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Dr. Kokubun is Director of Research Center for Spine & Spinal Cord Disorders at NHO Nishitaga Hospital in Sendai, and President of Japan Orthopaedics and Traumatology Foundation, Inc., Tokyo, Japan. He was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Tohoku University School of Medicine in Sendai from 1995 to 2006. He had stayed at University of Hong Kong in 1974 and at University of Oxford in 1992.

His major research and clinical activities are spine and spinal cord diseases such as deformities, injuries and degenerative pathologies causing radiculopathy and myelopathy. He is the author of about 150 original publications in English including 54 papers on spine and spinal cord disorders.

At home, as Congress President, he held the JOA Annual Congress in 2004 and the annual meeting of the Japanese Spine Research Society in 2005. Internationally, he was National Delegate to SICOT (1999-2005), Chief National Delegate to the Asia-Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA) (2001-2006), and Chairman of the Spine Section, APOA (2005-2008). The 2nd Triennial Congress of the International Federation of Paediatric Orthopaedic Societies (IFPOS) was a great success under his presidency in Sendai in 2001. He actively contributed to Bone and Joint Decade (2000-2010) as a member of its International Steering Committee from 2003 to 2010.

He has been making every effort to improve orthopaedic surgery, especially spinal surgery, in many Asian countries by visiting there for lectures and demonstration of surgeries or by accepting more than 100 fellows to his university department and research center for their training. Because of the achievements, he has been granted an SC Fong Visiting Professorship of the University of Hong Kong in 1996, an honorary professorship of the Jilin University in Changchun, China in 1966, a Ho-Chi-Minh City Medal of Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam in 1999, an honorary membership of the Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of Thailand in 2004, a VK Pillay Lectureship of the University of Singapore in 2006, and an AR Hodgson Memorial Lectureship of the University of Hong Kong in 2011.
List of Publications on Spine Surgery in English

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