

2023 World Symposium on Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Upper Limb

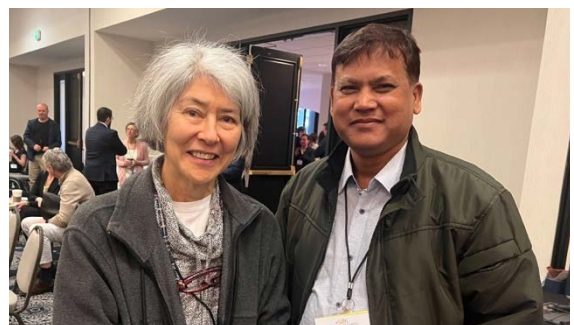
Dr Ashraf Islam, Bangladesh: IFSSH supported registrant

I would like to thank the IFSSH and ASSH executives for the scholarship to attend the 2023 World Symposium. It was a very wonderful experience for me to attend such a high-class meeting in the beautiful city of Minneapolis as well as the Cerebral Palsy pre-course, and to know the legends of congenital hand and their expertise. It is a good memory and inspiring to have met these unique teachers: Jim House, Terry Light, Ann E. Van Heest, Deborah C. Bohn, Michelle James, and others.



Meeting Dr. James House (left) and Drs. Deborah Bohn, Charles Goldfarb and Ann Van Heest (right)

Thanks, Marybeth Ezaki, Mam, for your wonderful lecture on history of surgery of congenital hand anomalies and for editing the 3rd edition of Care of Congenital Hand Anomalies book along with Michelle James and others.



With Dr. Marybeth Ezaki

The CP pre-course in Gillete Children's was unique. I learned the role of EMG in evaluating CP patients, that all the wrist flexions are not the same and need different treatment options, and results of Green Transfer are inconsistent. Thanks Ann, Mam, for good cases and excellent discussion.

Thanks, Dr. Kerby C. Oberg, Sir, for fantastic lectures on Classification and Limb development (Regulation of axis-specific signaling molecules) which were elaborative and mind blowing.

I met Terry Light who inspired me about congenital hands during his visit to Bangladesh in 2016 - thanks Sir for the legacy lecture.



Discussions with Dr. Terry Light (left) who has inspired my career, and Dr Douglas Hutchinson (right) who provided great insight in the CP pre-course

I came to know that hyaluronic acid skin graft substitute is a good option for syndactyly separation in scar comparison and taking abdominal skin gives good colour cosmesis. Dorsal metacarpal V-Y island advancement flap and graftless technique are also viable option for syndactyly separation. I met Dr. Abdul Ghani Hashim who advised me to use the dorsal rotation advancement flap to take more distally (distal P1) for the first web coverage in syndromic Apert Hand.

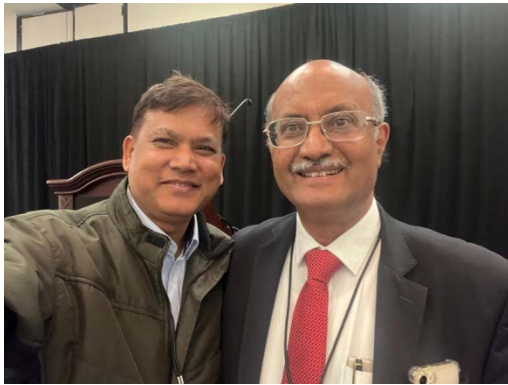
Regulation and rotational deformities are common in complex syndactyly (40-60%) which need pre-op counselling. Conservative or no treatment could be the policy in symbrachydactyly cases (in over 60%).

I saw rare cases of symbrachydactyly in the meeting. Thanks, Lindley Wall et al. (university orthopedics) for presenting such a big series of symbrachydactyly. The discussion of the CoULD database (2014-22) of 3500 patients with a high level of unclassified cases was very enjoyable.

Non-vascularized toe phalanx transfer is an acceptable surgical option for short and hypoplastic digits in congenital hand anomalies as taught by Hidehiko Kawabata of Japan. Serolimus was found to be effective in the treatment of isolated limb overgrowth with higher adverse effects - this was new to me and found to be effective. Malignant transformation in multiple hereditary exostosis is high (5-25%) which should a concern for us. Guillaume Canaud's presentation on targeted therapy in PIK3CA-related overgrowth syndrome (PROS) was very elaborate and excellent. The use of Alpelisib with PROS was also appealing. I came to know the association of small finger syndactyly and bilateral border digits involvement

(Eugene-Zheng et al.) with Timothy syndrome. Ulnar polydactyly also has syndromic association (CoULD, Boston Children's Hospital). Pediatric trigger fingers are clinically distinct from pediatric trigger thumb and adult trigger thumb. The modified reverse Sauve Kapandji technique for superior radioulnar synostosis was new to me and was good.

I was excited to learn that the next World Congenital Symposium will be in Coimbatore, India in 2026 - congratulations to Dr. Raja Sabapathy and his team. I previously did a fellowship at Ganga Hospital with Dr. Sabapathy and also had the good opportunity in Minneapolis to meet with Dr. Katleen Libberecht (Sweden) who was another Ganga fellow.



With Dr. Raja Sabapathy (left) and Dr. Katleen Libberecht (right) - Katleen and I were Ganga fellows under Dr Sabapathy

Thank you again to all for helping to disseminate the knowledge of congenital hand differences all over the globe.

Ashraf Islam
Dhaka, Bangladesh