



## IFSSH Newsletter – January 2012

2012 arrives with snow or sunshine depending on the hemisphere but with the same thoughts as always – to reflect on the past year and then to make wishes, plans and promises for the year ahead.

On behalf of the IFSSH Executive Committee, I would like to acknowledge the work and effort of our members towards our common goal: hand surgery. I would like to thank every IFSSH member for another year of progress and we look forward to the opportunities to meet again over the next twelve months, to exchange ideas, make plans and welcome more members.

I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year, filled with happiness, good health and success.

As a summary of our main activities and the matters of the IFSSH, I enclose my report presented at the 2011 IFSSH Delegates Meeting in Las Vegas.

### 2011 Secretary-General's Report

*I cannot start my report without recapping the wonderful year of 2010. The work of the last three year term, led by IFSSH President Jim Urbaniak and Secretary-General Michael Tonkin, was perfectly completed by an outstanding 11th IFSSH triennial Congress in November 2010 in Seoul, South Korea. This was superbly organised by Congress President Moon Sang Chung and a high scientific standard was ensured by Goo Hyun Baek, the Scientific Chairman. These programmes made for an unforgettable event and, along with the financial outcome of the congress, will be difficult for future congresses to equal.*

*1501 participants, including more than 1300 surgeons from 61 countries met in Seoul to take part in the Congress. 1429 oral and poster abstracts were presented, covering a wide range of topics. Dr Jesse Jupiter delivered the Swanson Lecture: ‘Fracture of the distal radius: an historical perspective’.*

#### **Executive Committee**

*During the Seoul Congress new IFSSH officers were elected:*

*President: Ulrich Mennen*

*President-Elect: Michael Tonkin*

*Past-President: James Urbaniak*

*Secretary General: Zsolt Szabo*

*Secretary General Elect: Marc Garcia-Elias*

*Historian: Frank Burke*

*Member-at-Large (Nominating Committee): Goo Hyun Baek*

*We thank Arlindo Pardini and Bill Cooney for their contribution to the IFSSH Executive over the past terms.*

### ***IFSSH Member Nations***

*The IFSSH ‘family’ welcomed a new member, the Georgian Hand Surgery Branch of Medical Foundation "Mkurnali". We look forward to having Georgian representatives join us at future Congresses. Interest in membership has been forthcoming from many other societies, including Estonia, Latvia, Ireland, Guatemala and Myanmar and we hope to welcome these societies to IFSSH membership at future meetings. Important steps are in place in order to strengthen our relations with our Russian colleagues. The President and Secretary General of the IFSSH are going to participate in a scientific cadaver course in Saint Petersburg during September 2011, at the invitation of the Russian Society.*

### ***Hand Surgery Worldwide***

*A remarkable outcome of the Congress was the presentation of the book *Hand Surgery Worldwide: International Reconstruction of a ‘Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind’*, edited by outgoing IFSSH President Jim Urbaniak.*

### ***E-zine***

*Thanks to its President, Ulrich Mennen, in February 2011 the IFSSH started a new era in information and communication. This electronic magazine, called ‘ezine’, developed and edited by Ulrich Mennen, plans to improve communication between IFSSH members and co-workers. The outstanding quality and content of the first three issues assure us that it will be an important tool in our aim to build a stronger hand surgery community.*

*If you wish to receive this, or have contributions or suggestions, please email [ezine@ifssh.info](mailto:ezine@ifssh.info).*

### ***Pioneers of Hand Surgery***

*During the 2010 Seoul IFSSH Congress opening ceremony, 28 ‘Pioneers in Hand Surgery were honoured. This is a long standing custom which dates back to the 3rd Congress in Tokyo held in 1986. The IFSSH, on behalf its members, congratulates the following Pioneers on their award:*

- Alessandro Caroli (Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- André Chamay (Swiss Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- John Cobbett (British Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Fernando Enriquez de Salamanca Lorente (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- José Cantero Martínez (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Antonio De Santolo Ricciardelli (Venezuela Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Richard G. Eaton (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Joel Engel (Israeli Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- David P. Green (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Basil Helal (British Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Yoshikazu Ikuta (Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Seiichi Ishii (Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Eung-Shick Kang (Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Ik-Dong Kim (Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Young Ho Lee (Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Ralph Manktelow (MANUS Canada)*
- Renzo Mantero (Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand)*
- Viktor E. Meyer (Swiss Society for Surgery of the Hand)*

*Edward A. Nalebuff (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Santos Palazzi Coll (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Alfredo Quintana Montero (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Morton Spinner (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
James W. Strickland (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Philip Sykes (British Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Julio Taleisnik (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
E.F. Shaw Wilgis (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Virchel E. Wood (American Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Elvin G. Zook (American Association for Hand Surgery)*

*These Pioneers have contributed to our knowledge and understanding of hand surgery, both within their own countries and internationally. Their vast offerings assist the hand surgeons of today and ultimately benefit innumerable patients. We thank the Pioneers for their dedication to enriching the field of hand surgery.*

### ***Finances***

*A detailed Treasurer's report will follow, but we should state that the financial standing of the IFSSH is increasing. This is first of all due to the fantastic financial success of the Seoul Congress. We have to thank the Korean organisers for the impressive amount of US\$100,000 transferred to our account. Improved diligence of our member nations to pay annual dues, along with a good control of expenses, have contributed to this successful growth.*

### ***Bursaries and Grants***

*The IFSSH Executive and Delegates' Council Meeting have provided a further bursary to support the Baragwanath Hand Fellowship, under the guidance of Prof John Fleming in South Africa. Reports of previous Fellows of the Baragwanath Hospital are available on the IFSSH website ([www.ifssh.info](http://www.ifssh.info)).*

*Bursaries and grants are available for worthy projects that fulfil the criteria for the use of IFSSH funds. All member societies are welcome to submit proposals to apply for a bursary or congress assistance grant. The guidelines and criteria can be found on the website. Applications should be submitted to the Secretary-General ([secretary@ifssh.info](mailto:secretary@ifssh.info)) for consideration by the Executive Committee.*

### ***IFSSH website***

*The IFSSH website is continually updated with society details. We must thank our Indian friends, Raja Sabapathy and Santhosh Rajan, who are the providers and webmasters of our website. If your society wishes to place details of its annual meeting on this website, please also inform the secretariat ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) and include details of the dates, location and website/email for enquiries.*

### ***IFSSH Congresses:***

*At the Delegates' Council meeting held in Seoul, the hosting rights for the 2016 IFSSH Congress were awarded to Argentina. The regional rotation system of host societies will now take effect, commencing with the bids for the 2019 Congress to come from the European region.*

*XIIth IFSSH - IXth IFSSH Congress -New Delhi, India - 4th–8th March, 2013  
XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina - 2016*

***2012 Delegates' Council Meeting***

***The 2012 IFSSH Delegates' Council meeting is planned to be held in conjunction with the annual congress of the Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) in Antwerpen, 21-23 June. Further details will be provided in due time for travel and accommodation arrangements.***

*Finally I would like to thank our permanent administrative secretary, Miss Belinda Smith, for the impressive amount of work and its high professional standard, and with whom I have a perfect collaboration and she has facilitated a lot of my activity. Also I wish to express my thanks for the support and collaboration of our President, Ulrich Mennen.*

*Zsolt Szabo  
Secretary General, IFSSH*