

# Pioneers in Hand Surgery

### IFSSH Pioneer profile:

## Professor Raoul Tubiana

Professor Tubiana has made major contributions to Hand Surgery in his authorship of major texts and scientific articles, his promotion and development of specialised hand surgery centers and his leadership in organisation of hand societies and teaching programmes.

Professor Tubiana was born in Constantine. He studied medicine at the University of Paris, and completed his Medical Thesis in 1939. Following a year in the French Army, he was an intern of the Paris Hospitals from 1940 to 1942. Professor Tubiana's excellence in Hand Surgery is partly the result of a remarkable multidisciplinary exposure and training as he relates so well in his book *The Hand\**. For three years he served as an Army Medical Officer with the French Liberation Forces in North Africa, Corsica, and France. While at the Reconstructive Surgery Unit of the First French Army, he was exposed to the Orthopaedic Surgery discipline, through the influence of Merle d'Aubigne and to the Plastic Surgery discipline through John M. Converse after completing his training in Orthopaedic Surgery. He developed a strong interest in hand injuries and burns. This has stimulated him to take a series of study trips, first to England, visiting Gillies, McIndoe, Mowlem, Seddon, and Pulvertaft. He spent further time in the United States with Sterling Bunnell, Sumner Koch, Michael Mason, and Harvey Allen.

Professor Tubiana was a Founding Member and Secretary General of the French Society for Surgery of the Hand from 1964 to 1972 and its President in 1973. He was President of the French Society of Plastic Surgery in 1972, and President of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand in 1973. Professor Tubiana was the President of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand from 1972 to 1974.

Professor Tubiana was Associate Professor at the University of Paris, Scientific Director of the Hand Institute since 1972, Chief Editor of the G.E.M.'s Monographs since



1966 and was Chief Editor of the *Annals of Hand Surgery*. Professor Tubiana was an honorary or corresponding member of many international societies including the British Orthopaedic Association, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the German, Italian, South American, Dutch and Canadian Societies for Surgery of the Hand. Professor Tubiana was a member of the Academy of Surgery and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Professor Tubiana and his wife Claude lived on the banks of the River Seine in Paris, overlooking the Notre Dame Cathedral. He was a collector and connoisseur of the fine art which was reflected in an outstanding collection of art masterpieces.

*"The Hand", Vol 1 p XXI – XXXII, WB Saunders, Philadelphia, 1981*