Christopher Berkeley Wynn Parry
MBE, DM, FRCP, FRCS (1924-2015)

Christopher Berkeley Wynn Parry was born on 14 October 1924. Dr Wynn Parry is known worldwide for his expertise in rehabilitation. He was in the Royal Air Force Medical Branch from 1948 to 1975 becoming Consultant Adviser in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation for the Service during his last fifteen years. He developed the residential medical rehabilitation units at Chessington and Headley Court expanding their activities to embrace orthopaedic conditions and also complex rheumatological and neurological problems. He developed a rehabilitation service for the severely injured hand with particular emphasis on peripheral nerve and brachial plexus lesions. His contributions included the use of serial plasters following intensive physiotherapy for stiff hands and fingers, the use of lively splints, the development of sensory re-education and the management of causalgia and reflex sympathetic dystrophy. An important step was the resettlement of the severely injured to gainful employment. These experiences were reported in his book "rehabilitation of the Hand", which was first published in 1958. The fourth edition, published in 1982, indicated its great popularity. This first book devoted to this important subject stimulated the development of rehabilitation services for the hand and upper limb in a number of countries.

On leaving the Royal Air Force in 1975, Kit Wynn Parry became Director of Rehabilitation at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, where he developed a unit for assessment and rehabilitation of locomotor disorders with particular emphasis on head injuries, brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injuries. He specialized in the development of electromyography for assessment of peripheral nerve problems and in the use of sensory-evoked potentials. He became particularly interested in the management of intractable pain and his profound experience was demonstrated by his editorship of a book on the subject published by Churchill Livingstone.

Dr Wynn Parry has played a major role in developing specialized units for the assessment, management and resettlement of patients with severe injuries and diseases of the upper limb and hand.

In addition to the books he has written, he contributed over fifty publications and twenty-five book chapters on such subjects as pharmacology, electro-diagnosis, rehabilitation and resettlement, rheumatology, management of pain, peripheral nerve disorders, brachial plexus lesions and sports injuries. Dr Wynn Parry has played a major role in developing specialized units for the assessment, management and resettlement of patients with severe injuries and diseases of the upper limb and hand.

Kit Wynn Parry was honoured as "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" at the 6th International Congress of the IFSSH in Helsinki, Finland in 1995.

Tatsuya Tajima, MD, (1924 - 2003)

Tatsuya Tajima was born in Japan, 3 June 1923. He graduated from Niigata University School of Medicine in 1947. While he was training in orthopaedic surgery at the Albany Medical Center Hospital, New York, he became interested in hand surgery. Through the recommendation of Crawford J Campbell, he studied hand surgery with William Littler at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City in 1953 where he was the first Hand Fellow from Japan. He also trained with Joseph Boyes in Los Angeles in 1966.

Dr Tajima helped Professor T Amako, his former teacher, to establish the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand in 1957 which was the fourth such society in the world. Prof Tajima was President of the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand (1971-1972) and has been national delegate to the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand since 1966 for many years. He served as President of the IFSSH in 1976-1977 and was Chairman of the Third International Congress held on the 3rd to 8th of November, 1986 in Tokyo. Prof. Tajima was Professor and Chief of the Orthopaedic Department of Niigata University from 1970-1989 and Director of the Niigata University Hospital from 1975-1979. He was President of the Japanese Orthopaedic Association (1986-1987) and the Japanese Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Society (1972-1973). He became Honorary Fellow of the American Association for the Surgery of the Hand (1992), Corresponding Member of the German-speaking Society for Hand Surgery and Associate Editor of the American volume of the Journal of Hand Surgery.

Prof. Tajima has trained a large number of surgeons from Niigata and other Japanese universities as well as from foreign countries including Europe and China. He has published over 100 papers on hand surgery and contributed chapters on the hand and forearm in several major Japanese monographs on orthopaedic surgery and traumatology published in Japan. He was chief organizer of the Advanced Hand Surgery Course held every year in Niigata since 1974. Since his retirement from the Niigata University in 1989, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Niigata Hand Surgery Foundation, Inc., where he consulted and performed surgery on hand surgery patients.

At the Sixth International Congress of the IFSSH held in Helsinki, Finland in 1990, Prof. Tatsuya Tajima was honoured as "Pioneer of Hand Surgery".