President Ulrich Mennen opened the meeting at 1135 and welcomed the delegates and guests.

1. Present

   Ulrich Mennen (President)
   Zsolt Szabo (Secretary General)
   Marc Garcia Elias (Secretary General Elect)
   James Urbaniak (Past President)
   Belinda Smith (Administrative Secretary)

   Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina)
   Stephen Coleman (Australia)
   Carlos Fernandes (Brazil)
   Don Lalonde (Canada)
   Luis Naquira (Colombia)
   Nash Naam (Egypt)
   Guillaume Herzberg (France)
   Jorg van Schoonhoven (Germany)
   PC Ho (Hong Kong)
   Paul Sagiv (Israel)
   Marco Innocenti (Italy)
   Moroe Beppu (Japan)
   Goo Hyun Baek (Korea; IFSSH 2010)
   Hyuk Jin Lee (Korea; IFSSH 2010)
   Michael Boland (New Zealand)
   Nelson Lim (Philippines)
   Roberto Rosales (Spain)
   Esther Vogelin (Switzerland)
   David Shewring (UK)
   Peter Amadio (USA – AAHS)
   Kevin Chung (USA – ASSH)
   Alfredo Olazabal (IFSSH 2016)
   Lynne Feehan (IFSHT)
   Francisco del Pinal (IPRAS)
2. Apologies

Michael Tonkin (President-Elect)
Frank Burke (Historian)
Werner Girsch (Austria)
Luiz Carlos Sobiana (Brazil)
Hernando Laverde-Gutierrez (Colombia)
Mikheil Shavgulidze (Georgia)
Philippe Saffar (France)
Konstantinos Malizos (Greece)
Alexander Choi (Hong Kong)
Raja Sabapathy (India; IFSSH 2013)
Roberto Adani (Italy)
Alexandru Georgescu (Romania)
Michael Solomons (South Africa)
Rupert Eckersley (UK)

3. Proxies

The secretariat received proxy notifications from President Elect Michael Tonkin, along with the following member nations:

Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Georgia
France
Greece
Hong Kong
Italy
South Africa
UK

Ulrich Mennen thanked delegates for their continued support of the IFSSH and noted a pleasing increase in communication between member nations and the secretariat. He passed the meeting to Zsolt Szabo.

Zsolt Szabo welcomed the delegates and guests and repeated Ulrich Mennen’s thanks. He reminded delegates to advise the secretariat of any change in contact details or delegate positions.

4. Confirmation of previous minutes – November 1st, 2010

Attendees requested no alteration to the presented minutes. Zsolt Szabo requested that they be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Nash Naam (Egypt)
Seconded: Peter Amadio (USA-AAHS)

The 2010 minutes were accepted unanimously.
5. Matters arising from previous minutes

i. Hand Surgery Worldwide

Zsolt Szabo thanked Jim Urbaniak for organising this publication. Jim Urbaniak acknowledged some problems with distribution but hopes all interested in purchasing this book can do so now. Any profit from the sale of the book will be directed to the IFSSH fund for educational bursaries and grants.

Information regarding purchase options will be distributed in the ezine and website, and enquiries can be directed to the secretariat (email: administration@ifssh.info).

ii. Baragwanath Fellowship bursary

Zsolt Szabo acknowledged this bursary has been paid to support a Hand Surgery Fellowship position at Baragwanath Hospital. This institute’s position has previously been supported by the IFSSH. It was noted that ex-Fellows upon returning to their own countries have expressed interest in forming national hand surgery societies (e.g. Kenya).

iii. Rotation of Congress Hosts

Argentina will host the 2016 IFSSH Congress, as awarded at the Seoul 2010 Delegates’ Council Meeting. From 2019 onwards, the geographic rotation system will be introduced. The 2019 Congress will be opened to European submissions under this system and the host decided at the India 2013 Delegates’ Council Meeting. The rotation schedule for future congresses will be decided in India.

iv. Dues payments

Zsolt Szabo reported that dues invoices have been forwarded to all delegates/societies and noted the increased communication between delegates and IFSSH secretariat.

The ExCo acknowledged that the majority of societies are paying dues, though some remain difficult to contact and a small proportion of societies are in financial arrears. Zsolt Szabo asked all delegates to remind their societies of this membership obligation. 2011 dues are requested by November 30th.

Zsolt Szabo reported that after analysing the treasury of the IFSSH, and continued discussions with societies, the ExCo are aware of an imbalance of the income sources of the IFSSH. 40% of IFSSH dues are incoming from the American societies. The ExCo wishes to propose to the Delegates’ Council a suggestion for a more equitable dues system for larger societies. This system would involve imposing an upper limit of “full-fees” on societies with more than 700 members. For the first 700 members, the fees remain at $10/member (plus the $100 society fee), but for dues beyond these 700 members, only one-third of the sum remaining would now be payable. For example, a society with 850 members would pay:

- $100 society fee
- $10/member for first 700 members ($7000)
- 1/3 of remaining $10/member (i.e. 150 members: $1500 x 1/3 = $500)
- Therefore, total payable is $7600.

Zsolt Szabo commented that many societies are growing, along with the potential membership interest from other large hand surgery nations and this is a method of recognising the importance of large societies to the IFSSH.

Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany) noted that the dues obligation of large nations was discussed in Korea, 2010, and the agreement of the meeting was that a change was not necessary. He commented that it seemed to be only the American societies that wanted to continue these discussions. Zsolt Szabo recognised this, but suggested that diplomatic discussions had continued since Seoul and the ExCo thought it would be a goodwill gesture of the IFSSH to acknowledge the contributions of the large societies, including that of the 40% of dues paid by the American societies.

Kevin Chung addressed the Delegates’ Council on behalf of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. He expressed that the ASSH wish to remain in a collaborative relationship and are fully behind the missions of the IFSSH. He noted that the ASSH Council discussed IFSSH matters and their dues contribution yesterday. He wished to take this proposal back to the ASSH Council.

Zsolt Szabo, on behalf of the ExCo, proposed to vote on the motion:

*That IFSSH societies with over 700 members will pay dues under the formula of $100/society, plus $7000 (i.e. $10/member up to 700), plus one-third of any membership dues owing above this cut-off.*

The proposal was received unanimously and the IFSSH Executive and Delegates’ will await a response from the ASSH.

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6. **President’s Report**

The following report was submitted by Ulrich Mennen:

*Since our last Congress in November 2010 in Seoul, Korea, a number of significant changes have taken place in the running of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH).*

*Firstly, Dr. Zsolt Szabo has taken over as Secretary-General. I am very privileged to work with Dr. Szabo, an enthusiastic and energetic organizer who keeps this organization in ship shape.*

*Secondly, the IFSSH has acquired the experienced and able services of Ms. Belinda Smith as the permanent Administrator. This enables the IFSSH to have a “central” office, ensures continuity with an ever changing ExCo and Delegates Council, makes the task of each officer so much easier and serves to keep records and ongoing administration updated.*

*Thirdly, the IFSSH-ezine, the IFSSH electronic paging magazine, has been launched in February 2011, and will be sent out every 3 months, free of charge, to all subscribers and National Delegates. The third issue was dispatched in August to some 4500 individuals directly, and about 2-3000 more indirectly through the Delegates. We encourage the Delegates to please send us the individual members email addresses. This will help us to dispatch the ezine directly to all Members of the*
IFSSH community. Those who wish not to receive the ezine can unsubscribe. Santoshk Rajan, the IFSSH Webmaster, has added a link on the IFSSH Website, which gives access to all previous ezines. We urge you to send your comments, letters, contributions, photographs and interesting case studies for publication. The IFSSHezine is a publication for the IFSSH and IFSHT and should be ‘fueled’ by the Members. The aim of the ezine is to bring the Hand Surgery and Hand Therapy family closer together and optimize communication.

Fourthly, the Committee system and their reports. In the past, most of the 30 Committees of the IFSSH have not been very functional and the number of reports presented at the triennial Congresses were only in single figures and poorly attended. Also, the work which went into some of these reports was seldom acknowledged or available to the Membership.

The President has the responsibility to solicit these reports from the appointed Committees. Again, in the past the response was mostly unsatisfactory and often very frustrating.

In an attempt to overcome this tardy response, Past-President James Urbaniak managed to solicit reports from Members who represented all the IFSSH National Societies. These reports were published in the magnificent book entitled: “Hand Surgery Worldwide”

President-Elect Michael Tonkin and I have decided to review the IFSSH Committee system and submit proposals to the ExCo for discussion. The new guidelines will be published in the next IFSSHezine.

Submitted with sincere regards

Ulrich Mennen
President: IFSSH
Editor: IFSSHezine

Ulrich Mennen appealed to delegates to submit their society’s membership list to the secretariat so that the ezine can be optimally distributed. A number of societies have already assisted with this. At present there are 3000 individual subscribers, but with the assistance of delegates forwarding the link to their membership it is hoped that 7-10,000 should be receiving it. However, the distribution statistics at present show few hits from specific societies, and therefore it is questionable as to whether these memberships are receiving the ezine. All delegates were asked to please at least forward the ezine email with the link to each edition to their members, if unable to forward the full email list to the IFSSH secretariat.

Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany) advised that the release of their members’ email addresses was discussed in a Council meeting, but data protection is a problem. This society will ask members to vote to release the list. The Spanish delegate acknowledged the same data protection problem.

Jim Urbaniak promoted the educational value of the ezine and thanked Ulrich Mennen for his time and efforts in producing the three issues so far.

Ulrich Mennen raised the IFSSH Scientific Committees. He noted it is the duty of the President to organise these committees and obtain their reports. This is difficult and to date has had little success, with few presented at congresses and attendance levels at these report sessions remaining low. Ulrich Mennen reported that he and Michael Tonkin, President-Elect, would be working to revive the profiles of these
committees. This will involve an ongoing cycle of committee establishment, preparation and report presentation. A Chairperson will be approached for each committee. These committees will each be tasked with a specific topic. Upon presentation of the report, which will also be published in the ezine, on the website, and ideally in the journals, the committee will dissolve.

Ulrich Mennen and Michael Tonkin will prepare full details of this proposal for publication in an upcoming edition of the ezine.

Zsolt Szabo thanked Ulrich Mennen for his report.

7. Secretary-General’s Report

The following report was submitted by Zsolt Szabo and presented to the ExCo:

*I cannot start my report without recapitulating 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 “e-zine”, 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.

**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 of 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 Martinez (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)
Darid 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).

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) 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) 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 IFSHT Congress - New Delhi, India - 4th–8th March, 2013
XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSHT 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
8. Treasurer’s Report

The following report was submitted by Zsolt Szabo:

**IFSSH FUNDS: 2006-2011**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Opening balance - Wachovia</strong></td>
<td>178,469.94</td>
<td>207,934.27</td>
<td>271,238.34</td>
<td>320,018.21</td>
<td>378,457.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Opening balance - Fidelity</strong></td>
<td>479,003.40</td>
<td>307,683.67</td>
<td>401,760.92</td>
<td>426,334.49</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Nation fees paid</td>
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<td>IFSSH Congress</td>
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<td>100,300.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>63,151.79</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td>IFSSH Congress</td>
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<td><strong>BALANCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wachovia</td>
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<td>271,238.34</td>
<td>320,018.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fidelity Investments</td>
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<td>401,760.92</td>
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<td>445,139.30</td>
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<td>721,779.13</td>
<td>866,262.43</td>
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### BALANCE reported at Las Vegas IFSSH Council Meetings, 2011 (Fidelity/Wachovia - July 31st 2011)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wachovia</th>
<th>Fidelity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Balance - June 2006</td>
<td>584,252.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Balance - December 31, 2007</td>
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<td>207,934.27 479,003.40</td>
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<td>271,238.34 307,683.67</td>
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<td>Total Balance - December 31, 2009</td>
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<td>320,018.21 401,760.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Balance - December 31, 2010</td>
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<td>378,457.80 426,334.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>BALANCE reported at Las Vegas IFSSH Council Meetings, 2011 (Fidelity/Wachovia - July 31st 2011)</td>
<td>866,262.43</td>
<td>421,123.13 445,139.30</td>
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### BALANCE reported at Seoul IFSSH, 2010 (Fidelity / Wachovia - August 31st, 2010)

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### INCOME

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<td>Member Nation fees paid</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFSSH Congress</td>
<td>100,300.00</td>
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<td>Interest - Wachovia Bank</td>
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<td>Misc</td>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURE

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<td>Congress expenses</td>
<td>17,285.90</td>
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<td>Executive/Secretariat expenses</td>
<td>20,475.79</td>
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<td>Bursaries and Grants</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
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<td>Bank fees - Wachovia Bank</td>
<td>867.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>53,629.23</td>
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### Wachovia Balance @ July 31st, 2011

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>421,123.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>445,139.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balance @ July 31st, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>866,262.43</td>
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</table>
Zsolt Szabo reported the financial status of the IFSSH treasury is very good and continues to grow. Funds show a total of approximately $866,000. There has been a recovery in the investment account since the economic downturn of 2008.

As a $50,000 seed fund has been loaned to the Indian Society for the 2013 IFSSH, the treasury reflects a balance of over US$900,000. Income and expenditure are stable.

Zsolt Szabo thanked the Korean Society for their outstanding 2010 Congress, and for the resulting donation of $100,000. The ExCo and Delegates acknowledged this contribution.

It is important that the IFSSH now use this treasury to support suitable projects and all delegates were asked to contribute ideas and proposals. The educational bursary, and suggested projects, are to be discussed later in the meeting.

Zsolt Szabo asked that the Delegates accept this financial report.

Proposed: Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany)
Seconded: Goo Hyun Baek (Korea)

Ulrich Mennen informed the Delegates’ Council that an official audit of the IFSSH would be conducted annually.

9. Historian’s Report

Frank Burke forwarded his apologies. In his absence, Zsolt Szabo informed the Delegates’ Council that Bill Cooney, the previous IFSSH Historian, had transferred historical papers to Frank Burke. He will archive these at a suitable location and contribute documents of interest to the website and ezine.

10. 11th IFSSH Congress – Seoul, 2010

Goo Hyun Baek delivered the following report:

1. Program at a glance

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<th>31 October (Sun)</th>
<th>1 November (Mon)</th>
<th>2 November (Tue)</th>
<th>3 November (Wed)</th>
<th>4 November (Thu)</th>
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<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
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<td>Sessions (08:00-10:00)</td>
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<td>Sessions (10:30-12:00)</td>
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<td><strong>Noon</strong></td>
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<td>Swanson Lecture (12:00-12:30)</td>
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<td>Closing Ceremony (12:00-12:30)</td>
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<td>Sessions (14:00-16:00)</td>
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2. Participants

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**3. Scientific Programs**

**Total** | 936 | 272 | 47 | 152 | 74 | 1502
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<td><strong>Total</strong> (Oral Presentations &amp; Poster Display)</td>
<td>179</td>
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*Invited speech

(1) Swanson Lecture  
Fracture of the Distal Radius - An Historical Perspective  
Jesse B. JUPITER (USA)

(2) Plenary Lectures  
**PL01. To Make a Thumb or Not to Make a Thumb: That is the Question**  
James R. URBANIAK (USA)

PL02. Congenital Hand Surgery - Embryology, Classification and Principles of Management  
Michael TONKIN (Australia)

PL03. Trapeziun-metacarpal Joint Osteoarthritis  
Ulrich MENNEN (South Africa)

PL04. Holistic and Epistemologic Review Repair and Regeneration  
Giorgio BRUNELLI (Italy)

PL05. The Transformation of Medical Education  
Richard BERGER (USA)

PL06. An Update on Congenital Hand Anomalies: Key Features in Molecular Morphogenesis, Epidemiology, Classification and Management  
Panayotis N. SOUCACOS (Greece)

PL07. Anatomically Sound Surgical Approaches to the Wrist  
Marc GARCIA-ELIAS (Spain)

PL08. Osteochondritis Dissecans of the Elbow  
Akio MINAMI (Japan)

PL09. Challenges in the Surgical Treatment of Scaphoid Fractures  
Terry WHIPPLE (USA), Jaiyoung RYU (USA)

PL10. The Arthroscopic Treatment of Intractable Tennis Elbow  
Moroe BEPPU (Japan)
PL11. High Resolution MRI of the TFCC
Hiroshi YOSHIOKA (USA)

4. Sponsorship and Exhibition
200,000 USD donated from KSSH members, 250,000 USD raised from 15 companies

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<td></td>
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<td>Medartis AG</td>
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<td>Bronze (7)</td>
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5. Finance
Net profit: 200,600 USD
100,300 USD to IFSSH, and 100,300 USD to KSSH

6. Social Events
Successful Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception, in which 28 Pioneers were honoured.
Gala Dinner and Performance “Legend of Flower” at Wakerhill Theatre
Presidential Dinner at “Aston House”
Free City Tours for accompanying persons: Palaces, Market Places, Museums

The Delegates and Executive again asked Goo Hyun Baek to pass on their thanks to the Korean Society.
11. **12th IFSSH Congress – New Delhi, 2013**

Raja Sabapathy submitted his apologies. In his absence, Zsolt Szabo reported that the preparations are underway for the joint IFSSH-IFSHT Congress in Delhi, March 2013. The website is now live - [www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com). Zsolt Szabo will meet with the Organising Committee in India next year and perform the required pre-Congress site visit.

12. **13th IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, 2016**

Eduardo Zancolli presented the following report:

*Periodic meetings have been organized since November 2010 delineating the main decisions for the future Congress. The location for the Congress will be finally decided during September 2011 based on solicited information. Options are Hilton Hotel and Convention Center and La Rural Convention Center, both in Buenos Aires.*

*The Executive Committee has been elected.*

**Chairman:** Eduardo R. Zancolli III  
**Secretary General:** (the future President of Argentine Society for 2016 yet not elected)  
**Executive Committee:** 1- Cagnone, Juan Carlos  
2- Capomassi, Miguel  
3- Cosentino, Rodolfo  
4- De Carli, Pablo  
5- Pemoff, Adriana  
6- Rodriguez Sammartino, Mario  
7- Rotella, José María  
**Honorary President:** Eduardo A. Zancolli

The rest of the operative Committees have also been elected: Olazabal, Alfredo as Contact with IFSSH; Loda Guillermo, Rotella José, Rodriguez Sammartino Mario and Cosentino Rodolfo as Contacts with FSCM; De Carli Pablo for the Selection of Papers; Daroda Sergio for Infrastructure; Rodriguez Sammartino for Information; Cagnone Juan Carlos and Pemoff Adriana for Non-technical Exhibitions; Pemoff Adriana for Finances; Loda Guillermo and Gamarnik Alberto for Social Events; Ramos Vertiz Alejandro for the conjoined Meeting with IFSHT; Ilarramendi Aldo for Publications; and Pener Enrique for the Reception Committee.

*Two companies have been selected, one for the general organization and the other one for Social Programs.*

*We are also programming some special features for the Non Technical Exhibitions. (specially dedicated to Anatomy of the Hand)*
Eduardo Zancolli thanked the Delegates for the opportunity given to Argentina to host this upcoming meeting and reported that the South American hand surgery societies are very excited and eager to welcome the IFSSH-IFSHT members.

13. International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSSH) Report

Lynne Feehan, President IFSHT, delivered the following report:

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS
* 9th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 12th IFSSH Triennial Congress.
Delhi, India. March 4-8, 2013. (http://www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com/)
- Therapist program planning ongoing. 3-day program; general sessions in the morning, breakout sessions in the afternoon, 1-day combined day with surgeon program.

* 10th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 13th IFSSH Triennial Congress.
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2016
- Letter of agreement with between IFSHT and the Asociación Argentina de Cirugía de la Mano (AACM) and the Capítulo de Terapístas de la Mano in progress.

Current Membership: Full: (n=31) Corresponding: (n=5) Commercial: (n=3)
- IFSHT would like to connect with therapists from the following IFSSH countries that do not have IFSHT membership. If you have a therapist contact name and e-mail please let us know. (Contact: secretarygeneral@ifsht.org)

Delegate communication:
- IFSHT Update: Published approximately 4/year in the US and the British Journals of Hand Therapy and distributed to all member countries.
- IFSHT website (www.ifsh.org): Has been updated, ongoing development of new features and content. Electronic voting established.

SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES: (Contact: secretarygeneral@ifsht.org)
- International Hand Therapy Teaching Awards. Available for therapists traveling and teaching (clinical or academic) in areas of the world with limited hand therapy access.
- Dynamometers (donated to IFSHT): ~150 dynamometers donated to IFSHT.
- Evelyn Mackin Award: Sponsorship of a therapist from a developing country (GNI < $6000) to attend triennial congress.

Lynne Feehan thanked the IFSSH for the strong collaboration offered to the IFSHT.

Following the IFSSH Delegates’ Council vote in 2010 to award host rights of the 2016 Congress to Buenos Aires, the IFSHT Council has discussed this and announced their unanimous support to hold a joint congress.

The IFSHT Executive are working with India and Argentina to establish contracts and organisation of their respective congresses for the therapy component.

Lynne Feehan again appealed to IFSSH member nations without IFSHT therapy organisations to put their individual therapists in contact with the IFSHT as a “Corresponding member”, and to benefit from educational support.
The IFSHT Executive thanked the IFSSH for continued financial support. US$3000 was provided to support therapists to attend the Orlando IFSHT congress, and Lynne Feehan reported that discussions with the IFSSH ExCo are ongoing to support further therapy education projects.

The IFSHT endorse the IFSSH ezine and have formed a committee to provide contributions from therapists. Lynne Feehan reported that Frank Burke is working the IFSHT to develop a historical article of their organisation for the ezine. The IFSHT has also developed a website – www.ifsht.com – as a resource for therapists and it is also equipped with translations. Lynne Feehan asked that surgeons pass on this information to their therapists.


Moroe Beppu (Japan) addressed the Delegates Council.

The APFSSH is formed from 12 countries and meets for a Federation congress second-yearly. The next congress will be the 9th APFSSH Congress – Bali, October 11th-13th. This is to be combined with the 5th APFSHT Congress. Moroe Beppu asked that this information be disseminated to societies and hopes to see many participants in Bali. Ulrich Mennen suggested that the APFSSH meeting could be profiled in the ezine to attract interest.

Hand Surgery, the Asia Pacific hand surgery journal, is published three times a year and continues to increase in sophistication and quality. The APFSSH also hope to establish a central, permanent office in the near future.

15. Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) Report

Zsolt Szabo, FESSH Secretary-General, delivered the following report:

Since November 2010 when a detailed report of the history and the structure of the Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand was submitted by secretary general Massimo Ceruso some important changes influenced the European hand surgery.

The most important, historical event, happened on October 9, 2010 when the European Board of Hand Surgery – EBHS – was initiated and endorsed by the UEMS Council in Prague; it is formed by the MJC of Hand Surgery of UEMS and FESSH. On the same date, the UEMS Council also endorsed the “White Book on Hand Surgery” made by cooperation of the specialist sections of UEMS which deal with the education and qualification in hand surgery in EU countries and FESSH. This is an outstanding success of hand surgery as it is the first official acknowledgement of hand surgery as a surgical speciality of its own.

Another historical event was the endorsement of the European Diploma in Hand Surgery Examination by UEMS and CESMA. Both organizations have participated actively in the 2011 Hand Diploma Examination by sending delegates and acting as observers during the examination. The Examination is growing year after year and in the last two years more than 70 registrations of interest were accepted. The quality of this examination is growing year after year. The introduction of double checked MCQ database, the standardized clinical cases for oral examinations, the presence and feed back of observers, resulted in the will of some national societies to accept this examination as a national speciality examination.
This year, FESSH has organized its annual Congress, in Oslo, Norway. It was a joint meeting with the European Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy. This successful meeting was attended by 745 surgeons, 118 residents and 197 hand therapists, 133 company delegates and 65 accompanying persons. 632 abstracts were submitted and 289 were accepted for oral presentation.

At this year 87 candidates submitted applications for the European Diploma Examination, out of which 43 were accepted and 38 candidates from 15 different countries were present at the MCQ. Switzerland and Germany were represented with the highest number (6) of candidates. 31 passed the MCQ and 7 failed. The best MCQ had 224 points and 5 failed with less than 120 points that is the margin. Out of the 31 candidates, 26 passed the oral examination, that means a total of 31.57% failure rate, that is considered a normal failure rate at such high level examinations. The number of candidates were the same this year than in 2010 without having so many from outside Europe, which means the demand for EBHAS Diploma is still increasing.

The Council underwent some changes in its structure. The new secretary General is Zsolt Szabo. Massimo Ceruso passed as Past Secretary General for the next 1 year. Jan Fridén was replaced by Eric Walbeem as chairman of the Research Committee. Thiery Dubert was replaced by Bruno Battiston as chairman of the Hand Trauma Committee. Giorgio Pivato finished his term as chairman of the Internet Committee. The Internet Committee was dissolved and the internet related activity was attributed to the Management Office of FESSH the Asszisztencia Group. A new committee, the Relationship Committee was formed, chairman Max Haerle, with the aim to organize and control the scientific and social relations of FESSH with the orthopaedic, plastic surgeon and general surgeon societies and federations.

The members of the Federation are National Societies of Surgery of the Hand belonging to countries that are members of the Council of Europe. Currently FESSH has 26 full member countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and The United Kingdom) and 4 corresponding members (Israel, Lithuania, Slovak republic and South Africa). The Assembly of delegates is formed by one representative of all National Societies.

The next FESSH Congress will be held in 2012 in Antwerp Belgium 21-23 June.

The Federation is successful, with a growing number of participants in all its events and scientific activities. To cope with the increasing complexities of the Federation, a decision has been made in 2007 regarding the remodeling of its administration around a Central Office, which is located in Budapest, Hungary, under the expert hands of professional managers. http://www.fessh.com

Needless to say, this has contributed to make our ultimate goal more efficient and successful. That is, to raise the standards of hand care disorders throughout Europe.

16. South American Federation Report

Eduardo Zancolli submitted the following report:

South American countries have received with great enthusiasm the news on the election for the 2016 World Congress.
The FSCM continues growing and continuing with its academic activities. On September 28-30, 2010, a Course was given on hand surgery during the Peruvian Orthopaedic Congress, in Ica.

An International Course was also dictated by the FSCM in March 13-15, 2011 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

The biannual Congress of the FSCM will be held in Buenos Aires, conjointly with the 37th Annual Meeting of the Argentine Society, from October 5-7, 2011, under the presidency of Mario Rodriguez Sammartino. The Southamerican Meeting for Hand Therapists will be held simultaneously.

17. La Federación de Mano Report

No report was submitted or presented.

18. IPRAS Report

Paco del Pinal addressed the Delegates’ Council. The 17th IPRAS World Congress will be held in Santiago, Chile.

19. Educational Bursary

Zsolt Szabo reported that the ExCo had held discussions regarding the increasing treasury of the IFSSH. It is important to spend these funds wisely and support suitable projects. The ExCo formulated the following proposal for presentation to the Delegates:

Motion: To provide funds for education bursaries and grants based on 1% less than the profit margin of the previous year’s finances (reviewed on an annual basis), but that this figure should not exceed 75% of the annual growth. These funds will be administered by the Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants.

For example: If the treasury balance increases by $60,000 in a calendar year, to a total treasury of $800,000 ($60,000/800,000 = a 7.5% profit margin), 6.5% can be allocated to the educational bursaries and funds budget ($800,000 x 6.5%=$52,000). However, this must be equal to, or less than, 75% of the annual growth amount (75% x $60,000 = $45,000). Therefore, in this scenario $45,000 could be directed towards successful applications to the Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants.

Zsolt Szabo reminded delegates that it is most important, now that the treasury is in a position to do so, that each member nation consider ideas for the suitable use of the funds and submit proposals to the IFSSH. Recent requests have been on an individual basis, which cannot be supported, but the IFSSH hopes to support societies in their applications for support for teaching projects, educational courses, etc.

The introduced committee – The Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants – will be led by the Secretary General Elect (currently Marc Garcia Elias) and provide support to the IFSSH to assess and administer applications. He will further
discuss the committee structure, which may include the Member-at-Large, a representative from the forthcoming congress, and regional representatives. The details of this committee and their guidelines for submissions are to be published in an upcoming ezine and on the website.

Zsolt Szabo advised further discussion may be appropriate under “New Business” with the proposal of a Regional Education Project to be discussed in this section of the meeting.

20. IFSSH Website
Zsolt Szabo expressed the ExCo’s thanks to the webmasters – Raja Sabapathy and Santhosh Rajan – for their continued assistance with the website. It was noted that alterations and additions are made promptly, and all delegates should be encouraged to forward information for inclusion (national meetings, delegate contact details, etc).

Zsolt Szabo reported that slight alterations will be made in the near future to optimise the wealth of information available on the website.

21. IFSSH Newsletter
Zsolt Szabo summarised to the Delegates that the IFSSH newsletter is distributed to delegates/societies/website four times a year. Each of these four editions is published in the Journal of Hand Surgery (American) and three appear in the Asian-Pacific journal, Hand Surgery. The Journal of Hand Surgery (European) has ceased publishing the IFSSH Newsletter, but this is to be discussed with their editorial board.

22. IFSSH Ezine
As discussed in Item 6 (President’s Report). No further discussion.

23. Correspondence (note: this does not include multiple email communications but summarises important correspondence)
   a. Incoming
Zsolt Szabo recognised the increased communication between societies and the secretariat. He noted it was pleasing to see that some “long-lost” nations have re-established contact with the IFSSH. All delegates and societies are encouraged to communicate news and/or requests to the IFSSH.

The few applications received for support (educational grants, etc) were to benefit individuals only and, as per the current guidelines, these were not appropriate submissions.

   b. Outgoing
24. New business

a. Russia Hand Surgery Symposia

Zsolt Szabo acknowledged that two large nations, Russia and China, are not members of the IFSSH. Zsolt Szabo and Ulrich Mennen commenced discussions with Russian surgeons during the Seoul 2010 Congress, at which 18 Russian hand surgeons were in attendance. They showed interest in joining the IFSSH.

In September 2011, the Russian Hand Surgery Society will hold a cadaveric course and approached Zsolt Szabo and Ulrich Mennen to attend and deliver lectures. This invitation was accepted and it is hoped that talks can continue during this meeting.

Zsolt Szabo noted that similar projects could be initiated with China to encourage a membership application.

b. Regional Education Project

Returning to discussion related to the IFSSH Educational Bursary and Grants funding, Zsolt Szabo presented the following Regional Education Project proposal to the Delegates:

**Aim:** to provide education of hand surgery for economically less developed geographical regions.

**Material and method:**
Providing basic, advanced or master courses once in a year for a region with continental rotation
Europe (Eastern Europe); Asia (India); America (Mexico); Africa (South Africa) The continental rotation should be maintained and a competition for the country of the Course is organised.

The Course is not financed 100% by IFSSH. IFSSH provides free attendance (registration, accommodation and catering) for 20-30 young hand surgeons from the countries of the region. The expenses of the instructors (local+regional+international in a well defined proportion) is also supported by IFSSH.

The amount of 20,000 USD gives the obligation to the organiser to provide at least 20 participants during a 3 days course with 3 nights accommodation, catering during the 3 days (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and provide the local and regional faculty (minimum 5) with economy class airplane ticket, accommodation and catering. The participants are selected by their national societies and not by the IFSSH. (responsibility of IFSSH delegate).

The local organiser can invite other hand surgeons as well, who pay for their participation.

The course should be localised in an easily accessible central location for the surrounding countries, districts.

The hotel should not be a luxurious but decent (e.g. 3 star hotel)

The exact scientific program and the faculty should be presented to the ExCo by the organiser for approval prior to the transfer of money.

A written report should be submitted within 3 months following the Course by the organiser to the next ExCo and Delegates meeting

**Eastern European IFSSH Course 2012**

-2012 in Hungary 3 days in end of August beginning of September (13-16 September?)
-free admission for 2 young hand surgeons (under 40) from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Georgia, Russia with accommodation
Zsolt Szabo advised that FESSH had run similar initiatives and that while the IFSSH cannot continually fund full courses, a bursary of US$20,000 would be an appropriate seed fund for a local organiser to be encouraged to host a course of specific need for that region. The course needs to be suitable for the local needs, participants and faculty. It is important that the national delegates of each society within the participating regional group chooses young surgeons from their societies to attend with the IFSSH grant, which would cover registration and accommodation, etc. Because of the proximity of each participating society to the location of the course, other costs (e.g. travel) should be minimal and fee-paying registrants should be interested.

Zsolt Szabo noted that this Eastern Europe proposal was for 2012 as an example, but any society wishing to organise a similar regional project should submit applications to the IFSSH as this could become an annual project with rotation throughout the IFSSH countries/regions. All applications would be assessed by the Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants.

Moroe Beppu (Japan) asked when applications should be submitted to host these courses. Zsolt Szabo suggested one year in advance – e.g. proposals for the 2013 course should be submitted to the IFSSH Committee in 2012, prior to the Delegates’ Council meeting. He reminded that the basis of this funding was by need, and therefore topics and locations should be chosen carefully.

PC Ho (Hong Kong) requested clarification of the upper limit of any grant. Ulrich Mennen suggested that under the new guidelines for the educational bursary funding, this would be determined by the growth of the treasury, but also by the number of worthy applications within the year. Funds should be proportioned on need, but also ensuring adequate funding is provided to each project – hence the need for the new Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants to administer the treasury allocation.

Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina) noted that courses are run in South America for their poorer societies and the organisers/faculty of these pay their own way. He suggested compiling a register of interested people who would be prepared to similarly contribute their time and expertise to the proposed IFSSH courses. Lynne Feehan commented that this system already exists within the IFSHT too. She suggested the IFSHT may be able to assist with the provision of therapy expertise at these courses.

Marc Garcia Elias thanked delegates for their interest and suggestions. As Chair of the Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants, he clarified that the committee structure, duties and submission guidelines will be published in the ezine and on the website.

Jim Urbaniak reminded the Delegates’ Council that the bursary allocations do not have to be specifically for a course. For example, in the past the IFSSH has supported fellowship training positions in an African hospital, the production of

double rooms (single room supplement is the expense of the participant) and catering (in total 20 hand surgeons)
-travel expenses (economy flight) accommodation and catering for 5 local or regional (Europe) faculty
-course chairman and organiser Zsolt Szabo

the IFSSH Terminology for Hand Surgery booklet in five languages, and an educational DVD produced by Marybeth Ezaki.

Marc Garcia Elias asked the Delegates’ Council to consider the Eastern European proposal for 2012.

The Delegates’ Council unanimously agreed to this Regional Education Project proposal, to be held in Hungary in 2012.

25. **Next meeting of the Delegates’ Council**

   June 21–23, 2012
   
   XVII FESSH Congress - Antwerp, Belgium

Meeting closed at 12:45.