



## IFSSH Newsletter – August 2013

### **Message from outgoing Secretary-General: Zsolt Szabo**

As the Secretary-General during the last three years, I have realised how important it is to be a member of an international community. I have been always told, but now I know that we, the hand surgeons from all around the world, we are a little bit special. Our enthusiasm and friendship, our involvement in teaching and education activities, combined with high quality social activities makes hand surgery different to other specialties. The Executive Committee of the IFSSH led by its President did his best for the final goal of every hand surgeon: a better outcome for our patients. All our activities, projects and work are dedicated to this and for success we really need your contribution. The best leader is worth nothing without a devoted and enthusiastic army. Changing the leaders from time to time brings fresh ideas, new methods and different flavours, but the continuity, the real value is always represented by the active membership of a Society and a Federation. It was an honour and a great satisfaction to work with you during the last three years. We have achieved much.

A new Executive Committee has been elected. The personalities and the devotion of the new officers are a guarantee of continuity and the development of new ideas, activities and projects. I would like to thank you for your involvement, for your support and your active participation in the life of our Federation and I would like to introduce the new Executive Committee:

President: Michael Tonkin  
President Elect: Zsolt Szabo  
Secretary-General: Marc Garcia-Elias  
Secretary-General Elect: Daniel Nagle  
Historian: Frank Burke  
Immediate Past-President: Ulrich Mennen

The new Nominating Committee is:

Chair: Ulrich Mennen (Immediate Past-President)  
Members: Jim Urbaniak, Arlindo Pardini, Moroe Beppu – Member-at-Large

### **Zsolt Szabo**

President Elect, IFSSH

### **Welcome from the incoming Secretary-General: Marc Garcia-Elias**

From New Delhi to Buenos Aires there are not only 15,800 kilometres (9,800 miles), but also three years. From the 12th IFSSH Congress in New Delhi (India, 2013) to the 13th

IFSSH Congress in Buenos Aires (Argentina, 2016), we have three exciting years ahead to work together. Our mission is clearly stated in the IFSSH charter: “to increase and spread the knowledge of surgery of the hand”. Let these words guide our steps to Argentina.

My name is Marc Garcia-Elias (“just call me Marc”), and I am a hand surgeon from Barcelona. Three years ago, I was honoured to be chosen Secretary-General Elect of our Federation. During that period, I did my best to learn the intricacies of being Secretary-General from Zsolt Szabo. I couldn’t have a better teacher. Thank you, Zsolt!!

When this Federation had its first meeting (Rotterdam, 1980), I was a resident in an orthopedic surgery department near Barcelona. The teaching program was “nothing to write home about”, but the enthusiasm of some of my teachers was contagious...so I was hooked! If you have also been hooked and believe in the first statement of the IFSSH charter, let us work together: a new generation of hand surgeons is waiting.

Under the guidance of Michael Tonkin, our new President, and with the help of our renewed Executive Committee, I invite you to be part of this three-year long journey.

## **12<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Congress – New Delhi, 2013**

After its XIIth Triennial Congress, the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand left New Delhi stronger than ever. The meeting was both a challenge and an opportunity; a challenge, because an event like this cannot succeed without first-class organizational skills; and the meeting was a successful one, no doubts. The meeting was also a unique opportunity for those who had never been in the so-called “incredible India”. Being able to discuss professional issues in the kindest atmosphere, and then go out and admire the attractive complexities of such a multi-faceted country was an experience nobody will forget. Thousands of photos were taken during the IFSSH congress and uploaded to the congress website ([www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com/home.php](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com/home.php)).

The organizers did a great job, and so the hosting country. Undoubtedly, they all deserve our recognition and gratitude. Under the leadership of Dr Sabapathy, the congress fulfilled all criteria for it to be considered a successful one. The program was very interesting, and the rooms were almost always fully packed. Undoubtedly, hand surgery is in good hands, and evolves effectively in most corners of the world. With ingredients like this, we may take for granted that the IFSSH has a great future.

The congress attracted 963 surgeons, 259 therapists and 160 accompanying persons.

We were delighted to honour a further 19 Pioneers of Hand Surgery at the Opening Ceremony:

Robert Beckenbaugh (American Association for Hand Surgery)  
Alan Freeland (American Association for Hand Surgery)  
Hildegunde Piza-Katzer (Austrian Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Arlindo Pardini (Brazilian Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
David Evans (British Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Graham Lister (British Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Yves Allieu (French Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Philippe Saffar (French Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Ulrich Lanz (German Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Panayotis Soucacos (Hellenic Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Ping Chung (PC) Leung (Hong Kong Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Dinkar Palande (Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Muneaki Abe (Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Ryogo Nakamura (Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Pesi B Chacha (Singapore Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Robert WH Pho (Singapore Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
José Manuel Antuña Zapico (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Higinio Ayala Palacios (Spanish Society for Surgery of the Hand)  
Ayan Gulgonen (Turkish Society for Surgery of the Hand)

These surgeons were nominated by their national societies for their outstanding contributions to hand surgery, at both national and international levels. Full details of the nomination process are available on the website ([www.ifssh.info](http://www.ifssh.info)). We congratulate these surgeons on receiving this acknowledgement and thank them for their many years of dedicated work in the field of hand surgery.

The Swanson Lecturer, Prof Wayne Morrison, delivered an outstanding presentation on “Milestones in Reconstructive Surgery”, followed by the Indian Society’s guest, Swami Atmapriyananda, with his discussion of “Science and Religion will meet and shake hands”. All participants enjoyed the wisdom and experiences of Prof James Urbaniak, Prof R Venkataswami, Prof Fu Chan Wei, Prof Simo Vilki, and Ms Evelyn Mackin in “Reflections of the legends”. We pass on our thanks and congratulations to all speakers and participants involved in the masterclasses, symposia and free paper sessions.

The annual Delegates’ Council Meeting welcomed two new member societies – the Russian Society for Surgery of the Hand and the Bolivian Society for Surgery of the Hand. The Council also acknowledged the individual memberships of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden that had previously been involved as the Scandinavian Society for Surgery of the Hand.

We are pleased to announce that the 2019 triennial congress will be held in Berlin, Germany, after impressive bids to the Delegates’ Council from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Handchirurgie and the British Society for Surgery of the Hand.

It was also decided that the next meeting of the Delegates' Council will be held in Paris in conjunction with the 2014 FESSH meeting (June 18-21).

Dr Zancolli and his colleagues are collaborating with the therapists in preparing exciting scientific and social events for the next IFSSH-IFSHT triennial congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina (October 10-13, 2016). Please follow their progress via the congress website - [www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com). We look forward to meeting again with the IFSSH and IFSHT family in South America.

### **13<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, 2016**

Excellent news has been received from the organisers of the Buenos Aires 2016 IFSSH Congress. In their preparations for hosting the congress, they have been investigating the option of having both the IFSSH and the IFSHT congresses in the same venue, an arrangement that was initially considered not possible. Although not yet confirmed, the local organizing committee is working at full speed on this, and the scientific and social programmes. The meeting will be held on October 10-13, 2016 in one of most attractive areas of Buenos Aires, Puerto Madero. Further information may be obtained at [www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com)

### **15<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Congress, 2022 – Congress host applications**

At the 2013 Delegates' Council Meeting, the next three regions were chosen to be 2022 - North America; 2025 – Europe; and 2028: Asia.

Following this meeting, the American member nations advised that they would forego the 2022 host opportunity. The Congress Guidelines indicate that "Submissions will be invited from the next geographic region on the rotation list if there are no appropriate bids from the designated geographic region societies."

Therefore, **the bid process for the 2022 Congress will be opened to the societies of the European region.** European societies interested in hosting the congress should refer to the IFSSH website for the submission guidelines. Submissions are due prior to the 2016 triennial congress.

### **Educational Bursaries and Grants**

The IFSSH was pleased to sponsor the registrations of 20 surgeons to attend the triennial congress in Delhi, as well as recently providing funding for IFSHT projects and assisting the American Association for Hand Surgery with financial support to teach hand and microsurgery to a Mongolian delegation.

The Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES), along with the Executive Committee, has been working on improving the guidelines for educational bursaries and grants. A simpler set of guidelines have been approved, with four main categories of educational sponsorship support:

- Specific education projects with the oversight of a society/member of the IFSSH (e.g. fellowship programmes at underdeveloped institutions, educational DVDs and booklets, etc);
- Society congress/courses organised by societies, with support available for speakers, registrants and/or equipment;
- Regional courses, such as the Eastern European Hand Surgery course; and
- IFSSH congress registration (i.e. support to attend the congress for those from areas of need – IFSSH membership is not required for individuals to apply for this category).

The CES has simplified the method of application and acceptance, with CES recommended grants being approved directly by the Executive Committee. This will make the process much faster and allow more projects to receive timely funding.

Delegates are asked to read the guidelines on the website ([www.ifssh.info](http://www.ifssh.info)) and encourage applications from their societies.

**Marc Garcia-Elias**

Secretary-General, IFSSH

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