

# Paolo Sassu, MD

## Curriculum Vitae



### Personal

Birthday	06/01/1973
Citizenship	Italy
Address	Haga Kyrkogatan 22, Goteborg, 41123 - Sweden

### Education

Undergraduate	1991 – 1999	M.D. University of Cagliari
	1998 – 1999	Intern student in Orthopaedic Department University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

### Medical training

Internship	Apr – Sept 1999	Intern, rotating among emergency, paediatric, general surgery and internal medicine
Residency	1999 – 2004	Resident, Orthopaedic Surgery Hand and Microsurgery Department Ospedale Marino Cagliari, University of Cagliari – Italy

## **Professional Experience**

**August – November 2002**

Visiting Scholar, brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injuries.  
Director: Professor David Chuang  
Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital  
Taipei, **Taiwan**

**January – June 2004**

Training in Microsurgical Technique  
Director: Professor Gilles Dautel  
“Diplome Interuniversitaire de Microchirurgie”  
Nancy, **France**

**July – September 2004**

Visiting Scholar  
Director: Professor Fu-Chan Wei,  
Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital  
Taipei, **Taiwan**

**November 2004 – June 2005**

Clinical Fellowship in Reconstructive Microsurgery  
Director: Professor Hung-Chi Chen  
E-DA Hospital/I-Shou University  
Kaoshiung, **Taiwan**

**July 2005 – June 2006**

Clinical Fellowship in Reconstructive Microsurgery  
Director: Professor Fu-Chan Wei  
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital  
Taipei, **Taiwan**

**August 2006 – March 2008**

Clinical Fellowship at Kleinert and Kutz Institute for  
Hand and Microsurgery  
Louisville, Kentucky. **USA**

**March 10th-28th, 2008**

Visiting Physician

Department of Plastic Surgery

Director : Dr CH Johnson

Mayo Clinic

Rochester, MN. USA

**November 8 – 12, 2010**

Visitorship at Huashan Hospital Fudan University,  
Shanghai, **China**.

Director Professor Yudong Gu.

Focus on Brachial plexus injuries, acute and late  
reconstruction of peripheral nerve injuries. During the visit,  
gave lecture and observed in clinic and surgery

**March 28 – April 28, 2011**

Visiting Physician,

Department of Hand and Microsurgery. Obstetric and adult  
brachial plexus injuries

Director: Professor Simo Vilkki

Tampere University, **Finland**

**April 2008 – July 2012**

Attending Physician

Department of Hand Surgery and Reconstructive Microsurgery

Ospedale Marino – Cagliari. **Italy**

**July 2012 – present**

Senior Consultant

Director Hand Transplant Program

Department of Hand Surgery

Sahlgrenska University Hospital

Gothenburg, **Sweden**

**September 2009 – 2014**

PhD at the University of Florence, Italy

Dottorato di ricerca in 'Patologia e clinica dell'apparato  
locomotore e dei tessuti calcificati'

Director: professor Massimo Innocenti

## Publications

- 1) Cigna E, **Sassu P**, Varkey P, Tan NC, Liu YT. Debulking of free perforator flaps for head and neck reconstruction using an arthroscopic shaver. *Ann. Plast Surg.* 2005;55(4):441
- 2) Mardini S, Chen HC, Salgado CJ, Yazar S, Ozkan O, **Sassu P**. Posterior tibial artery flap in polyomyelitis patients with lower extremity paralysis. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2006 Feb;117(2):640-5
- 3) Salgado CJ, Mardini S, Spanio S, Tang WR, **Sassu P**, Chen HC. Radical reduction of lymphedema with preservation of perforators. *Ann Plast Surg.* 2007 Aug;59(2):173-9.
- 4) Lin CH, Lin YT, **Sassu P**, Lin CH, Wei FC. Functional assessment of the reconstructed fingertips after free toe pulp transfer. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2007 Oct;120(5):1315-21
- 5) **Sassu P**, Chih-Hung Lin, Cheng-Hung Lin, Yu-Te Lin. Fourteen Cases of Free Thenar Flap: A Rare Indication in Digital Reconstruction. *Ann Plast Surg.* 2008 Mar ;60 (3):260-6
- 6) Lin CH, Lin CH, **Sassu P**, Hsu CC, Lin YT, Wei FC. Replantation of the Great Toe: Review of 20 Cases. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2008 Sep ;122 (3):806-12
- 7) **Sassu P**, Tsai TM. Transfer of the second to the first metatarsal ray in a case of lawn mower injury. A case report. *Microsurgery*, 2009;29(3):184-7; discussion 188
- 8) Fumiaki S, Wei FC, **Sassu P**, Lin CH, Lin YT. Multiple toe transplantations to reconstruct three amputated neighbouring distal fingers by heat press injury - a case report. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg.* 2008 Oct 4
- 9) Kapickis M, **Sassu P**, Thirkannad SM. Evaluation of two types of vascular bundles for revascularization of avascular tissue. *J Hand Surg* 2009 Oct;(34)8:1461-6
- 10) Salgado CJ, **Sassu P**, Gharb BB, di Spilimbergo SS, Mardini S, Chen HC. Radical reduction of upper extremity lymphedema with preservation of perforators. *Ann Plast Surg.* 2009 Sep;63(3):302-6

- 11) **Sassu P**, Acland R, Salgado CJ, Mardini S, Ozyurecoglu T. Anatomy and vascularization of the flexor hallucis longus muscle and its implication in free fibula flap transfer: an anatomical study. *Ann Plast Surg* 2010 Feb;64(2):233-7
- 12) **Sassu P**, Burrai S, Cara L. 'The lower limb as donor site in hand reconstruction'. In *Sphera Medical Journal* 2010
- 13) Ozkan O, Ozkan O, Bektaş G, Mardini S, **Sassu P**, Cigna E, Tüzüner S, Chen HC. 'Reconstruction of a distal extremity defect using a temporoparietal fascia flap covered with a split-thickness skin graft harvested from the scalp: a cosmetic consideration in donor site selection'. *Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg.* 2012 May;18(3):207-12
- 14) Cigna E, Mardini S, Chen HC, Özkan Ö, **Sassu P**, Salgado CJ, Lieu YT, Ponzio I, Ribuffo D, Scuderi N. An improved method of supercharged transposed latissimus dorsi flap with the skin paddle for the management of a complicated lumbosacral defect. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci.* 2015;19(6):921-6.
- 15) **Sassu P**, Libberecht K, Nilsson A. Nerve transfers of the forearm and hand: a review of current indications. *Plast Aesthet Res* 2015;2:195-201.
- 16) Nachemson A, Fredrikson P, Jivegård L, Persson J, **Sassu P**, Svanberg T, Sjögren P. Hand transplantation following amputation due to non-malignant indications [Handtransplantation efter amputation på grund av icke-malign orsak].  
[https://alfresco.vgregion.se/alfresco/service/vgr/storage/node/content/workspace/SpacesStore/01cba68d-e8d9-4cae-b853-f226bb823f84/2016\\_91%20HTA-rapport%20Hand%20transplantation%20following%20amputation%20due%20to%20non-malignant.pdf?a=false&guest=true](https://alfresco.vgregion.se/alfresco/service/vgr/storage/node/content/workspace/SpacesStore/01cba68d-e8d9-4cae-b853-f226bb823f84/2016_91%20HTA-rapport%20Hand%20transplantation%20following%20amputation%20due%20to%20non-malignant.pdf?a=false&guest=true)

- 17) Oltean M, **Sassu P**, Hellstrom M, Axelsson P, Lars Ewaldsson, Anders G. Nilsson, and Michael Axelsson. The microsurgical training programme in Gothenburg, Sweden: early experiences. *J Plast Surg Hand Surg*. 2017 Jun;51(3):193-198.
- 18) Mastinu E, Clemente F, Sassu P, Aszmann O, Brånemark R, Håkansson B, Controzzi M, Cipriani C, Ortiz-Catalan M. Grip control and motor coordination with implanted and surface electrodes while grasping with an osseointegrated prosthetic hand. *J Neuroeng Rehabil*. 2019 Apr 11;16(1):49.

## Book Chapters

- 1) Chih-Hung Lin, **Paolo Sassu**. Toe flaps and toe transplantation. In 'Flaps and Reconstructive Surgery'. Eds: Fu-Chan Wei and Samir Mardini. Elsevier
- 2) Alain-Charles Masquelet, **Paolo Sassu**. Gastrocnemius flaps. In 'Atlas of flaps and microsurgical techniques'. Eds: Fu-Chan Wei and Samir Mardini. Elsevier.

## Research Projects

- Principal Investigator in:
  - 'Assessment of Hand Transplantation in Patients with bilateral Hand Amputation', Department of Hand Surgery, Sahlgrenska University Hospital - Gothenburg
  - 'The Osseointegrated Human-Machine Gateway (OHMG)', Centre of Advanced Reconstruction of Extremities (C.A.R.E.), Mölndal Hospital.
- Investigator in: 'Protect Neuro', Department of Hand Surgery, Sahlgrenska University Hospital

Training in clinical research:

- Module: GCP for Investigators & Investigational Site Staff
- Exam Date: 22/10/2017
- Certificate Validation Code: 40124752

## Presentations

- Cara L, **Sassu P**, Soddu L. "Artroplastica tendinea in sospensione nel trattamento della rizoartrosi: due casi di tendinite del FRC and APL risolte chirurgicamente". National

Congress of the Italian Society of the Hand. Orvieto, Italy, September 2002

- Soddu L, **Sassu P**, Uras P. “The Epibloc System in displaced metaphyseal fractures of the distal radius”. National Congress of the Italian Society of the Hand. Cagliari, Italy 2003
- **Sassu P**, Cara L. “Free vascularized iliac graft for reconstruction of the first metatarsal bone. A case report and review of the literature”. National Congress of the Italian Society of the Hand. Turin, Italy, September 2004.
- **Sassu P**, Acland R, Ozyurekoglu T, Mardini S, Salgado CJ, Moran S. “Anatomy and vascularization of the flexor hallucis longus muscle and its implication in free fibula flap. An anatomical study”. American society for reconstructive microsurgery. Los Angeles (USA), January 2008. Riga (Latvia), 2010.
- **Sassu P**, Hung-Chi Chen, Salgado CJ, Mardini S. “Radical reduction with preservation of perforators in the treatment of upper extremity lymphedema. A preliminary report”. American society for reconstructive microsurgery. Los Angeles, January 2008
- **Sassu P**, Burrai S, Uras G, Cara L. ‘L’arto inferiore come sito donatore nelle ricostruzioni microchirurgiche della mano’. XXXI Congresso N.So.S.O.T. Alghero 2010
- **Sassu P**, Innocenti M, Cara L. ‘The Lower Limb as Donor Site in hand Reconstruction’. IFSSH 2010, Seoul, South Korea.
- **Sassu P**, Nilsson A, Fredrikson P, Axelsson P. On the need of a hand transplantation program in Sweden’. SHF Arsmöte Sigtuna, Sweden, 2013.
- **Sassu P**, Nilsson A, Fredrikson P, Axelsson P. ”Handtransplantation”. Nationellt DAL- och DAS-möte, Göteborg, 30-31 January, 2017
- **Sassu P**. et al. DRUJ passive range of motion in hand transplantation. A cadaver study. Svensk Handkirurgisk Förening, Sigtuna, 31/8-1/9 2017.
- **Sassu P**. ‘Hemipulp and vascularized joint transfer: surgical anatomy and clinical cases’. Faculty member at ‘Reconstructive Surgery Symposium’, Munich. October 19-22, 2016.
- **Sassu P**. ‘Hand Transplant Program Gothenburg’. Advances and Controversies in Reconstructive Microsurgery, Norwich May 5-6, 2016.
- Faculty member at International Master Degree in Reconstructive Microsurgery. Florence, April 3-6, 2017. Live surgery on ‘vascularized joint transfer’ and power point presentation on: ‘Clinical anatomy, dissection and surgical techniques of toe transfer’.

- **Sassu P.** ‘Anatomy, biomechanics and surgical dissection of the vascularized PIP and MCP toe joint flaps for digital reconstruction’. 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Federation of Societies for Microsurgery (EFMS)
- **Sassu P.** ‘Temperature control in monitoring vascularized tissue with simulated arterial and venous thrombosis. An animal study’. 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Federation of Societies for Microsurgery (EFMS)

## **Courses and Meetings**

- **Oct 24 – 26, 2002:** 6th International Course of Perforator Flap, Taipei, Taiwan,
- **Jun 4 – 7, 2009:** 1st Symposium in Reconstructive Microsurgery. A collaboration with Chang Gung University medical college. Mayo Clinic, Rochester – Minnesota. USA
- **Sept 11-12, 2009:** ‘9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Society of Hand and Composite Tissue Allotransplantation’. Valencia, Spain
- **Oct 1 -3, 2009:** XXIII Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Microchirurgia. First Atlanto Pacific Microsurgery Conference Echanging Perspectives. Modena
- **Spet 24 – 25:** Price ‘Dott. Lombardini’ for best communication. ‘Treatment of soft and bony tissue loss by means of vascularized free tissue transfer’
- **May 20 – 22, 2010:** 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Federation of Societies for Microsurgery E.F.S.M. Genova
- **May 24-25, 2010:** 1st Baltic hand society meeting 2010. Riga, Latvia
- **Sept 11, 2010:** MAP, Managing Pain: orientarsi nella terapia del dolore. Cagliari.
- **Sept 24 – 25, 2010:** XXXI Congresso N.So.S.O.T. Attualita’ e prospettive future in Ortopedia e Traumatologia. Alghero.
- **Oct 31 – Nov 4:** 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial congress of the international federation of societies for surgery of the hand. Seoul, Korea.
- **May 2012:** workshop, on cadaver dissection for hand and face transplantation. Philadelphia, USA
- **November 2012:** American Society Reconstructive Transplantation - Chicago, USA
- **June 12-15:** Faculty member at ‘10<sup>th</sup> Congress of Worlds Society for Reconstructive



## Microsurgery'

### Teaching

- **Feb 13-16 2012:** Instructor at 'Anatomical dissection course SICM (Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand)'. Arezzo - Italy
- **May 2013:** Organizer and instructor for the '*International Course on Microsurgical Techniques*', held twice a year in Gothenburg – Sweden.
- **October 2014-2015:** Instructor at '*Scandinavian Flap Course Uppsala*'

### Membership

- IHCTAS : International Hand Composite Tissue Allotransplantation Society
- SICM: Societa' Italiana di Chirurgia della Mano
- SIM: Societa' Italiana di Microchirurgia
- SHF: Svensk Handkirurgisk Förening
- SFRM: Svensk Förening för Rekonstruktiv Mikrokirurgi