



IFSSH Newsletter

November 2020

Report of the 2020 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting

For the first time in our history, the IFSSH conducted its annual Delegates' Council Meeting online. This was held on the 12th September and we recognise the dedication of our Delegates and Guests who attended across a wide range of time zones. For Dr Zong-Ming Li, the Hand and Wrist Biomechanics International representative, the meeting commenced at 4am in his Arizona location; for Dr Wolfgang Heiss-Dunlop, the New Zealand Hand Surgery Society delegate, it was 11pm. A further 50 ExCo members, delegates and allied organisation representations joined from locations in time zones in between. We were delighted to have so many participants given the new format and timing!

The ExCo and Delegates discussed progress since the Berlin meeting and plans for the future. Financially, the IFSSH has made pleasing gains. As happened to most, Covid-19 impacted negatively on our investment portfolio; however this has already returned to higher levels than those prior to Covid-19. We also received a positive profit share from the Berlin congress. This financial position has allowed the IFSSH to provide a number of educational grants over the past 12 months, as well as cover the standard expenses.

Dr Daniel Nagle, Chair of the IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship, detailed the recipients of CES funding. These include:

- the Colombia/Venezuela combined congress in Cucuta, Colombia (\$2500; this particular meeting has been postponed but money remains allocated for this purpose when the congress is rescheduled).
- Hand surgery fellowship, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana: (\$1450 x 3 years paid annually).
- International Consortium for Healthcare Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) Adult Hand Set (\$5000).
- Touching Hands / IFSSH workshop, Mount Kenya University, Nairobi, Kenya (\$3500)
- APFSSH 2020 Congress Developing Country Registration Grant (\$10,000)
- IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship - Professor Steven Moran (\$7500). This funded the first IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor, nominated by the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for the Hand (APFSSH). Dr Moran visited multiple sites/meetings within Australia in March 2020.

Prof David Warwick, the IFSSH Historian, reported on the progress of the IFSSH website and social media. Society histories, Past-President profiles and further

educational resources have all been added to the website - www.ifssh.info - as well as the 2019 IFSSH Pioneers of Hand Surgery booklet. The social media followers continue to rise. The IFSSH Twitter and Instagram accounts are found via @IFSSHHand.

Dr Jörg van Schoonhoven provided the 2019 IFSSH Berlin congress' final report. He reported that the German Society remains very grateful for being given the opportunity to host the 2019 IFSSH Congress. Given the current international changes, the DGH is thankful that this was hosted in 2019 rather than 2020! The final statistics relating to the congress include:

- 4002 registrations from delegates (65% surgeons, 17% therapists, 10% industry, 8% guests) - 560 from Germany, followed by UK, Switzerland, Japan.
- 1812 abstract submissions
- 1503 oral presentations
- 95 industry supporters (37% Germany, 42% Europe, 21% worldwide)

The DGH was able to provide a final income share to the IFSSH of 115,300 euro. Overall, the organising committee was very happy with the congress and pleased that the atmosphere of the meeting displayed that everyone felt welcome and had a good time.

The German Society won the rights to host this congress back in 2013 during the Delhi congress and the IFSSH has enjoyed their support and friendship over the past 7 years. It is now time to pass on the baton and look towards the London 2022 congress.

Drs David Shewring and Jonathan Hobby reported of the London organising committee's plans. Most importantly, there has been a change of venue and also a change of date: the venue is the ExCeL Centre, which is situated in the Docklands, East London, and the congress will run from 6th to 10th June, 2022. The organising committee and the PCO are meeting regularly, planning the symposia and keynote speakers, as well as the instructional course book: "Tendon Disorders of the Hand and Wrist". Social events will include the IFSSH Presidential Dinner at The Barber Surgeon's Hall and a Gala Dinner with the Old Billingsgate Market as a potential site for this. The British Society is proposing a fellowship programme to occur around the 2020 IFSSH meeting. The organising committee has recommended two parallel programmes: one for trainees from Europe, America and Asia, and a second programme for those from low income/resource countries. These would be for 2-3 week periods in a travelling fellowship programme, allowing for attendance at the congress as well as a number of centres throughout the UK.

With the reports completed, the ExCo moved on to the major business works that have been developed since Berlin. The ExCo had earlier presented the Amended and Restated IFSSH Bylaws to the Delegates via email. The motivation to undertake this review came from the delegates. In Berlin there were requests for greater access to governance and greater opportunity to host International Congress. In parallel, the ExCo was concerned about the protection of the presidential line and institutional memory. The ExCo

reviewed the old bylaws to determine the extent of the changes that may be necessary to achieve these requests. It was noted that the existing bylaws are now not compliant with the Illinois not-for-profit law, they were imprecise, and they contained extraneous material. With these findings, the ExCo agreed to revise the entire bylaws document rather than update specific articles. The drafting process was a joint endeavour of the attorney specializing in Illinois not-for-profit medical association law (Jed Mandel, Chicago Law Partners) and the Executive Committee. Multiple drafts were constructed, based on old bylaws. Deficiencies were corrected and standard practices for not-for-profit organizations were followed. This process took 1 year. The final draft, with the existing deficiencies now corrected, is compliant with Illinois law. **It increases member participation in IFSSH governance through two methods: it increases Members-at-large from 1 to 5; and it adds two non-ExCo members to the Nominating Committee. In addition, it further increases opportunities to serve on the ExCo as the ExCo terms are decreased to two years. This is accomplished enhanced by changes to the ExCo composition which in turn eliminate the Secretary General-elect (2022) and President-elect (2025) positions.** The final draft increases the opportunity to host the International Congress and protects IFSSH institutional memory carried by the presidential line.

In June the Amended and Restated IFSSH Bylaws were distributed to the Delegates and a voting process undertaken online. These were accepted by the majority required and therefore now come into effect.

The ExCo and Delegates discussed the implications of these bylaw alterations in depth. The basis of increasing member participation within the ExCo is enhanced by the biennial terms and therefore a biennial congress schedule was suggested to align these two events. We are aware that some delegates have questioned the move to biennial terms from 2025. The basis of this is to increase member participation in IFSSH governance and increase opportunity to host International Congress (e.g. South America hosted the 2016 congress but the next hosting option under the current triennial system is not until 2040; this would move to 2029 under the proposed biennial rotation). This opened a discussion, led by Dr Don Lalonde on behalf of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. Many views and opinions were shared as to the advantages and disadvantages of biennial vs triennial congresses and it was requested that a further vote be taken specifically on this item. As the congress schedule/frequency is not documented within the Bylaws, this can be done without reassessing the full Bylaw process. The ExCo agreed to do so and all Delegates will receive an invitation to vote on behalf of their society in the near future. We will provide the results to all societies as soon as this voting is completed.

The final item of the meeting was that of the IFSSH Scientific Committees. Prof Jin Bo Tang, IFSSH Member-at-Large, announced that prior to the London 2022 meeting, the JHS(Eu) plan to publish a special issue to honour the relationship with the IFSSH and

also to publicise the London meeting. This will be approx. 6 months prior to the meeting. The issue will typically have 10-14 full length articles that will be commissioned by the Editor to the IFSSH leading experts. These invites will be sent worldwide to accomplish this very important landmark work and to promote the mission of the IFSSH.

Again, we thank all of Delegates and Guests for their wonderful support at all times and especially their valuable input during the annual meeting. We hope to meet again in person for the 2021 Delegates' Council Meeting! The proposed schedule is to join the FESSH Congress in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, June 16-19, 2021.

Sincerely,

Goo Hyun

Goo Hyun Baek

Secretary-General, IFSSH

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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*