



John Cook-Jong Lee, M.D., Ph.D

- The President of the Armed Forces Daejeon Hospital
- Medical Director, Trauma Center

Dr. Lee was born on April 22, 1969, in Seoul. His father was a national merit recipient, and he used a medical welfare card provided to national merit recipients to visit hospitals, but he was once refused treatment. This experience made Dr. Lee vow, "When I grow up, I will not treat sick people carelessly." And Dr. Lee entered the School of Medicine, Ajou University, in March 1988 and graduated from the same with a Medical Doctor degree in February, 1995. He entered Graduate School of medicine, Ajou University, in March, 1997, was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Medicine, 2002. He completed a 1-year internship course in 1995 and 4-year residency course in Department of General Surgery 1996 – 2000. He received special training from the San Diego Microsurgical institute & Training Center at Mercy Hospital La Jolla, California, U.S.A., in October, 1997 and Trauma Center of UC San Diego Medical Center, Hillcrest San Diego, California, U.S.A., in January, 2003. He did his Fellowship Training in General Surgery in 2001 and Trauma Surgery in 2002. Dr. Lee enlisted in the Republic of Korea Navy in March, 1992 and was discharged from an active service and placed on the reserve list afterwards.

He was employed as a faculty member of Medical Center & School of Medicine as an instructor in September, 2002 and promoted to be an Assistant Professor of Center & School of Medicine in September, 2004. Right after he came back from California, trained as a both trauma and flight surgeon, he has been working with the whole medical system of the USFK, not only working with the medical staffs of the 8th Army, but also flying with the DUSTOFF. He was classified as a 'Good Neighbor' and awarded with the official certificate of appreciation by the former USFK commanding officer General Vincent K. Brooks as well. He worked at the Royal London Hospital in the United Kingdom as a Consultant Trauma Surgeon from 2007 to 2008. He was promoted to professor of Surgery and in charge of trauma center as a medical director since 2011. As a part of military medical system, Dr. Lee has been deployed numerous operational theater including 'The Dawn of Aden' which was the anti-piracy operation conducted by South Korean Navy in 2011.

In particular, he treated Captain “Seok Hae-gyun”, who was rescued during ‘The Dawn of Aden’ operation, and was honored with the rank of honorary Navy Lieutenant in recognition of his contribution to joint medical training with the Republic of Korea Navy. In 2017, he successfully performed damage control surgery on a North Korean soldier who sustained gunshot wounds while defecting from North Korea. Based on these diverse experiences, in 2018, Dr. Lee published "Golden Hour," in which he recorded his feelings and realities of working in the field of trauma surgery from 2002 to 2022. The book became a bestseller immediately upon release. He introduced a 24-hour operating 'Doctor Helicopter(air ambulance)', which is medical staffs on board, in 2019 which not only enables nighttime flights but also allows for emergency surgeries performed by specialized medical staff during helicopter transport, making the concept of a flying emergency room a reality.

Dr. Lee has received numerous awards, including the 2010 Recognition in National Emergency Medical System by Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Civil Merit Medal in 2011 for his devotion to a Trauma Care System in South Korea. In 2015, he was promoted to honorary Navy Lieutenant, in 2017 to honorary Lieutenant Commander, and in 2018 to honorary Commander. On December 27, 2023, he was promoted to honorary Navy Captain and simultaneously appointed as the President of the Armed Forces Daejeon Hospital.

John Cook-Jong LEE, M.D., Ph.D.

The President of the Armed Forces Daejeon Hospital

Education

1995	M.D. Degree, Ajou University School of Medicine, Korea
1999	Master Degree, Ajou University School of Medicine, Korea
2002	Ph.D. Degree, Ajou University School of Medicine, Korea

Career

Feb 1995	Medical Doctor Degree
Feb 2000	Board Certified General Surgeon
Aug 2002	Ph.D Degree in Biochemistry
Sep 2002	Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, Ajou Univ. Assigned as an instructor
Jan 2003	University of California, San Diego, USA Trauma Surgery Fellowship Training
2004 ~ 2008	Department of Surgery and Department of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine, Ajou Univ., South Korea Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Trauma Surgery
2007 ~ 2008	The Royal London Hospital Trauma Center, United Kingdom Consultant Trauma Surgeon
2013 ~	Present Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, Ajou Univ., Korea
2009 ~ 2019	Chief of Trauma Surgery and Medical Director of Ajou University Hospital Trauma Center, South Korea
Feb 1 st 2020 ~ Dec 31 st 2023	Maritime Medicine Specialist, ROK Navy
Aug 2022	Medical Advisor / Ministry of National Defense
Dec 27 th 2023	Promoted to the Honorary Captain. ROK Navy
Dec 27 th 2023 ~	The President of Armed Forces Daejeon Hospital

※ ROK Navy Honorary Rank : '15 Lieutenant, '17 lieutenant commander,
'18 commander, '23 Captain

Honors/Awards

The United States Government

Apr 8 th	2003	United States Army 18th Medical Command Certificate of Appreciation
Sep 23 rd	2004	United States Army 18th Medical Command Certificate of Appreciation
Nov 23 rd	2009	White House Medical Unit Certificate of Appreciation
Nov 10 th	2010	White House Medical Unit Certificate of Appreciation
Mar 20 th	2012	White House Medical Unit Certificate of Appreciation
June	2015	United States Army 75 th Ranger Regiment Certificate of Appreciation
	2017	United States Army Awarded the Order Of Military Medical Merit(O2M3)
Nov 8 th	2017	White House Medical Unit Recognized Physician Certificate
	2018	Headquarter of the United States Forces in Korea Appointed as a member of Good Neighbors Program
Apr 24 th	2019	The Commander of the US 8 th Army Awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal(HSM)
Jun 9 th	2019	United States Air Force Flag of Appreciation

South Korean Government

Dec 1 st	2010	The Minister of the Ministry of Health & welfare Awarded the Commendation Award
Oct 31 st	2011	The President of the Republic of Korea Awarded the Civil Merit Medal
Feb 21 th	2013	The Minister of Defense (Second anniversary of the Operation Dawn of Gulf of Aden) Awarded the Plaque of appreciation
Jul 13 th	2013	Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs Awarded the Commendation Award
Sep 25 th	2017	The Commander of the Army Training & Doctrine Command Awarded the Commander Citation Medal
Feb	2018	The ROK Army Infantry School Awarded the Commander Citation Medal
Nov 8 th	2018	The Republic of Korea National Red Cross Awarded the Korean Red Cross Medal of Honor
Feb 26 th	2019	The President of the Republic of Korea Awarded the Order of Civil Merit, Rose of Sharon Medal