



INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

HASTAPRATI

ISSH NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2026

*The hands that heal.
The knowledge we share.
The community we build.*

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ISSH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ISSH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bottom Row, from Left to Right:

- o Dr. Pankaj Ahire (Immediate Past President),
- o Dr. Anil K Bhat (Vice-President),
- o Dr. G. Karthikeyan (President)
- o Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy (Managing Trustee)
- o Dr. Praveen Bhardwaj (Secretary & Treasurer)

Top Row, from Left to Right:

- o Dr. Gopinath Bandari (EC Member)
- o Dr. MV Reddy (12th ISSH Midterm CME, Organizing Chairman) Non EC Member
- o Dr. P. Umar Farooq Baba (EC Member)
- o Dr. Arya Roy (EC Member)
- o Dr. Binoy P.S (EC Member)
- o Dr. Sunil Gaba (EC Member)
- o Dr. Vishal Mago (EC Member)





Dr G. Karthikeyan
PRESIDENT, ISSH

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE- DR G. KARTHIKEYAN.

Dear Members of ISSH,

It gives me immense pleasure to greet you through this edition of HASTAPRATI, a newsletter that reflects the vibrant academic spirit, dedication, and collective achievements of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand. This issue captures the remarkable journey of our Society from August 2025 to June 2026—a period marked by outstanding academic programs, workshops, outreach initiatives, research activities, and the unwavering commitment of our members across the country. Every event featured in these pages represents the passion of individuals who continue to strengthen hand surgery in India through learning, teaching, innovation, and service.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to have assumed the office of President of ISSH in January 2026. I sincerely thank all the members for the trust and confidence placed in me. I also express my gratitude to my predecessors, office bearers, Executive Committee members, and every member whose efforts have brought ISSH to its present stature. As we move forward, our responsibility extends beyond advancing surgical excellence. We must nurture the next generation of hand surgeons, expand educational opportunities, promote meaningful research, encourage collaboration across specialties, and increase public awareness about hand injuries and disorders. Together, we can ensure that quality hand care reaches every individual who needs it.

“*Together, we can ensure that quality hand care reaches every individual who needs it. The strength of ISSH has always been its members.*”

The strength of ISSH has always been its members. Whether you are a senior surgeon, a young consultant, a fellow, or a resident beginning your journey, each one of you contributes to the growth of our Society. I encourage every member to actively participate in our academic activities, share knowledge generously, mentor young colleagues, and help build an even stronger professional community. Let us continue to uphold the values of excellence, compassion, innovation, and teamwork that define our specialty. May we inspire one another to learn continuously, serve selflessly, and advance the science and art of hand surgery for the benefit of our patients.

I congratulate the editorial team of HASTAPRATI for documenting the Society's activities so beautifully and thank everyone who has contributed to this edition.

I look forward to your continued support as, together, we shape the future of hand surgery in India.

With warm regards,

Dr. G Karthikeyan
President, Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH)



Dr Anil K Bhat
VICE PRESIDENT, ISSH

VICE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - DR ANIL K BHAT.

Dear ISSH Members,

Warm greetings to each one of you.

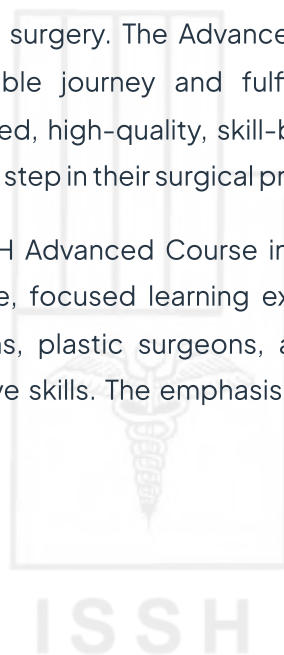
It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility that I write to you in my new role as the President-Elect of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH). Having had the privilege of serving as your Secretary and Treasurer over the past three years, the transition to this new responsibility from 1st January 2026 has been both smooth and immensely satisfying.

I am particularly happy that the responsibilities of the Secretary have been seamlessly handed over to Dr. Praveen Bhardwaj, who has taken over the reins with his characteristic dedication and efficiency. I wish him every success as he continues to strengthen the administrative framework of our society.

My tenure as Secretary was devoted to building systems and strengthening the foundations of ISSH. As Vice President, my focus shifts towards enriching our academic mission and creating meaningful opportunities for our members to acquire advanced surgical skills. One initiative that has been especially close to my heart is the launch of the ISSH Advanced Course in Hand Surgery.

For many years, ISSH has successfully conducted 84 Basic Hand Courses, which have introduced countless surgeons and residents to the principles of hand surgery. The Advanced Course is a natural progression of this remarkable journey and fulfills a long-standing dream of creating structured, high-quality, skill-based training for those who wish to take the next step in their surgical practice.

The ISSH Advanced Course in Hand Surgery has been designed as an intensive, focused learning experience for hand surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, and residents who aspire to refine their operative skills. The emphasis is on small-group, hands-on training with an



Optimal faculty-to-delegate ratio of 1:3 or 1:4, allowing close interaction, personalized mentoring, and maximum practical exposure.

The planned curriculum encompasses advanced topics including fracture fixation, surgical exposures, wrist arthroscopy, brachial plexus surgery, microsurgery, and other specialized procedures that are integral to contemporary hand surgery. Our objective is to create a platform where participants not only learn techniques but also gain confidence through direct faculty interaction and meticulous hands-on practice.

I am delighted that we have already completed two successful Advanced Courses, at Visakhapatnam and Calicut, both of which received an enthusiastic response from participants and faculty alike. Encouraged by this success, we envision conducting at least four Advanced Courses every year, making them an integral part of the ISSH academic calendar.

“*The warmth, generosity, and spirit of fellowship that define ISSH make it much more than a professional society — it is a family.*”

Seeing this initiative take shape has been immensely gratifying. I sincerely hope these courses will inspire more surgeons to pursue excellence, strengthen their skills, and ultimately improve the quality of care we provide to our patients. Academic growth has always been the cornerstone of ISSH, and together we can continue to raise the standards of hand surgery education in our country.

As always, our greatest strength lies in our members. The warmth, generosity, and spirit of fellowship that define ISSH make it much more than a professional society, it is a family. I remain grateful for your trust, friendship, encouragement, and unwavering support over the years, and I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to take ISSH to greater heights.

I also eagerly look forward to meeting all of you at ISSHCON 2026 in Kolkata this October. Our annual conference is not just a celebration of scientific excellence; it is a cherished occasion to reconnect with old friends, welcome new colleagues into our fold, exchange ideas, learn from one another, and renew the friendships that make our society so special. I am sure Kolkata will provide the perfect setting for yet another memorable ISSHCON, and I hope to greet each one of you there in person.

Until then, let us continue to learn together, work together, and inspire one another as we strive to advance the science and art of hand surgery.

With warm regards,

Dr. Anil K Bhat

Vice President, ISSH





Dr Praveen Bhardwaj
SECRETARY & TREASURER

SECRETARY’S MESSAGE - DR PRAVEEN BHARDWAJ

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to have been unanimously entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the Secretary of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH). I sincerely thank all the members for the confidence and trust they have reposed in me. I consider this position not merely an honour but a significant responsibility, and I remain committed to serving our society to the best of my abilities over the next three years.

The primary mission of any professional medical society is to promote academic excellence, foster lifelong learning, and ultimately improve patient care. As hand surgeons, our continuous academic and clinical growth directly translates into better outcomes for the patients we serve. With this vision, the Executive Committee has focused on strengthening the academic foundation of ISSH and creating opportunities that actively engage every member of our society.

Over the past six months, we have initiated several exciting academic programs aimed at making learning more interactive, practical, and accessible. One of our flagship initiatives is the ISSH Consultation Corner, a unique platform where members can present challenging and complex cases for discussion with experienced colleagues and experts in hand surgery. This initiative encourages collaborative learning, thoughtful decision-making, and the exchange of valuable clinical experience.

Another important milestone has been the launch of our official YouTube channel, ISSH Classroom+. This platform has been envisioned as a comprehensive educational resource featuring high-quality surgical videos, technical tips, lectures, and other learning material. Our goal is to build a trusted repository of educational content that will benefit not only ISSH members but also hand surgeons and trainees across the globe.

These initiatives have been possible because of the dedicated efforts of our academic and research teams. The ISSH Academics Wing, ably led by Dr. Subashini R, and the ISSH Research Wing, under the leadership of Dr. Sheeja Rajan, have been doing an outstanding job in keeping our members intellectually engaged through regular weekly academic activities. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and innovative ideas deserve our sincere appreciation.

However, the true success of these initiatives depends on active participation from every member. I earnestly encourage all ISSH members to make the best use of these learning opportunities—participate in discussions, present interesting cases, contribute educational material, share your experiences, and support your colleagues. As the saying goes, teaching is



The best way of learning. Every case shared, every lecture delivered, and every discussion initiated enriches not only the audience but also the teacher.



“As the saying goes, teaching is the best way of learning. Every case shared and every lecture delivered enriches both teacher and audience.”

Together, let us cultivate a vibrant culture of learning, collaboration, research, and innovation. Let us strive to make ISSH one of the most academically vibrant and respected hand surgery societies in the world. I look forward to your continued support, suggestions, and active involvement as we work together to achieve this shared vision.

With warm regards,

Dr. Praveen Bhardwaj,

Secretary and Treasurer, Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH)





Dr. Pankaj Ahire
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - DR. PANKAJ AHIRE

Dear Colleagues,

I write this message with mixed emotions. I will soon complete my tenure as Immediate Past President, bringing to a close nearly a decade of service on the Executive Committee of ISSH. It has been a great privilege and honour to serve our beloved society, and I am deeply grateful for the trust, support and affection that I have received from all of you.

I take great pride in the transformation that we have been able to bring about in ISSH during these years. With the support of my colleagues on the Executive Committee and our senior office bearers, we were able to update the membership directory, revamp the ISSH website and introduce an interactive online payment portal, initiate weekly academic updates, rewrite the constitution and establish new awards.

Our webinars also helped ISSH gain greater visibility on the global stage. The establishment of the ISSH Research Wing and the ISSH Academics Group has provided our members with opportunities to engage more actively in research and academic activities.

None of this would have been possible without the collective efforts of our members. I must acknowledge my predecessors, who laid the foundations for change, and my successors, who have carried the journey forward and taken it to greater heights. Every contribution has been an important part of the ISSH story.

“*It has been a great privilege and honour to serve our beloved society. Every contribution has been an important part of the ISSH story.*”

As I look back, I am filled with optimism when I see a glimpse of the bright future that lies ahead for ISSH—a society that, I am sure, our founders would be proud of.

As I bid adieu to my formal responsibilities, I must place on record my heartfelt gratitude to Dr G. Balakrishnan for the enormous effort he has put in over more than two decades to ensure the excellent financial health of ISSH. His contribution has provided our society with a strong and secure foundation.

I cannot thank my mentor, Dr S. Raja Sabapathy, enough. He has been a constant source of guidance, encouragement and wisdom, and has always been just a phone call away.



Although my formal tenure comes to an end, I hope to continue serving ISSH in whatever capacity I can in the years ahead. It is difficult to imagine a morning when ISSH is not among the first things I think about when I wake up!

I bid you all farewell from this chapter of my ISSH journey with immense gratitude, fond memories and great hope for the future.

Goodbye, and my very best wishes to ISSH and to all of you.

My ISSH Journey

- EC Member: 2012–2014
- Organising Chairman, ISSHCON: 2017
- Secretary & Treasurer: 2019–2022
- Vice President: 2024
- President: 2025
- Immediate Past President: 2026

APFSSH Roles:

- APFSSH EC Member: 2024–2025
- Organising Chairman, APFSSH 2025
- APFSSH Treasurer: 2026–2027

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Pankaj Ahire,

Immediate Past President, ISSH





Dr Binoy P S
OUTGOING EC MEMBER

DR BINOY P S – OUTGOING EC MEMBER

Welcome to the latest edition of our Hand Society Newsletter.

This is my last opportunity to write for the newsletter as an Executive Committee member, as my term comes to an end this year. I would like to share a thought that has grown stronger through my years in private practice.

“*The era of a single consultant achieving success alone is coming to an end. The future belongs to balanced, visionary teams.*”

I believe the era of a single consultant achieving success on their own is gradually coming to an end. The future belongs to teams. Choosing the right people with shared values, goals, and a common vision is essential for long-term success. A well-balanced team allows each member to focus on their area of interest without disrupting the work of others, benefiting both individual growth and the team as a whole.

As our hand surgery community continues to grow, this model has become more practical than ever before. Let us embrace teamwork—not only to provide better patient care but also to strengthen our academic contributions and advance our specialty together.

Warm regards,

Dr Binoy P S
EC Member, ISSH



**Dr Sunil Gaba****OUTGOING EC MEMBER**

DR SUNIL GABA- OUTGOING EC MEMBER

Hand surgery is a unique specialty where function and aesthetics are inseparable. Restoring a hand is not merely about appearance or movement—it is about restoring dignity, livelihood, and quality of life.

As I approach the completion of my tenure as an Executive Committee member, I would like to share a few thoughts about the future of hand surgery in India.

Indian hand surgeons are exceptionally competent, knowledgeable, innovative, and inquisitive. Over the years, we have demonstrated that we can match the best in the world. It is time we place greater trust in our own surgeons and our own experiences rather than constantly looking to the West for validation.

Our conferences and academic meetings should provide more opportunities for young surgeons to present their work, share their innovations, and develop confidence. The role of senior surgeons should gradually evolve from being the primary speakers to becoming mentors, guides, and “Margdarshaks”, nurturing the next generation of leaders.

International collaboration remains invaluable, and we should continue to invite outstanding global experts. However, instead of repeatedly inviting the same faces to every meeting, perhaps we should focus on bringing two or three truly exceptional international faculty members and engage them more meaningfully. At the same time, we must ensure that our own talented surgeons receive the recognition and platform they deserve.

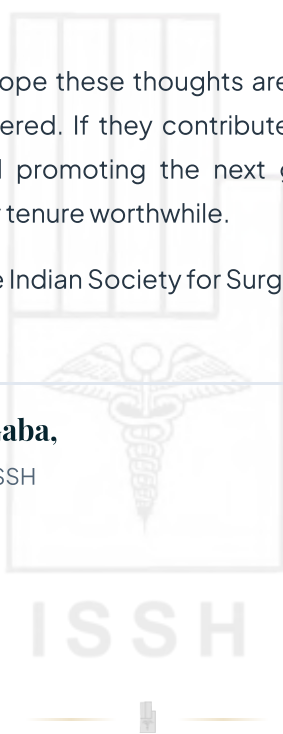
India has countless unsung heroes who perform remarkable work with extraordinary commitment, often under challenging circumstances. Their innovations, dedication, and clinical wisdom deserve to be showcased and celebrated.

I sincerely hope these thoughts are received in the constructive spirit in which they are offered. If they contribute, even in a small way, to strengthening our society and promoting the next generation of Indian hand surgeons, I will consider my tenure worthwhile.

Long live the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand.
Jai Hind.

Dr. Sunil Gaba,

EC Member, ISSH





**Dr. P. Umar Farooq
Baba**
EC MEMBER

DR. P. UMAR FAROOQ BABA- EC MEMBER

Dear ISSH Members,

Warm greetings to all members of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand!

As we continue our collective journey towards advancing hand surgery in India, I would like to take a moment to reflect on both a profound loss and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our fraternity.

The year began with the heartbreaking and untimely demise of Prof. Somesh Chandra Guha on 24th January 2026. Following a tragic accident, he fought courageously but sadly succumbed to his injuries. His passing has left an irreplaceable void in the field of Plastic and Hand Surgery. Prof. Guha was not merely an accomplished surgeon; he was one of the true pioneers who shaped the evolution of hand surgery in India. A gifted clinician, inspiring mentor, and visionary leader, he devoted his life to patient care, education, and the advancement of our specialty. Generations of Plastic and Hand Surgeons have been influenced by his knowledge, humility, and unwavering commitment to excellence. While we mourn his loss, we also celebrate a remarkable legacy that will continue to inspire us for years to come. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I pay my heartfelt tribute to this extraordinary teacher and surgeon. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The 12th ISSH Midterm CME, held in Hyderabad on 25th–26th April 2026, was a resounding academic success. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Organizing Chairman, Dr M. V. Reddy, the Organizing Secretary, Dr Gopinath Bandari, and their entire team for conducting an exceptionally well-organized and academically enriching meeting. Their dedication, meticulous planning, and warm hospitality made the conference a memorable event and set a high benchmark for future ISSH academic programs.

Equally encouraging is the remarkable academic momentum that ISSH has gained over the past year. ISSH Academics and the ISSH Research Wing have been working tirelessly to create meaningful learning opportunities, promote collaborative research, and foster scientific excellence within our fraternity. It is particularly heartening to witness the enthusiastic participation of our younger members, whose energy and innovation promise a bright future for hand surgery in India. The launch of the official ISSH YouTube channel, ISSH Classroom +, in July 2026 marks yet another significant step in expanding educational outreach and making quality academic content accessible to members across our country and around the globe. The launch of “HASTAM” by our President, Dr G. Karthikeyan, and the Advanced Hand Surgery

Course spearheaded by our Vice President, Dr Anil K. Bhat, are commendable initiatives that have further strengthened the academic foundation of ISSH.

I also look forward to welcoming you all to ISSHCON 2026, to be held in Kolkata from 2nd to 4th October 2026. I am confident that the organizing committee is leaving no stone unturned in preparing an outstanding scientific program featuring renowned faculty, stimulating discussions, hands-on learning opportunities, and meaningful academic exchanges. Beyond the scientific sessions, the conference will provide an excellent opportunity to renew friendships, foster collaborations, and celebrate the spirit of our vibrant hand surgery community.

I encourage every member, especially our residents, fellows, and young consultants, to participate actively by presenting their research, sharing innovative ideas, and engaging wholeheartedly in scientific discussions. The future of our specialty depends on our collective commitment to excellence in patient care, education, research, and innovation.

As members of ISSH, we have inherited a rich legacy built by our pioneers. It is now our responsibility to strengthen that foundation, embrace new technologies, nurture young talent, and work together to ensure that Indian hand surgery continues to achieve greater heights, both nationally and internationally.

I wish all our members good health, professional fulfilment, and continued success. I look forward to meeting each one of you in Kolkata.

With warm regards,

Dr P Umar Farooq Baba,

EC Member, ISSH





Dr. Arya Roy
EC MEMBER

DR. ARYA ROY- EC MEMBER,

Dear Honourable Members of ISSH,

The specialty of hand surgery has come a remarkably long way in our country. Today, our metro centres and Premier Institutions boast world-class hand surgery services that actively transform and improve the quality of countless lives. Yet, our journey is far from complete. We still have miles to go in extending this vital care to the vast populations living in our smaller towns and rural villages.

As a society, our responsibility is immense: we must make hand surgery an attractive, viable specialty for upcoming surgeons and bridge the critical gap between demand and availability. The determination of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) and its members toward this mission is evident in our steadily growing membership year after year.

Our Annual Conference is more than just a venue to reunite with our larger ISSH family and showcase the past year's academic and clinical achievements. It is a powerful platform to inspire the next generation of surgeons to embrace this beautiful specialty and dedicate themselves to serving those in need. It is also the premier stage where we discuss cutting-edge technologies, innovative techniques, and crucially, more affordable treatment methods tailored to our healthcare landscape.

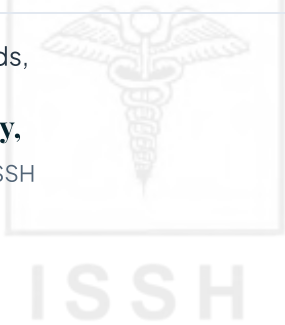
“*We must make hand surgery an attractive, viable specialty for upcoming surgeons and extend world-class care to smaller towns and rural communities.*”

For the very first time, this grand event is coming to the historic city of Kolkata. We anticipate an extraordinary turnout for ISSHCON 2026, which promises to be a truly global exchange. This year, we are proud to welcome Malaysia and South Korea as our Guest Nations, who will showcase their pioneering work for mutual learning and academic benefit.

We look forward to your active participation, invaluable insights, and shared camaraderie in Kolkata as we continue to push the boundaries of our specialty.

Warm regards,

Dr Arya Roy,
EC Member, ISSH





Dr Gopinath Bandari
EC MEMBER

DR GOPINATH BANDARI- EC MEMBER.

The year 2026 marks my first year as Executive Committee Member of ISSH, and it has been a matter of immense pride and personal satisfaction to contribute to the Society in this role. The same year, it was my special privilege to play the crucial role of Organizing Secretary on behalf of the Hyderabad Hand and Wrist Society (HHWS) to organize the 12th ISSH Midterm CME in April 2026, at Hyderabad.

The 12th ISSH Midterm CME organized in Hyderabad, was based on the theme “Inappropriate, Appropriate and Most Appropriate Ways to Do Hand Surgery,” was conceived around a simple but important thought: there may be several ways to perform an operation, but the best surgical decision is the one that is most appropriate for the individual patient. The theme was conceptualized by our Organizing Chairman Dr MV Reddy and well executed by all our members of HHWS. The enthusiastic participation, stellar national faculty, unique theme-based sessions and mentorship initiatives made the meeting a memorable academic success.

Also, I am particularly delighted by the wonderful work of ISSH Academics, the ISSH Consultation Corner, and the ISSH Research Wing and HASTAM programme. These initiatives reflect a Society that is not only teaching and learning, but also connecting, supporting, and creating new knowledge.

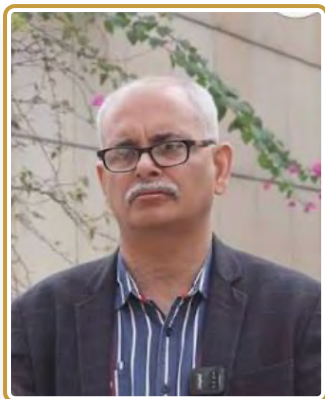
I am equally delighted to compile the August-2026 edition of Hastaprati, which represents the collective academic voice and evolving identity of our hand surgery community.

As we look forward to ISSHCON 2026 at Kolkata, I hope we continue to grow not only as better surgeons, but also as better mentors, collaborators, and colleagues.

“*Hand surgery is both a Science and an Art — and the Strength of ISSH lies in the many hands that come together to advance it.*”

After all, Hand surgery is both a Science and an Art—and the Strength of ISSH lies in the many hands that come together to advance it.

Dr. Gopinath Bandari,
EC Member, ISSH



Prof. Vishal Mago
EC MEMBER

DR. VISHAL MAGO, EC MEMBER

Respected Seniors and Dear friends,

During my tenure as an Executive Committee (EC) member, I actively contributed to the academic activities of the society with the objective of strengthening education and professional development in hand surgery.

My responsibilities included supporting the planning and organization of academic programs, scientific sessions, workshops, and continuing medical education (CME) initiatives. I worked collaboratively with fellow EC members to promote knowledge sharing, encourage participation from members, and facilitate high-quality educational opportunities for trainees and practicing surgeons.

As the Organizing Chairman of ISSH Mid-term CME in AIIMS Rishikesh in 2025:

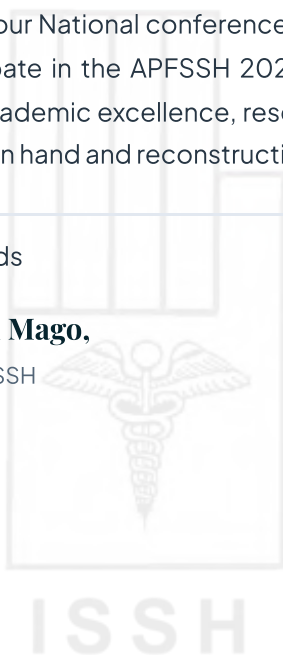
- Provided overall leadership and strategic planning for the CME.
- Coordinated with the ISSH Executive Committee and AIIMS Rishikesh administration for successful conduct of the meeting.
- Constituted and supervised organizing, scientific, finance, hospitality, transport, accommodation, registration, and publicity committees.
- Oversaw preparation and execution of the scientific programme, including keynote lectures, panel discussions, workshops, free paper sessions, and live demonstrations.
- Coordinated invitations and communication with national faculty, guest speakers, and delegates.

I encourage all the residents and faculty members to participate in large numbers in our National conference on Hand Surgery ISSHCON 2026 in Kolkata and participate in the APFSSH 2027 International conference in Seoul, Korea, fostering academic excellence, research collaboration, and global exchange of knowledge in hand and reconstructive surgery.

Warm regards

Prof Vishal Mago,

EC Member, ISSH





IN MEMORIAM

PROF. SOMESH CHANDRA GUHA

*A Life Dedicated to Healing, Mentorship & Surgical
Excellence*



ISSH

IN MEMORIAM: DR SOMESH CHANDRA GUHA

A Generous Surgeon Who Gave Back to His Specialty



The Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) records with profound sorrow the passing of Dr Somesh Chandra Guha, a distinguished Plastic and Hand surgeon, philanthropist, and unwavering champion of India's surgical heritage. Dr Guha passed away in January 2026 following a road-traffic accident while on his morning walk in Kolkata, the city he loved deeply. A friend, philosopher, and guide rolled into one, he devoted his later years to ensuring that Acharya Sushruta received his rightful place in the history of surgery.

Trained in plastic surgery in India, with foundational training in Kolkata, Dr Guha moved overseas and achieved the pinnacle of professional success, practicing and teaching in the United Kingdom and the United States before retiring to Virginia, USA. Despite his international stature, he remained a proud Indian who never lost touch with his motherland and was the 'True Son of the Soil'. A Life Member of the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSI), the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) and an Honorary Member of BAPRAS (UK), he sustained strong academic and institutional ties with Indian surgical societies throughout his career.

Beyond plastic surgery, Dr Guha was a passionate student of Indian history and worked to unearth the glory of India's scientific past through credible research. He was an active member of a Department of Science & Technology (DST)-sponsored SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) project on Sushruta and, by all accounts, was the most productive contributor to that initiative. His scholarship and advocacy helped bring Sushruta's contributions to the forefront of contemporary surgical discourse.

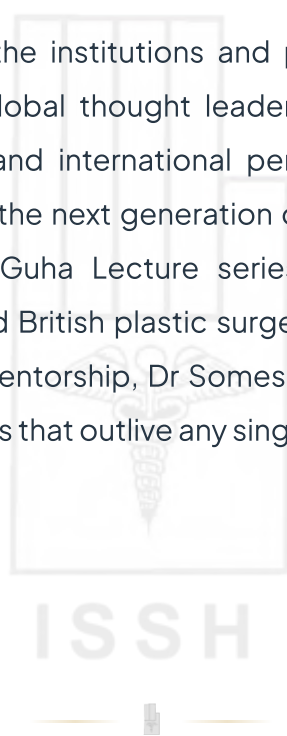
ISSH

Dr Guha's philanthropy created enduring platforms for excellence and leadership in hand and plastic surgery. Through his efforts, with Dr Brijendra Singhal and Dr Veena Singhal, the Emperor Ashoka Award was instituted under ISSH to honor individuals for immense contributions to hand surgery worldwide. The award includes a prestigious oration delivered at ISSHCON. He also established the APSI–Raja Sabapathy Leadership Award in 2019 for an APSI member with leadership potential, along with mentorship and leadership development opportunities to prepare them for future roles in APSI and the specialty. Through the Guha family's generosity, the Sushruta–Guha Professorship (initiated in 2012) invited eminent surgeons worldwide to deliver the Sushruta–Guha Lecture at BAPRAS/ICOPLAST meetings, strengthening UK–India academic links in plastic surgery.

“*For a profession that values both technical mastery and mentorship, Dr Somesh Guha exemplified the latter at scale, creating platforms that outlive any single career.*”

In late January 2026, Dr Guha was struck in a hit-and-run incident during his morning walk. He was hospitalized but succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter. Family and colleagues described the loss as abrupt and deeply painful, emphasizing his love for Kolkata and his lifelong commitment to giving back to Indian surgery. He is survived by his wife, Deepa Guha, and extended family who have shared public tributes to his memory. Colleagues remember him as a wise and benevolent senior, a very caring and kind-hearted person from whom they learned a new thing every time they met him. The tragic road accident has deprived us of a very noble soul and left an unfathomable void in our midst.

Dr Guha's legacy endures through the institutions and people he empowered. The Emperor Ashoka Award continues to bring global thought leaders to ISSHCON, inspiring Indian hand surgeons with cutting-edge ideas and international perspectives. The APSI–Raja Sabapathy Leadership Award actively cultivates the next generation of leaders, ensuring APSI's growth and global engagement. The Sushruta–Guha Lecture series helped cement a transcontinental academic bridge between Indian and British plastic surgery communities. For a profession that values both technical mastery and mentorship, Dr Somesh Guha exemplified the latter at scale, using his resources to create platforms that outlive any single career.





KNOW YOUR SOCIETY PROGRAMS

(Stories behind Innovations)

Hastaprati, TTT & HASTAM



ISSH

HASTAPRATI : THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

Every publication needs a name that reflects its identity, purpose and spirit. For the newsletter of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand, I felt that the name should have a connection with our specialty while also reflecting our Indian roots and the spirit of our society. Thus came “HastaPrati.”

Hasta means hand in Sanskrit, while Prati conveys the sense of towards, pertaining to, reflection, response and connection. Together, HastaPrati was conceived as a publication about the hand and for the community dedicated to the hand. The choice of the word Hasta is naturally linked to our specialty, but the significance of the hand goes far beyond anatomy. In Indian culture, the hand symbolizes action, skill, expression, creativity and healing. For a hand surgeon, the hand is both the subject of our work and the instrument through which we restore function and dignity to our patients.

HastaPrati therefore represents more than a newsletter. It is intended to reflect the ISSH community, a space to share our academic activities, clinical experiences, research, achievements, educational initiatives and the people who make our society what it is. The name also carries a sense of communication and connection. Through HastaPrati, we hope to bring the members of ISSH closer together, allowing us to know what our colleagues are doing, celebrate their accomplishments, share opportunities and collectively document the growth of hand surgery in India. In that sense, HastaPrati is envisioned as the voice, reflection and collective memory of the hands that heal. I hope this newsletter will grow with the contributions of every member and, over time, become a meaningful chronicle of the journey of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand.

“*HastaPrati: reflecting the hands that heal, the knowledge we share, and the community we build.*”

Thanks and Regards,

Dr. Anil K. Bhat

VICE PRESIDENT, ISSH



TRAINING THE TRAINERS (TTT): ISSH GOLDEN JUBILEE INITIATIVE FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

At the 2023 ISSH Presidential Mudgal Oration in Manipal, I proposed a Golden Jubilee initiative to handhold interested ISSH members to acquire skills beyond clinical practice to tackle the barriers to the delivery of essential standard of Hand Surgery to every citizen, when and where needed, irrespective of the ability to pay. Our members now provide quality Hand Surgery services, mostly in urban areas. Our challenge is to extend the reach of these services to district level and beyond.

The Golden Jubilee provided me an opportunity to propose a leadership and skills development program for ISSH members. The program "Training The Trainers" (TTT) is funded by Mudgal Foundation for a period of five years. Dr. Chaitanya Mudgal, Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Chitra Subramaniam and Dr. Sudhir Warriar developed the program, based on the AO faculty development modules. ISSH Research Chairman Dr. Praveen Bhardwaj and ISSH Secretary, Prof. Anil Bhat worked hard to ensure success of the training.

The Goal of the TTT program is to enhance:

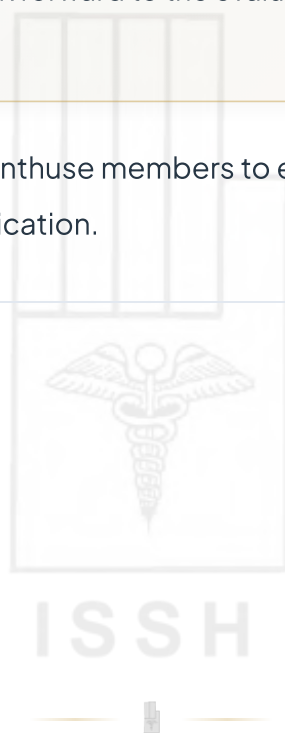
1. Communication skills
2. Promote Collaboration for academic activity, research and publication.
3. Critical thinking for innovation, research, trials, setting up national registries, best practice guidance and finally policy. I look forward to the evaluation report and recommendations for the next phase of training.

I sincerely hope the TTT program will enthuse members to engage with real-time problem-solving and collaborate for research and publication.

With warm regards,

Dr Santosh Rath,

PAST ISSH PRESIDENT, 2022-23



HASTAM — HOW IT BEGAN

When I took over as President of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) in January 2026, one thought kept coming back to me: **India has an enormous amount of young hand-surgery talent, but much of it remains unseen and unheard.**

At the same time, we have an extraordinary group of senior hand surgeons who have accumulated decades of knowledge, experience and wisdom. I felt there was a need to create a bridge between these two generations.

That was the idea behind HASTAM — “Hand Surgery Talent And Mentorship” Program.

The concept was simple: give young hand surgeons a platform to present themselves, share their ideas, discuss interesting cases and, most importantly, interact with an experienced hand surgeon who could guide and mentor them.

I did not want HASTAM to become just another webinar or lecture series. The emphasis was on discovering talent, giving it visibility and creating meaningful mentorship.

We decided to make it a fortnightly program. The response was immediate and encouraging. Young surgeons were enthusiastic about participating, while senior surgeons readily came forward to share their experience.

What started as an idea soon became a movement.

By July 2026, HASTAM has completed 13 episodes, showcasing 26 young surgeons and 26 experienced mentors from across the country.

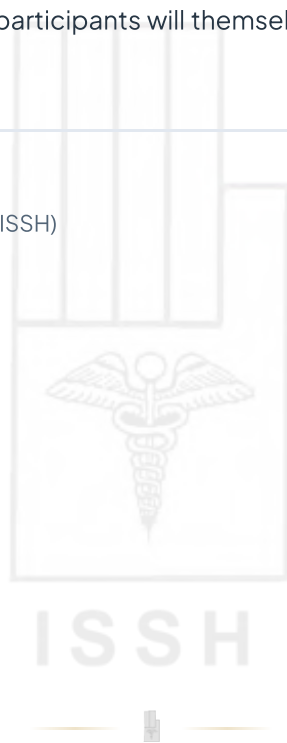
For me, the greatest success of HASTAM is not the number of episodes. It is seeing young surgeons gain confidence, find their voice and realize that their work matters.

Ultimately, HASTAM is about connecting generations, nurturing talent and preparing the next generation to take hand surgery forward.

The hope is that one day, today's HASTAM participants will themselves become tomorrow's mentors — and the cycle will continue.

Dr. G Karthikeyan

President, Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH)





ACADEMIC INITIATIVE

HASTAM – HAND SURGERY TALENT AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Comprehensive Academic & Mentorship Report (Episodes 1 to 13)



ISSH

HASTAM (Hand Surgery Talent and Mentorship Program) is a flagship educational initiative of ISSH launched in January 2026 to nurture the next generation of hand surgeons through structured national case presentations and expert mentorship.

By July 2026, HASTAM has completed 13 episodes, showcasing 26 young surgeons and 26 experienced mentors, fostering academic excellence and collaboration across India.

PROGRAM	DATE	SPEAKER	MODERATOR
HASTAM 1	21.01.2026	Dr Bipin Ganghurve	Dr G Balakrishnan
HASTAM 1	21.01.2026	Dr Jyoshid Balan	Dr Charlie Chen
HASTAM 2	04.02.2026	Dr Darshan Jain	Dr Abhijeet Wahegaonkar
HASTAM 2	04.02.2026	Dr Raja Tiwari	Dr V Purushothaman
HASTAM 3	18.02.2026	Dr Devajyoti Guin	Dr Wee Lam Leon
HASTAM 3	18.02.2026	Dr Ajeet Tiwari	Dr Anil Bhat
HASTAM 4	04.03.2026	Dr Karun Chaudhry	Dr Pankaj Ahire
HASTAM 4	04.03.2026	Dr Vigneshwaran	Dr Binu Thomas
HASTAM 5	18.03.2026	Dr D. Balaji	Dr Clement Joseph
HASTAM 5	18.03.2026	Dr Ravikiran Naalla	Dr Ravindra Bharathi
HASTAM 6	01.04.2026	Dr Monusha Mohan	Dr S Raja Sabapathy
HASTAM 6	01.04.2026	Dr Syed Kareemulla	Dr Ayyappan Nair
HASTAM 7	15.04.2026	Dr Samrat Taori	Dr Ravi Bharadwaj
HASTAM 7	15.04.2026	Dr Manesh Jain	Dr Praveen Bhardwaj
HASTAM 8	29.04.2026	Dr Maulik Jariwala	Dr Sandeep Sebastin
HASTAM 8	29.04.2026	Dr Ajeesh Sankaran	Dr Vishnu Babu
HASTAM 9	13.05.2026	Dr Amit Vyas	Dr Srinivasan Rajappa
HASTAM 9	13.05.2026	Dr Soham Ghosh	Dr Sanjay K Giri
HASTAM 10	27.05.2026	Dr Nikitha	Dr Mohamed Ibrahim
HASTAM 10	27.05.2026	Dr Imran Khan	Dr Subashini
HASTAM 11	10.06.2026	Dr Srividhya	Dr Raj Manas
HASTAM 11	10.06.2026	Dr Suman Vaddi	Dr Sabari Girish
HASTAM 12	24.06.2026	Dr Abhishek Sugumaran	Dr Anup Bhansode
HASTAM 12	24.06.2026	Dr Vishal Champavat	Dr John A Santoshi
HASTAM 13	08.07.2026	Dr Yogesh Sharma	Dr Piyush Doshi
HASTAM 13	08.07.2026	Dr Jayakrishnan	Dr Anirban Chatterjee



2026 WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS OF THE HAND & UPPER LIMB

(WCS 2026), Coimbatore

REPORT



ISSH

The 13th World Symposium on Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Upper Limb (WCS 2026) was successfully hosted by Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, India, from 25–28 February 2026 under the guidance of Dr S Raja Sabapathy (Organizing Chairman) and Organising Secretary, Dr Monusha Mohan. The meeting brought together 215 delegates from around the world for four days of academic exchange, collaboration, and learning. Guided by the theme "Basics and Beyond," the programme integrated live surgery, keynote lectures, focused scientific sessions, expert panel discussions, and poster presentations, offering a comprehensive educational experience.





APFSSH- 2025, MUMBAI

Reflections & 6 Orations

SPECIAL CONGRESS REPORT & PHOTO GALLERY



ISSH

APFSSH 2025, MUMBAI - REFLECTIONS

The APFSSH 2025 congress held in Mumbai from 10th to 13th September 2025 was a megaevent comprising of 5 conferences:

- 14th Biennial Conference of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH)
- 10th Biennial Conference of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (APFSHT)
- 10th Annual Conference of the Asia Pacific Wrist Association (APWA)
- 48th Annual Conference of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH)
- 12th Annual Conference of Society for Hand Therapy, India (SHTI)

It was held at The Westin Powai Lake, Mumbai. The organizing committee had pan India representation. The event was attended by 479 surgeons, 52 hand therapists, 41 accompanying persons and 100+ trade participants. The scientific programme had 294 presenters which included 163 invited speakers, 124 free papers, 84 posters— a total of 693 presentation units.

The key sessions were 6 Orations, 14 Masterclasses, 8 debates, and 8 workshops attended by 294 delegates and faculty. The workshops were offered completely free of cost to the registered delegates, made possible by IFSSH Educational Sponsorship of USD 10,000.

APFSSH 2025 was built on the theme '**Progress with Purpose**' — a philosophy that resonated throughout the halls of the Congress. Delegates came together not just to exchange surgical expertise, but to strengthen the fellowship of the hand surgery community. Across hundreds of responses, one message stood out clearly — delegates found APFSSH 2025 to be a well-organized, enriching, and inspiring event. The following chart captures how different aspects of the Congress were rated:



The Sessions were appreciated for their depth and relevance, with the workshops emerging as a favorite among attendees. Delegates appreciated the diversity of topics and the chance to connect with experts from around the world. The organization was described as 'smooth', 'seamless', and 'thoughtfully executed'.

Even in a meeting marked by excellence, delegates were candid about areas that could be improved. Transport coordination, food variety and smoother scheduling were mentioned by some as opportunities for refinement. Accepting these with humility ensures that 'Progress with Purpose' remains a lived ideal, not just a theme.

I hope the APFSSH 2025 Congress has given us the memories we will cherish and the lessons we should embrace. As we prepare for the next chapter, let this reflection remind us that growth, like surgery itself, is perfected through attention to detail, hard work and purpose.

To relive the moments of the congress, here are the links to the 6 orations:

- **Emperor Ashoka Award:** Brachial plexus surgery — David Chuang ([Watch Video](#))
- **BB Joshi Oration:** Thumbless to Thumbness — Scott Kozin ([Watch Video](#))
- **R Venkataswami Oration:** Rheumatoid Hand Surgery — Anthony Berger ([Watch Video](#))
- **Tajima Oration:** When to Change Gears... — Dr. S Raja Sabapathy ([Watch Video](#))
- **APFSSH Presidential Lecture:** Children with Congenital Hand... — Goo Hyun Baek ([Watch Video](#))
- **APWA Keynote Lecture:** Arthroplasty around Wrist — Sumedh Talwalkar ([Watch Video](#))

Let's proudly represent India at the next APFSSH Congress, Seoul, S Korea in May 2027.

Yours truly,
Pankaj Ahire

Congress Chair, APFSSH 2025, Mumbai



Late Dr Somes Guha at APFSSH 2025, Mumbai. He was a friend, a thinker and a proud Indian. He will be sorely missed



MANIPAL UPPER LIMB COURSE

(MULC-4)

REPORT



ISSH

The fourth edition of the Manipal Upper Limb Course (MULC-4) delivered a comprehensive, hands-on academic experience, seamlessly integrating clinical teaching, surgical skill development, and structured assessment in hand and upper limb surgery for orthopedic postgraduate and MCh Hand Surgery students.

The program commenced with focused clinical examination demonstrations led by distinguished faculty, including Dr. Ashwath Acharya (brachial plexus), Dr. Sudhir Warriar (carpal instability), Dr. Anil K. Bhat (wrist examination), and Dr. Shreekanth Raveendran (claw hand). These sessions provided participants with a systematic approach to diagnosing complex upper limb conditions. Interactive learning was reinforced through long and short case presentations, encouraging clinical reasoning and peer discussion.

A major highlight of the program was the cadaveric dissection workshop, offering supervised, hands-on exposure to key surgical procedures. Faculty experts including Dr. Sudhir Warriar, Dr. Shrinivas Rajappa, Dr. Anil K. Bhat, Dr. Latheesh Leo, Dr. Shreekanth Raveendran, Dr. Ashwath Acharya, Dr. Mithun Pai and Dr. Shobhana guided participants through techniques such as distal radius fixation, scaphoid approaches, carpal tunnel decompression, and tendon repair.

The latter half of the day featured an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), conducted across multiple stations with active faculty participation, enabling participants to consolidate their clinical and practical learning.

The academic program concluded with forward-looking sessions on recent advances in hand and upper limb surgery, including wrist arthroscopy and microsurgery, delivered by Dr. Shrinivas Rajappa and Dr. Latheesh Leo. A demonstration on orthoses and prostheses by Dr. Mithun Pai further enriched the curriculum.

Overall, MULC-4 stood out as a well-rounded academic platform, combining expert-led teaching with immersive practical exposure, and fostering the next generation of clinicians in hand and upper limb surgery.







LAUNCH OF 1ST ISSH ADVANCED HAND SURGERY COURSE

Visakhapatnam

Course Chairman: Dr. Anil K. Bhat

Course Coordinator: Dr. Ajeesh Sankaran

REPORT



ISSH

The ISSH Advanced Course in Hand Surgery, as conceptualized by Dr. Anil K. Bhat, President-elect of the Indian Hand Society represents an important step towards capacity building among ISSH members. A central component of this initiative is structured skill development, with particular emphasis on hands-on cadaveric training, enabling participants to translate contemporary surgical concepts into practical operative skills.

With the support and active involvement of the ISSH, this concept was developed into a dedicated advanced training initiative and formally launched with the first ISSH Advanced Course in Hand Surgery at Visakhapatnam. The course marks the beginning of an endeavour to provide ISSH members with greater opportunities for focused, practical and advanced training in hand surgery, while fostering a culture of continuous surgical education and skill enhancement.

The Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) marked an important milestone in its educational activities with the successful conduct of the 1st ISSH Advanced Course in Hand Surgery on 18 April 2026 at the Department of Anatomy, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam. Organized jointly by ISSH, the Department of Orthopaedics, Andhra Medical College, and the North Andhra Orthopaedic Association, the course represents a natural progression from the Society's highly successful Basic Hand Surgery Course that has served the hand surgery community for more than two decades.

The Advanced Course was conceived to provide structured, hands-on training in operative techniques through cadaveric dissection and supervised surgical practice. Approximately 40 delegates participated in the programme, which was conducted across 10 cadaveric dissection stations, ensuring excellent faculty interaction and meaningful operative experience for every participant.

The scientific programme focused on hand and wrist trauma surgery and included distal radius fracture fixation through both volar and dorsal approaches, metacarpal and phalangeal fracture fixation, wrist and carpal tunnel exposures, and other essential surgical approaches relevant to contemporary hand surgery practice. Through a combination of instructional sessions, faculty demonstrations, and cadaveric workshops, delegates were able to perform each procedure under close supervision and guidance from experienced faculty members.

A particularly rewarding aspect of the programme was the active participation of every delegate in each module. The small group format allowed personalized teaching, repeated practice of surgical techniques, and direct interaction with faculty. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the course as one of the most valuable hands-on learning experiences they had attended in recent years.

The course was inaugurated by Dr. G. Karthikeyan, President of ISSH, and conducted under the guidance of Dr. Anil K. Bhat, Course Director, with Dr. Ajeesh Sankaran serving as Course Coordinator. The faculty team also included Dr. Ravi Bharadwaj, whose contributions greatly enriched both the academic and practical components of the programme.

The successful completion of this inaugural programme marks an important step in ISSH's mission to create structured pathways for advanced skill development in hand surgery across India. We look forward to building on this foundation and expanding opportunities for high quality surgical training for future generations of hand surgeons.







12TH ISSH MID-TERM CME

Hyderabad

REPORT



ISSH

12TH ISSH MIDTERM CME, HYDERABAD – REPORT

The 12th ISSH Midterm CME was successfully organized by the Hyderabad Hand and Wrist Society on 25th & 26th April 2026 at the HICC, Novotel, Hyderabad. The meeting was conducted under the leadership of Organizing Chairman Dr. M. V. Reddy and Organizing Secretary Dr. Gopinath Bandari.

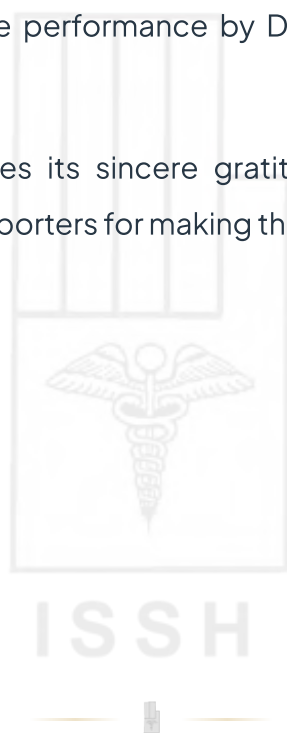
“*Built around the unique theme ‘Inappropriate, Appropriate and Most Appropriate Ways to Do Hand Surgery’ — fostering critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making.*”

The CME was built around the unique theme, “Inappropriate, Appropriate and Most Appropriate Ways to Do Hand Surgery,” which encouraged critical thinking, evidence-based decision-making, and interactive discussions on the nuances of hand surgery.

The conference witnessed an overwhelming response with 248 registered delegates, bringing together a stellar national faculty, practicing hand surgeons, postgraduates, and aspiring hand surgeons from across the country. The scientific programme featured theme-based sessions, panel discussions, free paper presentations, a live podcast with Dr S Raja Sabapathy, and dedicated fellowship and mentorship initiatives, making it a vibrant academic platform.

Meticulous planning, strict adherence to time, enthusiastic participation, and excellent scientific deliberations contributed to the resounding success of the meeting. The memorable Royal Nizami Night gala banquet fostered camaraderie among delegates and featured a well-appreciated Duryodhana monologue performance by Dr. Gopinath Bandari, adding a unique cultural dimension to the meeting.

The Organizing Committee expresses its sincere gratitude to the ISSH leadership, faculty, delegates, trade partners, and all supporters for making the 12th ISSH Midterm CME a memorable academic success.







80TH ISSH BASIC COURSE IN HAND SURGERY

Tiruvalla

REPORT



ISSH

80TH ISSH BASIC COURSE IN HAND SURGERY, TIRUVALLA- REPORT

ISSH conducted the course with CTOS and the BCMCH Orthopedics department, Thiruvalla, Kerala on Dec 28,29, 2024.

Prof. Dr Vinoo Mathew Cherian chaired it, with Dr Thomas Angelo Skariah was the organizing secretary. The two-day program brought together surgeons from across South India. National faculty included Prof. Dr Bhaskaranand Kumar, Prof. Dr Anil K Bhat, and Dr Praveen Bhardwaj, along with surgeons from Kerala.

The capsules covered hand surgery fundamentals — first aid and clinical evaluation, tendon and nerve repair, fractures, infections, and fingertip injuries — with each module pairing lectures and operative videos. Hands-on workshops ran on tendon repair, distal radius fixation on saw bones, and suture anchors. The course focused on practical skills in hand trauma and rehab for surgeons to apply in their own practice.



81ST ISSH BASIC COURSE IN HAND SURGERY, SURAT - REPORT

The Basic Course in Hand Surgery was organised in Surat under the aegis of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH), in association with the South Gujarat Orthopaedic Association (SGOA) and the Department of Orthopaedics, New Civil Hospital, Surat on 22-23 February 2025, at New Civil Hospital, Surat, Gujarat and aimed at strengthening hand surgery education for postgraduate trainees and practising surgeons in South Gujarat and beyond.

Designed as an intensive one-and-a-half-day academic programme, the course focused on providing a clear, practical and structured approach to the assessment and management of commonly encountered hand injuries, infections and other hand conditions. The programme was primarily aimed at orthopaedic and plastic surgery practitioners and postgraduate trainees, with particular emphasis on clinical decision-making and techniques that can be directly applied in day-to-day practice.



ISSH



82ND ISSH BASIC COURSE IN HAND SURGERY, MADURAI - REPORT

The 82nd ISSH Basic Course in Hand Surgery was successfully conducted on 26–27 July 2025 at the Fortune Pandiyan Hotel, Madurai, in collaboration with Devadoss Hospital. The two-day course attracted around 75 delegates, including orthopaedic surgeons, plastic surgeons, and postgraduate residents from across the country.

The scientific program covered the fundamentals of hand surgery through expert lectures, operative videos, case discussions, and interactive sessions. Topics ranged from the assessment and management of hand injuries to tendon and nerve repair, fractures, infections, and postoperative rehabilitation. The sessions were delivered by an experienced ISSH faculty, with active participation from delegates throughout the course.

The lively discussions, practical insights, and enthusiastic delegate engagement made the course an enriching learning experience. The ISSH thanks Dr. Sathish Devadoss, the organizing committee, faculty members, and Devadoss Hospital for hosting a highly successful program.



83RD ISSH BASIC COURSE IN HAND SURGERY, CHALAKUDI, KERALA - REPORT

8 3rd Basic Course in Hand Surgery was conducted at St James hospital, Chalakudy, Kerala under the aegis of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) in association with the Trichur Orthopedic Society. It was conducted on February 22nd and 23rd 2026. National faculty included Prof Bhaskaranand Kumar, Prof Anil Bhat and prominent surgeons from Kerala. Dr Prasad Varkey was the organizing chairman and Dr Binoy P S was the organizing secretary.

The course was attended by 82 surgeons including trainees. The course was followed by hands on work shop on saw bones and tendon repairs. At the end of the course both faculty and delegates believed that the course could bring a positive change in the way , hand problems would be managed by the attending surgeons and trainees.



ISSH

8TH INDO-US HAND SURGERY CONFERENCE 2026, JAIPUR - REPORT

The 8th Indo-US Hand Surgery Conference was held from March 6–8, 2026, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The conference was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Chaitanya Mudgal, Organizing Chairman, and Dr. Purnima Patni, President of the Jaipur Hand Surgery Association. The event was attended by 105 delegates and faculty members. A pre-conference workshop was organized on March 6 at Fortis Hospital, Jaipur. The workshop focused on bone models for distal radius fixation and metacarpal plating, and was attended by 56 delegates.

During the main conference, complications in Hand surgery : How to treat? How to prevent ? were discussed over 1.5 days across 9 interactive sessions. The emphasis was on discussion-based learning rather than didactic lectures.

Kudav -Mudgal Oration was delivered by ISSH President Dr G. Kartikeyan. Dr Amit Gupta (USA), Dr Harry Hoyen (USA), Dr Russell Shatford (USA), Dr Anand Arya(London) were few prominent international faculty. A panel discussion led by Dr. Sharmila Mudgal to promote research was widely appreciated by attendees. Dr. Narendra Saini and Dr. Amit Vyas, Organizing Secretaries, shared that all delegates gave positive feedback on the conference.



HAND SURGERY CME, NASHIK - REPORT

The Plastic Surgeons Association, Nashik have conducted a Hand surgery CME on 7th June 2026 at SSK Solitaire, Nashik, in collaboration with the Nashik Orthopedic Society. The CME was organized as “A Comprehensive CME on basic to advanced topics in Hand Surgery” and included academic sessions covering a wide spectrum of hand surgery topics from fundamentals to advanced reconstructive procedures.

The academic content included sessions on basic principles in hand surgery, trauma and fractures, nerve surgery, tendon surgery and reconstructive microsurgery, hand burns and vascular malformations, and concluded with a valedictory session and lunch. The event was well attended, with around 80 delegates participating actively in the CME.



ISSH

SOFT TISSUE DISTRACTION IN SEVERE POSTBURN CONTRACTURES – WORKSHOP, SRINAGAR

A workshop was conducted on 30th May 2026 on “Soft Tissue Distraction in Severe Postburn Hand, Wrist and Elbow Contractures” at the NABI North Zone Midterm CME 2025 at SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar on 29th – 30th May 2026. The principal instructor/faculty for the workshop was a Senior Plastic surgeon from Hyderabad, Dr Bharatendu Swain.



MICROVASCULAR WORKSHOP, RISHIKESH

A Microvascular Workshop was Organized at AIIMS Rishikesh, 15 July 2026, by Dr Vishal Mago as the Organizing Chairman, on the World Plastic Surgery Day, including workshop on demonstration of microvascular techniques to MCh trainees with faculty interactions, case discussions, resident participation, and awareness activities to promote advances in Reconstructive surgery.



MANAGEMENT OF HAND FRACTURES- HANDS ON WORKSHOP- HYDERABAD

The Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, NIMS, in collaboration with KLS Martin successfully conducted a one-day hands-on workshop on the fixation of metacarpal and phalangeal fractures on 11-04-2026.

The faculty included Dr G Kartikeyan, Dr Rajendra Nehete and Dr R Srikanth. The workshop resource personnel were Dr R. Parvathi, Prof & HOD; Dr Ved Prakash Cheruvu, Assoc. Professor; Dr B. Asha Deepthi, Asst. Professor; Dr N. Roopesh Kumar, Asst. Professor; Dr T. Kalpana, Asst. Professor.

A total of 40 participants attended, including residents and practicing surgeons from various institutions.

The academic sessions provided a comprehensive review of fracture biomechanics, fixation principles, and implant selection, while the hands-on component enabled participants to practice key techniques such as Plate fixation, Lag screw fixation, Headless compression screw fixation under expert guidance.

Pre- and post-workshop assessments demonstrated a significant improvement in participant knowledge and confidence. Overall quality of workshop- **4.85/5** as per delegate feedback received.



MANAGEMENT OF HAND FRACTURES – WORKSHOP GROUP & FACULTY ROSTER



GANGA LITTLE HANDS

Ganga Little Hands is a monthly educational initiative dedicated to improving awareness of congenital hand anomalies among pediatricians, who are often the first doctors to examine a newborn and continue to care for the child through routine vaccinations and childhood illnesses. Through concise articles, clinical pearls, and parent education resources, we promote early recognition, timely referral, appropriate treatment, and the importance of long-term follow-up. These are shared via email and WhatsApp and is aimed at enlightening not only pediatricians but also family physicians and other doctors with an aim of ensuring that every child with a congenital hand difference reaches the right specialist at the right time.

Dr Monusha Mohan, Consultant Hand Surgeon, Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore served as the editor of Ganga Little Hands and completed a year of publishing Little Hands in August 2025. The 23rd issue - June 2026 was released recently.

Official Link: <https://www.gangahospital.com/ganga-little-hands>



HAND SURGERY DAY- 23RD AUGUST 2025 PROGRAM:

On Hand Surgery Day 2025, an awareness article titled “Preserving the Hands That Build the Future” was published in a leading local daily. The article emphasized hand injury prevention, timely intervention, and the importance of preserving hand function, while highlighting the role of hand surgeons in restoring lives and livelihoods. The article was very well received and widely appreciated by the local community for its public awareness message.



Day Specific

Dr. P. Umar Farooq Baba
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HAND SURGERY DAY IN INDIA

Preserving the Hands that Build the Future

A cultural shift toward valuing hand safety could reduce the burden of hand injuries, disability, and loss of productivity

a reminder that while surgical skill can restore, the greatest achievement lies in protection through safety and prevention.

The theme focuses on three key areas: *Safe Hands at Work & Play, Stop the Injury Before It Starts, and Small Hands, Big Protection*. Together, they emphasize the importance of hand safety across all walks of life—from the workplace and the sports field to the home where children explore their world.

“Safe Hands at Work & Play” draws attention towards the injuries sustained in the workplace, on sports fields, and during hobbies. The areas where safety protocols are often neglected. Protective equipment, training, and awareness can drastically reduce such preventable injuries. *“Stop the Injury Before It Starts”* emphasises proactive prevention through ergonomics, safe tool use, and necessary precautions, recognizing that the best way to treat an injury is to prevent it altogether.

“Small Hands, Big Protection” is equally critical, calling attention to child safety—whether from kitchen burns, finger trap door injuries, or accidents with sharp tools. Safeguarding children's hands is not only an act of care but an investment in their future and the strength of our society.

The long-term impact of embracing this theme is far-reaching. A cultural shift toward valuing hand safety could reduce the burden of hand injuries, disability, and loss of productivity. Hospitals and professional societies can amplify this by organizing awareness camps, school visits, workplace demonstrations, and media campaigns. Pamphlets, safety toolkits, and community outreach can extend the message beyond hospital walls, ensuring it resonates within families, workers, and children alike, and can plant the seeds of long-term behavioural change.

The hand is basically a masterpiece of form and function—yet, it is as fragile as it is powerful—vulnerable to injury, disease, and deformity. In a country where millions depend on manual labour, whether farming, construction, factory work, or crafts, loss of hand function can mean loss of livelihood. Unlike many other injuries, a damaged hand affects nearly every aspect of daily living, earning an income, feeding oneself, writing, driving, and even the simplest acts of personal care.

Prevention: The Best Defence.

The Best Care

In hand surgery, the greatest victory is not in the operating theatre but in prevention. Many injuries occur not because machines are inherently unsafe, but because people are poorly trained, distracted, or careless. A moment's lapse, for instance, answering a call, chatting with a co-worker, or working while fatigued, is enough for a machine to crush, mutilate, or even take away a hand. Every machine comes with safety protocols and guidelines; they are not meant to gather dust on paper but to be followed in black and white.

Certain injuries are especially devastating. Ring avulsion injuries, when a simple ring gets caught in machinery or a hook, can strip soft tissue over the bones in an instant. Similarly, rope avulsions, too, are common in rural settings. Electrical burns are among the most catastrophic, destroying not only skin and muscle but also vessels, nerves, and bones, leaving patients permanently disabled. Destructive injuries in children, careless handling of fireworks during festivals, roadside firesides in agriculture, and exposed socket at home all add to this tragic burden. Hence, the mantra is to save hands by preventing injuries in these situations, from these agents, and beyond. Prevention today means protection for a lifetime. The truth is simple: the hand is life. It feeds us, earns our livelihood, and expresses our very identity. If it is lost, life itself is diminished. Prevention, therefore, is not a side-note, but the foundation. By enforcing training, respecting protocols, wearing protective gear, child-proofing homes, and spreading awareness, we can save not just hands, but futures.

“

The hand is basically a masterpiece of form and function—yet, it is as fragile as it is powerful—vulnerable to injury, disease, and deformity.

First Aid: Bridging Gaps

The Golden Hour: Rapid and accurate initial evaluation and treatment can minimise the long-term effects of the injury. Public awareness about the right first aid is as crucial as surgical expertise, for what happens in the first hour often decides whether a hand is saved or lost. The essentials are simple: control of bleeding with gentle pressure, wound cleaning, immobilisation of the hand, and preserving any amputated part in a moist cloth, sealed in a bag, and placed on ice. Above all, reach specialist care without delay.

Unfortunately, misinformation and harmful traditional practices like applying turmeric, ash, or using tight tourniquets can turn salvageable injuries into permanent disabilities. Furnishing the correct first-aid knowledge to the general public is, therefore, the true first step in hand surgery, where saving function begins long before the operating theatre, at the site of injury.

Why Hand Surgery Matters

In hand surgery, a millimetre can decide a lifetime of function. Hand surgeons do not merely repair broken bones—they restore strength, sensation, fine motor skills, and the subtle ability to feel texture, temperature, and vibration. Their goal is not just anatomical repair, but a return to independence and dignity.

The Expansive Scope of Hand Surgery: When Prevention Meets Precision

Modern hand surgery brings together plastic surgery, orthopaedics, microsurgery, and rehabilitation to restore not just anatomy but lives. In a country where livelihoods often depend on manual work, saving a hand means saving a family's future. The burden is immense: factory accidents, farm injuries, road crashes, kitchen mishaps, and even firecracker blasts leave thousands with crushed, burnt, or amputated hands each year. In such cases, time is critical—early surgery often drives the line between recovery and lifelong disability. Yet the field goes beyond trauma. Children born with hand deformities gain both function and confidence through timely correction. Nerve injuries, tendon repairs, infections, tumours,

and vascular anomalies demand equal skill, where precision and planning make the difference.

Rehabilitation: The Road to Recovery After Surgery

The operation may repair the hand, but it is rehabilitation that restores its life. Surgeons often say that ninety per cent of recovery lies not in the stitches or the sutures, but in what happens afterwards. Splints, guided movements, and disciplined therapy are not optional extras; they are rather the very heart of healing. If therapy is ignored, function is lost, no matter how brilliant the surgery is. A perfectly repaired tendon will stiffen without exercise, a replanted finger will wither without motion. There is a golden period to begin physiotherapy as well, and every condition has its set protocol. Delay it, and the window closes forever.

Hand therapy is, simply, the bridge between surgery and function. It is where a repaired hand becomes a working hand. Without it, even the most remarkable surgical effort risks being wasted. With it, the miracle of surgery is completed.

Closing Reflection

Our hands are not just tools but our bridge to life, creativity, and connection. On Hand Surgery Day, let us protect them, prevent injuries, and value timely expert care. We salute the surgeons who restore movement, dexterity, and hope—one hand, one life at a time. Safe hands are a personal asset, a community responsibility, and a national commitment, preserving human dignity, resilience, and the power to heal, build, and love.

Dr. P. Umar Farooq Baba
Department of Plastic Surgery, SHMS, Sonapatna



UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences • Training Programs • National Meets



ISSH

ISSHCON 2026, KOLKATA

 Dates:	2nd, 3rd, and 4th October 2026
 Venue:	Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata
 Guest Nations:	 South Korea •  Malaysia

ISSHCON 2026 – The 49th Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) along with the 13th Annual National Conference of the Society for Hand Therapy, India (SHTI) being held under the aegis of ISSH and the SHTI. The event is being supported by the West Bengal Orthopedic Association and the Association of Plastic Surgeons of West Bengal.

It is scheduled to be held on **2nd, 3rd, and 4th October 2026 in Kolkata, the City of Joy.**

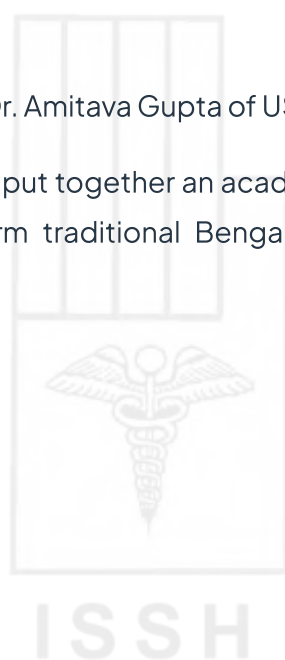
This meeting will bring together the country's most eminent hand surgeons, plastic surgeons, and orthopedic surgeons to share their wealth of knowledge and experience. The conference will also be graced by distinguished international faculty from around the world. It aims to catalyze a paradigm shift in practice and promote excellence in hand surgery.

The conference venue is the iconic Biswa Bangla Convention Centre located in New Town, Kolkata. This year's Guest nations are **South Korea & Malaysia**, and we expect a good turnout from our guest nations.

The prestigious Dr. R. Venkataswami and Dr.BB Joshi orations are being delivered by Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy of Ganga hospital, Coimbatore and Dr. Chaitanya Mudgal of Harvard Medical School, USA respectively.

This year's Emperor Asoka awardee is Dr. Amitava Gupta of USA.

The organizing team is working hard to put together an academic feast combined with a lively social program, delectable cuisine and warm traditional Bengali hospitality, to make it a memorable conference.





Welcome to
isshCON '26
49th Annual Conference of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand

Under the Aegis of ISSH
Supported by West Bengal Orthopaedic Association and
Association of Plastic surgeons of West Bengal



at **Kolkata**, 'The City of Joy'!
2nd, 3rd & 4th October, 2026

Reflecting on the past. Ready for the future.



Scan to
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Visit: www.isshcon2026.com



isshCON '26

49th Annual Conference of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand

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VENUE:

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4TH TRAINING THE TRAINER PROGRAM (TTT)

4th ISSH TRAINING THE TRAINER PROGRAM

— Building Skilled Educators for the Future of Hand Surgery —



**APPLICATIONS
OPEN FOR
2026**



**4th & 5th
OCTOBER 2026
KOLKATA**





ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- ✓ A unique program designed to train Indian Hand Surgery faculty by improving their educational skills, knowledge, and expertise.
- ✓ It aims at refining the soft skills necessary to deliver an effective talk, to lead a discussion, develop a committed team and be an effective leader.
- ✓ This program concentrates on practical skills rather than theory.

THE COURSE STRUCTURE



4 Online Sessions



**Two Half Days
In-Person Session**

WHO CAN APPLY?



**ISSH Member
≥ 5 years post MS/MCh**

HOW TO APPLY?



Mail your interest & CV to secretary@isssh.org with a 200 words note on Standardising Hand Surgery Training in India

LAST DATE



24th AUGUST 2026

★ SPONSORED BY ★

KUDAV-MUDGAL FOUNDATION

 www.isssh.org

 secretary@isssh.org

15TH APFSSH-2027, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

1 5th APFSSH Congress will be organized at **KINTEX, South Korea**, from **May 26–29, 2027**. KINTEX is a significant venue that hosts a variety of global events and exhibitions. Strategically located near Seoul, it serves as an accessible and vibrant place for attendees from around the world, with convenient transportation just 20 minutes away from Seoul Station via the GTX line.

The organisers have an exciting program at APFSSH 2027 that will allow all of you to reflect upon our past accomplishments, renew friendships and extend our networks, and jointly explore current and future research directions.

Official Website: https://apfssh2027.com/register/2027_01/info/sub02.html



17TH IFSSH-IFSHT 2028, SINGAPORE

Singapore is a vibrant and modern city-state that perfectly blends tradition and innovation. Known as the "Lion City," it offers a unique fusion of diverse cultures, from Chinese and Malay to Indian and Western influences.

The triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress is a premier global gathering for hand surgeons, therapists, and professionals dedicated to advancing the science, education, and practice of hand and upper limb surgery. The Conference is being organized at Singapore from **23rd–27th October 2028**.

Official Website: <https://ifssh-ifsht2028.org/>



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Towards Sustainable Hand Surgery and Therapy

IFSSH-IFSHT 2028

SINGAPORE

23-27 October, 2028



Sign-up to our newsletter



About

The triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress is a premier global gathering for hand surgeons, therapists, and professionals dedicated to advancing the science, education, and practice of hand and upper limb surgery.

WHERE

Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre

WHEN

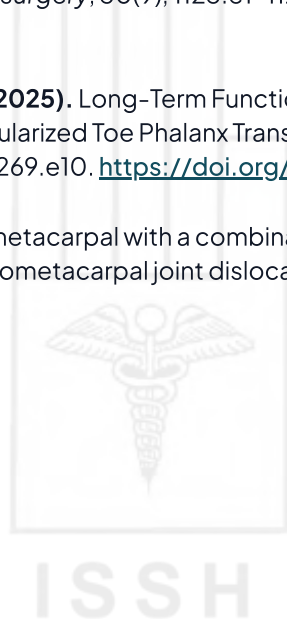
Monday to Friday
23-27 October 2028

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

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NOTIFICATIONS

Announcements • Awards • Fellowships • Bids



ISSH



INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND (ISSH)

PROF. B. JAGANNATH KAMATH IDEAS & INNOVATION AWARD – 2026



Innovate. Inspire. Impact Hand Surgery.

Calling all ISSH Members!

The Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ISSH) is pleased to invite submissions for the **Prof. B. Jagannath Kamath Ideas & Innovation Award – 2026**, instituted to encourage creativity, innovation and problem-solving in the field of Hand Surgery.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Any ISSH Member with an original idea or innovation relevant to Hand Surgery.



WHAT CAN BE SUBMITTED?

We welcome innovative ideas, concepts, techniques or solutions that have the potential to facilitate or improve clinical practice in Hand Surgery, including:

- Diagnosis
- Management
- Surgical techniques
- Rehabilitation
- Technology and instrumentation
- Innovative solutions to clinical problems



YOUR IDEA NEED NOT BE A COMPLETED STUDY!

Ideas at an early stage are welcome. The concept may be a new idea, an innovation, a modification of an existing technique, or a solution to an unmet clinical need.



HOW TO APPLY?

Submit a **300-word abstract** describing your **idea or innovation**.

The abstract should preferably include:

- 1 Title of the Idea/Innovation
- 2 Clinical Problem / Need
- 3 Description of the Idea or Innovation
- 4 Potential Clinical Application and Advantages
- 5 Current Stage of Development, if applicable



THE PROCESS

The six best ideas and innovations selected by committee will be invited for presentation at **ISSHICON 2026, Kolkata**.

During the ISSHICON, the presented ideas will be evaluated by an expert panel of judges, and the best idea/innovation will receive the **Prof. B. Jagannath Kamath Ideas & Innovation Award**.



AWARDS



FIRST PRIZE

₹ 1,00,000 + Medal



SECOND PRIZE

Silver Medal



TAKE YOUR IDEA TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The award is intended not only to recognise innovation but also to encourage its development into a **completed project, publication or patent**.

ISSH will endeavour to facilitate research support and appropriate industry collaboration, where required, to help promising ideas progress towards implementation.



SUBMISSION

Submit your 300-word abstract to:
secretary@isssh.org

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION

15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Have an idea? Share it.

Have an innovation? Develop it. *Let us build the future of Hand Surgery together.*



ISSH

APPLICATION FOR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
TO HOST THE

13th MID-TERM
CME



ISSH - MID-TERM CME

Provides a wonderful opportunity to
conduct a **focused teaching program**
and **promote Hand Surgery**
in your region.

IMPORTANT TIMELINE



Last date for this form to
reach the Hon Secretary of ISSH is
10th September 2026

HOW TO APPLY?



Download the application form
from the ISSH website.



Complete the form with all
required details.



Submit the completed form to
the Hon Secretary of ISSH.



CLICK HERE TO APPLY



For more details and to download the application,

VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.isssh.org



Bid for 13th Midterm CME 2027

— ISSH Announces bid for hosting —



—ISSHCON— 2028

Wonderful opportunity to
host the hand surgeons
from all over India
and make your city proud
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yearly event of
Indian Hand Society



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ISSH.org



LAST DATE FOR APPLYING

31ST AUGUST 2026

Bid for 51st ISSHCON-2028



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