

Muhammet Okkan - Turkey

Dear young hand surgeons,

I received hand surgery training at Kocaeli University Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology between 2015 and 2020 in addition to my orthopaedic specialty. Next month, I will officially become a hand surgeon by completing my hand surgery fellowship, which is 2 years at Mersin University Hand Surgery Department. The official hand surgery fellowship in Turkey started in 2011, and my fellowship institution is one of the two in Turkey which continues to provide institutional training in hand surgery. Currently, 17 out of the 63 official hand surgery fellows in Turkey have received their expertise from the institution where I trained. They are working in the leading hand surgery centres in Turkey and Europe. They include Mr. Egemen Ayhan, currently a member of the FESSH Communication Committee, and Mr. Can Emre Bař, working at the Christine M. Kleinert Institute. My clinic was accredited by FESSH as Hand Trauma Replantation Centre (HTRC) from 2016-2019. It has been re-accredited by FESSH since 2024. It is one of the most important hand trauma and hand surgery centres in Europe.

Hand surgery is my passion, my commitment and the centre of my life. I have conducted several studies on the education and fellowship of hand surgeons in Turkey. I would like to share my experience with young European hand surgeons. These studies have investigated the educational problems in hand surgery and their realistic solutions and how to increase the interest in hand surgery.

As a result of mutual interaction and exchange of experiences, I believe that the European family of hand surgery will become much larger by increasing the quality of hand surgery education in Europe, equal opportunities in education, increasing the interest in hand surgery and reaching a much wider interest and audience than yesterday.

Kind regards,

Muhammet Okkan