

Department of Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Microsurgery, Burn Unit
BG Trauma Center Ludwigshafen, Germany

Clinical Fellowship

Period: **31st October – 25th November 2022 (4 weeks)**

Objectives

- ✓ to expand my knowledge and skills in reconstructive and microsurgery
- ✓ to gain expertise in complex hand cases
- ✓ to experience the management of replantation service
- ✓ to get inspired by experts and innovative techniques
- ✓ to foster new international friendship and collaborative links

Professor Leila Harhaus,
Vice Chair of the Department,
took me under her supervision.
When I arrived at the BG Clinic in
Ludwigshafen, she offered me
an extraordinary warm welcome,
followed by very instructive stay
with fantastic exposure to a wide
variety of hand surgery as well as
excellent teaching, especially in
the field of peripheral nerve
surgery, in which she is an expert.



Activities

I had the privilege to visit the largest Hand Center in Germany with up to 10.000 hand-cases/year with whole spectrum of hand surgery.



It includes **24/7 replantation service** up to arthroscopic, endoprosthetic hand surgery, congenital disorders, tetra hand surgery, treatment of spasticity, reconstruction of the burnt or mangled hand with techniques of free flap transfers and the special center of peripheral nerve surgery.

The majority of my time I spent in the operating room where I was able to assist and observe a variety of procedures from the entire range of hand surgery. I took part in **34 surgical cases**, including both elective and acute surgery. With thorough explanations and multiple discussions I learned a lot of concerning the **tips and tricks of techniques and treatment strategies**.

I also participated in:

- ✓ every day morning meetings with detailed case studies
- ✓ every wednesday **complex case consultations** in outpatient clinic
- ✓ meeting of multicenter extremity board



By taking part in the above activities I could observe detailed assessment and decision making in the most complicated cases.

On duty

Accompanying Dr. Mirjam Thielen on night shift, I assisted her in hand trauma surgery – thumb injury with a circular saw.

Procedures performed:

- ✓ OR and transfixation of the first CMC joint
- ✓ FPL tendon repair
- ✓ **revascularization** – artery reconstruction by interposition of vein graft
- ✓ **nerve graft** reconstruction



Highlights

- ✓ In the first weekend of my visit, I attended a conference in the topic: **"Future requirements for hand surgery"**.



The best hand surgeons from Germany met in Ludwigshafen, giving extremely interesting lectures on issues such as wrist surgery, endoprostheses or nerve reconstruction.

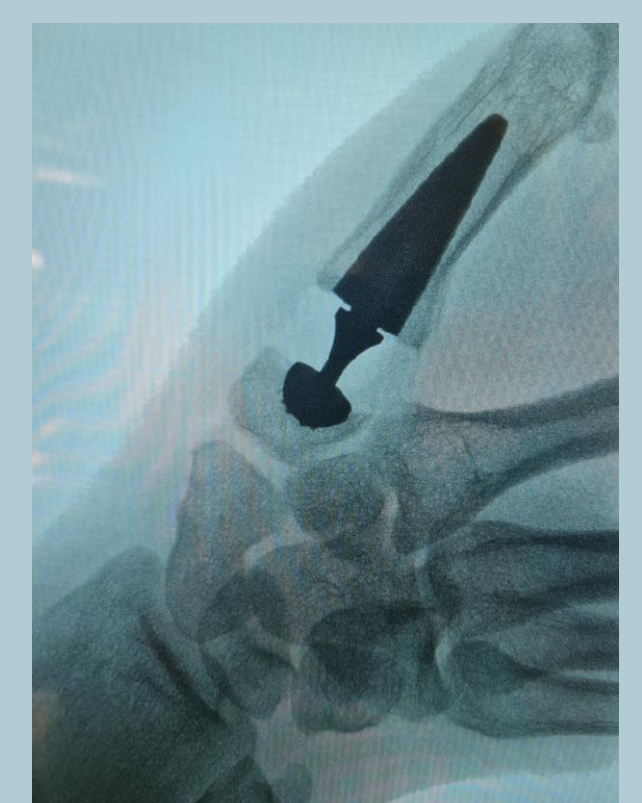
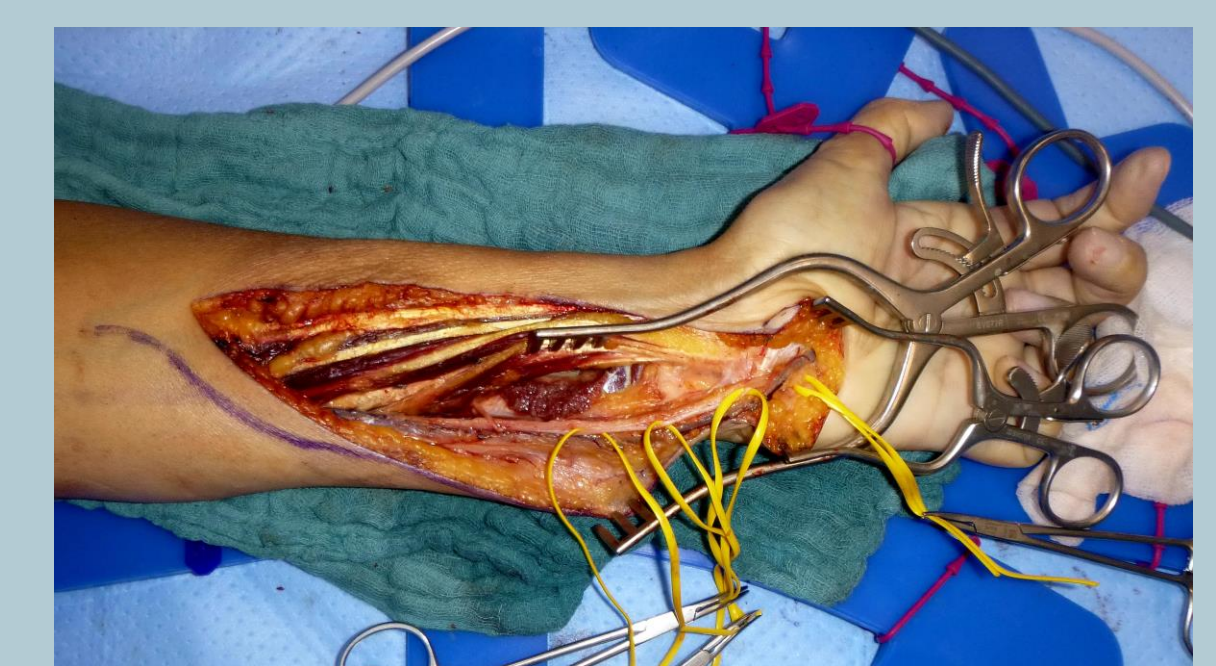
- ✓ Accompanying Prof. Leila Harhaus, I had the opportunity to visit Dr. Benjamin Panzram, who is the Head of Hand Surgery Section in the Orthopedic Hospital in Heidelberg. I could take part in session of hand surgery procedures, including **distal radioulnar joint arthroplasty** with a Scheker Prosthesis.



Procedures

The most interesting procedures I have participated in:

- ✓ **microsurgery reconstructions** of soft tissue defects on hand using free flaps i.a. medial sural artery perforator flap
- ✓ **nerve transfers** i.a. transfer of the anterior interosseous nerve (AIN) into the ulnar motor branch
- ✓ **tendon transfers** i.a. fcu->edc, pl->epl, ecrl->ecu for radial nerve palsy
- ✓ modified quad surgery in child with obstetric **brachial plexus injury**
- ✓ **Leechavenvongs' transfer** + spinal accessory nerve transfer to the suprascapular nerve for restoring the function of the deltoid muscle
- ✓ endoprothesis procedures: i.a. Touch Prothesis for **thumb CMC joint** and CapFlex PIP joint Prothesis



Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank:

- ✓ the entire team, specially Prof. Leila Harhaus for supporting my visit, sharing her exceptional knowledge, technical expertise and kindness
- ✓ surgeons: Dr. Arne Böcker, Dr. Mirjam Thielen, Dr. Amr Eisa, Dr. Martin Aman, Dr. Simeon Daeschler, Dr. Laura Siegwart for their generous hospitality, help and all instructive education
- ✓ my Head Prof. Jerzy Strużyna that he let me go for 4 weeks
- ✓ FESSH Council for this invaluable award



Department of Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Microsurgery, Burn Unit
BG Trauma Center Ludwigshafen, Germany

FELLOWSHIP CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Dr. Tomasz Korzeniowski** has been visiting the Department of Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Microsurgery, Burn Unit at BG Trauma Center Ludwigshafen in Germany from October 31st, 2022 to November 25th, 2022 as a **FESSH Travel Award fellow**.

Dr. Tomasz Korzeniowski has shown a great interest to improve his knowledge and skills in reconstructive hand surgery, including microsurgery and hand trauma. During his visit he attended all our activities and daily practice in morning meetings, operating theatre and consulting rooms. He has assisted and observed at surgery in a variety of acute and elective hand cases. We trust that his stay was very instructive and profitable.

It has been a pleasure to have had Dr. Tomasz Korzeniowski as a FESSH fellow at our department.

Prof. Dr. med. Jella Harhaus

Plastic and Aesthetic Surgery at Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg - Professor

Dpt. of Hand-, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Burn Managing Center

BG – Trauma Hospital Ludwigshafen - Vice Chair