



IFSSH Newsletter – October 2012

2012 Delegates' Council Meeting

The 2012 Delegates' Council Meeting was held in Antwerp, Belgium, in June. The FESSH Congress was attended by a record number of surgeons and the level of attendance at the IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting was pleasing.

Prof Ulrich Mennen (IFSSH President) and Dr Zsolt Szabo (Secretary-General) reported of progress with numerous projects, including the regular distribution of the ezine, a renewed Scientific Committee report system, the Historian's developments in creating formal IFSSH archives, and of recent participation in regional symposia.

A summary follows of the allocation of bursaries and grants, and discussions relating to the upcoming congresses.

- **Committee for Educational Sponsorship: Bursaries and grants**

Applications for bursaries and grants were received throughout the year and assessed by the Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) prior to the Delegates' Council Meeting. Their recommendations were endorsed by the Delegates' Council and three projects will receive IFSSH funding:

1. International Hand Therapy Teaching Award – submitted by the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT).

This project supports therapists assisting in underdeveloped countries, with each mission receiving travel assistance as well as a budget to purchase supplies to be left in the area of need.

2. IFSHT Triennial Congress Travel Grants – submitted by the IFSHT.

A further request was submitted by the IFSHT requesting financial assistance to therapists to travel to the 2013 India Congress. The IFSHT also contribute a bursary to this project, of an equal amount as the IFSSH funding.

3. Mongolia project – submitted by the American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS).

The AAHS, through the work of Prof Schenck, requested funding from the IFSSH to assist with bringing three Mongolian national hand surgeons to Florida to further their training. They will 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. The American societies and Mayo Clinic will also donate funding and educational facilities.

- Regional Education Project

The 2012 Regional Education Project will be held in eastern Hungary, 14-16 September. The IFSSH, FESSH and local sponsors are collaborating to provide international faculty. 50+ participants will receive free registration, accommodation and catering and a further 20 registrations will be discounted.

Registrants from 12 Eastern Europe countries will receive the gratis registrations to attend the course in Hungary. The faculty is comprised of 15 international speakers, including the IFSSH President, Secretary-General, Secretary-General Elect, Past Secretary-General, along with FESSH Council members and committee chairmen.

The organisers were delighted to receive 130 registrations and were obliged to close the registration system a month before the planned deadline.

A full report of the Regional Education Project will be presented in the next newsletter.

- 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. Professor Wayne Morrison has been invited to give the Swanson Lecture. "The paralytic hand" will be the basis of the combined IFSSH-IFSHT session.

Early bird registration is available until October 31st.

- 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. A contract has been signed by the IFSHT and the Argentinian Society for Hand Surgery regarding the participation of the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy. We are pleased to welcome the hand therapists to Buenos Aires in 2016.

In addition, the call for nominations was opened for the 2013 IFSSH Pioneers of Hand Surgery and for the host society of the 2019 Triennial Congress. The IFSSH Executive thank the Delegates and member societies for their contributions. Bids for the 2019 Congress will be discussed at the 2013 Delegates' Council Meeting and we look forward to inducting the Pioneers in New Delhi.

We would like to remind all delegates and societies of the opportunities for IFSSH bursaries and grants. Applications can be submitted at any time but, respecting the rules

and guidelines of IFSSH, the recommendations of the CES will be discussed and the final decisions undertaken at the 2013 Council meetings in Delhi.

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