



16th Congress of the European Federation of Societies for Microsurgery – EFSM

May 9th – 11th 2024, MILAN, ITALY

Program

website: <https://www.euromicro2024.com/scientific-program/>

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MILAN EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY

“From 9 to 11 May in Milan” explains **Dr. Pierluigi Tos, President of the European Federation of Microsurgery Society and director of the Hand Surgery and Reconstructive Microsurgery Operational Unit of the Gaetano Pini CTO Orthopedic Institute of Milan,** the 16th congress of the European Federation of Microsurgery is taking place with top international experts. This is the largest congress ever held in Europe as it has the presence of more than 800 participants from more than 60 nations around the world, a quarter of the participants from non-European states”.

The congress is organized every two years, but, due to covid-19, it was postponed to 2024. “This edition is particularly significant,” **underlines Dr. Pierluigi Tos,** since the first congress of the European Federation was held in Italy in 1992 in Rome. The most expert microsurgeons in the European Union will participate, but, above all, it is the first time that significant delegations arriving from the United States, Mexico, China, Japan and Taiwan will be present. Let us remember that the entire Asian world represents the most important reality in this field (China, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Australia)”.

Microsurgery is the surgical technique which, through the use of the operating microscope, allows the treatment of extremely complex pathologies through the transfer of autologous tissues: parts of the body (toes, lymph nodes, muscles, parts of skin) can be transferred and “resuture” (reconnect with the vessels) in the area where a loss of substance has occurred. The pathologies that benefit most from autologous biological reconstructions are those that cause losses of substance following oncological demolitions or traumas (think of limb replantations which have now been a consolidated surgery for years); alongside these pathologies there are lymphedema, a highly disabling disease which unfortunately affects a significant number of patients who undergo the removal of lymph nodes and extremely serious pathologies such as saving the diabetic foot (let us underline that saving a diabetic foot allows us to avoid death within 5 years of any amputation). The last frontier of the microsurgical technique is that of multi-tissue transplants, the face transplant, the hand transplant that are the most 'renowned' multi-tissue transplants of recent years which also have an ethical implication of no small importance (cadaver transplant of face and of hand which involve the use of immunosuppressive therapy, as for other donor transplants).

The EFSM congress will include 50 educational courses, 600 scientific communications and reports regarding the most modern reconstructive techniques in plastic surgery, hand surgery, head and neck surgery and limb lymphedema. “We, as the ASST Pini CTO Institute are an international point of reference for various specializations such as orthopedic surgery, hand surgery, plastic surgery, head and neck surgery, general surgery. I was lucky enough to grow up with Professor Brunelli and Dr Battiston who were pioneers of these techniques in Italian orthopedic surgery”, **tells Dr.**

Pierluigi Tos, former president of the Italian Society of Microsurgery. He has presided over the European Scientific Society for four years and he had also the burden and honor of organizing this 16th EFSM congress which will take place in Milan at the Hotel Melià from 9 to 11 May 2024, "The motto of the congress is *'Rome 1992 – Milan 2024: more than 30 years of microsurgical reconstructions'* as it was in 1992 that the European Federation of Microsurgery Societies was founded and saw its first congress in Rome; 30 years later the Federation returns to Italy to evaluate the progress of microsurgical reconstructions and we, - at ASST Gaetano Pini-CTO and my team, who are a center of excellence at an international level -, strongly believe in the value of networking and the transfer of know-how, in professional development of reconstructive microsurgery neurosurgeons. Unfortunately, with these war scenarios, moreover, our work is very relevant and cutting-edge and increasingly requested and at the service of Italian and foreign citizens. I am pleased to have brought the EFSM congress back to Italy because I strongly believe in international networking and cooperation".

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