

Professor Zoran Marij Arnež, MD, PhD, Senior Councillor, Ambassador of Science of Slovenia

(Curriculum vitae)

Born on 7 April 1953 in Ljubljana, Professor Arnež studied medicine in Ljubljana (Slovenia), earned his PhD in Novi Sad, and is currently Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Medical Faculty, University of Trieste (Italy), Director of Plastic Surgery at Cattinera University Hospital (Trieste, Italy) and Director of School of Specialization in Plastic Surgery at University of Trieste (Italy). From 1977 to 2007 he worked at the University Medical Centre in Ljubljana (Slovenija) as consultant plastic surgeon, Director of University department for Plastic Surgery and burns, Director of Surgery and Medical Director of the hospital.

For the past 20 years, he has been profoundly involved in the development of plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, surgical treatment of burns, and surgery of the hand. His main field of interest is the use of free tissue transfer and microvascular anastomosis in the management of burns, reconstruction of open fractures of upper and lower extremities, and reconstructive operations on the breast, head and neck. Dedicated professional work, research, publishing and teaching activities have won Professor Arnež international recognition, so that he now ranks among world's top experts and scientists in the field of reconstructive microsurgery. He developed eight new surgical methods and introduced to Slovenia 29 methods from abroad, which have all become part of daily surgical practice. He has served as adviser to undergraduate students involved in research projects (four Prešeren awards for student research), to graduate students enrolled in master's and doctoral degree programmes, to physicians undergoing specialist training in general and plastic surgery, as well as to many foreigners pursuing graduate training in microsurgery. As an undergraduate student, he won a Prešeren award for research. He has headed nine domestic and international research projects.

For five years he has served as Chief medical officer of Slovenija (President of Medical Council at Ministry for Health of Slovenija).

He is a member of the editorial boards of the Slovene journal ISIS and several international journals (British JOURNAL OF Plastic Surgery, Microsurgery, European Journal of Plastic Surgery, Acta Chirurgiae Plasticae, Journal of the Italian Society for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery). He serves on the expert committee appointed by the Council of Europe to develop a methodology for drawing up medical practice guidelines, and on the project committee responsible for the system of health sector management in Slovenia. Professor Arnež is a member of numerous distinguished international societies (European Association of Plastic Surgeons – EURAPS (vice-president 1993, president 1994), International Society for Burn Injuries - ISBI, Mediterranean Burns Club - MBC, International Confederation for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery - IPRAS, British Association of Plastic Surgeons - BAPS), and president of the Slovene Society for Plastic Surgery. He has been honoured with a number of prestigious awards for (language proficiency,) research and innovation. As an internationally renowned specialist, he has been invited to lecture at universities and hospitals in the USA (Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; Baylor College, Houston, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota), Great Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Japan, Spain and Portugal. He has also taught and demonstrated operative treatment methods as a visiting surgeon in the USA, Great Britain, Austria, Italy and elsewhere. With his co-workers, he has authored over 150 research articles and chapters in textbooks and reference manuals, published in Slovenia and abroad.