



IFSSH Newsletter

February 2023

Message from the Secretary-General: David Warwick

Welcome to 2023. Despite political and financial challenges for nations around the world, our International Federation continues to grow and thrive. Underpinning this is the thorough revision of our **bylaws** - thanks to our President Dan Nagle who led this project for us with countless hours of meticulous attention to fine detail. The next crucial stage of development, especially in our digital world, is our **communications** output - thanks to Jin Bo Tang, Ulrich Mennen and our South American Member-at-Large Aida Garcia Gomez.

Now the world is no longer constrained by Covid rules, we can travel and meet and share, both professionally and personally. We look forward to seeing the programmes develop for our new **Mid-term Course** in Ecuador in 2024 and the **Triennial Congress** in Washington D.C. in 2025.

We have had enquiries for new national Hand Surgery societies to join us which, subject to the membership criteria, will expand our community and reach even further.

We continue to get requests for funding various **educational projects**; we should now be proactively expanding our revenue base so that even more work can be funded to the benefit of hand surgeons across the world. If any member has an idea that might help - a legacy, a donation, sponsorship - then please contact us.

Finally, the IFSSH has a role in promoting and co-ordinating **global partnerships** around the world. The ExCo (in particular, the Members-at-Large) will be finding out who provides resources for education around the world and who might benefit from these resources. Our website has a new section in which we will post details of those member Societies with an outreach programme, as well as posting suitable teaching and assessment material. If anyone has information or ideas that would help our goal to support global partnerships, please let me know.

With very best wishes,

Prof David Warwick

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IFSSH Bylaws

The International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand revised its bylaws in 2020 to address the preservation of institutional memory, to reduce the long time spent on Executive Committee when transitioning through multiple positions, to improve opportunities for societies to participate in the governance of the IFSSH, to improve the transparency of the Executive Committee nomination process, and to improve global representation on the Executive Committee. The 2020 bylaws have been successful in achieving these goals.

The 2020 Bylaws included provisions for an eventual move to a Biennial Congress schedule. However, during adoption of these bylaws, the Delegates' Council elected to preserve the Triennial Congress schedule. This left the IFSSH in a position of having a triennial congress schedule but a biennial term duration for the Executive Committee positions.

In late 2022, the IFSSH Delegates were asked to consider bylaw changes that would be required to restore the Executive Committee terms to three years to be consistent with the Triennial Congress schedule. In addition to this, the proposed amendments to the 2022 bylaws contained a more detailed description of the Federation membership requirements and the management of ExCo vacancies, as well as reinstating the detailed description of the Federation membership requirements for further transparency (these were previously moved to the IFSSH Policies and Procedures).

It is a great pleasure to announce that the amended bylaws have been adopted by a significant majority, effective 15th November 2022. The Executive Committee wishes to thank the delegates for taking the time to vote on these amendments. The Executive committee would also like to thank our administrator, Belinda Smith for expertly managing a worldwide vote!

There were 67 eligible voters of which 60 voted (90%). Fifty-seven (57) approved the amendments, two (2) did not approve and one (1) abstained.

The Executive Committee sincerely appreciates the participation of the Delegates and the societies that they represent. We believe these changes will significantly improve the governance of the Federation.

The current IFSSH Bylaws can be viewed on the IFSSH website: <https://www.ifssh.info/pdf/bylaws-2022.pdf>

IFSSH Communications

Under the leadership of IFSSH Communications Director, Prof Jin Bo Tang, the IFSSH website has been expanded to include a number of educational initiatives and detailed information on the IFSSH, its membership and its pursuits. Please take a moment to review the website (www.ifssh.info) and share the resources with your colleagues.

The IFSSH has engaged 10 enthusiastic hand surgeons as “social media correspondents” in late 2022. These correspondents are located around the globe and will be sourcing local and regional information relevant to hand surgery and the IFSSH and we will be sharing this news on our Twitter and Instagram accounts from early 2023. Dr Aida Garcia Gomez, the South American IFSSH Member-at-Large, will chair this group with oversight from Prof Tang. We look forward to the increased communication between the IFSSH and our membership, and to sharing this on social media as well as in our quarterly Ezine. Watch for our posts via **@IFSSHhand** on Twitter and Instagram.

The IFSSH Ezine continues to be the mouthpiece of the IFSSH. Prof Ulrich Mennen produces this wonderful quarterly publication sharing hand surgery articles, member news, profiles of IFSSH Pioneers and items of interest to all. If your society has news to share or your annual society scientific meeting to promote, please contact your society delegate (https://www.ifssh.info/member_nation.php) who can organise for this to be published. The Ezine is free of charge to all subscribers - simply sign up on the webpage (https://www.ifssh.info/ifssh_ezine.php) and it will be delivered direct to your email inbox in February, April, August and November.

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:

1st IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery

Guayaquil, Ecuador

31st January - 3rd February, 2024



XVIth IFSSH – XIIIth IFSHT Congress

Washington D.C., USA

23rd - 28th March, 2025



XVIIth IFSSH – IVth IFSHT Congress

Singapore

23rd – 27th October, 2028 (TBC)



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