

Prof. Ken N Kuo, MD

The Distinguished Life Achievement Award of Asia Pacific Pediatric Orthopaedic Society (APPOS) 2017 goes to Professor Ken Nan Kuo for his contribution in pediatric orthopaedic surgery not only to Asia Pacific region, also all over the world. He is a great mentor to many in Asia Pacific region. With great clinical skill, he is an excellent and caring doctor to his patients. In addition, he is a dedicated researcher in promoting academic and clinical relevance, a great educator to his students, an inspiring role model and most importantly, a fatherly friend to young pediatric orthopaedic surgeons and a brotherly friend to all others. Professor Kuo is a devoted family man with two out of three children are orthopaedic surgeons.

Professor Kuo was born in December 20, 1940 in Taipei, Taiwan. His educational background was very solid. To begin with, he received the Premed course at College of Science and Medical College education at National Taiwan University, and graduated in 1966. He then went to United States for further training. After Internship at Wayne County General Hospital, University of Michigan, Eloise, Michigan, he completed Preliminary Surgical Residency in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan. He, then, completed Orthopaedic Residency in College of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois in 1973. Afterwards, he crossed Atlantic Ocean in 1973 - 1974 for fellowship training on Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, England under Mr. George Lloyd-Roberts and Princess Margaret Rose Orthopedic Hospital, University of Edinburgh under Mr. George Mitchell.

Ken, as everyone calls him after knowing him, began his academic career at Rush University Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children, Chicago in 1974. He also served as Consultant at Illinois State Pediatrics Institute. With his academic endeavor, he was promoted to full professorship at Rush University in 1989. While at Rush, he also served as Associate Chairman of Education from 1985, also the residency program director of Rush University Orthopaedic Affiliated Network Residency Program. Through his tenure as educator, he had trained many outstanding orthopedic residents and pediatric orthopedic fellows from both USA and all over the world.

In 2003, Ken decided to move back to his motherland, Taiwan, and contributed greatly to Taiwan's medical education and policy-making. He served as the Director of Center for Health Policy Research and Development and Associate Director of Institute of Population Sciences at Taiwan's National Health Research Institutes until 2010, then moved to Taipei Medical University as Chair Professor and Director of Center for Evidence-based Medicine Research and Cochrane Taiwan. At the same time, he continued his teaching and practice of pediatric orthopaedic surgery at Children Hospital of National Taiwan University Hospital and Cathay Memorial Hospital.

Although working in USA, he has never forgotten to bring up the level of pediatric orthopaedic practice in Asia. He started first educational program in 1986 when he organized first pediatric orthopaedic course in 1986 in Taipei. The faculty members included Mihran Tachdjian, Stuart Weinstein, Norris Carroll, Robert Eilert and Ken N Kuo. There were more than 200 participants including people from Hong Kong and South Korea. The courses

repeated in 1989 and 1993. Since 1995, he started pay attention to Southeast Asia, with several trips to Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand for instructional courses. From 2004, he organized POSNA-ASEAN Pediatric Orthopaedic Instructional Course, first started with Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Up to this year, the course already ran 5 times with the last time in Rangoon, Myanmar. With interesting in clubfoot management, one other endeavor is International Clubfoot Congress (ICFC). He started as organizer of the congress since the 3rd ICFC. Now just finished the 8th ICFC in Rome last year in conjunction with SICOT. It provides a great forum for international scholars to present their works.



Ken N Kuo and lady in Hong Kong



Board members of APOA Paediatric section of APOA and POSNA during congress in Hawaii. (2010)



2nd POSNA ASEAN Paediatric Orthopaedic Course in Singapore (2007)

For training of pediatric orthopaedic surgeons in Asia, while he was in Chicago as the director of residency program, he accepted more than 15 orthopaedic surgeons from Asia

for international pediatric orthopaedic fellowship. After training, they were able to return to their original countries and achieved excellence in serving children at their locality. He has served numerous visiting professorship to many medical centers and societies in different countries. His was invited as a special guest in many international societies and academic congress for more than 250 times. His talks would usually be the highlights of the academic meetings. Both the wisdom and knowledge from his talk would tremendously impress the audiences. Professor Kuo's academic achievement is astonishingly outstanding. He published more than 200 articles and contributed to fourteen chapters in highly recommended books.



Paediatric Orthopaedic course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2002)

Ken received many honors and awards. To name a few, "The Best Doctors In America" in American Health Magazine as one of the best 20 orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. chosen from 350 leading academic medical centers in 1996, Golden Apple Best Teacher Award, Rush University in 2000 and America's Top Surgeon Award from 2002 to 2003.

Ken is a member of many societies. He was the original member of POSNA when it was formed in 1983 as Pediatric Orthopaedic Society and Pediatric Orthopaedic Study Group merged. He was also the original member of International Pediatric Orthopaedic Think Tank (IPOTT) when Tachidjian organized in 1996. He became the President-elect of International Federation of Pediatric Orthopaedic Societies (IFPOS) from 2010 to 2013, and Presidency from 2013-20015. He also is a member of AAOS, AOA, ORS AAP, AMA, EPOS, ASAMI, AACPD, APOA, APPOS, Taiwan Orthopedic Society (TOS), Taiwan Pediatric Orthopedic Society, Chinese Speaking Orthopaedic Society. Yet his contribution to APPOS is even much more valuable since WPOA pediatric section established in Bangkok at 1985 meeting. With his connection to POSNA, EPOS, IFPOS, Ken has become an important bridge between APPOS and every other international pediatric orthopedic groups in the world. In 2010, the

combined POSNA-APOA Pediatric Orthopaedic Section meeting, Professor Kuo served the most important liaison between two societies that made the meeting so successful.



Visit to Chiba Children Hospital during Japan Pediatric Orthopaedic Association meeting (JPOA 2008)