

Report to the IFSSH regarding the travel grant for Mongolian Hand Surgeons to the United States, January 6 - 22, 2013

Two Mongolian hand and upper extremity surgeons, Dr. Burged Bud and Dr. Yaninlkhambatarzul from the National Trauma Hospital left Ulaanbaator, Mongolia on January 6, 2013 and arrived in Chicago on January 7, 2013. Budgetary restrictions limited the delegation to two Mongolian hand surgeons. Korean Air's change of flight schedule put them into Chicago two days later than originally projected.

Dr. Robert Schenck, at his own expense, served as the coordinator for the Mongolian surgeons' time in the United States. On January 8 the three physicians, accompanied by a Mongolian interpreter, flew to Naples, FL where they attended the American Association for Hand Surgery 2013 annual meeting from January 9 to January 13. There were no available funds, nor gratis registration as there was at the AAHS meeting, for them to attend the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery meeting.

The entire AAHS meeting was of great interest to them, but of greatest practical use for them were the early morning course reviews covering topics of Distal Radius Fractures, Metacarpal Fracture, The Smashed Elbow and Upper Extremity Nerve Transfers. Drs. Bud and Baatarzul were very involved in the hands-on workshops, such as distal radius fractures, utilizing the most modern equipment and hardware. Ms. Terigel Bold, the Mongolian interpreter, was invaluable to them at all of these sessions, not only in the lecture room, but also in the laboratory sessions.

At the close of the meeting on January 13, 2013 the two surgeons, their interpreter and the undersigned, returned by air to Chicago. On Monday, January 15, Dr. Daniel Mass of the University of Chicago substituted for the originally projected Dr. Daniel Nagle, by demonstrating shoulder surgery to the visiting surgeons.

On Tuesday, January 15, 2013 Drs. Bud and Baatarzul, accompanied by Ms. Bold flew to Rochester, Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic where Dr. Peter Amadio served as their facilitator. There they had an intensive two days of microsurgical training which included anastomosis of 1 mm. vessels and revascularization of flaps. In addition they had tours of the facility. Expenses for microsurgical laboratory training, housing and food were supplied gratis by the Mayo Clinic.

On Friday afternoon, January 18 the two surgeons and their interpreter returned by air from Rochester to Chicago. Drs. Bud and Baatarzul left the next morning, January 19, 2013 to return to Ulaanbaator, Mongolia.

Drs. Bud and Baatarzul have repeatedly expressed to me the great value to them of what they experienced. And they expressed their gratitude to the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand for making this trip possible.

I believe this beginning introduction to hand surgery in a country outside of Mongolia, and all that they observed and learned will contribute to improving the care of hand and upper extremity problems for more than three million Mongolians in the many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

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Section of Hand Surgery,

Feb. 11, 2013

P S: The grant from the IFSSH was properly administered by Ms. Sarah Neece of the administrative office for the AAHS, and a copy of the application of the funds use for the intended purposes will be attached to this report.