



Penn Microsurgical Skills Cadaver Course for Hand Fellows and Residents



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This past November marked the first annual Penn Microsurgical Skills Cadaver Course for Hand Fellows and Residents. The two-day course was comprised of a collaborative effort by an international group of recognized experts in hand and microsurgery who convened in Philadelphia to teach the next generation of hand and microsurgeons.

Module I	Intrinsic flaps (first dorsal metacarpal artery, heterodigital, homodigital, Moberg, V-Y, cross-finger), radial forearm flap, posterior interosseous flap
Module II	Lateral arm flap, scapular flap, latissimus dorsi flap, serratus anterior flap, medial femoral condyle flap
Module III	Fibula flap, toe transfer, brachial plexus approaches (supraclavicular, infraclavicular), nerve transfers (spinal accessory to suprascapular, Oberlin's, triceps to axillary, distal AIN to ulnar motor)
Module IV	Anterolateral thigh flap, gracilis flap, digit replantation

Dr. L. Scott Levin directed the course with invited faculty including:

- Dr. Allen Bishop, Mayo Clinic
- Dr. David Bozentka, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Heinz Bürger, Facharzt Für Unfallchirurgie, Salzburg, Austria

- Dr. Benjamin Chang, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Geoffrey Hallock, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, PA
- Dr. James Higgins, Curtis National Hand Center
- Dr. Neil Jones, University of California Irvine
- Dr. Stephen Kovach, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Scott Kozin, Shriners Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA
- Dr. Ines Lin, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. David Steinberg, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Milan Stevanovich, University of Southern California
- Dr. Joseph Upton, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Dr. Eric Zager, University of Pennsylvania

The course was attended by an international group of hand surgery fellows, orthopedic surgery residents, and practicing hand surgeons and had a faculty-to-student ratio of one-to-four during the dissection modules. This high faculty-to-participant ratio was seen as essential. As the American Society for Surgery of the Hand has recognized an ongoing deficiency in microsurgical training, both in residency and fellowship, such courses offer a critical means of covering a broad range of procedures and filling gaps in sometimes varied clinical exposure. Cadaver dissections were performed in the University of Pennsylvania Human Tissue Laboratory with in-depth exploration of cutaneous, muscular, musculocutaneous, and osteocutaneous flap options. Modules covering digit replantation, toe-to-hand transfer, brachial plexus exposure, and common nerve transfers were also included (Table 1).

Post-course survey results notably found that the majority of respondents were very satisfied with the overall course as well as with individual modules. Plans for this year's course are already underway, with a focus on increasing participant numbers.

