

IFSSH Newsletter

October 2009

The Executive Committee and Delegates' Council discussed the IFSSH fee structure for member societies and Congress registration at the Delegates' Council Meeting in Poznan, June 4th 2009. The following proposals were accepted:

Proposals for variable fee rates for IFSSH member societies

Delegates were presented with information regarding World Bank classification of income levels by country along with GDP per capita figures (July 2008). It is recognised that this information does not necessarily equate with medical incomes in each country.

1. IFSSH member societies subscription rate

Currently each member country pays US\$100 per country and \$10 per member – e.g. Australia with 130 members pays \$100 plus \$1300 = US\$1400 total. The IFSSH income relies on the payment of annual subscription dues.

The Executive Committee suggested that to increase membership, and as a good-faith gesture, annual dues be reduced to US\$50/society plus \$5/member for member societies in World Bank classified “low income” and “low-middle income” countries. This would include: Egypt, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Iran, Thailand and Armenia under current assessments.

Other countries may lodge an application to the Executive Committee for review on an individual basis

Due to low member numbers in these “low income” and “low-middle income” countries, this alteration to the fee structure will not substantially affect IFSSH income.

The Delegates' Council accepted the proposal that subscription fees for “low income” and “low-middle income” countries be reduced to US\$50/society plus \$5/member and that this be reviewed at each triennial Congress.

2. IFSSH Congress registration fees

It is the responsibility of the congress host to devise appropriate fee structures according to the costs involved in all aspects of the conference organisation. Currently, a number of methods may be considered to assist those who are financially disadvantaged:

- a. The host society may consider excluding the cost of social events from the registration fee. Minimally the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception should be included in the registration fee so that all members of IFSSH societies are encouraged to attend together. Social collegiality is an important IFSSH ideal.
- b. The host society may consider a variable registration rate allowing those from countries designated as lower middle income and low income to request a designated lower rate of registration fee in the same manner as occurs in the FESSH meeting. If it is the wish of the IFSSH Council Delegates that this be so, the IFSSH Executive Committee would instruct the congress host to adopt this approach in the fee structure. If this process is introduced, it would remain the responsibility of the registrant to make such a request. Only the congress host could decide the amount of any registration fee reduction.
- c. The IFSSH currently provides financial assistance for a number of registrants at each IFSSH Congress. The criteria for those requesting such assistance are included in the IFSSH website and are repeated here.

"The IFSSH Executive has decided to consider assisting hand surgeons financially to allow them to attend one of the IFSSH Congresses. It is intended for surgeons who come from poor or developing communities who earn very little (e.g. about US\$1000 /month) and who, without financial assistance, would not be able to attend the international meeting. Applying for financial support depends heavily on the integrity of the individual who applies. Applicants should give reasons for requesting the support e.g. monthly income, absence of any other sponsors, motivation for attending the congress, amount needed (a maximum limit will be applied), professional position including hospital, field of work, work experience, supporting letter from a chief, superintendent, head of department and how the knowledge and experience gained would benefit the applicant. An application does not mean that funds would be automatically granted. Each application would be individually evaluated and depend on the availability of funds."

Terminology for Hand Surgery:

The IFSSH Terminology for Hand Surgery booklet was published in 2001, presenting hand surgery vocabulary in Latin, English, French, German and Spanish. This publication is now out of print. However, the contents have now been placed on the IFSSH website.

This can be accessed via www.ifssh.info/TerminologyOfHandSurgery.html.

Regional and International Congresses:

8th Congress of Asia Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) - Kaoshiung, Taiwan

13th – 15th November, 2009

www.apfssh2009.org

XVth International Congress of Federation of the European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) – Bucharest, Romania

23rd June – 26th June, 2010

www.fessh2010.com

XIth IFSSH Congress - Seoul, Korea.

31st October - 4th November, 2010.

www.ifssh2010.com

XIIth IFSSH - IXth IFSHT Congress - New Delhi, India.

March, 2013

IFSSH Website:

The IFSSH website is continually updated and is the main means of communication between member societies. The Executive welcomes information from all member societies, including notice of national meetings and matters of interest, both current and historical, for distribution to our members.

The website address is **www.ifssh.org**.

Those societies wishing to place information on the website should forward that information to the Secretary-General.

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