

### **Biographical Sketch**

#### **Panayotis N. Soucacos, MD, FACS**

Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

The “Panayotis N. Soucacos” Orthopaedic Research & Education Center

“Attikon” University Hospital

National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, School of Medicine

In June 2002, Dr. Soucacos was elected Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Athens, School of Medicine and assumed his post in March 2003. In Athens, Dr. Soucacos and his team were located at both the KAT Accident Hospital and the new Attikon University Hospital. From 1980 and until his transfer to Athens University, Dr. Panayotis N. Soucacos was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Ioannina, School of Medicine, Ioannina, Greece. The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine was first established in 1980 with the appointment of Panayotis N. Soucacos, MD, as professor and chairman. At that time the School of Medicine, which was founded in 1977, was still new and orthopaedics was not an active discipline in the University Hospital. Dr. Soucacos first academic position was with the faculty of the Orthopaedic Department at the University of Athens in 1975 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Soucacos retired from the University and academic medicine in August 2009.

A native of Greece, Dr. Soucacos was born in Athens on April 27, 1941, where he finished high school in 1958 at the National Academy of Anavryta. He received his MD at the University of Athens, School of Medicine in 1965. After an internship and mandatory military service at the Athens Naval Hospital, he completed his orthopaedic residency at the Orthopaedic Department of the University of Athens at KAT Accident Hospital in 1970 and received his license as an Orthopaedic Surgeon. He subsequently took a post-graduate position at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina as a Clinical and Research Fellow until 1975. Dr. Soucacos was awarded the degree Doctoral Diploma (equivalent to a Ph.D.) in 1978 with his study on intramedullary nailing of tibial fractures.

During the 30 years both the Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery in Ioannina and then in Athens have gained international acclaim under the auspices of Professor Soucacos. He has established long-standing, international inter-university collaborations, such as with Duke University Medical Center, USC and University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh. The evolution and progress of the Department in Ioannina and then in Athens has been evident in all fields of orthopaedic surgery and traumatology including trauma of the upper and lower extremity and spine; reconstructive surgery of adults; pediatric orthopaedics; spinal deformities; reconstruction surgery of major joints (total hip and knee replacement); microsurgery; hand surgery; orthopaedic oncology; metabolic diseases; and athletic injuries. As Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in

both Universities, Dr. Soucacos has established internationally renowned clinical units. Specifically, these include the Microsurgery and Replantation Unit, the Trauma Unit, the Unit on Adult Reconstruction, the Unit for Surgery of the Spine and the Arthroscopy Unit. In addition, he spearheaded the development of three distinct, orthopaedic research laboratories at Ioannina: Microsurgery Laboratory, Laboratory for Biomechanics, and the Arthroscopy Laboratory. In 2009, on the campus of the Attikon University Hospital in Athens, Dr. Soucacos established the “Orthopaedic Research and Education Center” (OREC) for fostering post-graduate research in the fields of Microsurgery, Biomechanics, Tissue Engineering and Immunohistochemistry from a private research grant. In 2001, the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens unanimously voted to name the center “Panayotis N. Soucacos” in tribute to his efforts in fostering orthopaedic surgery in Greece.

The bulk of Dr. Soucacos’ scholarly work has been aimed at the application of microsurgery for hand and upper extremity reconstruction. These scholarly works are a significant part of the sweeping contributions that microsurgery has made in Hand & Upper Extremity Surgery. The major scientific contributions in microvascular surgery have allowed for its application both in trauma and secondary reconstructive procedures, including peripheral nerve surgery, throughout Greece. Not only has he been at the forefront of this scientific effort, but more importantly he is recognized for fostering a “school of thought”.

He has also served as Visiting Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics, University of Patras Medical School, Patras, Greece; at the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery of Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC; at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery of Emory University, School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; the Department of Orthopaedics, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey; the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany; the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Microsurgery Research Center, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA; Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Southern California, CA; Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska, Department of Biomechanics and Hand Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; and Department of Hand, Replantation- and Microsurgery, Academic School of Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Angiology, the American Orthopaedic Association, and the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons.

He is an active member of many Hellenic, American, European and international orthopaedic organizations (total of 26 societies). Dr. Soucacos has served as president of the Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, the Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Hand, and Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Spine and was the Founding President for the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (for a two-year term). He was elected and served on the Executive Council of the International Microsurgical Society, and the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, for over 10 years and was the National Delegate for Greece in the General Assembly of the European Federation of Societies for Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (EFORT);

the Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH); the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) and the Federation of European Societies for Microsurgery (FESM). He served as President of the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (2009-2011).

He has been involved in many regional, national and international activities related to orthopaedics. He has served as Chairman of several International Congresses including the Combined Meeting of the Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology and the British Orthopaedic Association, the Combined Meeting of the Hellenic Association of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology and the American Orthopaedic Association, the 11th Congress of the International Microsurgical Society, and the First Combined Intra-University Greek-Turkish Orthopaedic Meeting Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the 4th Congress of the Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand in 1997, and served as Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the 5th Congress of the European Federation of Societies for Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology which took place in June 2001 in Rhodes, Greece. Dr. Soucacos has served as Chairman and member of the organizing and/or scientific committees for numerous national and local orthopaedic meetings. In addition, he established and has sponsored the Annual Seminar and Workshop on Microsurgery since 1985, as well as the Microsurgery Week (laboratory training of young surgeons in microsurgery). In 2007, Professor Soucacos hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery (WSRM) in Athens, Greece.

Dr. Soucacos is member of the Editorial Board of several distinguished International and Greek Orthopaedic Journals. He has spoken extensively with over 400 lectures in areas of microsurgery, hand surgery, spine surgery, as well as on various topics in general orthopaedics throughout the world and has been an invited Faculty Member for numerous continuous educational courses, such as the Annual European Advanced Course for Surgery of the Hand at the University of Brescia, Italy.

He has made over 450 scientific contributions to the international scientific literature (peer reviewed journals and chapters) where he has distinguished himself in microsurgery in the top orthopaedic journals, such as *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, *Microsurgery*, among others. Dr. Soucacos has served as a guest editor for over 26 special editions of national and international journals.

Several clinical and basic research projects spearheaded by Dr. Soucacos have been granted support, these include: a grant from the Veterans Administration in 1973 for the evaluation of microsurgical techniques in small artery anastomoses; a national grant in 1993 for a nation-wide school screening study; a national grant in 1994 for the experimental study of intra-operative nerve expansion in an animal model; and two grants from the European Community (Biomed Awards) in 1995 for the study of an automatic electromagnetic system for promoting and detecting osteogenesis and for the development and production of new hip implants.

Several of these studies have received awards for their scientific merit or medical impact. These include awards for the exhibit on replantation of hands and digits at the AAOS

meeting in 1976; for the study of soft tissue sarcoma presented at the Annual meeting of the Hellenic Society for the Study of Musculoskeletal Tumors in 1989; for the presentation of free forearm flaps given at the 1990 meeting of the Hellenic Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology; the Lions' award for Community Service in 1994 for the scoliosis school screening study throughout Greece and Southern Albania; for the study of vein conduits presented at the 11th Congress of the International Microsurgical Society in 1994; for the study of intraoperative nerve expansion presented at the Combined Meeting of the Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Hand and the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery in 1995; for the study on Nerve regeneration following end to side coaptation at the Combined Meeting of the Israel Society for Surgery of the Hand and the Hellenic Societies for Surgery of the Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery in 1997; for the presentation on the Reconstruction of large bony defects with free tissue transfers at the First Balkan Congress of Orthopaedics, 1997; and for the study on Fluorescent double labeling technique to evaluate collateral sprouting in end-to-side nerve coaptation at the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand Meeting in 1998.

Most notable is the role of Professor Soucacos as a “teacher”. He has advised over 34 dissertations for the degree Doctor of Science, and has fostered over 100 fellows to train further in internationally renowned centers. Of the seven Medical Schools in Greece, former trainees of Professor Soucacos are now full tenured Professors and/or Chairmen in 5 Departments. More importantly, all academic Departments of Orthopaedics and Hand Surgery throughout Greece have faculty members trained and mentored by Professor Soucacos; over 24 of his former fellows are now academic faculty in leading institutions throughout Greece and some of whom are currently professors in the United States and Europe. In all, Professor Soucacos has fostered the growth of Orthopaedic Surgery in Greece, spearheading and promoting throughout the country outstanding, independent clinical work and scientific investigations with international recognition.

Among his over 40 awards and special recognitions, the most notable are the Award for Academic Excellence presented by the President of the Greek Democracy in 1996. (The Award for Academic Excellence has been given to the Medical Sciences only three times.) In the 2000 Meeting of the Hellenic Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, a special award was dedicated to Dr. Soucacos for his scholarly contribution to the field of Microsurgery. In 2013 Dr. Soucacos was named a Pioneer of Hand Surgery by the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH), and in 2018 a Legend in Microsurgery by the European Federation of Societies of Microsurgery (EFSM).