



IFSSH Newsletter – August 2014

Dear friends:

If you read my last IFSSH Newsletter you may have thought my recommendation to attend the FESSH congress in Paris was over-enthusiastic. Perhaps a Secretary-General of the IFSSH should not allow his preferences to emerge so explicitly in such documents. Yet, the truth is...I was right! The FESSH meeting has been spectacular! The program, the venue, the wine and cheese, the dinner-cruise at the Paquebot, the last spells of sunshine on the Eiffel Tower, the scented nights of June by the Seine,... thank you Christophe, thank you Thierry, thank you French colleagues and, of course, thank you Zsolt! You've done it! Congratulations.

The IFSSH ship is back on track after anchoring three days in Molière's land. What follows is a summary of what happens on board these days.

2014 Delegates' Council Meeting

The annual IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting was held on June 19th in Paris, in conjunction with the FESSH meeting (June 18-21). The attendance was outstanding with 38 societies represented. The full minutes of the meeting are available on the IFSSH website. Again, we thank the FESSH Council and congress organisers for hosting this year's IFSSH Executive Committee and Delegates' Council meetings.

The IFSSH Delegates' Council will meet again in Seattle next year, in conjunction with the American Society for Surgery of the Hand's Annual Meeting (September 10-12, 2015).

IFSSH Bylaws

The IFSSH Executive Committee, with the assistance of legal representatives, has prepared a new set of IFSSH Bylaws to allow for registering the Federation as a non-profit organization in Switzerland. As discussed in previous Delegates' Council meetings, this is an appropriate move from both legal and financial viewpoints, with other similar organisations having undertaken the same process with full satisfaction.

These draft bylaws were submitted to the Delegates' Council and accepted unanimously by the representatives, with the current IFSSH membership now becoming the "Founding Societies" of the Federation.

The Delegates' Council also approved the process of registration of the IFSSH in Switzerland and the establishing of proper financial arrangements in that country. The Council authorised the Executive Committee to continue working on these activities. Updates of the progress of the registration and transfer will be provided in due course.

Report of the Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES)

The CES Chair, Dan Nagle, reminded the Delegates of all member societies that funding is available for educational projects. Full details are on the website (www.ifssh.info). We hope that delegates will encourage applications from their societies.

At the Paris meeting, the IFSSH Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the CES, has approved an application to assist with financial support of an Australian charity mission to Cambodia. Under the guidance of Dr Graham Gumley, and with the support of the Australian Hand Surgery Society, this group has established an outreach surgical programme to assist in the developing of surgical services in Cambodia, particularly focusing on Phnom Penh, and on the provision of Hand and Upper Limb surgery expertise to the people of Cambodia. These surgical mission trips began in 2008, and initially provided patient care. The subsequent trips have expanded to incorporate teaching activities to local surgeons at all levels of expertise, with the intention of building local capacity and expertise. The group's intention is to continue this programme until support is no longer locally required. The IFSSH CES and Executive Committee is pleased to provide US\$19,350 to support this year's programme which will be undertaken in August, 2014 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Further projects remain under consideration for funding. Updates will be provided in the Ezine and future newsletters.

IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship

The IFSSH Executive Committee and Delegates' Council has recommended the establishment of an IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship. This honour recognises the hand surgery knowledge distributed throughout the world by Dr Kleinert, through his teaching of about 1200 fellows in Louisville, with each of these fellows in turn providing teaching to many more fellows around the world.

An IFSSH member society may apply to receive this IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor for an appropriate educational programme, providing nominations of three suitable Visiting Professors and details of the proposed programme. The IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship will assess the applications and award a Visiting Professorship to one nominee to attend an approved educational meeting.

The full details of the programme and process are available on the IFSSH website and will be published in a future newsletter.

Allied Organisations

The IFSSH Executive Committee recognises the existence and importance of similar organisations with common goals and has established an "Allied Organisation" programme to continue collaborations with groups such as FESSH, APFSSH, the South American Federation, and the IFSHT.

At the 2014 meeting, we were pleased to admit Hand and Wrist Biomechanics International (HWBI) as an Allied Organisation. The HWBI was formed in 2012 to further enhance the development of hand/wrist biomechanics. The HWBI Board of Directors includes Drs. Kai-Nan An, Moroe Beppu, Marc Garcia-Elias, Zong-Ming Li,

David L. Nelson, Frederic Schuind, William H. Seitz, Fong-Chin Su, and Frederick W. Werner. Additional relevant information can be found at the website www.hwbi.org. By establishing an alliance with the IFSSH, the HWBI may benefit from the support and promotion of the IFSSH's member societies, and in turn the HWBI may strengthen the IFSSH at large, via development of research, focused specifically on hand and wrist biomechanics.

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:

XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 24-28, 2016
www.ifssh-ifssh2016.com

XIVth IFSSH – XIth IFSSH Congress – Berlin, Germany
May, 2019



Marc Garcia-Elias

Secretary-General, IFSSH

Email: secretary@ifssh.info