

History of Hand Surgery in Portugal

For more than 50 years working for the hand...

The first step for the creation of a Portuguese scientific organization to join and enhance knowledge around the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the hand was taken on the 23rd September 1967 with the constitution of the Organizing Committee of the Sociedade Portuguesa de Cirurgia da Mão (SPOCMA).

Among the founding members, where:

Prof. Dr. A. Baptista Fernandes, plastic surgeon, from Lisbon

Prof. Dr. António Gentil Martins, pediatric surgeon, from Lisbon

Dr. A. Guimarães e Sousa, plastic surgeon, from Porto

Dr. Carlos Elias da Costa, plastic surgeon, from Lisbon

Dr. Elias Damião Pires, plastic surgeon, from Lisbon

Prof. Dr. Fernando Paredes, plastic surgeon, from Lisbon

Dr. Fernando Prata de Lima, plastic surgeon, from Porto

Dr. João Manuel Monteiro Sacadura, plastic surgeon, from Lisbon

Prof. Dr. Joaquim Paiva Chaves, orthopaedic surgeon, from Lisbon

Prof. Dr. José de Oliveira, orthopaedic surgeon, from Porto

Dr. Manuel Serra e Costa, orthopaedic surgeon, from Lisbon

The Portuguese Society for Hand Surgery (SPOCMA) would officially be constituted on the 12th of March 1968, as a Section of the Medical Sciences Society of Lisbon (Sociedade de Ciências Médicas de Lisboa).

On the 29th of April 1968, the first Direction Board was elected with Dr. Manuel Serra e Costa as President, Prof. Dr. José de Oliveira as Secretary and Prof. Dr. Fernando Paredes as Secretary-adjunct.

The first official session was held on the 28th February 1969 where Prof. Dr. Fernando Paredes presented two communications: “Impressions about the American Society Hand Surgery Meeting” and “Status and Developments of the international Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand”.

In the same year, active international networking started and SPOCMA joined the IFSSH.

During this first tri-annual Direction Board, 2 scientific meetings were organized and became the first International Hand Meetings to be held in Portugal. They were called “Jornadas de Cirurgia da Mão do Hospital de Sant’Ana” and had participation of world-renowned surgeons Guy Pulvertaft, Graham Stack, Eric Möberg and others.

The first Direction Board was reelected on the 30th July 1971 and in the same year, President Dr. Manuel Serra e Costa creates the first specialized Hand Surgery Unit in Hospital de Sant’Ana, where he was also chief director. Dr. Amadeu Buceta Martins was engaged as the head of the unit, after a period of training in the United Kingdom with: Pulvertaft, in the city of Derby; Athol Parks in Glasgow and with Lamb, in Edinburgh.

Through the following years, the Portuguese Society has been gradually growing in associates and scientific activities conjoining clinicians interested in the hand – surgeons, rehabilitation doctors and therapists.

IN 2003, SPOCMA had the pleasure to organize the **IX FESSH Congress in Lisbon** in a memorable gathering for everyone.

For the past 15 years, we have a special connection with our “brother” Spanish Society (SECMA) with which we a joined **Iberian Meeting** every 3-years.

In 2018 we celebrated our **50th anniversary** with a special meeting held in Academia de Ciências de Lisboa with the participation of the Brazilian, Spanish and French hand surgery societies.

SPOCMA today is an open medical society, turning for the future with continuous development and evolution, deeply involved in scientific promotion and education through numerous courses, workshops, fellowships and meetings.