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”

DOUGLAS ANDREW CAMPBELL REID
MRCS; FRCS; MB BS; LRCP. 1921 - 2005

Douglas Campbell Reid, was born on 25 February 1921 in Cardiff, and was trained at the Royal London Hospital, qualifying as a doctor in 1943. After general surgical appointments, he trained in Plastic Surgery for four years with Sir Harold Gillies. An appointment with Guy Pulvertaft in Derby enabled him to introduce Plastic Surgical techniques to the Orthopaedic unit. The combined two specialties played a significant part in developing the Derby Hand Surgery Service. In 1958, he won a Sheffield Regional Hospital Board Research Prize for an essay on thumb reconstruction which was published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (1960), and became widely quoted. As one of the original five Foundation Members of the Second Hand Club, he organized its inaugural meeting in Derby in 1956. That Club later became the British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH).

Campbell Reid was the first to undertake pollicisation in the United Kingdom by the Littler neurovascular pedicle method. His paper on the first 23 cases was presented at the 1968 joint meeting of the British and American Societies for Surgery of the Hand in London and Oxford, and was published in the first number of “The Hand” (1969). In Stockholm, 1955, he gave a paper at the Hand Surgery Section of the First International Congress of Plastic Surgery, and at that time, met Bill Littler, who gave his classic paper on pollicisation. In 1962, as Consultant to the Sheffield Plastic Surgery Unit, he took over the Hand Surgery service, and at the request of Sir Frank Holdsworth, Head of Orthopaedic and Accident Services, also undertook the hand surgery in that Department. As Honorary Lecturer at Sheffield University, he taught countless students. His lectures took him to many centres at home and abroad, and numerous orthopaedic and plastic trainees and visiting postgraduates received his instruction.

Campbell Reid served on the Council of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand from 1970-71, and 1975-79, and was President in 1978. He was on the Council of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Hand Surgery and the British Journal of Plastic Surgery. He coedited the book “Mutilating Injuries of the Hand” (1979) (first and second editions) (in English and French) and contributed to numerous other textbooks. In his Foreword to Campbell Reid’s book “Surgery of the Thumb” (1986), Guy Pulvertaft said “…Campbell Reid’s exceptional experience brought him international acclaim and has drawn doctors and patients from many lands to his Clinic.” Campbell Reid was a Gillies Lecturer and Gold Medallist of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, London (1981). His presentation was titled ‘The Emergence of Hand Surgery in the United Kingdom’. On retirement in 1983, he was made Honorary Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the Sheffield Health Authority.

Apart from Hand Surgery he was a keen ornithologist and photographer. In 1946 he married Margaret Joyce née Pedler, who was an archivist and head of her division at the Foreign Office. They had a son and two daughters. Douglas passed away on 16 August 2005.

Douglas Andrew Campbell Reid was honoured as a “Pioneer of Hand Surgery” at the 7th International Congress of the IFSSH in Vancouver in 1998.