

DIETER BUCK-GRAMCKO

MD, FRCPS (Glasgow)(Hon) 1927- 2012



Dieter Buck-Gramcko was born in Hamburg, Germany, on 28 October, 1927. He studied medicine at the Universities of Hamburg and Düsseldorf from 1947 to 1952. He trained in General Surgery and Traumatology in Graz, Austria (1954), and Hamburg (1955 to 1959).

His special interest in hand surgery was reinforced after a fellowship with Erik Moberg in Göteborg, Sweden, in 1957.

From 1959 to 1992 he worked at the Accident Hospital Hamburg, where he founded, in 1963, the first independent Hand Surgery Unit in Germany. A few years later, this unit was expanded to include reconstructive plastic surgery, microsurgery, and treatment of burn injuries.

In 1976, he was appointed Professor of Hand and Plastic Surgery at the University of Hamburg. He was admitted as Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (FRCPS Glasgow) in 1980, because of his tremendous contribution to Hand Surgery.

In 1959, Dieter founded the later 'Deutschsprachige Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Handchirurgie' (German Association of Hand Surgeons) and has acted as Honorary Secretary until 1993. He was Founder Member (1966) and President (1974-75) of the IFSSH. He was Honorary Member of the American, Australian, Austrian, French, Hungarian, Japanese, Scandinavian, Spanish, and South African Societies for Surgery of the Hand, and of the French and

Japanese Societies for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Corresponding Member of the Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand, and the Austrian Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He is Founder Member and second President of the German Association for Microsurgery, Founder Member of the Association of German Plastic Surgeons, and Founder Member and first President of the German Society for Surgery of the Hand and its Honorary President since 1994.

Professor Dieter Buck-Gramcko was especially interested in the reconstruction of injured hands and of congenital malformations of the extremities, where he introduced several new or modified procedures, particularly the pollicisation of the index finger, which he has performed on more than 500 hands. Professor Buck-Gramcko has published more than 230 papers in journals or book chapters and is editor or co-editor of several books. He has written extensively on the treatment of congenital deformities, including his book "Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Forearm". From 1969, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the German Journal: Handchirurgie-Mikrochirurgie-Plastische Chirurgie. His last book "Ein Leben für die Handchirurgie" was published in 2007, and contains the history of 100 Hand Surgeons. Dieter Buck-Gramcko has trained many hand and plastic surgeons from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, and hosted a great number of visitors from innumerable countries of the world.

At the seventh International Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand in Vancouver, Canada in 1998, Dieter Buck-Gramcko was bestowed the honour of "Pioneer of Hand Surgery"