Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Department

KAT Hospital

Athens - GREECE

SECEC contact surgeon(s)

- **Emmanouil Fandridis (programme director)**
- **Panagiotis Kanellos**
- **Syngouna Sophia**
- **Spyrou Ioannis**

Short description

The Hand, Upper Limb and Microsurgery Department of General Hospital of Attica 'KAT', Athens, Greece is a model referral center at national and international level.

History

It was founded in 1986, by the first Head Surgeon Dr Nikolaos Daoutis, having the specific purpose to address patient care in the specialized field of Hand, Upper Limb and Reconstructive Microsurgery, which demands highly technical expertise and state-of-the-art equipment. From its foundation to this day, the Hand, Upper Limb and Microsurgery Department has been established as the sole public center in Greece, operating 24/7 365 days a year, to address emergencies regarding the Upper Limb and the Hand, such as amputations and severe bone and soft tissue injuries requiring microsurgical treatment.
The department has been validated as a center of expertise, certified by FESSH officially as Hand Trauma and Replantation Center since 2019. It has been at the forefront of upper limb and hand replantations in Greece, laying the groundwork for up-to-date microsurgical practice nationwide.

Personnel

Current practice is based on a highly specialized group of physicians:

- Medical Personnel:
  - Emmanouil Fandridis, Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon, Head of Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Department
  - Panagiota Aretaiou, Senior Orthopaedic Consultant
  - Panagiotis Kanellos, Senior Orthopaedic Consultant
  - Vassiliki Tsiampa, Senior Orthopaedic Consultant
  - Sophia Syngouna, Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon
  - Dimitrios Skouteris, Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon
  - Ioannis Ayfantis, Junior Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon
  - Georgios Tetsios, Junior Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon
  - Resident Physicians
  - Scientific Associates

The physicians of Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Department participate actively and hold senior positions in all the national and international scientific societies of Hand , Upper Limb and Reconstructive

Microsurgery. Furthermore, they have a dynamic presence in educational activities – conferences, workshops, seminars- that are organized in Greece and abroad.

• Nursing Staff: comprised of highly trained Registered Nurses with experience in Microsurgical Patient Care (flap viability, upper limb perfusion, external fixation care, upper limb infections, etc)

Facilities

The clinic is situated on the 3rd floor of a recently renovated, standalone infrastructure ('Iroon Politechneiou' building) within the premises of General Hospital of Attica 'KAT'.
The clinic houses 15 beds in the ward on the 3rd floor, 2 beds on the 2nd floor in a different ward for infectious cases. In total bed capacity on a daily base reaches 25-30 beds, which can be adjusted based on needs.

The number of surgeries performed by the clinic exceeds 4.000 annually.
OR operates daily for trauma and reconstructive procedures, with one or two additional operating rooms for minor procedures. Additionally, there are scheduled procedures (morning or afternoon cases) for chronic cases and an available OR for daily call duty addressing fractures or other trauma cases.
There is a wide range of surgical procedures, including major surgery such as procedures performed for brachial plexus injuries, limb replantation and vascularized grafts.

Furthermore, there is an outpatient clinic operating daily (Monday-Friday) on Room No2 (Monday-Friday) Room No 4/7 (Tuesday/Friday) hours 08:00-14:00, in order to examine patients with chronic conditions, follow up on treated patients, fracture clinic follow up and follow up of complex cases that are referred by General Orthopaedics Departments from all over Attica and Greece for specialized upper limb consultation. Twice weekly about 40 preoperative evaluations are performed for scheduled elective cases and fracture cases. This evaluation includes Radiographic assessment, Chest Xray evaluation, Anesthesiologic consultation, Cardiology Consultation in order to obtain surgical clearance. Furthermore, because of the daily schedule, new patients arrive daily for preoperative evaluation and surgical planning.
Educational Activities

Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic performs considerable academic and educational work, attracting many young surgeons.

Residency: provides a 4-month educational rotation within the established compulsory residency curriculum for Orthopaedic and Traumatology residents.
Microsurgery workshop: 3-month long seminars are organized three times a year; these include theoretical courses and microscope-assisted lab practice, with the purpose of teaching Microsurgical techniques to physicians of all specialties.
Research: The Clinic actively participates in international conferences and publishes studies in esteemed scientific journals, while cooperating closely with the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and the Hellenic Society of Hand Surgery
Annual Microsurgery Seminar, Hand, Upper Limb, Peripheral Nerve and Brachial Plexus Surgery Seminar with a specialized subject each year, covering the entire Upper Limb Surgery- from Hand to Shoulder and Brachial Plexus Surgery- including preoperative and postoperative rehabilitation and the use of modern surgical techniques.
Daily theoretical courses to resident physicians

Educational Curriculum
Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic

The educational curriculum is repeated triannually with revision of basic chapters and the addition of other subject according to current cases.

- Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery patient management, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Upper Limb Infections, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Introduction to Microsurgery- Microsurgical Instruments- Microscope- Microsutures, Lecture Hall, 'Garofalidis' Research Laboratoratory, KAT Hospital
- Upper Limb Splinting, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Upper Limb Procedures with Local Anesthesia, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- End-to-End artery anastomosis Τελικοτελική αναστόμωση αρτηρίας, Lecture Hall, 'Garofalidis' Research Laboratoratory, KAT Hospital
- End-to-End venous anastomosis, Lecture Hall, 'Garofalidis' Research Laboratoratory, KAT Hospital
- Microsurgical Peripheral Nerve Repair, Lecture Hall, 'Garofalidis' Research Laboratoratory, KAT Hospital
- End-to-Side and graft-interposition vascular repair, Lecture Hall, 'Garofalidis' Research Laboratoratory, KAT Hospital
- Wrist injuries and dislocations, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Shoulder Instability-Treatment algorithm, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Elbow fracture-dislocations, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic
- Brachial Plexus Surgical Anatomy, Clinical Workroom, Hand Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic

The lectures are performed by Attending Surgeons of the Clinic as well as invited speakers.
Primary goal of the Hand, Upper Limb & Microsurgery Clinic is the specialized patient care and the surgical rehabilitation of patients in their professional and social activities. With a continuous research, incorporation of new methods and techniques and an investment in education, the Clinic remains a cornerstone of Hand, Upper Limb and Microsurgery in Greece.

Most recognized techniques

- shoulder
- elbow
- arthrscopy
- reconstruction
- nerve surgery

Website

https://www.kat-hosp.gr/ipiresies/iatriki-ypiresia/a-xeirourgikos-tomeas/kliniki-xeriou-mikroxeirourgiki-anw-akrou/

Surgical volume and facilities

Average number of shoulder surgeries per month: 60
Average number of elbow surgeries per month: 48

Participation in outpatient clinics: **Yes**
Involved in resident training programme: **Yes**
Previous fellowship program available: **Yes**
Direct access to science or cadaveric lab: **Yes**

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