



IFSSH Newsletter

August 2020

Message from Secretary-General: Goo Hyun Baek

Dear colleagues,

I wish all of your family and friends stay well.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended nearly every medical discipline, dramatically affected patient care, and has had far-reaching effects on scientific meetings. Most of the medical congresses or conferences have been postponed, cancelled, or changed into on-line communications.

The Delegates' council meeting as well as the Executive committee meeting of the IFSSH were planned to be held during the FESSH Congress in June 2020. However, we could not make it due to social restriction and travel ban.

The on-line executive committee meeting was held on 27th June 2020, and followings are the summary.

I do hope this disaster come to an end before long, and do hope all of you be fine physically and mentally.

Sincerely,

Goo Hyun

Goo Hyun Baek

Secretary-General, IFSSH

Email: secretary@ifssh.info

Executive Committee news

With the disruptions to travel and congresses, the IFSSH held an online Executive Committee meeting to discuss progress since the Berlin 2019 gathering and decide on plans for the future.

The IFSSH President, Marc Garcia-Elias, acknowledged that since the hand surgery community most recently met during the APFSSH Congress in March (Melbourne, Australia), there have been significant worldwide changes caused by Covid-19. Disruptions have occurred to personal lives, hand surgery practices and hospitals, and

the IFSSH ExCo pay their respects to those who have assisted throughout the crisis worldwide and remember those who have lost their lives.

Goo Hyun Baek, the IFSSH Secretary-General, reported that financially the IFSSH is in a pleasing position. As for many, fluctuations occurred around the pandemic but decreases have now been regained and the treasury has been able to provide for numerous educational sponsorships recently (as detailed in the May 2020 IFSSH Newsletter).

The IFSSH website, overseen by the Historian, David Warwick, has increased again in its content:

- all grant recipients are now listed on the website (description and report) - <https://ifssh.info/ifssh-sponsored-educational-projects.php>
- profiles of Past-Presidents have been incorporated - https://ifssh.info/past_president.php
- more society histories have been added - https://ifssh.info/member_nation-histories.php
- a further educational resource (provided by Larry Hurst) has been added - <https://www.handsurgeryresource.org/>

The legalities and future congresses of the IFSSH were discussed by Daniel Nagle (President-Elect). A review of the bylaws has been occurring since the Berlin meeting, following feedback from the Council members and their societies. The Executive Committee, after reviewing the current bylaws felt that it was necessary to update the IFSSH bylaws to bring them into compliance with current not-for-profit best practices and the State of Illinois not-for-profit laws. The ExCo, in order to assure the integrity and thoroughness of this process, engaged the services of an attorney with expertise in not-for-profit law and bylaws. (The Federation is registered in the state of Illinois in the United States and is therefore subject to that state's laws.) This process included a complete review and restatement of the current bylaws. Thus generating the "Amended and Restated Bylaws" which are not a piecemeal update of specific articles but rather a complete restatement of the bylaws. Great attention was given to be certain the Amended and Restated Bylaws capture the intent of the old bylaws but do so in a more coherent and succinct way incorporating up-to-date legal conventions and best practices.

Following the meeting, the Amended and Restated Bylaws were distributed to all IFSSH Delegates via email. As we will be unable to meet in person in the near future, voting has been organised electronically and we ask that all societies consider the proposal distributed to the delegate and cast their vote through the described methods by September 10th, 2020.

The 2020 Delegates' Council Meeting will be held as a virtual meeting on September 12th, 2020. Full details will be distributed to delegates by early August. We look forward to seeing all of the familiar faces, even if this is through our computer screens instead of in our Council meeting room!

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:

XVth IFSSH – XIIth IFSSH Congress – London, United Kingdom
6th - 10th June, 2022

XVIth IFSSH – XIIIth IFSSH Congress – Washington D.C., USA
29th March - 3rd April, 2025