of the Children's Hospital. Between 1962 and 1963, the Royal Orthopedic Hospital, London, Advances in Hip and Hand Surgery at the University of Upsala and Vienna found to examine. Professor Eroglu retired in August 1991. She organized many congresses, scientific meetings. Many in the country and abroad congress, symposium, seminar and panel; moderator, panelist, conference. She worked more intensively in pediatric orthopedics, poliomyelitis, orthopedic injuries of cerebral palsy and Hand Surgery.



Ayhan Gülgönen(1937-2016)

Born in 1937 in Istanbul and completed his preliminary education in Ankara Atatürk College in 1955. He entered Medical Faculty of Ankara University the same year and graduated in 1961. Between 1961-65, he worked at Giessen-Evangelisches Krankenhaus, Department of General Surgery in West Germany, also at Unfall-Krankenhaus, Department of Traumatology in Vienna between 1966-67, and as “Oberarzt” at Zofingen-Bezirksspital, Department of Surgery in Switzerland in 1968. In 1969-70, he worked as Faculty Member and Head of Emergency Department at Hacettepe Medical University, General Surgery Clinic. Leaving his post in 1971 for one year with permission of the Medical Board of Directors, he went to the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, Orthopaedic Hospital, Hand Surgery Department in New York as “visiting fellow”. In 1972, he entered the Government Foreign Language Exam in German language. Successfully completing all sections of general surgery in 1973, he received his “Associate Professorship” degree in General Surgery. Between March 1974-July 1975, he completed his military service as “Faculty Member” at Gulhane Military Academy, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Between 1976-79, he worked as “Faculty Member” at Medical Faculty of Istanbul, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He also had microsurgical training at Hospital Jeanne D’Arc, Nancy, France in 1978. As of late 1978, he started working as Hand and Microsurgeon at French Pasteur Hospital, and established the first Reconstructive Microsurgical Clinic in Turkey together with his team. Dr.Gulgönen is the first doctor pioneering and spreading around microsurgical reconstruction in Turkey. His first microsurgical replantations started in 1978 with replantation of the 5th digit of a dental surgeon and the free tissue transfers with an inguinal free-flap to scalp, followed by pollicisation from foot to hand, free muscle, latissimus and radial artery flaps and numerous finger, hand, arm, leg, and scalp replantations in 1979-1980. In 1980, he participated in foundation of Medical Faculty of Marmara University, and the same year became “Professor” with his thesis “Finger Replantations” Dr.Gulgönen started his educational programme at French Pasteur Hospital consisting of 3-yearly internships, and 3-6 monthly fellowships, teaching hand and microsurgery to 51 specialists that come from universities, government and social security hospitals from Turkey. Again, between the years 1981-95, 10 three day programme of internationally participated Advanced Hand and Microsurgery courses were organised for 50 applicants under the leadership of Dr. Gulgönen in Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Egridir and Antalya. Dr. Gulgönen carried-on his educational venture over-board as “Norman Paul Visiting Professor” to Sydney Hospital, Australia in 1991, as “Visiting Professor” to The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Dept. USA in 1996; to the Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York in 1997; to the American Society for Peripheral Nerve Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in 1998; as “Faculty Member” to the 6th Advanced Hand Surgery Course held in Brescia, Italy in 1998; Zagazig University Microsurgery Center, Zagazig, Egypt in 1998; Bad Neustadt, Germany in 1999; 2nd advanced European Course on Hand Surgery, Hungary in 2001; Spring Meeting of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand, Sheffield, England in 2001, and Regional Hospital of Vicenza, Italy in 2001. He is a member of the Turkish Orthopaedic and Traumatology Society; Turkish Society of Physiological Sciences; Interplast Turkey; Turkish Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; Turkish Society of Reconstructive Surgery; Austrian Emergency Surgery; GEM (Groupe Etude de la Main); DAM (Deutschsprachige Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mikrochirurgie der Peripheren Nerven und Gefässe); DAH (Deutschsprachige Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Handchirurgie); ASSH American Society for Surgery of the Hand), Jordanian Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and International Board of Physicians for Peace. He has numerous inland and international papers and conferences, received “Eczacibasi Science Award” in 1979, and “Medical Science Award” in 1994.



Ömer Erçetin(1945-)

Born in 1945 in Ankara and completed his preliminary education in Ankara TED College in 1962. He entered Medical Faculty of Ankara University the same year and graduated in 1968. He started as resident of department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of faculty of Medicine of Hacettepe University between 1968-1972. He completed his military service to Ankara Military Mevki Hospital between 1972-1973. Between 1973-75, he worked as faculty member at Department of Orthopedic surgery Medical Faculty of Hacettepe University. He has been accepted as orthopedic resident at the department of Medical Faculty of the [University of Louisville](#) in [Kentucky](#) 1975. Then, He worked as hand surgery fellow department of Hand Surgery at the same clinic who has been established by Dr. Harold Kleinert in 1976. He worked and learned many things about hand surgery from very famous surgeons in that time. He worked as visiting fellows with Dr. Daniel Riordan in New Orleans, Louisiana and Dr. Alfred Swanson in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1976. After finishing hand surgery training, He restarted to work as faculty at the department of orthopedics and traumatology of faculty of Medicine of Hacettepe University in 1977-1978. He left from the University in 1978, then started to work of

department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of Children Hospital of Turkish Social Security to till 1990. In that time, he started first microsurgery lab in the hospital, and he had experienced many microsurgical procedure and congenital hand problem. In 1990, he founded the Ankara Hand Surgery Center has been affiliated by Ankara Guven Hospital with very modest team which was the first Hand surgery Clinic of Ankara. In this clinic, At least 1500 operations has been done every year. Four staff surgeon, two anesthesiologist, two physiotherapist, four surgery nurses has worked. He gives many lecture and conferences in national and international congress. Dr. Ercetin started a educational program at Ankara Guven Hospital for 3-6 monthly fellowships, training hand and microsurgery at specialists that come from universities, government and especially social security hospitals from Turkey. Most of them still working as Hand surgeon in many different clinics as supervisor or staff surgeons. He has numerous national and international papers and conferences.



İsmail Hakkı Çallı(1943-)

A. Education

Medical degree : Medical school of Aegean university 1960-1966

- Assistant Professor Department of Orthopedic Surgery 1977
- Clinical Professor Department of Orthopedic Surgery 1981

B. Academic Honors

- Orthopedics Traumatology and Rehabilitation Association Presidency İzmir (1979-1982)
- Head of Orthopedics and Traumatology Department in Aegean University (1991-1993)
- Head of Department of Hand Surgery Aegean University (1992-1995)
- Head of Orthopedics and Traumatology Department in Aegean University (2003-2005)
- VI. Turk Hand Surgery Congress President 28-31 October 1998 Bursa
- Visiting Professor Program Athens Orthopedic Clinic 20-28 October 2009
- Honorable President: Istanbul University Orthopedic and Traumatology Graduation Meeting 22.1.2000
- 11. Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery Congress 16-19 May 2008 Antalya
- Hand and Microsurgery Congress 9.9.2017 Mersin Türkiye

II. International Courses and Affiliations

A. International Courses

- Dr. Robert Carroll Fellow, Hand Surgery Department at Columbia University
- Presbyterian Hospital (Sep 1973- Sep 1974)
- AO International Course 11-17 December Davos Switzerland
- AO Internal Fixation Course 21.8.1986 – 21.9.1986 Insel Hospital Bern Switzerland (Dr.Eli Buchler)



Ahmet Karaoğuz(1942-)

Academic

1960-66 M.D., Ankara University (AU), Faculty of Medicine

Sept. 14, 1966 Certificate, ECFMG (Educational Council for Foreign

Medical Graduates, Federation of State Medical Boards of the United

States)

1966-67 Internship, Gülhane Military Medical Academy (GATA), Ankara

1969-70 Flight Surgeon, Diploma #101, Republic of Turkey Air Force Command

1970-74 Orthopedic Surgery & Traumatology Residency, GATA, Ankara

1976-80 Orthopedic Residency, University of Louisville (UOL), Kentucky, U.S.A.

1979-80 Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship, UOL, Christine N. Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery, KY

1982 Associate Professor, Ankara University

2002 Professor, Kahramanmaraş Sütçüimam University (KSU), Kahramanmaraş, Turkey

2002-05 Dean, KSU Faculty of Medicine, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey
2011 Certificate of Hand Surgery, Specialization #91061, Turkish Ministry of Health and Social Security
Academic Employment
1967-70 Flight Surgeon, First Lieutenant, 9th Main Jet Base Command, Balıkesir, Turkey
1974-76 Air Force Hospital, Etimesgut, Ankara
1980-85 Air Force Hospital, Güzelyalı, Izmir
1985-91 French Pasteur Hospital, Taksim, Istanbul
1991-2001 American Bristol Hospital, Nişantaşı, Istanbul
2002-2007 KSU Faculty of Medicine, Kahramanmaraş
2008-2010 VKV. American Hospital, Nişantaşı, Istanbul
2010-2011 Surp Agop Armenian Hospital, Taksim, Istanbul
2012-2013 Delta Hospital, Küçükalyalı, Istanbul
2013-present Mihrimahsultan Medical Center, Üsküdar, Istanbul Teaching Experience
1985-2001 Hand & Microsurgery Fellowship. French Pasteur & American Bristol (later known as VKV American) Hospitals. (Taught 69 fellows under presidency of Dr. Ayan Gulgonen)
1986-89 Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, taught Theoretical Orthopedics to 3rd year students
May 23-June 6, 1991 Hand Surgery and surgical training, Semashko Hospital, Baku, Azerbaijan (“Honorary Certificate of Recognition from Minister of Health T. Kasimov, Republic of Azerbaijan” Baku, Azerbaijan) June 1, 1991.
2002-2007 KSU Faculty of Medicine, trained students, residents and specialists, organized annual Orthopedics and Hand Surgery Gatherings
2003-2015 Participated in Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege’s Fundamentals of Hand Surgery training program



Oğuz Polatkan(1946-)

During his stay with Dr. Carroll in his service He deepened his interest to hand surgery and microsurgery. He also draw his attention to the necessity of founding hand surgery centers in Turkey. He also start microsugery practise in laboratory in his service.After being back to Turkey to Ortopaedic department of School of medicine Ankara universiy, he devoted all his practice to Hand surgery.Hel got the degree of assistant professor in 1982. He joined The Turkish Hand Society

and have been an active member since then; he served in Turkish Hand Society as a general secretary, president and dalegate to IFSSH international comities in Phoenix november 12th, 1992 and Kansascity october 1st,1993 . Because of University regulations in Turkey after 1980, he was appointed December 1982 as the chief of orthopaedic department of School of medicine of Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey. I established hand surgery practice in orthopaedic department of school of medicine in Antalya as a pioner and he was very active as a Hand Surgeon in orthopaedic department of medical school. upon Invitation Of Dr Gülgönen who was the pioner after prof Dr. Rıdvan ege in Turkey he Moved on to İstanbul on june 1985 and he started practising in French Hospital Which was the only center doing replantation surgery and hand surgery in Turkey at that time.He would like to share the words of the one resident who is intereted in hand surgery and he is profesör in Antalya. His feeling is on web side; “El cerrahisi ve mikrocerrahi alanina ilgim Anabilim Dalı'miz öğretim üyelerinden Prof. Dr. Oguz Polatkan'in 1982 yılında baslayan calismalarinin bölümümüzde olusturdugu deneyim birikimi ve potansiyelin varligi nedeniyle basladi”

After he resigned Akdeniz University his presentationsies in national congresses and meetings about our practice in French Hospital a mystry came thrue. Young surgeons began to visit french hospital. Also he was very active for the courses which are first orginesed in the french hospital and later in hospital of other cities upon request.After French hospital which was closed in june1991 he orginesed another center named “İstanbul Hand and Microsurgery Center” in 1991 with three fellow; two hand surgeons an one anesthesist . This organisation also was very active for the young surgeons who are eager to learn hand surgery and microsurgery.

Honorary members.

Rıdvan Ege

Merih Erođlu

Celal Metin Erer

Orhan Girgin

Ayan Gülgönen

Ethem Gür

Güler Gürsu

Ömer Erçetin

About the Turkish Society for Surgery of the Hand and Upper Extremity

The Turkish Society for Surgery of the Hand and Upper Extremity was founded 1977. Rıdvan Ege was the first President of the society that counted 22 members at that time. Today the society has 214 active members.

Turkey is member of FESSH since 2001.

Founding members and Presidents

Named today the Turkish Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery Society, our society was founded in 1977 under the name of Hand Surgery and Reconstruction Society. Upon being officially founded, the following were appointed to the temporary board of directors: President Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege, Secondary President Prof. Dr. Merih Erođlu, General Secretary Dr. E. Kaya Alpar, Bookkeeper Prof. Dr. Ayan Gülgönen and accountant Prof. Dr. Orhan Arslanođlu. Our founder, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege actively served as the General President of THS from 1977 until 2004.

Presidents:

Rıdvan Ege (1977-2004)

Ayan Gülgönen (2004-2006)

Ođuz Polatkan(2006-2008)

Hüseyin Bayram (2008-2010)

Sait Ada (2010-2012)

Aydın Yüçetürk (2012-2014)

Ahmet Ekin(2014-2016)

Tufan Kaleli(2016-2018)

Levent Yalçın (2018-2020)

Amblem:**Hand Therapy**

It is an association established in 2004 in order to make scientific and social meetings by gathering physiotherapists and occupational therapists under the umbrella of a joint association, organizing seminars, symposiums and congresses and establishing the upper extremity rehabilitation and providing scientific progress by establishing scientific standards.

National journals:

Hand&Microsurgery

<http://handmicrosurgeryjournal.com/>

Hand and microsurgery journal, the official journal of Turkish society for Surgery of the Hand and Upper Extremity, is a peer reviewed scientific journal published three times a year.

National congresses:

Our society holds the Congress of National Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery biannually in even years. Since 2006, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Basic Hand Surgery Course is held each year.

Education:

Hand Surgery is an established specialty since 2012. After a 5 to 6 years of Plastic Surgery or Orthopaedic Surgery training surgeons need a further 2 years of Hand Surgery training, completed by an oral and written exam and a case surgery. After completing the requirements, the physician establishes the title of "Handsurgeon" with a diploma and license number by Ministry of Health. Currently, Hand Surgery training is available at 13 different hospitals. These are Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine; Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine; Ankara University Faculty of Medicine; Uludag University Faculty of Medicine; Mersin University Faculty of Medicine; Pamukkale University Faculty of Medicine; Afyon University Faculty of Medicine; Baltalimani Bone and Joint Diseases Teaching Hospital (Istanbul) and Sisli Etfal Teaching Hospital (Istanbul), Akdeniz University Faculty of Medicine, Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Necmettin Erbakan University Meram Faculty of Medicine, . Besides that, over than 10 other established Hand Surgery centres actively work clinically and soon to be registered as a residency training centre.