

8TH CONGRESS OF WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PLASTIC SURGEONS OF CHINESE DESCENT: A JOINT MEETING WITH THE FRENCH SOCIETY OF PLASTIC, RECONSTRUCTIVE, AND AESTHETIC SURGERY IN PARIS, FRANCE



LEE L.Q. PU - UNITED STATES
ISAPS Education Council

The 8th Congress of the World Association Plastic Surgeons of Chinese Descent (WAPSCD) was a joint meeting with the 65th annual meeting of the French Society of Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery (SOFCPRE) and was held on November 18-20, 2021 in Paris, France. Under the leadership of the current French society President, Professor Weiguo Hu, a plastic surgeon of Chinese descent and board member of WAPSCD, who worked closely with me, Triumvirate Presidium of WAPSCD, for at least two years, we were able to overcome the many difficulties and hardships due to the pandemic. We were very excited to let our international colleagues know that a joint meeting could become a reality. It was a great scientific forum for the exchange of the arts and science of plastic surgery between WAPSCD and SOFCPRE. A total of 46 plastic surgeons from Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated in the meeting either in person or virtually. Dr. Ernest Chiu from New York University and Dr. Lifei Guo from Tufts University in Boston served as scientific co-chairs on behalf of WAPSCD. Professor Hu and I provided insights and guidelines to the scientific program throughout the meeting's preparation.

The meeting started with an opening ceremony as Professor

Hu gave his welcome address (**Figure 1**). Dr. David Chiu, the chairman of the WAPSCD board, gave his statement lecture of the missions of WAPSCD. I gave a lecture introducing WAPSCD as an international society. Dr. Lifei Guo, a board member of WAPSCD, gave an impressive lecture on the contributions to plastic surgery made by plastic surgeons of Chinese descent.

There were six panels, each moderated by a member of WAPSCD and a member of SOFCPRE. The first panel was focused on microsurgery. Seven experts gave lectures on microsurgical reconstructions like DIEP flap breast reconstruction, ALT flap for head and neck reconstruction, voice reconstruction, and lymphatic



Figure 1. Program for the opening ceremony.

surgery. Many of these presenters are well known to the international plastic surgery community and have presented their innovations in one specific area of microsurgery. The second panel was focused on clinical investigations. A total of six WAPSCD experts presented their works from face transplants to total facial autologous reconstruction, tissue engineering, tracheal reconstruction, and scar management. Their remarkable clinical investigations showcased their contributions to plastic surgery. The third panel focused on pediatric and craniofacial surgery. Five lectures were held on ear reconstruction, management of gunshots to the face, endoscopic craniofacial surgery, and vascular malformations and hemangiomas.

The fourth panel was quite unique and focused on women in leadership. It started off with Dr. Lynn Jeffers, Past President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.



Figure 2. The group on day one.

She spoke about the role of women in leadership positions both in national societies and in academic medical centers. Afterwards, female plastic surgeons from the United States, Taiwan, and Mainland China lectured on the role of women in academic institutions from their respective countries/regions. The fifth panel continued with reconstructive surgery. Each of the seven lectures focused on a unique part of reconstruction such as supraclavicular flap, super-thin pre-expanded perforator flaps, and propeller flaps. There were also lectures on head and neck reconstruction, breast reconstruction, and reconstruction after complex facial trauma. The last panel focused on aesthetic surgery. There was a total of 13 lectures given by plastic surgeons of Chinese descent primarily from Asia. Each expert spoke about one unique aspect of aesthetic surgery in Asians, which is quite unique. Their expertise and lectures were well received by their French colleagues (**Figure 2**).

Although there was a tight schedule due to time restraints, unique discussions followed each presenter's lecture. At the end of the day, Professor Benoit Lengele of Belgium delivered an outstanding keynote lecture on 20 surgical behavioral lessons learned from the Waterloo Campaign. His lecture, accompanied by many original paintings by artists from those days, gave the audience a real sense of what the people learned from the battle of Waterloo about 200 years ago.

On the second day, two members from WAPSCD gave keynote lectures on extremity reconstruction during the Presidential Forum. During the lower extremity session, five French experts gave their lectures on various aspects of soft tissue reconstruction after lower extremity trauma.

I delivered a lecture on "Contemporary approach to soft tissue reconstruction of the lower extremity." During the upper extremity session another five French experts gave lectures



Figure 3. Dinner the day before the event with all WAPSCD members.

on upper extremity soft tissue reconstruction. Dr. James Chang, the Chief of Plastic Surgery from Stanford University, delivered a lecture on thumb reconstruction. There was a fair amount of discussion at the end of each session. This would highlight the value of scientific exchange between WAPSCD and SOFCPRE.

The social events were also incredible and memorable. The night before, Professor Hu and his wife, Letitia, invited all WAPSCD members and several distinguished guests from the French Society to a very lovely French dinner at a classic restaurant in Paris (**Figure 3**). People are starting to enjoy reunions after nearly two years' isolation in the pandemic. On the first night of the meeting, the French Society invited all WAPSCD guests with officers of SOFCPRE to a bus



Figure 4. The meeting party.



Figure 5. Sightseeing in Paris.

tour of Paris. We had a typical French dinner inside the bus and enjoyed beautiful night views of Paris. On the second night, SOFCPRE hosted a banquet for their members and WAPSCD at a high-class restaurant in Paris to celebrate the meeting's success (**Figure 4**). On the third day, Dr. Ernest Chiu organized a day tour for WAPSCD, covering Paris in the morning and the Chateau de Chantilly (**Figure 5**). We learned so much about French history and enjoyed another delicious French lunch. Dr. Kenneth Hui, ISAPS member and WAPSCD board member, and his wife, Anna, celebrated their 40-year anniversary in Paris and invited WAPSCD and several French colleagues to a private dinner. For most of

us, this was our last event in Paris. We had a great time as we developed friendships not only among each other, but also with the French plastic surgeons (**Figure 6**).

The 8th Congress for WAPSCD was indeed another great success. This was the first time plastic surgeons of Chinese descent could showcase their contributions to the arts and science of plastic surgery as a group on an international stage. Their accomplishments were greatly appreciated by 1,000 participants from France, other parts of Europe, and even Africa. We also witnessed many innovations from French plastic surgeons. We SOFCPRE. We are grateful for the warm hospitality from the French Society, especially President Weiguo Hu. We look forward to future meetings with our worldwide colleagues again in 2022.



Figure 6. Dinner on the last evening.