



IFSSH Newsletter

November 2025

Message from the Secretary-General

Dear Colleagues,

A central task and mission of IFSSH is education. After the Congress in Washington, DC in the end of March, the ExCo members are developing ideas to better serve colleagues around the world on their professional development and to further skills and knowledge of hand surgery. I am looking forward to new ideas of furthering the goals of IFSSH in the coming three years.

In the past two IFSSH Ezine issues (https://ifssh.info/ifssh_ezine.php), a series of reports of our recent educational efforts are highlighted. You will read reports of our sponsorship of 2025 IFSSH AAHS-ASSH Travelling Fellows in conjunction with the 2025 Triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress, co-sponsorship of IFSHT's grants, financial support of the APFSSH workshops in Mumbai, and many educational activities in our member societies. A course in Burundi, Africa, also sponsored by the IFSSH, will be held later in November. I am happy to see the educational activities are spreading across different regions.

I am very pleased to see the excellent organization and progress in the 2nd IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery by our Italian colleagues. The highlights and formats of this Course are already outlined on its [website](#). The Course date will be 4–8 April 2027 in Venice. The date was carefully chosen to be just before the high season of tourism in this area, so the hotel price will be reasonably low. This is the next most important event of IFSSH. I wish you plan a trip with your family to enjoy both a Course and days of relaxation. The mid-spring is beautiful and temperature is just right for any activities around. Join the mailing list to stay up-to-date with the latest news: <https://congressworks.com/venice2027/>

It is autumn here in the Northern Hemisphere reminding us that the next IFSSH-IFSHT Congress is exactly 3 years away - <https://www.ifssh-ifsht2028.org/>. Our Singapore colleagues have already started their well-planned preparations for this congress. We wish that many colleagues around the world will go to Venice in early April of 2027, and from there we can make plans to meet again in Singapore in October of 2028!

While writing this, I am preparing for a return visit to Poland (October 8-14, 2025), which is an invitation that I got during my IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship to Poland two years ago (September 16-October 3, 2023). This is truly a symbol and demonstration of the power of the Kleinert Visiting Professorship. The band and friendship, and professional tire continue beyond the period of the Visiting Professorship to become long-lasting professional and personal relationships. I look forward to seeing many colleagues in Poland and the beautiful Polish autumn again after two years.

I welcome any suggestions and communications to further the mission and impact of IFSSH and wish you all enjoy the beautiful change in seasons in your part of the world.

Prof. Jin Bo Tang
Secretary-General, IFSSH

Welcome: Jordan Group for Hand and Upper Limb Surgery

Earlier this year the Jordan Group for Hand and Upper Limb Surgery submitted an application for IFSSH membership. The IFSSH Delegates' Council unanimously voted to accept the Jordan Group as an IFSSH Member Society at the 2025 annual meeting.

The Jordan Group was established in 2018 and has grown to 36 members. Dr Waleed Haddad is the current President, Dr Saab Mestarihi is the Secretary, and Dr Ghandi Almanasir will participate in the IFSSH Delegates' Council as their inaugural IFSSH Delegate.

We extend a warm welcome to all members of the Jordan Group for Hand and Upper Limb Surgery.

This increases the IFSSH membership to now include [65 member societies from 63 countries](https://ifssh.info/member_societies.php) (https://ifssh.info/member_societies.php).

2025-2028 IFSSH Committee Structure

IFSSH President, S. Raja Sabapathy, has determined that this triennium's work will be led by six committees:

1. IFSSH Nominating Committee
 - Chair: Daniel Nagle, Immediate Past-President
2. IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship
 - Chair: David Warwick, President-Elect
3. IFSSH Philanthropy Committee
 - Chair: Steven Moran, IFSSH ExCo Member-at-Large (North and Central America)
4. IFSSH Membership Committee
 - Chair: Ilse Degreef, IFSSH ExCo Member-at-Large (Europe and Africa)
5. IFSSH Committee for Educational Course Organization
 - Chair: Jonathan Hobby, IFSSH ExCo Member-at-Large (Europe and Africa)
6. IFSSH Committee for Educational Resources
 - Chair: Satoshi Ichihara, IFSSH ExCo Member-at-Large (Asia-Pacific)

The first three of these are existing IFSSH committees, the latter three are new initiatives for the 2025-2028 triennium. These committees will steer the IFSSH to grow its potential membership, increase its treasury, optimise its educational activities to reach and support hand surgeons worldwide, and guide its future.

The committees will report to the IFSSH Delegates at annual Council meetings and to the international hand surgery community through the Ezine and IFSSH events.

If you have ideas or feedback, please contact the committees through the IFSSH secretariat: administration@ifssh.info.

IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship

The IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) continues to receive and review requests for educational funding. This is granted on a competitive basis. The CES has recently awarded two grants:

1. *APFSSH Congress: Workshop accessibility – September 2025, Mumbai, India*

\$10,000 was provided to the APFSSH in conjunction with the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand as local hosts. Eight pre-congress workshops were held in Mumbai. The \$10,000 from the IFSSH allowed for 210 delegates from 17 countries to participate in the workshops, free of charge. These 210 participants take their increased knowledge and skills back to their 17 countries and share it with their colleagues and trainees, improving the hand surgery care of countless patients. The IFSSH commends the APFSSH and ISSH hosts on this model of disseminating knowledge and utilising educational sponsorship funds to educate many.

A full report of the workshops is available in the November issue of the IFSSH Ezine.

2. ***WALANT Course – November 2025, Bujumbura, Burundi***

Following an incredibly successful series of IFSSH supported courses in Kenya, Dr Don Lalonde (Canada) and Professor Pankaj Jani (Past President, College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)) have again joined forces to introduce a WALANT workshop to Burundi. \$10,000 from the IFSSH has been allocated to invite as many surgeons as possible to attend, free of charge, this workshop (a pre-COSECSA Congress event) from neighbouring East Central African countries, with the vision of expanding the use of WALANT and minor procedure room surgery. These workshops have had a great impact across Central Africa already and have improved access for hand surgery patient care.

We wish Dr Lalonde and Prof Jani a fruitful trip to Burundi. A report will be shared in the February 2026 IFSSH Ezine.

Please continue to submit applications of worthy educational projects from your society. General funding can support educational projects of varying size and cost, from a single society or a collaborative effort, for work occurring in your home country or as outreach. The recipient reports (<https://ifssh.info/ifssh-sponsored-educational-projects.php>) may provide your society with inspiration of what can be achieved with financial support from the IFSSH. Please review the application process within the IFSSH CES guidelines - https://ifssh.info/educational_sponsorship.php. If you have an idea and wish to discuss opportunities, please contact the IFSSH secretariat – administration@ifssh.info.

Educational Resources

The IFSSH is committed to expanding the online resources to support hand surgeons from all regions of the world. The IFSSH website - www.ifssh.info - is a treasure trove of hand surgery resources. This education is available all day, every day, free of charge, to every interested person with internet access. Some resources have been created specifically by the IFSSH, and others prepared by renowned external groups and offered as access to hand surgeons worldwide through the IFSSH portal.

Read IFSSH [Scientific Committee reports](#) from experts in their field, discover the history and education of our member societies in the IFSSH “[Hand Surgery Worldwide](#)” book, check translations of hand terminology in five languages in “[IFSSH Terminology for Hand Surgery](#)”.

Utilise the [Hand Surgery Resource](#) to learn hand surgery knowledge, and revise with the ASSH’s [Handthology](#) that has been kindly shared with all IFSSH members. Dive into sub-speciality information through [Wrist Basecamp](#) and the [OMT Classification app and tutorial video](#), and review the latest systematic reviews and evidence-based guidelines through [Evidence Based Hand Surgery](#).

Subscribe to receive the quarterly [IFSSH Ezine](#) to hear the latest news and events from the hand surgery community.

Wherever you are, and whenever you choose, log on to www.ifssh.info and update your education and passion for hand surgery.

Links to these resources include:

- https://ifssh.info/scientific_committee_reports.php
- https://ifssh.info/hand_surgery_worldwide.php
- https://ifssh.info/terminology_hand_surgery.php
- <https://ifssh.info/hand-surgery-resource.php>
- <https://ifssh.info/handthology.php>
- <https://ifssh.info/wrist-basecamp.php>
- <https://ifssh.info/OMT-Classification-App.php>
- <https://ifssh.info/evidence-based-hand-surgery.php>
- https://ifssh.info/ifssh_ezine.php

IFSSH Patron of Hand Surgery program

The IFSSH is a not-for-profit organization. Your support is invaluable to our mission of advancing hand surgery worldwide and improving patient care.

Donations directly impact our ability to:

- fund a broad range of educational initiatives for hand surgeons and our hand therapy colleagues;
- organize international and regional conferences, courses and workshops for knowledge exchange;
- enable access to collaborative and sub-specialty meetings worldwide;
- support traveling fellowship programs for young surgeons; and
- provide resources for ongoing professional development, such as the Hand Surgery Resource.



Please consider donating through the IFSSH Patron of Hand Surgery program (https://ifssh.info/hand_surgery_donation_program.php) to support global hand surgery education.

We acknowledge the generosity of all IFSSH Patrons of Hand Surgery to date.

Future Meetings

A detailed list of national and regional hand surgery meetings is available on the IFSSH website. The IFSSH Courses and Congresses are as follows:

2nd IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery
4th-8th April, 2027
Venice, Italy
www.congressworks.com/venice2027



17th IFSSH – 14th IFSHT Congress
23rd – 27th October, 2028
Singapore
www.ifssh-ifsht2028.org



18th IFSSH – 15th IFSHT Congress
2031 (dates TBC)
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

HANDS'N'RIO
2031IFSSH/IFSH
Triennial Congress

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