Mission Statement
To provide evidence-based integrated surgical care that exceeds national benchmarks for quality and safety, educate the next generation of surgeons and scholars based on learner-centered principles, and advance medical knowledge through basic, clinical, and translational research to improve the lives of surgical patients.

Patient Focus Care Approach
We evaluate each patient as a unique individual and review all options with them to customize their treatment plan and optimize their care. We perform surgeries at hospitals in the Greater Lansing area allowing patients to stay close to home for both simple and complex operative procedures.

MSU Hand Management Unit
Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Peripheral nerve compression syndromes
Hand and wrist osteoarthritis:
- Basal joint arthroplasty
- Carpal bone instability and SLAC wrist
- Scapholunate ligament reconstruction
- Proximal row carpectomy
- Four corner fusion
- Isolated carpal fusion/carpometacarpal fusion/carpectomy
- Total wrist fusion
- Finger fusion and implant arthroplasty
- Synovectomy
- Tendon reconstruction/transfers
- MCPJ arthroplasty

Wrist arthroscopy:
- Arthroscopic Triangular Fibrocartilage repair

Management of common congenital hand differences:
- Sydactyly, polydactyly, constriction bands, clinodactyly
- Madelung deformity

Ganglions and mucous cysts
Upper limb soft tissue and skin tumors
Osteomyelitis, infection and hand wound management
Nerve palsy and tendon transfers
Scar release
Aesthetic Hand rejuvenation with injectables and laser

Services

Trauma Management

Comprehensive reconstructive surgery of the hand and wrist. MSU serves Sparrow Emergency and urgent care facilities with hand call.

Local soft tissue coverage
Carpal fractures
Distal radius and ulnar fractures
Reconstruction of carpal bone dislocation/dissociation

Tendon injuries
Nerve injuries
Hand fractures

James HW Clarkson, MD, FRCSC, FRCS.plas, MSC

Dr. Clarkson is a fellowship-trained, board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon, specializing in hand and micro-vascular surgery.


In 2010, Dr. Clarkson joined MSU where he has established the Department of Surgery Hand Management Unit providing specialized treatments of all hand and wrist conditions. His desire to provide exceptional patient care and total comfort has led to the expansion into Wide Awake Surgery.

Sparrow Hospital, Dr. Clarkson provides Hand and Facial Trauma care, Hand and Wrist surgery and Wound Reconstructive services. He is the Medical Director of the Sparrow Wound Clinic.

Created in 2010, the Hand Management Unit (HMU) of the Michigan State University Department of Surgery utilizes the latest technological advancements in the treatment of hand and micro-vascular surgery.

MSU Surgery provides patients peace of mind through our successful outcomes which are supported by our:
- Advanced training
- Case numbers performed
- Postoperative care from our highly skilled team

If the patient chooses, Dr. Clarkson and Dr. Bray offer in-office hand procedures and other local anesthetic procedures using virtual reality. We have proven that this novel, first in the nation approach improves anxiety and even reduces injection pain for our more needle-phobic patients. It’s the most efficient and safest way to deliver this type of surgery without the need for major anesthesia. Patients can eat normally and take their usual medications on the day of surgery. We find it particularly useful for our more elderly patients, but children and adults alike have benefited from this technology.