

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 Trauma in 1976. He was Honorary Member of the American Association for Surgery of the Hand (1982), and of the British Society for 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 1995, Prof. Tatsuya Tajima was honoured as "Pioneer of Hand Surgery"