

PRESIDENT**Stacey Doyon**
USA

president@ifsht.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT**Francesco**
Romagnoli

ITALY

presidentelect@ifsht.org

**SECRETARY-
GENERAL****Marie Eason Klatt**

CANADA

secretarygeneral@ifsht.org

TREASURER**Elizabeth Ward**

AUSTRALIA

treasurer@ifsht.org

**INFORMATION
OFFICER****Daniel Harte**

NORTHERN IRELAND

informationofficer@ifsht.org

PAST-PRESIDENT**Peggy Boineau**

USA

pastpresident@ifsht.org

22.6.2025

Dear Dr Raja Sabapathy and IFSSH EXCO,

IFSHT is profoundly grateful for IFSSH's ongoing generosity to help support both the Evelyn Mackin Congress Grant and the IFSHT-IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant. Your donations have helped to support so many more therapists than we could on our own. Your ongoing support of IFSHT continues to strengthen our mission and outreach to therapists from around the globe. We are hopeful that the education they received will make an impact in their home countries.

Peggy Boineau our IFSHT president at the time, mentioned in our application that we had a record number of requests for this congress. This made our grant offerings less than many required and therefore our numbers did diminish over time for the Triennial Congress grant. IFSHT has planned to review our Grant procedures and processes to minimize this in the future.

A formal report on how many received the grants has been included here for your reference. This does not include the comments from the attendees as they have been slow in coming. We did, however, receive many thank yous from some of the therapists before they even left the congress expressing how much they learned and how much they appreciated the funding. I will be sharing their comments once our secretary returns from vacation and is able to consolidate them all.

I look forward to building an even stronger partnership with IFSSH over the next three years, as we continue to work collaboratively in advancing our shared goals. IFSHT wishes you well in all IFSSH's ongoing pursuits.

Sincerely,

Stacey L Doyon
IFSHT President (2025-2028)

PRESIDENT
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USA
president@ifsht.org

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ITALY
presidentelect@ifsht.org

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Grant Recipient Report for the 2025 IFSSH-IFSHT Triennial Congress Funding provided by IFSHT, IFSSH and private donations

Evelyn Mackin Grant.

We initially had Ten applicants.

-One person moved to Triennial Grant as two people had applied from same country and only one is allowed per policy.

-One did not have any information listed. Just a name, this was deleted.

That left us with eight. We then decided to move one candidate from Bhutan from Triennial grant to EM grant.

By September we had nine candidates from the following countries: Ghana, Vietnam, Ukraine, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Rwanda, Ethiopia

Unfortunately, the candidate from Ukraine had no way to access a Visa as all the USA consulates were closed in Ukraine.

The candidates from Malawi and Rwanda were not able to obtain Visa's.

Final Evelyn Mackin Grant recipients totaled **six**

Total Funds Provided (USD): \$26,482.48 (\$10,000 from IFSSH)

Triennial Grant

31 Applications received. Of these, one was moved to EM grant, one applied to both EM and TG (he was kept in EM Grant), two received grants in the past and therefore did not qualify and one was moved from EM to TG.

These were divided into Speakers (separate fund) and non-speakers. There were 12 speakers and 15 non-speakers. Due to limited funds, those from high income countries were declined funding in the non-speaker group. That then left nine applicants for non-speakers.

Total Recipients was then 22. Funding was calculated for both groups. One speaker was not able to obtain a VISA and one did not attend due to lack of funding. Six of the non-speakers either found other funding or were not able to attend due to not having enough funding.

A total of 15 recipients received funding. The countries represented included: Australia, Argentina, Columbia, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Singapore, Turkey, Uruguay, United Kingdom.

Total Funds Provided (USD): \$9019 Speakers

\$1974 Non-speakers

Total TG: \$10,993 (\$5,000 from IFSSH)

XIV IFSHT Congress, Singapore
23 – 27 October 2028

IFSHT Evelyn Mackin Congress Grant and IFSHT-IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant

The International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT) joined the International Federation of Societies for Hand Surgery (IFSSH) for the combined triennial congress in Washington, DC, USA. March 2025. The program featured 3½ days of educational sessions, including instructional courses, scientific paper presentations, symposia, combined sessions (therapists and surgeons), keynote speakers, and e-posters. This event provided grant recipients with advanced knowledge, global networking opportunities, and inspiration to enhance hand therapy education in their countries.



IFSHT supports therapists' attendance through two grants: The Evelyn Mackin Congress Grant and The IFSHT-IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant.

Evelyn Mackin Grant

(established in 2010 in honour of our 1st IFSHT president)

This grant supports therapists from around the globe and is available to therapists without a formal hand therapy society and not a full member of IFSHT. They are potential leaders in their country and may not otherwise have the resources to attend a congress. It is a fully funded grant to attend the Congress.

With the generous donations of IFSSH (US\$10,000), society donations and other private donors we were able to award six therapists with this fully funded grant. They were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam.



Left to right: Peggy Boineau (IFSHT President), Robert Sowa (Ghana), Nipur Bintel Lili (Bangladesh), Kinley Tshering (Bhutan), Quyen Pham (Vietnam), Hailu S. Tsegaye (Ethiopia), Cathy Pius (Papua New Guinea).

Evelyn Mackin Grant Recipient Testimonials



"This event provided an opportunity to engage with experts, explore the different techniques in hand therapy, and exchange knowledge and experience with peers. The sessions were refreshing, enlightening, and inspiring. I was exposed to new splinting and rehabilitation strategies. Coming from country that does not have hand therapists and with many challenges, Judy Colditz's lecture was inspirational and motivating not to give up, but to embrace my creative potential and to continue learning and practising. I have added skill and knowledge to treatment protocols to improve patient outcomes. This experience has inspired me to further explore emerging trends in hand therapy, to engage in professional development, and to engage in further training and future symposiums. To conclude, I want to acknowledge the sponsors and committee for the chance of a lifetime given to visit Washington D.C and to attend the Congress.

Thank you one and all!"
Cathy Pius, Papua New Guinea



Cathy Pius educating therapists in Papua New Guinea.



“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT 2025 Triennial Congress helped me to catch-up with the current advancement of hand rehabilitation. It gave me a broader insight into holistic hand rehabilitation, rather than looking at the hand only. I have learned that the patient-therapist relationship, the patient satisfaction and setting outcome goals are important aspects in service delivery.

I also got a chance to meet colleagues and to do networking during the conference. To sum up, if it were not for the generosity of this grant, it would not have been possible for me to experience this amazing Congress, which will change my way of treating patients dramatically”.

Hailu Seifu Tsegaye, Ethiopia



Left to Right: Nupur Binte (Bangladesh), Stacey Doyon (USA), Martin Walsh (USA), Hailu Seifu Tsegaye (Ethiopia).

“Attending the IFSSH/IFSSH 2025 Triennial Congress gave me some tips, tricks, and innovations when it comes to fabrication of orthotics ”

Robert Sowa, Ghana

“For me, the Congress inspired new research directions to explore unanswered questions in hand therapy. I gained practical tools such as CMMS casting motion to mobilize stiffness, which I have already begun to apply to enhance patient recovery. The experience re-inspired my commitment to lifelong learning and interdisciplinary collaboration to address complex hand rehabilitation challenges”.

Kinely Tshering, Bhutan



IFSHT - IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant

This grant is available to therapists with priority given to those with limited resources and those that are presenting at the congress. This grant is for partial funding only. This grant was funded from the silent auction that is held at the prior Congress and the generous donations of IFSSH (US\$5,000), member societies and private donors. With these generous donations we were able to fund a total of 15 recipients from the following countries: Australia, Argentina, China, Columbia, India, Kenya, Singapore, Turkey, Uruguay, and United Kingdom.



IFSHT-IFSSH Triennial Congress Grant Testimonials



“I had the opportunity to connect, build relationships, and strengthen bonds with colleagues from Latin America, Spain, ASHT’s members and share with many people around the world. Another highlight was the keynote lecture by Judy Colditz, whose words were powerful and deeply inspiring for all of us. I loved the sessions about flexor tendon rehabilitation, wrist proprioception and carpal instabilities, scapholunate injuries and ‘The Wide World of Sports Upper Extremity Rehabilitation’. There were so many topics, conferences, and research presentations one could choose from, that the problem was not being able to attend all of them!. I firmly believe that sharing what we learn multiplies its impact. That is why I am committed to encouraging more people to take part in international events like this, where working together, learning from each other and a sharing our passion for hand therapy helps us grow as professionals and provide better service in our practices which ultimately would benefit our patients. Thank you to the IFSHT/IFSSH for making this experience possible and for supporting more therapists worldwide through opportunities like this”.

Carolina Molano, Columbia



Carolina Molano and Friends, Columbia.

“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT 2025 Congress was extremely important, as it allowed me to exchange ideas with colleagues from other parts of the world and to share the work I am doing in Uruguay, particularly regarding the use of virtual reality resources applied to hand and upper limb rehabilitation. I was able to see how and which tools others are using, which served as a reference and helped me realize that I’m on the right track! I also had the opportunity to learn about the latest updates in conventional hand rehabilitation techniques and protocols, which I now apply in my clinical practice and share with colleagues at my workplaces”.

Eduardo Levaggi, Uruguay



“The Congress provided an invaluable platform to engage with leading experts and specialists from around the world. The exposure to the latest advancements in hand therapy and surgery, including innovative techniques and new technologies, has deepened my clinical knowledge and broadened my perspective on evidence-based practice. The diverse symposia, instructional courses, and paper sessions allowed me to learn directly from international leaders, which has inspired me to integrate updated protocols and novel approaches into my daily practice at Prince of Wales Hospital. Moreover, the opportunity to network and discuss clinical challenges with peers and mentors from different countries has enriched my research outlook. I am now more motivated to pursue collaborative research projects and to share insights gained at the Congress with my colleagues in Hong Kong, thereby contributing to the advancement of hand rehabilitation locally and regionally. Overall, attending the Congress has reinforced my commitment to continuous professional development and has equipped me with new tools and ideas to enhance patient outcomes in hand therapy”.

Fung Ho Wing Kelvin, China

“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT 2025 Triennial Congress in Washington, USA, had a significant positive impact on my clinical practice and research in hand rehabilitation. The Congress provided valuable insights into emerging treatment approaches and the increasing use of technology, such as virtual reality-based interventions and sensor-based assessments. These advancements have enhanced my clinical practice, enriched my ongoing research projects, and strengthened the educational content I deliver to students. Moreover, connecting with international experts has inspired new research collaborations and has enabled me to better integrate the latest innovations into both patient care and academic teaching”.

Ilkem Ceren Sigirtmac, Turkey

“I was invited to organise a symposium that focused on ‘return to work’. I gathered experts in this area to share their insights and research findings. The content from the session has been helpful for my research and clinical practice, particularly the use of work-relevant outcome measures. I was also invited to chair several sessions, which expanded my network of research-active hand therapists and provided up-to-date research summaries for example, tendon and nerve rehabilitation and outcome assessment. Across my research team, we had three abstracts accepted for oral presentations. This gave us the chance to share our research findings and discuss future research ideas and potential international collaborations. I also met in person colleagues from the EFSHT scientific committee for a planning meeting and visited the Curtis Hand Centre in Baltimore to find out more about the international hand surgery / hand therapy OHDSI network. For me, the Congress was a great opportunity to hear about the latest hand therapy research, and to continue to support the profession to move towards evidence-informed practice”.

Lisa Newington, United Kingdom

“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT 2025 Triennial Congress in person was one of the most impactful experiences in my academic and professional journey so far. Being in the same environment with distinguished academics, clinicians, and researchers from around the world in the fields of hand surgery and hand therapy was truly a privilege. Throughout the Congress, I had the opportunity to attend numerous scientific sessions, keynote speakers and panels, which allowed me to update both my theoretical knowledge and practical insights. Beyond gaining knowledge, I had the chance to meet and network with many respected professionals in the field. Establishing these connections and laying the groundwork for future collaborations was an invaluable part of the experience. I believe that these international ties will have a lasting positive impact on my career development. It was my first time participating in such a large-scale, dynamic, and highly interactive congress. The experience not only enriched my academic understanding but also boosted my confidence and helped me clarify my professional goals. Without this scholarship support, it would have been financially challenging for me to travel from Turkey to the United States to attend such a significant event. Your support was more than just financial assistance; it was an investment in my future. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity and would like to emphasize once again how crucial such support is for hand therapists”.

Hande Usta Ozdemir, Turkey



“Arriving back home after a congress of this scale is a boost of energy to keep improving as a professional, both in clinical practice and in the field of research. I’ve met top-level therapists from all over the world, attended very interesting talks, learned a lot, and thoroughly enjoyed a great atmosphere”.

Nuria Carnicero, Spain



Nuria Carnicero with Friends.

“The opportunity to attend this Congress was invaluable and significantly contributed to my professional growth as an occupational therapist specialising in upper limb rehabilitation. One of the most rewarding aspects of the Congress was connecting and exchanging knowledge with colleagues from around the world. Engaging in discussions with professionals from diverse backgrounds provided me with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches. Attending the various talks was another rewarding experience. Each session offered valuable insights into the latest advancements and strategies in practice. Additionally, I had the privilege of attending the surgeon presentations, which broadened my understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of patient care. I found the keynote presentations by renowned professionals, such as Judy Colditz, particularly inspiring. They emphasized the importance of continuous professional growth and highlighted the impact we can have in our field. These sessions further motivated me to pursue excellence and to continue investing in my education and expertise. This Congress has truly been an enriching experience, leaving me with renewed enthusiasm for my professional development. I eagerly look forward to participating in the next edition and aspire to present a paper based on a related and relevant topic that can contribute actively to the exchange of knowledge within our community. Once again, I sincerely appreciate this opportunity and your generous support”.

Pilar Alfonsin, Argentina

“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT Triennial Congress had a significant impact on my research in hand therapy. I presented a scoping review on hand therapy practice and competencies, which generated valuable feedback. This experience helped to validate the relevance and importance of my research topic within the international community. Engaging with researchers and clinicians from around the world broadened my understanding of global practice standards and may provide opportunities for future collaborative research. Meeting representatives from HTCC provided perspective on the credentialing process in the USA. The opportunity to attend a session by editors of Journal of Hand Therapy and Hand Therapy offered valuable insight into the publication process and editorial expectations. Overall, the experience enriched my research through connection, collaboration, and new perspectives”.

Tracey Clark, Australia

“I am truly humbled and deeply grateful for the generous IFSHT 2025 Travel Grant awarded to me. This support has gone beyond easing financial constraints; it has ignited a renewed passion within me to advance the field of hand therapy. Your recognition affirms my dedication to improving patient care and fostering meaningful global collaborations, and for that, I am immensely thankful. Attending the IFSHT Congress in Washington DC from 24 to 28 March 2025 at the Marriott Marquis was an experience of a lifetime. It provided a unique platform to connect, learn, and share with like-minded professionals from around the world. The opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, exchange ideas, and build networks has profoundly enriched my perspective and aspirations. I must express that this enriching journey was made even more special by the financial support from IFSHT, which eased my journey and allowed me to fully immerse myself in this invaluable experience. The knowledge gained, the connections made, and the inspiration drawn from this Congress will undoubtedly fuel my efforts to inspire the next generation of hand therapists in India. I am committed to leveraging these networks to foster collaborations, undertake academic research, develop guidelines, and promote the growth of hand therapy both within India and globally. This opportunity has reinforced my belief in the power of community, learning, and shared passion. I am motivated more than ever to contribute meaningfully to our field, and I am grateful for your trust and investment in my journey. Thank you once again for your kindness, faith, and support. I am honoured to be part of the IFSHT family, and I look forward to giving back to our community with dedication and gratitude”.

Eduardo Levaggi, Uruguay



“Attending the IFSSH/IFSHT 2025 Triennial Congress was an enriching and inspiring experience. I had the privilege of presenting my TFCC wrist sensorimotor rehabilitation program and engaging in meaningful discussions with international therapists about the management of ulnar-sided wrist pain. These conversations offered diverse perspectives on conservative treatment approaches and broadened my understanding of non-surgical options for TFCC rehabilitation. I also gained valuable insights into casting motion to mobilise stiffness (CMMS) as a technique for managing hand stiffness. The promising outcomes presented have motivated me to explore CMMS in my clinical practice. Another highlight was the exploration of virtual reality in hand therapy. The use of realistic, task-based VR scenarios appears to be a promising adjunct to traditional rehabilitation methods, offering exciting new possibilities for patient engagement and outcomes.

Zhiging Chen, Singapore

