



IFSSH Newsletter – October 2013

Message from the Secretary-General: Marc Garcia-Elias

Dear Friends

It is only four months since I embarked on this magnificent cruise, called IFSSH, and yet I know that I will enjoy this trip. So far, membership cooperation has been superb; the crew (Belinda, Santosh), incredibly efficient; and the captain (Michael Tonkin), an expert sailor, one of the best, indeed! Yes, our ship is in good hands, and with the help of those who preceded me (Thank you, Zsolt and Ulrich) I have no concerns. If I ever thought that life as a secretary-general would be quiet, it is time to say that I was wrong. This is a ship where things happen constantly. Paraphrasing Rod Stewart, I would say that “there is never a dull moment” in our Federation. Let me tell you what is going on.

For those who are still basking in the glow of that “incredible India” we had the chance of visiting, remember that thousands of photos were taken during the congress, and that they are available through our website (<http://ifssh-ifsht2013.com/gallery1.php>). The pictures are in web/screen resolution. To obtain high resolution copies for printing purposes, please send a message with the code number given below each photo to the webmaster at info@krithitechnologies.com, and he will mail them to you.

The IFSSH sponsored 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, presented a new set of guidelines for educational bursaries and grants to the Delegates’ Council. They were 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 organized 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 method of application and acceptance was simplified to 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) and encourage applications from their societies.

Excellent news comes from Buenos Aires about the possibility of having both the IFSSH and the IFSHT congresses in the same venue, a possibility that was initially discarded.

Although not yet fully decided, the local organising committee is working full speed in this. The 2016 IFSSH Congress 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.

In this regard, new, more detailed guidelines on how to organise an IFSSH congress have been presented for discussion to the ExCo.

Aside from these initiatives, the administration keeps its routine: control of banking transactions, sending receipts to the membership who paid their annual dues, website updates, committee reports, and so on.

We have started preparations for the National IFSSH Delegates' Council meeting which will be held in Paris during the meeting of FESSH, June 18-21, 2014 (www.fessh2014.com/en/welcome).

Frank Burke is doing a great job in reorganising and completing our archives, a badly needed task that finally appears to see an end.

A process of discussion has been started in order to update the IFSSH charter, a modification project that is needed to adapt our legal status to the 'changing times'.

Thank you to all the Delegates for your help throughout 2013 and we look forward to working with you again next year!

Future Meetings

A detailed list of national and regional hand surgery meetings is available on the IFSSH website. The triennial IFSSH Congresses are as follows:

XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSHIT Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 10-13, 2016

XIVth IFSSH – XIth IFSHIT Congress – Berlin, Germany
2019

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