

## EDITORIAL

# Introduction of the 8th world symposium for lymphedema surgery

We are delighted and honored to introduce this special issue of *Journal of Surgical Oncology* which collects the contributions at the 8th World Symposium Lymphedema Surgery (WSLS), April 26 to 27, 2019, Taoyuan, Taiwan. This would not have been possible without Dr. Stephen Sener, Editor-in-chief of *Journal of Surgical Oncology* who has given us tremendous support to publish this supplement issue. We would also like to express our appreciation to Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taoyuan, Taiwan which provided the state-of-the-art venue and facility to ensure the success of the entire event.

The 8th WSLS has not only provided the lymphedema surgery community with the latest scientific approaches and breakthroughs in the management of extremity lymphedema but also served as a knowledge exchange platform where world-renowned experts and young surgeons shared supermicrosurgery renovation and innovation perspectives seeking the ultimate outcome.

This year, we had a great turnout of 312 participants with 203 registrations from 26 different countries, 26 faculty members and other 83 local clinical staff including 10 residents, 8 fellows, 10 physical therapists, 35 nurses, and 20 medical students. This scientific lymphedema symposium included a new pre-congress Hands-On Supermicrosurgery Course, 2 Keynote speeches, 21 lectures in 4 panels, 20 podium presentations, and 7 live surgery demonstrations.

Dr. Stephen Sener, our keynote speaker, addressed his speech in a uniquely comprehensible manner that the recent advances in axillary surgery had reduced the risk of regional recurrence of cancer and the risk of breast cancer-related lymphedema. Combining the efforts in new axillary oncologic surgery and lymphatic microsurgery procedures, the promise of reducing the morbidity from breast cancer-related lymphedema seems realistic. William Repicci, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lymphatic Education and Research Network, focused another keynote speech on world activism and the role of the lymphedema professionals in this battle for new treatments and cures for an extremely under-recognized and inadequately treated debilitating disease- lymphedema and lymphatic disease.

A total of 21 lectures in 4 panels were conducted by the world-renowned lymphedema physician and surgeons. The topics covered the versatile imaging modalities for the diagnosis, variable donor site and recipient site selections for vascularized lymph node flap transfer, therapeutic and preventive lymphovenous anastomosis and the use of collagen scaffolds for lymphatic regeneration.

This 8th WSLS supplement issue is to encourage academics to present their innovations and explorations in extremity lymphedema from a theoretical and/or clinical perspective with the aims to bring excellent research and to publish the highest quality papers related to extremity lymphedema for the readers. Twenty free papers were chosen for the podium presentations and twenty-one for poster presentations. Three podium presentations were chosen as the best papers and awarded by Dr. Sener during the symposium banquet. The best oral presentations went to Dr. Ines Tinhofer, Dr. Hiroki Kajita, and Dr. Jose Ramon Rodriguez.


With the relentless contributions from the members of this symposium, we will continuously innovate and share knowledge to treat extremity lymphedema, with the ultimate goal to help millions of lymphedema patients at long last.

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