



MINUTES DELEGATES' COUNCIL MEETING

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

10:30am, Friday 22nd June, 2012

Sapphire Room, Stadsschouwburg – Het Paleis, Theaterplein 1, Antwerpen, Belgium

President Mennen opened the meeting at 10:30 and welcomed the Delegates.

1. Present

U Mennen (President)
M Tonkin (President Elect)
J Urbaniak (Past-President)
Z Szabo (Secretary General)
M Garcia Elias (Secretary General Elect)
F Burke (Historian)

E Zancolli (Argentina; Argentina 2016)
A Lejeune (Belgium)
F Saxton (Chile)
D Fontes (France)
JL Roux (France)
J van Schoonhoven (Germany)
Z Dailiana (Greece)
PT Chan (Hong Kong)
R Sabapathy (India; India 2013)
S Nazerani (Iran)
R Adani (Italy)
M Beppu (Japan)
GH Baek (Korea)
S Abdullah (Malaysia)
? (Netherlands)
P Czarnecki (Poland)
A Georgescu (Romania)
J-R Haugstvedt (Scandinavia)
M Carides (South Africa)
R Rosales (Spain)
E Voegelin (Switzerland)
R Eckersley (UK)
P Amadio (USA – AAHS)
S McCabe (USA – AAHS)
Ursula Welding (IFSHT)

B Smith (Administrative Secretary)

2. Apologies

S Coleman (Australia)
H Laverde-Gutierrez (Colombia)
K Malizos (Greece)
F Lahiji (Iran)
M Massomi (Iran)
Chih-Hung Lin (Taiwan)
F del Pinal (IPRAS)
Lynne Feehan (IFSHT)
Judy Colditz (IFSHT)

3. Proxies

Australia –M Tonkin
Greece – Z Dailiana
Iran - S Nazerani

4. Confirmation of previous minutes – September 8th, 2011

Motion: To accept the minutes as a true record of the 2011 Delegates' Council meeting.
Proposed: P Amadio; Seconded: E Zancolli

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

a. Rotation of Congress Hosts

Zsolt Szabo advised that the 2019 congress bidding process is now open and the regional rotation system designates that bids should come from the European societies. The rotation schedule beyond 2019 will be decided at the council meetings in 2013.

b. Russia Hand Surgery Symposia

Zsolt Szabo reported that the IFSSH ExCo approached members of the Russian Society to discuss membership of the IFSSH during the Seoul 2010 Congress. He and Ulrich Mennen then participated in the Russian Society's hand cadaver course in St Petersburg – full details in Secretary-General report.

This week the IFSSH ExCo has been informed that a decision was taken at the Russian national meeting to apply for membership of the IFSSH.

c. Regional Education Project

All delegates received a brochure on the 2012 Eastern European course. This will be held in eastern Hungary, 14-16 September. The IFSSH, FESSH and local sponsors are collaborating to provide international faculty. 50+ participants will be provided with free registration, accommodation and catering. Zsolt Szabo presented a list of Eastern European countries that will receive gratis positions at the course – 2-4 delegates from each depending on IFSSH/FESSH membership

status, size of society, etc. – and requested the national delegates to be transparent and democratic when choosing their participants (deadline 31st July).

d. Dues alteration

The formula accepted by the Delegates' Council in Las Vegas (2011), to reduce the annual dues of large societies, has been noted on the relevant societies' invoices.

e. Scientific Committees

Refer to Item 6: President's Report. Zsolt Szabo thanked Ulrich Mennen and Michael Tonkin for their work in reorganising these committees.

f. Hand Surgery Worldwide

The book, edited by Jim Urbaniak, has been in the publisher's possession since its first release at the Seoul Congress. The remaining copies of the book have now been delivered to the IFSSH and are available at this FESSH meeting for sale (40 euros). Zsolt Szabo asked that delegates promote the book to their societies and noted that authors should collect their complimentary copy.

6. President's Report

Since our last meeting in Las Vegas (September 2011) a number of progressive developments have taken place:

- 1. The Committee System has been overhauled with the valuable help of President- Elect Michael Tonkin. The new guidelines have been published in the IFSSHazine and taken up in the IFSSH Guideline Book.*
- 2. The IFSSHazine continues to be popular with the Membership – many new subscriptions have been received. Committee reports are published as they are received, and then put on the IFSSH website. However, we still face the challenge to convince the Trade that advertising through this medium gives them exposure to more than 10 000 readers (direct and indirect mailing). I am also concerned that many National Society Delegates, Secretaries and /or Administrators who, as representatives of their Members, receive the IFSSHazine but do not honour their responsibility to forward the Ezine to all their Members. We urge the Societies again to forward the email addresses of all their Members to us so that we can distribute IFSSH information and the IFSSHazine directly to them. This will save the Delegates much hassle. We will not use their email addresses for any other purpose at all!*
- 3. The Educational Sponsorship Committee, chaired by Secretary-Elect Marc Garcia- Elias, has been established. The guidelines have also been published and a number of requests have so far been received.*
- 4. Historian Frank Burke has taken up the task to retrieve relevant material of historical interest from Alfred (Past Secretary-General, Past President) and Genevieve Swanson. This is a major undertaking and I would like to thank him for his time and efforts. A decision still has to be taken regarding permanent hosting of the archival material.*
- 5. Administration: Belinda Smith has been very active and innovative to streamline and co-ordinate the activities of the IFSSH. This is a major step forward in the running the IFSSH on a more "professional" and on-going basis. Centralizing the activities makes the tasks of the Exco members, especially the newly elected, so much easier. I would like to thank Belinda for her hard work.*

6. *Past President Jim Urbaniak has been helpful on a number of occasions with his advice and wisdom. I wish to thank him for his continued input.*
7. *Secretary-General Zsolt Szabo has done sterling work in running the IFSSH administration. He has also been instrumental in initiating and organizing IFSSH Sponsored Workshops/Instructional Courses. The first was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in September 2011, and the second is planned for September in Hungary. More information is available from S-G Szabo. It is intended for surgeons from adjoining countries. Thanks Zsolt for your enthusiasm and interest to further the aims of the IFSSH.*
8. *Last, but not least! The Delegates, representing their National Societies. The IFSSH is a voluntary organization. Its effectiveness and success, its efforts and productivity depends on the enthusiasm and willingness of committed individuals. As the official representative of all the Members of your Society, a huge responsibility rests on your shoulders to be the link between your Membership and the IFSSH. I have alluded to the distribution of information above, ie information from the IFSSH to the Society Members. Equally important is the flow of information from your Society to the IFSSH and all its Members-at-large. Please place information of the activities and happenings of your Society on the IFSSH website (through the IFSSH administration: administration@ifssb.info). We would also be happy to advertise the same in the IFSSHezine (ezine@ifssb.info)*

With sincere regards

Ulrich Mennen

President: IFSSH

Submitted: June 2012 Antwerp, Belgium

Ulrich Mennen explained the new Scientific Committee system involves 45 committees, with their lifespan dependant upon the production of a report. To date 16 chairpersons have been enlisted under the new guidelines, at least a further five will be approached in the near future, and five reports have been completed. Reports have/will be published in the ezine and on website.

Ulrich Mennen appealed to the delegates to submit their local news and events to the ezine, as well as to continue to forward the ezine to all delegates. Already direct subscriptions have increased from 2000 to 10000, but many still rely on the IFSSH delegate to pass on the link. He urged societies to forward their mailing list to the IFSSH secretariat to reduce the workload of the delegates.

The educational sponsorship offered by the IFSSH has attracted interest and is a good use of the IFSSH treasury. Ulrich Mennen explained the aim is to build up the treasury, but direct a proportion of this to the Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) for allocation to appropriate projects. Delegates were asked to remind their society's membership of this funding and encourage applications to be submitted to the CES.

7. Secretary-General's Report

Since the IFSSH Council meetings in Las Vegas, September 2011, the activities of the IFSSH have been focused on the following priorities:

1. - *Communication and information with member societies*
2. - *Education*
3. - *Finances*
4. - *Scientific activity*

1. - Communication and information with member societies

a. *The most important tool in improving communication is the E-zine, edited by Ulrich Mennen, IFSSH President. The growing interest, active participation and valuable information provided by the E-zine has demonstrated that it is a project which should be continued. Of course, even more active participation from IFSSH members and support from hand surgery trade companies is desirable.*

b. *The Newsletter written by the Secretary General and published in the JHS (American Volume) and Asian Pacific Hand Surgery is continuing to provide information focusing on some very important current matters of our Federation. New discussions are underway with JHS (European Volume) to include the IFSSH Newsletter in this journal too.*

c. *The IFSSH administrative secretary, Belinda Smith, is continuing her hard work to coordinate communication amongst ExCo members and Delegates, and providing important support to the Secretary General and President. Her activity deserves a great “thank you” and congratulation from the ExCo and Delegates.*

2. - Education

The ExCo and Delegates have agreed that it is most effective and desirable to direct IFSSH funds towards education and improving knowledge. To work towards this, three major projects have been undertaken:

a. *The “Russian project” aimed to involve important communities from a remote part of the world who are not yet members of the IFSSH. The Russian Society for Hand Surgery has impressive traditions and values and a fantastic bank of knowledge and information. In our effort to involve them in the IFSSH “network”, the first stage of the communication was the visit of the IFSSH President and Secretary General to a cadaver hand surgery course in Saint Petersburg. At this course the IFSSH officers delivered scientific lectures and practical demonstrations and also provided detailed information about the importance of the Russian Society’s involvement in the IFSSH. We were impressed by the fantastic possibilities, knowledge and great results of our Russian friends. We hope that this educational, scientific and informative collaboration has opened a door which, in spite of the language barrier, will make a joint venture possible in our IFSSH community. Further projects and plans with other regions and societies (e.g. China) should follow.*

b. *The “regional education project” presented and accepted in Las Vegas will start this year, involving the Eastern European region in September. FESSH, who understand the importance of this IFSSH project, are collaborating and co-sponsoring this course entitled “Highlights in Hand Surgery” with a day of cadaver workshops: “Masters at work”. IFSSH ExCo and FESSH officers, along with more than 12 faculty members, will deliver lectures, lead interactive discussions and demonstrate operations on cadavers. With the generous support from the trade industry we will be able to invite 50+ hand surgeons from less economically advantageous countries for free (course attendance, hotel and catering inclusive). The nomination and selection of these participants will be a duty of their individual national societies. A detailed invitation with all necessary information will be sent to all IFSSH delegates. We strongly encourage the continuation of this project in other less developed regions, possibly in collaboration with regional federations, for the benefit of hand surgeons who cannot afford the cost of other courses.*

c. *In order to encourage, improve and coordinate requests for financial support, sponsorship, grants and bursaries, and to exclude subjectivity of the decisions, the Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) was founded. This Committee is chaired by the Secretary-General Elect, Marc Garcia-Elias. This is the first year of CES activity and the outcomes of grant applications will be discussed at the IFSSH Council Meetings in Antwerp.*

3. - Finances

After our 2011 Delegates’ Council Meeting an important alteration was applied to the membership fees for the “big member societies”. This appears to be operating smoothly and, based on the current

financial status, the IFSSH can afford to institute this kind of gesture towards the societies who are the greatest contributors to the treasury of IFSSH.

A detailed Financial Report will be presented separately.

4. - Scientific activity

The scientific activity, directed by the ExCo over the past year, has included two main items:

a. The IFSSH Scientific Committee system has been reorganized, under the guidance of Ulrich Mennen (President) and Michael Tonkin (President-Elect). This has been an “unsolved problem” of the IFSSH, and hopefully this new approach with intense activity will result in advances in the sharing of IFSSH scientific knowledge. More detailed information will be presented in the President’s Report.

b. The 2013 IFSSH Triennial Congress preparations are underway, organized by the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand. This Congress will be held in March in New Delhi. Raja Sabapathy and his team are busy working with local professionals to organize one of the most memorable congresses in IFSSH history. The Secretary General visited the facilities in March 2012 and observed the preparations. Important decisions were made regarding the venue, scientific and social programs, accommodation and catering. A detailed report of this visit will be published in the July 2012 Newsletter and in an upcoming issue of the E-zine (<http://ifssh.info/ezine.html>). After experiencing the preparations, we are convinced that the 2013 IFSSH Congress is a “must” all hand surgeons and therapists to attend.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all of the IFSSH Delegates who actively participate and support us in our effort to improve democracy, transparency and better communication for the benefit of our members and, therefore, for the benefit of our patients.

Yours sincerely,

Zsolt Szabo

Secretary General, IFSSH

Submitted: June 2012, Antwerp, Belgium

8. Treasurer’s Report

Zsolt Szabo presented the enclosed finance report. He noted the finances remain safe and a transparent banking system is in place. A proportion of the treasury (~4%) will be available to the CES for distribution to worthy submissions.

Moroe Beppu (Japan) described the dual system of Asian societies paying dues to both the IFSSH and APFSSH. Jim Urbaniak explained many individuals pay multiple subscriptions to societies, and many societies pay multiple subscriptions to Federations. The current IFSSH dues system remains as a simple option. Zsolt Szabo clarified that the payment system is always open for discussion and proposals from delegates can be considered, as per past with reduced fees for low income countries and large societies. However, he reminded the Delegates’ Council that IFSSH dues are low, with societies paying US\$10/member/year at most.

**IFSSH Funds
2006-2012**

	PERIOD ENDING							
	June 30, 2006	March 2007 (U Mennen)	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2010	December 31st, 2011	May 31st, 2012
<i>Opening balance - Wachovia</i>			178,469.94	207,934.27	271,238.34	320,018.21	378,457.80	403,121.69
<i>Opening balance - Fidelity</i>				479,003.40	307,683.67	401,760.92	426,334.49	421,690.43
INCOME								
Member Nation fees paid			19,439.00	97,773.42	78,814.42	51,829.92	77,115.02	30,987.91
IFSSH Congress			44,919.04	0.00	0.00	100,300.00	0.00	0.00
Interest - Wachovia Bank			4,122.37	2,009.35	97.10	23.73	55.81	15.83
Merchandise			100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			73,494.31	99,782.77	78,911.52	152,153.65	77,170.63	31,003.54
EXPENDITURE								
IFSSH Congress			7,596.33	0.00	0.00	67,285.90	0.00	5283.15
Executive Travel/Wages			31,375.61	21,457.35	29,762.91	22,975.79	36,104.22	5000.00
Bursaries and Grants			0.00	15,000.00	0.00	2,850.00	15,000.00	0.00
Bank fees - Wachovia Bank			144.14	21.35	369.74	602.37	1213.52	740.89
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	189.00	0.00
Total			44,029.98	36,478.70	30,131.65	93,714.06	52,506.74	11,024.04
BALANCE								
Wachovia			207,934.27	271,238.34	320,018.21	378,457.80	403,121.69	423,101.19
Fidelity Investments			479,003.40	307,683.67	401,760.92	426,334.39	421,690.43	420,578.36
Total Funds	584,252.37	602,381.55	686,937.67	578,922.01	721,779.13	804,792.19	824,812.12	843,679.55

IFSSH Finance Report
August 1st 2011 - May 31st 2012

	<i>Wachovia</i>	<i>Fidelity</i>
Total Balance - June 2006	584,252.37	
Total Balance - December 31, 2007	686,937.67	207,934.27 479,003.40
Total Balance - December 31, 2008	578,922.01	271,238.34 307,683.67
Total Balance - December 31, 2009	721,779.13	320,018.21 401,760.92
Total Balance - December 31, 2010	804,792.19	378,457.80 426,334.39
BALANCE reported at Las Vegas IFSSH Council Meetings, 2011 (Fidelity/Wachovia - July 31st 2011)	866,262.43	421,123.13 445,139.30
Total Balance - December 31, 2011	824,812.12	403,121.69 421,690.43
BALANCE reported at Antwerp IFSSH Council Meetings, 2012 (Fidelity/Wachovia - May 31st 2012)	843,679.55	423,101.19 420,578.36
BALANCE reported at Las Vegas IFSSH Council Meetings, 2011 (Fidelity/Wachovia - July 31st 2011)	866,262.43	421,123.13 445,139.30
<i>Opening balance after IFSSH report - 01/08/11 (Wachovia #2000017750503)</i>	421,123.13	

INCOME			
Member Nation fees paid	44,974.11		
IFSSH Congress	0.00		
Interest - Wachovia Bank	48.27		
Misc	0.00		
			Total income 45,022.38
EXPENDITURE			
Congress expenses		5,283.15	
Executive/Secretariat expenses		29,458.89	
Bursaries and Grants		6,645.33	
Bank fees - Wachovia Bank		1,467.95	
Misc		189.00	
			Total expenditure 43,044.32

Wachovia Balance @ May 31st, 2012		Bank	423,101.19
Fidelity Investment Account balance @ May 31st, 2012		Investment	420,578.36
Balance @ May 31st, 2012			843,679.55

9. Historian's Report

Frank Burke detailed a plan to archive IFSSH documents.

a. Prospective archiving

The following documents will be archived electronically:

- Minutes of Delegates' Council meetings
- Conference programmes
- Pioneer citations.

IFSSH officers may also nominate important contemporary documents to be added to the archives.

b. Retrospective archiving

The following documents will be sourced and scanned:

- Charter
- Pivotal correspondence relating to the establishment of the IFSSH
- Minutes of all Delegates' Council meetings
- Previous conference programmes
- Pioneer booklets
- Documents deemed critical in the development of the Federation

Items to be added to a physical collection would include:

- The original Charter
- The IFSSH seal/stamp
- "Hand Surgery Worldwide"

Frank Burke explained that he is in the process of retrieving much of the historical documentation. The location of the inaugural Charter is being investigated. Genevieve and Al Swanson are assisting, and Frank Burke will clarify the documentation to be scanned in the US.

c. Storage

The majority of the archiving will be done electronically. Discussions are continuing over a facility to store a very small number of physical objects (above), possibly the hand museum in Switzerland.

Frank Burke requested delegates to forward documents (or information relating to the location of documents) that may be of interest in the archiving project.

10. Committee for Educational Sponsorship

Marc Garcia Elias presented the inaugural report of the CES. He, Raja Sabapathy and Goo Hyun Baek have assessed the requests for financial help for educational projects worldwide. He noted there have been some unusual requests forthcoming from individuals and reminded delegates that requests need to come from member societies and follow the guidelines (on website and in archived ezine).

There were four requests received that complied with the guidelines. Three of these came from the IFSHT and one from the American Association for Hand Surgery. The requests totalled \$29,000.

1. IFSHT: International Hand Therapy Teaching Award

The IFSHT contributes \$3000 and requested the IFSSH match this with a further \$3000 to support six therapists in underdeveloped countries (\$1000 per project to fund supplies left in country and assist therapists with travel).

The CES recommended that this \$3000 request for funding be approved. However, as the IFSSH is matching the IFSHT funds, the CES will propose that this initiative be renamed the IFSHT-IFSSH Hand Therapy Teaching Award.

2. IFSHT: Evelyn Mackin Triennial Award

This submission requests \$3000 from the IFSSH to provide full sponsorship of one therapist from a developing country to attend the IFSSH-IFSHT triennial meeting.

The CES recommended that this request be denied on the basis that it perhaps unfair to provide \$3000 to one therapist only, especially when the local cost of the India congress is examined. Instead the CES recommended further discussions with the IFSHT to suggest future partial funding models. Redirection of these requested funds towards the two other IFSHT projects could be considered.

3. IFSHT: IFSHT Triennial Congress Travel Grants

A further \$3000 request was submitted by the IFSHT to match equivalent funds from the IFSSH to provide assistance to therapists to travel to the 2013 India Congress.

The CES recommended approval of this \$3000 request, but again suggested the equal collaboration should be reflected in the name of the grant.

4. AAHS: Mongolia project

The AAHS, through the work of Prof Schenck, has requested \$20,000 from the IFSSH to assist with bringing three Mongolian national hand surgeons to Florida to attend the AAHS ASM and American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery ASM in January 2013. The surgeons will also attend the Mayo Clinic and Northwestern University Medical Centre during their trip, attending a three day microsurgery training course and observing hand surgery cases.

Peter Amadio (AAHS) explained that Mongolia offers few resources and no training to these hand surgeons. The American societies will donate funding, and the Mayo Clinic will donate the cost of the teaching course, to make this trip possible. A translator will accompany the surgeons.

Marc Garcia Elias noted the CES' recommendation to support the project but to a level of \$12,000 (one third of total budget) rather than the \$20,000 requested.

Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina) suggested that it would be more appropriate to provide teaching and training to the Mongolian surgeons in a nearer country. The concept of teaching in local conditions/facilities was discussed. Peter Amadio explained that Prof Schenck had established a relationship between the Mongolian surgeons and the USA, but agreed that it would be a good initiative for IFSSH member nations to consider "adopting" neighbouring surgeons in less fortunate educational circumstances.

Moroe Beppu (Japan) noted a Mongolian delegation will not be attending the 2012 APFSSH Congress and suggested encouragement of participation at local meetings with provision for teaching.

Marc Garcia Elias asked the Delegates Council for their support of the CES' recommendations. No objections or alterations were declared.

Ursula Welding (IFSHT) thanked the IFSSH for their continued support. She asked the Delegates' Council to assist the IFSHT in contacting therapists from countries with no official therapy organisations and encouraging them to apply for the IFSHT travel/congress grants.

Marc Garcia Elias appealed to the Delegates' Council to increase awareness of the availability of CES grants amongst their society.

11. 12th IFSSH Congress – New Delhi, 2013

Raja Sabapathy presented the India 2013 (4th-8th March) promotion to the Delegates' Council. The Congress package assures to satisfy academic needs, see exotic places, be appropriate for a family holiday and provide value for money.

The Expo centre (Congress venue) is 51kms from airport and all participants who book their accommodation via the India 2013 website will receive transfers from the airport. A range of hotels is available nearby. There will be a welcome reception on the Monday evening and the Congress continues through to Friday lunchtime. A trip to the Taj Mahal can be booked for Saturday.

The Congress venue has five halls for the IFSSH and three for the IFSHT, plus trade and social areas. Wayne Morrison has been invited to give the Swanson Lecture. "The paralytic hand" will be the basis of the combined IFSSH-IFSHT session.

Submission of abstracts will close of 31st August. Early bird registration is available until October 31st (\$800 for surgeons, \$400 for therapists, \$250 for accompanying persons). Raja Sabapathy asked the Delegates' Council to submit early registration as this also assists the congress organisers with planning and optimal hotel rates.

12. 13th IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, 2016

Eduardo Zancolli advised the Delegates' Council that the Argentina 2016 Committees have been organised, under the guidance of Past-Presidents.

The Hilton Convention Centre has been secured as the venue.

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

Ursula Welding reported that the IFSHT are working with the Indian surgeons to prepare for the combined IFSSH-IFSHT triennial congress in New Delhi.

A Congress agreement has been signed with the Argentina surgeons to formalise the working agreements of the 2016 Congress.

Ursula Welding advised that the British Society for Hand Therapy has expressed interest in bidding to host the 2019 congress. A revised call for proposals will be issued in July and the IFSHT will advise the IFSSH of bids received.

As discussed in the CES report, the IFSHT Evelyn Mackie Award will assist a therapist(s) from a country without a therapy organisation to attend the India Congress. The IFSHT have sent requests to relevant IFSSH delegates to assist with this nomination process.

The IFSHT advised the IFSSH that as of June 2012, the IFSHT is recognized by the Swiss government as an international, not-for profit, charitable organization, registered/ domiciled in Switzerland.

Ursula Welding thanked the Delegates' Council for their support of the IFSHT.

14. Asia-Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) Report

Moroe Beppu (President-Elect) reported that the 9th APFSSH Congress will be held in Bali, Indonesia, October 10-13, 2012. Abstract submission will close on July 1st.

The 10th APFSSH Congress will be held in Malaysia in 2014.

Moroe Beppu advised that Prof Akio Minami is the Editor in Chief of *Hand Surgery*, and three volumes are published each year.

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

Zsolt Szabo welcomed Delegates to the current FESSH Congress and advised the hand surgery has now been accepted as a specialty in Europe. The European Board of Hand Surgery (EBHS) commences this week.

The European Diploma has been undertaken in conjunction with the FESSH Congress, with the assistance of 26 examiners. Fourteen European Travelling Fellowships have been awarded.

Zsolt Szabo advised that European Hand Trauma Centres are being reviewed and must have at least one hand surgeon with the European Diploma to be accredited.

He thanked the FESSH management committee and Belgium Society for their organisation of the Antwerp congress. At the FESSH Delegates' meeting, five bids were submitted for the 2016 Congress and Zsolt Szabo announced that the Spanish Society was successful with its Santander bid.

16. South American Federation Report

Eduardo Zancolli reported that the South American Federation holds a congress every two years, the next being in April 2013 in Brazil. He noted the lack of La Federacion de Mano activity in the region's events.

17. La Federación de Mano Report

No report submitted.

18. IPRAS Report

Paco Pinal forwarded his apologies and provided the following the report:

- 1.- The next Congress of the IPRAS would be the held in Santiago de Chile, from February 24th to March the 1st 2013 (17th IPRAS WORLD CONGRESS)*
- 2.- They have been kind enough to provide a complimentary registration as IFSSH delegate. I believe that in any case the IFSSH Council should be made aware about the good disposition of the IPRAS towards the IFSSH.*

Raja Sabapathy noted the dates of the 2013 Congress are close to the India IFSSH Congress and this should be considered when planning future meetings.

19. IFSSH Website / Newsletter / Ezine

Refer to Item 6: President's Report and Item 7: Secretary-General's Report. Zsolt Szabo expressed appreciation to the IFSSH webmaster, Santhosh Rajan.

20. New business

a. Pioneers: Call for nominations

Zsolt Szabo reminded delegates that the call for nominations for the IFSSH Pioneers of Hand Surgery award has been distributed. Submissions must be received from the nominating society by September 1st (email: administration@ifssh.info).

Zsolt Szabo explained that it is important to nominate relevant surgeons who have made an influential contribution to hand surgery as this is an international award. He also noted that IFSSH recognition started with "Giants", and now award "Pioneers", suggesting that this group have made an initial contribution or discovery to an aspect of hand surgery. It may be suitable to change the title for subsequent groups. He asked the Delegates' Council to consider this and provide suggestions at the next Council Meeting.

b. 2019 Congress Host Society: Call for submissions

Zsolt Szabo opened the call for submissions for the 2019 triennial congress host. European bids receive priority under the regional rotation system. The Congress submissions guidelines are available on the website.

c. Scandinavian Society

Jan-Ragner Haugstvedt informed the Delegates' Council that the Scandinavian societies have opted to take up membership as individual countries. This would also cover Latvia and Estonia. He will provide full details to the IFSSH ExCo for discussion and confirmation of the membership transition.

21. Next meeting of the Delegates' Council

6th March, 2013. New Delhi, India

The meeting closed at 12:25pm.