



NEWSLETTER

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HKSSH under COVID-19

Annual Congress

The pandemic has affected every aspects of life, including our annual congress, initially scheduled 16-18 May 2020, with the American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS) being invited as the Guest Society. Due to numerous anticipated problems including difficulty in securing a venue for the meeting, travel restrictions and possible quarantine measures on invited overseas speakers and participants, it was decided during the Council meeting on 18 February to have the annual congress deferred to March 2021. All exchange ambassadorships with Japanese, Korean and Russian Hand Societies are also deferred to 2021.

The preliminary new date of the Congress is **27-28 March 2021**. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for our update.

Saturday Interhospital Meeting

The HKSSH hosted the Saturday Interhospital Meeting the first time online on 29 February 2020, with thanks to technical assistance from HKCOS and CUHK. Various pathologies with application of vascularised bone grafting technique were presented.

Online meetings, tutorials, webinars have gradually become the norm under COVID-19, and it has created new opportunities. In this meeting, colleagues from Jishuitan Hospital in Beijing were able to join the meeting and share with us their cases for discussion.



IFSSH Ezine



The latest issue of the IFSSH Ezine can be downloaded from https://www.ifssh.info/ifssh_ezine.php

AAHS Travelling Scholar Report

Dr Michelle Lee

United Christian Hospital

It was a great honour to receive the AAHS 2020 Annual Meeting Scholarship. It was my second time in America, the first being the ASSH Annual Meeting in 2019.



The congress this year was held in Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale is a city in Florida, 28 miles north of Miami. The city is a major yachting centre, adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, and houses 7-miles of beaches. All scientific programme for the meeting was taken place at the Marriott Harbour Beach Hotel, right next to the long stretch of beaches.



The congress consisted of multiple concurrent sessions, including instructional courses, surgical skills workshops, guest lectures, scientific paper presentations, discussion panels, poster displays and industrial booths, vastly enriching the program. At the Instructional Course on **Revision Nerve Surgery**, pitfalls in nerve decompression surgeries and nerve repairs were highlighted. In the management of neuromas, which could be difficult problems for hand surgeons, new advancement and commercial products such as bovine collagen, artificial amniotic membranes could be an alternative augmentation to existing physical and pharmacological treatments.

The **Last Person Standing** was certainly an interesting session. At the start of the game,

everyone in the audience stood up. We needed to vote for the best answer for each question using the AAHS hand-held paper fan. It engaged the audience excitingly. The person who answered most questions correctly, i.e. 'The Last Person Standing' was awarded a free registration for next year's congress.



Knowledge from AAHS Past Presidents- Things That Thought Were TRUE but Are No Longer revealed the transformation of hand surgery over the past decades. In that session, past presidents discussed early beliefs and practices that changed over time as a result of wisdom gained and lessons learnt. It featured techniques on tendon repairs, soft tissue fibrosis and early rehabilitation protocols, thoughts on finger clicking and degenerative arthropathies, and use of relative motion splints invented by Dr Donald Lalonde. It was definitely an inspiring and reflective session, as it is important to learn from history, keep an open mind and be capable to advance with technology. As Heraclitus had said, *'The only constant in life is change'*.

I have also learnt a lot from the panel on **Amputation Revisited**, where experts from all around the world exchanged ideas on different management protocols based on different cultural backgrounds. In **50 years of PIP arthroplasty**, the evolution and pitfalls of generations of PIPJ implants were discussed. **Hand and Wrist Trauma in Paediatric Patients** highlighted various injury patterns specific to children, treatment options, orthosis and rehabilitation regime. Not only being hugely different from adults, other areas such as reading the youngsters' mind and addressing parental concerns were all skills that hand surgeons have to master.

Best Hercules Cases vs. Best Holmes Cases was an eye-opening experience where experts in hand surgery presented difficult cases and how they tackle them with 'the most heroic efforts, surgical prowess, and brute

force'. A wide spectrum of cases was presented including malignant tumours in paediatrics and subsequent reconstruction, open fractures with mangled limbs, salvage of surgical failures, devastating widespread infections etc. The audience was also given the opportunity to challenge the treatment and vote on the best case.

Scott Kozin's inspiring talk on **Nerve Transfers in Distressed Patient Populations** demonstrated huge efforts and perspiration in his work on regaining function and lessening impairment for patients with acute flaccid myelitis. Although this is not a common disease in our locality, I could feel his enthusiasm on helping this group of patients with his gifted hands and perseverance.

It is my pleasure to receive the scholarship and I would recommend young hand surgeons to come and broaden their horizon, and be inspired by world's experts.



Saturday Inter-Hospital Meeting

Distal radius fracture:

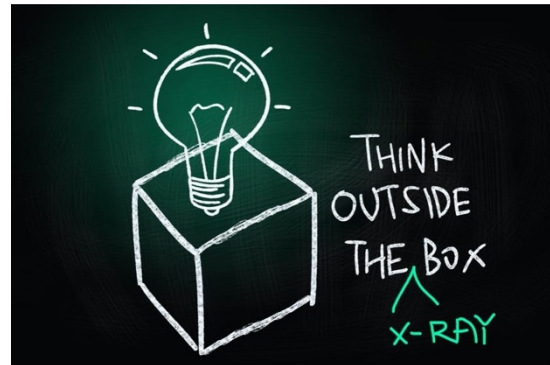
[Think outside the x-ray box](#)

HKSSH will be hosting the IHM this Saturday online on the original scheduled date of the annual congress. Same as the arrangement of recent IHMs, pre-registration with HKCOS and installation of the app 'Zoom' is required. E-mail on pre-registration will be sent out by HKCOS this week.

Members intended to attend the HKSSH Annual General Meeting (can only be attended in person, not online) to be held shortly after the IHM can also join the IHM at the venue of the AGM, from where the IHM is relayed.

Date: 16 May 2020

Time: 0830 - 1000



HKSSH Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held this Saturday at PWH after the Saturday interhospital meeting. In order to meet the legal requirement, the AGM has to be held (in person) before June 2020 to receive and approve the President Report, Auditor Report and Statements, and therefore is exempted from the COVID-19 related Prohibition on Group Gathering Regulation (Paragraph 11 Exemption). It could not be held online due to lack of such provision in the Memorandum and Articles of the HKSSH at present.

Other agenda items include adopting the minutes of the last AGM, appointment of Honorary Auditor and Honorary Legal Advisor, and election of the new Council members for the term of 2020-2022.

Date: 16 May 2020

Venue: Seminar Room 09B50B, 9th Floor, Main Clinical Block and Trauma Centre, PWH

Time: 1030

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