

The Netherlands Society for Hand Surgery

Nederlandse Vereniging voor Handchirurgie; NVvH

<https://www.handchirurgie.nl/>



The first formal hand surgery meeting held in the Netherlands was in 1966, when the Dutch and Belgian Associations for Plastic Surgery hosted the International Conference on Surgery of the Hand. From that, the enthusiasm was born to found the 'Dutch Club for Surgery of the Hand'. Initiated by Jacques van der Meulen and Johan Landsmeer, several plastic surgeons joined the club to share their knowledge at the annual meetings that were held. International cooperation was quickly found and in 1970 a joint meeting of the Dutch Club for Surgery of the Hand' with the ASSH was organized.

In 1972, The Dutch Club decided to become the more formal Society for Surgery of the Hand (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Handchirurgie; NVvH), as we know it ever since. The Dutch Society became a member of the IFSSH in 1975 during the Paris meeting, and the Netherlands hosted the IFSSH Congress in 1980. From then on, The Dutch Society for Surgery of the Hand gradually became the platform where Dutch hand surgeons could discuss cases, and share their scientific efforts.

Nowadays, two scientific meetings are organized every year. Every two or three years, meetings are combined with the Dutch Society for Hand Therapy, and the Belgian Society. The Dutch Society is still growing gradually, and currently has 261 members. It was mainly a domain for plastic surgeons at first; currently a vast number of orthopedic surgeons and trauma surgeons with a special interest in hand surgery become members. Cooperation and shared enthusiasm for hand surgery remain to be the principle on which the society thrives.

Besides the meetings, the Society supports PhD theses and travel grants. Dutch and Belgian candidates are supported in the preparation for the FESSH exam by organizing a trial exam, led by experienced hand surgeons.

After a successful 2002 FESSH conference in Amsterdam, the Dutch Society is proud that the FESSH Meeting will return to the Netherlands in 2021.

Lastly, Prof. Dr. John M. Kauer was honoured as an IFSSH Pioneer in Hand Surgery in 2019. As a Professor in functional anatomy at the Radboud Hospital, he dedicated most of his professional career to hand anatomy and carpal kinematics.

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