

# Surgeon of the Month: Tseng-Kuo Shiao, MD

Vance W. Elliott, MD *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*



Tseng-Kuo Shiao, MD  
Overland Park, Kansas

Tseng-Kuo Shiao (also known as T.K.) was born in Taipei, Taiwan. He is the oldest of three children, and lived with his maternal grandmother until high school started. It was not uncommon for Chinese grandparents to help raise their grandchildren, and he felt lucky to have had the undivided attention of his grandmother.

T.K. immigrated with his family to the suburbs of Kansas City (United States) in December 1977 and completed high school in Overland Park, Kansas. Subsequently, he went to the University of Kansas and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Science. He proceeded to work a few years in the computer industry before going to the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The first ten years in the United States were difficult for his parents; his mother stayed here with the children while his father worked in Taiwan, but they willingly sacrificed themselves so their children could receive better educations and have better career opportunities.

T.K. was first introduced to hair restoration by his father and attended his first ISHRS meeting at Barcelona in 1997. Hair restoration, however, did not get his full attention until he started working extensively with him at his clinic in 2004. After working with his father for several years, T.K. found it a fascinating field with many great people, and started his own clinic, United Hair Restoration, in Overland Park, Kansas in 2007.

T.K.'s father, I-Sen Shiao, MD, graduated from the National Defense Medical College, the oldest allopathic medical school in China with over a hundred years of history. He was a research fellow for artificial kidney in the department of Urology at University Hospital of Michigan during the early 1960s and later started the Pediatric department at the largest hospital in Taiwan. He started practicing aesthetic surgery in the 1980s and was the founder of the now 1,000-member strong Chinese Society of Cosmetic Surgery and Anti-Aging Medicine in Taiwan.



T.K.'s father, I-Sen Shiao, MD

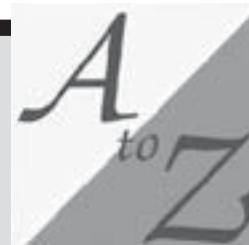
While seeking new developments in aesthetic surgery, Dr. Shiao had a chance encounter with hair restoration surgery during the International Hair Replacement Surgery Symposium at Hot Springs, Arkansas, in February 1986. T.K. can still remember the hundreds of turns through the winding mountain roads in Arkansas when they drove there from Kansas City: "My father was very impressed by the symposium's faculty and director, Dr. Bluford Stough." A comment made by the co-director, Dr. Richard Webster, on how techniques were taught freely, without reservation, how a father would teach his son, also made a lasting impression on his father. Incredibly, this has been the tradition at the

ISHRS. The willingness of our members to teach and share experiences is unparalleled by any other field.

"Such novel experiences and dedicated teaching made my father focus his efforts on hair restoration. At an annual meeting in Los Angeles, Dr. O'Tar T. Norwood convinced my father to devote his efforts to mini-grafts and later to follicular unit transplantation. He became the first physician specialized in hair transplantation in Taiwan and has been exclusively doing hair restoration at his clinic since 1992."

"My father and I share similar philosophies in hair restoration. For my father, hair restoration is his hobby. It is personally rewarding when he creates art in every case and knows that he is helping people feel better. We see it as a form of art but we also explore what science and technologies have to offer to help better the art creation process.

"On a personal note, I have been married to a wonderful person, Chin-Hui Tseng, for over 20 years. We have one daughter, Jessica, who is 18 and a sophomore at Johns Hopkins University. My primary hobby is to explore the diversities in cultures and people through various types of personal encounters." ♦



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