

HISTORY OF MICROSURGERY: 5 GENERATIONS FROM 1957

Preface

At the 1988 Mount Fuji meeting of the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, a committee was established to trace important historical landmarks within the society. The task was to compile a historical treatise of reconstructive microsurgery over the past three decades. A questionnaire was the first inquiry mailed to members. Upon receiving the initial responses, it was noted that the information would be difficult to compile.

On September 19, 1990, Professor Millesi visited me at the Microsurgical Research Center in Norfolk, Virginia, to discuss the progress of the "history" project. It was decided to break the history down into generations of several-year intervals.

In 1993, at the 11th Congress of the International Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery in Vienna, Austria, a compilation of all narratives received up to that date, was presented to the Executive Council of ISRM.

Subsequently, in 1999, ISRM and IMS merged, and the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery was created. On the occasion of the Forth Congress of WSRM, I decided to complete this "History" project and this work onto something which I hope eventually, will provide the members of the WSRM with fond memories of their colleagues and friends. To those of you that I had to edit, I apologize. Many of you sent multiple references, and if I tried to include everyone's publications, this book would be three feet thick. Also, there were some submissions that instead of being "short" narratives, they were entire manuscripts. Thus, these needed editing, so that I could accommodate everybody else.

I tried over the past year and a half, to contact everybody and get updated addresses and early portrait photos to accompany each narrative. In some cases, I was successful, but not in all. You might also notice that there is a plethora of pictures where I am present. Despite several calls to all of you for submission of old pictures from early meetings, symposia or Congresses, only a few responded. What ever I received, I tried to include in each generation, the individual narratives are presented in alphabetical order.

This has not been an easy project to do. I tried to do the best I could, with what I had. I hope you will enjoy reading this, as much as I enjoyed putting it all together.