



## IFSSH Newsletter

May 2024

### Message from the Secretary-General

Members of the IFSSH Executive have recently been active in two important IFSSH activities:

#### *The Inaugural IFSSH Mid-Term Course, Quito Ecuador, January 31 - February 3, 2024*

International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand Officers Jin Bo Tang and Raja Sabapathy proposed in 2021 that, in an effort to increase member society engagement and regional hand surgery education, the IFSSH would support what would be called an “IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery”. The Course would be an educational event featuring local, regional and world experts presenting lectures on all aspects of surgery of the upper extremity. It was not to be a congress featuring original scientific research. Through a bid system, in 2022 the IFSSH Delegates’ Council awarded the opportunity to host the inaugural Mid-Term course to the Ecuadorian Society for Surgery of the Hand (ECUMANO). The first IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery was a spectacular success expertly hosted by ECUMANO led by Dr. Fidel Cayón and Dr. Gabriel Alegría, with significant input from our IFSSH South American Member-at-Large, Dr. Aida Garcia.

The beautiful city of Quito was tranquil as we had indeed been reassured by the organisers. Participants travelled from all over the world to the centre of the world. The new Quito Metropolitan Convention Centre was a perfect venue, set 2850 meters above sea level in a valley surrounded by the Andes with easy access by metro, taxi and buses arranged by the hosts. The IFSSH-sponsored keynote speakers - Don Lalonde, Amy Moore, Andrea Atzei, Marc Garcia Elias, and Chaitanya Mudgal – provided excellent masterclass lectures. Several workshops and innumerable lectures covering all aspects of hand surgery were offered.

The atmosphere was friendly, fun, relaxed yet excited. There were 493 attendees including 54 Hand Therapists in from 25 countries. Thank you Drs. Cayón, Alegría, Garcia and ECUMANO for hosting an amazing Inaugural IFSSH Mid-Term Course.

A full report of the 1<sup>st</sup> IFSSH Mid-Term Course is published in the May IFSSH Ezine. If you do not already receive this free-of-charge quarterly publication to your inbox, you can subscribe through the IFSSH website: [https://ifssh.info/ifssh\\_ezine.php](https://ifssh.info/ifssh_ezine.php).



#### *Site Visit: 2025 IFSSH-IFSSH Triennial Congress, Washington, D.C.*

Dan Nagle, IFSSH President, and I joined the IFSSH Executive and the 2025 Congress Local Organising Committee (from the ASSH, AAHS and ASHT) in Washington, D.C., 24th-26th March, to inspect the congress scientific and social venues and discuss the planning and progress. This site visit occurred exactly one year prior to the Congress commencement (24th-28th March, 2025) to allow us the full March

experience, including the cherry blossoms that framed the streets. We were able to explore the fantastic city with our wonderful hosts and can assure all Congress participants that they will be treated to an excellent time at the 2025 Triennial Congress. We remind you to submit your abstracts by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to be a part of the scientific program.

More Congress information is in the May 2024 IFSSH Ezine issue: a full report of the site visit is provided in Dan Nagle's IFSSH President's Message, and a Congress update is featured from Jim Chang (2025 IFSSH Congress Chair).

**Prof David Warwick**

Secretary-General, IFSSH

## **2024 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting – Save the date**

The 2024 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting will be held at **12:30pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. This will be in Rotterdam, hosted within the annual FESSH Congress. We hope to see many IFSSH Delegates (or appointed proxies) there to represent the 63 IFSSH member societies.

## **Calls for Nominations and Applications**

Please note the following five topics and dates, all of which will be selected/awarded at the 2025 IFSSH Congress in Washington, D.C., 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### ***1. 2025 Pioneers of Hand Surgery: Call for Nominations***

The IFSSH welcomes nominations for the 2025 IFSSH Pioneer of Hand Surgery honours. The IFSSH awards "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" status to any person who excels exceptionally. We encourage your society to nominate only the most deserving of members who fulfil all the listed criteria.

The guidelines for nomination and the application form are on the IFSSH website - [https://ifssh.info/pioneers\\_hand\\_surgery.php](https://ifssh.info/pioneers_hand_surgery.php). Complete applications must be received by the secretariat ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) by **24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**.

### ***2. 2025 Elections: Executive Committee and Nominating Committee members***

At the 2025 Congress, the IFSSH Delegates' Council will elect the following officers to join the IFSSH Executive Committee:

- the incoming Secretary-General;
- a Communications Director; and
- 5 ExCo Members-at Large (regional representation)

In addition, outside of the Executive Committee, but to specifically be a part of the Nominating Committee only:

- 2 Nominating Committee Members-at-Large

The full position descriptions and application processes for these positions have been distributed to all society delegates. These are also listed on the IFSSH website [https://ifssh.info/2025\\_committee\\_elections.php](https://ifssh.info/2025_committee_elections.php). All societies should consider the essential and desirable qualities for the positions when considering nominations.

Applications must be received by the secretariat ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) by **24<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**.

### ***3. 18<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Triennial Congress (to be held 2031): Call for Host Society Bids***

The IFSSH Executive Committee has recommended that member societies from the South American region be invited to host the 2031 triennial congress. This main scientific event of the IFSSH will be celebrated every three years in a member society country that is in good standing with the IFSSH, including payment of their annual dues.

The Congress Guidelines are available on the IFSSH website: <https://ifssh.info/guidelines.php> The bidding host must register their intent to bid with the IFSSH Secretary-General ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) by **24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, then distribute their full submission to the named groups in the guidelines by **24<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

### ***4. 2<sup>nd</sup> IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery (to be held 2026-2027): Call for Host Society Bids***

The IFSSH Executive Committee has recommended that member societies from the European/African region be invited to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery. This Course is to be held midway between the 2025 (Washington, D.C.) and 2028 (Singapore) triennial Congresses.

The Course Guidelines have recently been updated and the revised information is now available on the IFSSH website: <https://ifssh.info/guidelines-to-host-anIFSSH-mid-term-course.php> The bidding host must register their intent to bid with the IFSSH Secretary-General ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) by **24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, then distribute their full submission to the named groups in the guidelines by **24<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

### ***5. 3<sup>rd</sup> IFSSH Mid-Term Course (to be held 2029-2030): Call for Host Society Bids***

To allow for additional Course preparation time, the host society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery will also be selected at the 2025 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting. Moving forwards, the Course will always be selected 4-5 years in advance, similarly to the Congress being selected 6 years in advance.

The IFSSH Executive Committee has recommended that member societies from the North and Central American (including Caribbean) region be invited to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Term Course, midway between the 2028 and 2031 Triennial Congresses.

As above, the Course Guidelines have recently been updated and the revised information is now available on the IFSSH website: <https://ifssh.info/guidelines-to-host-anIFSSH-mid-term-course.php>  
The bidding host must register their intent to bid with the IFSSH Secretary-General ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)) by **24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, then distribute their full submission to the named groups in the guidelines by **24<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.

## 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:

### **XVI<sup>th</sup> IFSSH – XIII<sup>th</sup> IFSHT Congress**

Washington D.C., USA

24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2025



### **XVII<sup>th</sup> IFSSH – IV<sup>th</sup> IFSHT Congress**

Singapore

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2028



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