

The Third World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent and the Inauguration of World Association for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent

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Building on the success of the 2 previous World Congresses for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent in Beijing and Taipei, the *Third World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent*, was held in Xi'an, China, on October 12 through 14, 2012. The Congress was hosted by Professor Shuzhong Guo, the Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Xijing Hospital, the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an, China. The scientific program was organized by Dr Lee L.Q. Pu, Professor of Plastic Surgery at University of California Davis, and Dr Wei Xia, an Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at Xijing Hospital as cochair of the scientific committee. Professor Yilin Cao from Beijing, Professor David T.W. Chiu from New York City, and Professor Fu-Chan Wei from Taipei served as honorary chairmen of the Congress, Professor Yu-Ray Chen from Taipei and Professor Zuoliang Qi from Shanghai as cochairmen. The scientific program spanned 3 full days and was preceded by a full day of social program for all invited speakers from all over the world.

The pre-Congress social program, organized by our local host, the Xijing Hospital of the Fourth Military Medical University began at 6:00 AM on October 11, 2012. All invited speakers from overseas, along with their family members, took part of this day tour to the Huangdi Mausoleum, the memorial mausoleum of legendary Huangdi located approximately 200 km northwest to Xi'an. The destination was a key point of historical and



FIGURE 1. The formal ceremony for memorial mausoleum of legendary Huangdi was led by Professor Lee L.Q. Pu (the first left) and Professors Yilin Cao (the second left), David T.W. Chiu (the first right), and Fu-Chan Wei (the second right) in front of Huangdi mausoleum temple.

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全球华裔整形外科医师协会祭文

维公元 2012 年 10 月 11 日，和风骀荡，秋高气爽。时值中秋，恭谒桥陵。缅怀始祖，奠基华夏，开创文明，春秋五千。中华文化，自此方张。天下之人皆有本源，世人未可不思其本而忘其祖也。人谁无祖，吾祖轩辕。凡我华裔，黄帝子孙。或招之聚于华夏，或去之散于五洲，天水一方，其源盖皆出于始祖轩辕也。身流炎黄血，同根心相连。血浓于水，手足情深。虽散居于五洲，服务于万邦，然于风雨黄昏之日，抑春风得意之时，无不视黄帝陵若心中圣地。意往神驰，魂牵梦绕。全球华裔整形外科同道，心怀医者仁心，身怀整形绝技，今日共祭吾祖轩辕，天涯共此时，意在亲睦九族，和合万邦，念兄弟之情，叙同胞之谊，分享美容修复之经验，共创整形之伟业，扬始祖之神威，助中华之崛起，再造华夏之辉煌。沮水淙淙，桥山苍苍，始祖恩泽，山高水长，遥念始祖，朝夕难忘。诚以心香万炷，敬祀我祖仙陵。

FIGURE 2. The script (in Chinese) was read by Professor Lee L.Q. Pu, representing all plastic surgeons of Chinese decent, during the ceremony. The ceremony has showed our greatest respect to our ancestors and our ongoing efforts to advance the science and art of plastic surgery.

cultural interest as it symbolizes the roots of the Chinese nation. For more than 5000 years, Chinese people from all over the world have come here to hold memorial ceremonies in honor of Huangdi. This time, a special ceremony was arranged by our local host for the plastic surgeons of Chinese descent from all over the world. The entire group was gathered in front of Huangdi mausoleum and the formal



FIGURE 3. A group photograph of invited speakers and their family members from overseas and Mainland China in front of Huangdi Mausoleum temple after the ceremony.



FIGURE 4. Featured terra cotta warriors in the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum in Xi'an, China.

memorial ceremony was led by Professor Lee L.Q. Pu and Professors Yilin Cao, David T.W. Chiu, and Fu-Chan Wei (Fig. 1). In paying respect to our ancestors represented by the Yellow Emperor signified our common heritage and our ongoing efforts. Declaration of our objective to advance the science and art of plastic surgery for benefits of all humankind at this occasion indicated our resolve (Fig. 2). The ceremony highlighted the importance to establish our future international society, the World Association for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent (WAPSCD) (Fig. 3). After the ceremony, we had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Huangdi Temple and visit the magnificent compound and picturesque surroundings. All participants also had an opportunity to visit the genealogy registry to trace the origin of his or her family name dating back to antiquity. In the afternoon, we went back to Xi'an and visited the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. Amazingly animated Terra Cotta Warriors, each molded after an individual warrior, were crafted more than 2000 years ago. The monumental

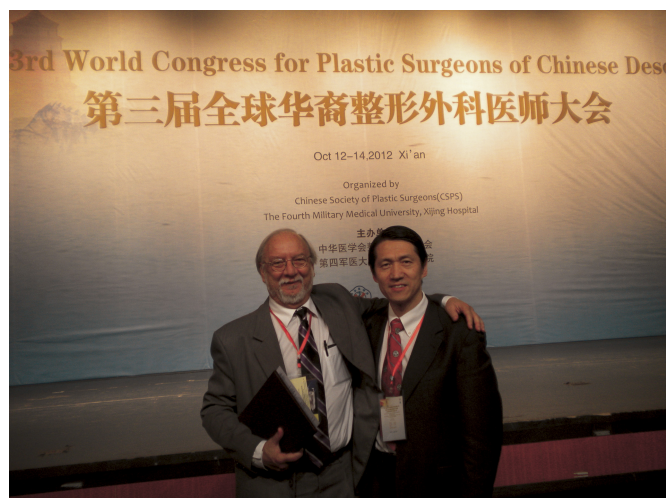


FIGURE 5. Dr William C. Lineaweaver with one of the authors, Dr. Lee L.Q. Pu, during the opening ceremony of the congress.



FIGURE 6. A group photograph for the third World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Decent in Xi'an, China.

formation of the whole column of Terra Cotta Warriors stands majestically as a culture heritage unique to China (Fig. 4). The exciting social events ended with an acrobatic opera detailing the epic love story of Tong Min Wang and Yan Kwe Fai—colorful in the sound and rhythm of Tang dynasty tradition. The music, scenery, and performance by local artists gave the audience a truly memorable picture of the Tang Dynasty in Xi'an more than 1200 year ago.

The Congress began with an opening ceremony on the morning of October 12, 2012. After the welcome remarks by the conference chairman, Professor Shuzhong Guo and the scientific program chairman, Professor Lee L.Q. Pu, Dr William C. Lineaweaver, Editor of the *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, delivered a keynote lecture on how to publish an article in a scientific journal. Professor Ray C-J Chiu, the Emeritus Chairman of Cardiothoracic Surgery at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, presented his keynote lecture on how to become a surgeon and scientist. This was followed by 5 special lectures: “Recollection of the Two Previous World Congresses” by Professor Lee L.Q. Pu; the “Mission of World Association for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent” by Professor David T.W. Chiu; “Introduction of the Past, Present and Future of Plastic Surgery in

China” by Professor Shuzhong Guo; “Introduction of Microsurgery at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital” by Professor Fu-Chen Wei, and “Introduction of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery at Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital” by Professor Yu-Ray Chen. The brilliant delivery by the keynote speakers and special lecturer launched off the congress in high spirit (Fig. 5).

The scientific program was comprehensive in scope and penetrating in depth. There were a total of 37 panels touching on key topics of plastic surgery. There were more than 120 invited panel speakers from Mainland China, Taiwan, the United States, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, Australia, and France. Each panel was composed of 2 oversea invited speakers and 2 invited speakers from Mainland China. Such a composition has facilitated discussion and scientific exchange in each panel. The official language of the congress was English with simultaneous translations from English to Chinese provided by the professional staff. The depth of the presentations and acuity of discussion and the number of innovative techniques and concepts presented in many of the panels have indeed lived up to the caliber of an international conference. Remarkably among them were the panels on reconstructive microsurgery, scar management, facial paralysis surgery, ear reconstruction, pelvic and peroneal reconstruction, head and neck reconstruction, fat grafting and stem cell research, vascular malformation, genital cosmetic surgery, and burn reconstruction.



FIGURE 7. The inaugural board members of WAPSCD attended the first formal board meeting on the night of October 10, 2012, in the conference hotel before the congress.

TABLE 1. The Officers of WAPSCD

Triumvirate Presidium	Yilin Cao (Beijing) Fu-Chan Wei (Taipei) Lee L.Q. Pu (Sacramento, Calif)
Secretary	James J. Chao (San Diego, Calif)
Assistant Secretary	David S.Y. Wong (Hong Kong)
Treasurer	Yu-Ray Chen (Taipei)
Assistant Treasurer	Kenneth C.W. Hui (Hong Kong)
Chairs of Standing Committees	
Bylaw Committee	Zuoliang Qi (Shanghai)
Finance Committee	June K. Wu (New York City)
Membership Committee	Christine Rohde (New York City)
Education Committee	James Chang (Stanford, Calif)
Program Committee	Shuzhong Guo (Xi'an)
Publication Committee	Colin Song (Singapore City)
Research Committee	Wei Liu (Shanghai)
Conference Committee	David C.C. Chuang (Taipei)

On the last day of the meeting, there were 2 concurrent panels: “Challenging Reconstructive Cases” and the other “Cosmetic Surgery Troubleshooting.” Both panels were enthusiastically attended. The speakers generously shared their precious experiences and the audience in return responded enthusiastically resulting in colorful sparkles of intellectual exchange. There were a total of 55 selected abstracts which were presented on the second day of the congress. These abstracts were grouped by virtue of their content as follows: reconstructive, research, breast, pediatric and craniofacial, cosmetic, and general plastic surgery. The session provided a fruitful forum for young plastic surgeons of Chinese descent to present their remarkable clinical observations and research findings in many areas of plastic surgery. As a whole, the Congress had more than 600 participants coming from 15 different countries and regions of all over the globe (Fig. 6).

On the first night of the Congress, the official welcome banquet was held in one of the performing theaters in the city. All congress participants and their accompanying family members were treated with delicious Xi’an cuisine while watching the Tang Dynasty style of musical performance. Everyone enjoyed the poetic artistry of the show, the delicate Xi’an culinary display, and above all the collegiality of everyone present. Before the formal performance and dinner, the inauguration of the WAPSCD was officially announced by Professor David T.W. Chiu and Professor Lee L.Q. Pu. All of the founding board members, appointed officers, and committee chairs were introduced on stage to the assembly. The formation process of the Association was quite arduous. Their enthusiasm and dedication was felt deeply by the membership as evident by the enthusiastic ovation. The newly appointed Triumvirate of the Presidium: Professor Yilin Cao, Professor Fu-Chan Wei, and Professor Lee L.Q. Pu, and the Chairman of the Board, Professor David T.W. Chiu, each spoke on the significance of the inauguration of WAPSCD and its mission. The establishment of such an international society is truly a landmark event for all plastic surgeons of Chinese descent worldwide. This new organization will definitely play a role in advancing the art and science of plastic surgery on a global scale in the near future.

The pre-Congress board meeting chaired by Professor David T.W. Chiu was held on the night of October 10, 2012 (Fig. 7). During this first board meeting, the bylaws of WAPSCD were formally rat-



FIGURE 8. The full board meeting of WAPSCD on the last day (October 14, 2012) of the congress was held in the convention center.

ified and first 3 presidents of the association, founding board members, and standing committee chairs were elected (Tables 1 and 2). On the last day of the Congress, the first official board meeting was held to address a number of additional important issues, such as the identification of the founding members of the society. A number of new committee chairs were also appointed and other future activities of WAPSCD discussed. The local organization committee for the Fourth World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent, led by Dr David Wong, Dr Kenneth Hui, and Dr Chiu-Ming Ho from Hong Kong gave report on the progress. Their enthusiasm and professionalism certainly heightened our expectations for a wonderful World Congress for Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent in Hong Kong (Fig. 8).

In summary, all meeting participants and invited speakers enjoyed this wonderful world Congress in Xi’an, a historic imperial city of China. The scientific program represents the state of the art of plastic surgery covering the entire spectrum of our specialty. The social activities before and during the Congress are memorable and truly a once of a lifetime experience for the participants. We all look forward to our Fourth World Congress in Hong Kong in 2014 and welcome our plastic surgeon colleagues of all races from all over the world to celebrate the rich heritage of the Chinese culture and to share the contributions by the plastic surgeons of Chinese Descent. The new international plastic surgery society, WAPSCD, has its distinguished missions and is determined to play a meaningful role in the international plastic surgery community in the years to come.

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Informed consent was received for publication of the figures in this article.

TABLE 2. The Inaugural Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board	David T.W. Chiu (New York City)
Board Directors	Yilin Cao (Beijing)
	Shuzhong Guo (Xi’an)
	Wei Liu, MD (Shanghai)
	Zuoliang Qi (Shanghai)
	Fu-Chan Wei (Taipei)
	Yu-Ray Chen (Taipei)
	David C.C. Chuang (Taipei)
	Lee L.Q. Pu (Sacramento, Calif)
	James J. Chao (San Diego, Calif)
	Chiu-Ming Ho (Hong Kong)
	Woffles T.L. Wu (Singapore City)
	Michael Leung (Melbourne)
	Wei guo Hu (Brest)