

## Association of Chinese-Speaking Hand Surgeons United

### Introduction of mission, educational activities, and future of the Association of Chinese-Speaking Hand Surgeons United

The association was established to unite Chinese-speaking hand surgeons in order to further the science and technology of hand surgery, better serve the patients and foster international academic activities. The history and practice of Chinese-speaking hand surgery can be tracked back to the fifties or sixties of last century. The idea of an association to enhance communication of the Chinese-speaking hand surgeons across regions or countries was initiated only eight years ago, fully functioning from 2015 onwards.

Since establishment, with a strikingly vast increase of participants, the association has organized a number of congresses and forums to carry out its educational mission. Hand surgeons from mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong have attended these events with speakers and attendees from other countries and regions in Asia, Europe and America. Each of these past forums has featured two or three topics for in-depth lecturing, free debating, and discussion over a two-day period. In the past three years, these topics have included treatment of hand fractures, wide-awake hand surgery, microsurgical hand reconstruction, nerve compression neuropathy, nerve repair and tendon transfers, flexor tendon repairs, and treatment of wrist disorders. These topics reflect major clinical practices and topics of either interest or concern. The congresses featured more formal scientific presentations, symposiums, instructional courses, and invited lectureship. The most recent congress had 600 attendees.

The leadership of the association includes an extensive array of active hand surgeons. The current president of the association is Dr Zeng Tao Wang (2016-2018) from mainland China. The presidency will rotate among mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and other regions.

The major aim of this association is to carry out an educational mission to the Chinese-speaking hand surgeons and to promote information and knowledge exchange through forums and congresses and courses, and to serve as a tie to connect the hand societies or hand surgeons across different regions or countries. It is the goal of the association that Chinese-speaking hand surgeons, who are estimated at a total of 2200-2500, should make an increasing contribution worldwide to the global family of hand surgery, the IFSSH and its scientific activities.