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CONNECTING OUR GLOBAL HAND SURGERY FAMILY

Posttraumatic heterotopic
ossification of the elbow

Pathologies of the ECU
tendon in athletes



Highlights from the Eastern European Hand Surgery Course

COMMITTEE REPORT: ORGANISATION OF HAND
INJURY SERVICES AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD

HISTORY OF
THE IFSHT



Eastern European Hand Surgery Course

September 2012

The sharing of knowledge is one of the key aims of the IFSSH and FESSH. For this reason, IFSSH Secretary General, Professor Zsolt Szabo recruited an enthusiastic and well-known faculty from across Europe, Turkey and South Africa, to teach over 120 surgeons from Eastern Europe. The venue was the spa town of Hajduszoboszlo in the Hortobagy region of Eastern Hungary, about two and a half hours drive from Budapest.

The course was designed to be as cost-effective as possible for the delegates (costing just € 300) helped by very generous sponsorship from several companies and by the faculty who gave up their time for free to

prepare the lectures and teach. The course was hugely oversubscribed - a testament to the quality and value of the programme. Asszisztencia, the Hungarian management firm which already provides invaluable support for FESSH, gave flawless logistical assistance throughout the three day course.

The first day comprised several lectures on topics such as Dupuytren's and wrist arthroscopy. The second day involved a 30 minute bus trip across the vast Hungarian plains to the Medical School at Debrecen University. Here, the faculty provided 12 surgical demonstrations on cadavers on techniques such a tendon transfers, wrist replacement, wrist arthroscopy,

skin flaps and distal radius fixation. A state-of-the-art IT system allowed the dissections and surgical techniques to be projected at high definition into a lecture hall, from where the delegates could ask questions. The third day was back in the lecture hall, with further lectures on broader educational topics such as the basics of congenital hand surgery, the future of nerve surgery and operations that should no longer be performed.

The other aspect of the course was, of course, social. This was a great opportunity for the delegates and faculty from so many countries to meet each other and develop friendly and professional contacts. The first



evening had a Hungarian supper with traditional dancing and music from several accomplished performers. The second evening, of some concern especially to the staid and shy British author of this report, was a pool party - everyone in their bathing costumes relaxing in the hot natural spring water for which Hajdusoboszlo is famous.

For the faculty, there was the opportunity for a four day cycle and wine tour after the course. To keep the costs for the course at a minimum, the faculty willingly paid for this themselves. We were able to cycle alongside a beautiful lake, across fields and up rather steep hills (rewarded by the free-wheeling down the other

side). As a special event, there was even a five mile section of tranquil river that we paddled along in rather wobbly canoes. To keep us safe on the road sections, two police motorcyclists accompanied us and kept the trucks and cars away. In the evenings we had the opportunity to try the local Tokaji wines for which the region is rightly famous.

Many thanks to the delegates for wanting to come to the course, to the faculty for providing the programme, and to Professor Szabo and Asszisztencia for the meticulous arrangements. This sort of programme

is really what makes Hand Surgery such a special thing.

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