



## IFSSH NEWSLETTER

August 2018

The IFSSH Executive Committee (ExCo) and Delegates' Council met in Copenhagen during the June, 2018 XXII FESSH Congress. The ExCo and IFSSH Delegates are indeed grateful for the hospitality extended to the IFSSH ExCo and Delegates by the FESSH leadership Dr. Michel Boeckstyns (Congress President) and Dr. Maurizio Calcagni (FESSH Secretary-General).

The ExCo meeting was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. All ExCo members were in attendance. The Delegates' Council Meeting was held the following day and was attended by 29 Delegates along with delegates from the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH), the FESSH, the South American Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand, Hand and Wrist Biomechanics International, and the congress chairs of the upcoming 2019 Berlin (Dr. Jörg van Schoonhoven) and 2022 London (Dr. David Shewring) IFSSH Congresses.

Dr. Zsolt Szabo, IFSSH President, addressed the Delegates and stated that the dissemination of hand surgery knowledge, particularly to those areas of the world which are underserved by hand surgeons, is the one of the IFSSH's most important activities. He pointed out the IFSSH stands ready to support regional and local hand surgery congresses and fellowships. He reminded the Delegates that the IFSSH has created the Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship which is designed to provide up to \$20,000 to support the visit of a qualified senior hand surgeon to a hand surgery centre. (Please go to the IFSSH website for more information on the Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship <http://ifssh.info/fellowship-grants.html> and [http://www.ifssh.info/Educational Sponsorship Guidelines.pdf](http://www.ifssh.info/Educational_Sponsorship_Guidelines.pdf) for information regarding the IFSSH sponsorship guidelines.) Dr. Szabo stressed that the success of the IFSSH outreach endeavours rests squarely on the shoulders of the IFSSH member societies. The Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) stands ready to support hand surgery education but the IFSSH member societies are the primary originators of such educational events.

The Committee for Educational Sponsorship (Dr. Marc Garcia-Elias (chair), Dr. Goo Hyun Baek and Dr. Raja Sabapathy with input from Dr. David Warwick) has funded two applications for support since the Delegates' Council last met in San Francisco. Dr. Zuidam of the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgery of the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, Netherlands, was awarded a grant of \$10,000 in support of the Esser Masterclass series. The Esser Masterclasses are anatomy-based hands-on-courses that provide education in the field of hand surgery and are endorsed by the Netherlands Society for Surgery of the Hand. In keeping with the general philosophy of the IFSSH to support those in need, the ExCo provided this grant with the stipulation the money be used to reduce the registration fee for those physicians in need of financial assistance. The grant was also to be used to support

the online education platform that will allow the Esser Masterclass resources to be shared with those who cannot physically attend the courses. A second grant was provided to Dr Mohamed Abdelrahman, a plastic surgeon from Sudan, to enable him to undertake further hand surgery training in Shandong, China. Dr. Abdelrahman's grant request was supported by the Association of Chinese-Speaking Hand Surgeons United and was very carefully reviewed. It was felt that furthering Dr. Abdelrahman's hand surgery education had the potential to significantly impact the quality of hand surgery in Sudan. As per the IFSSH Protocols, each recipient of a grant will provide the IFSSH with a written report of their experience which will be shared with the IFSSH member societies through the Ezine and Newsletter.

Dr. Goo Hyun Baek, the Secretary General Elect and Dr. Raja Sabapathy, the Member-at-Large, presented recommendations to clarify and simplify the grant application process. Their recommendations were reviewed by the ExCo and will be communicated to the Delegates in an upcoming Newsletter.

The ability to support educational grants of course, is dependent on the financial health of the IFSSH. Dr. Daniel Nagle the IFSSH Secretary General, updated the Delegates on the IFSSH finances and was happy to report the organization is financially healthy and is well positioned to continue to provide educational grants. The funds of the IFSSH are conservatively invested and continue to grow and generate revenue used to help fund the IFSSH philanthropic endeavours.

Dr. Steven Hovius, the Chair of the Hand and Wrist section of the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM), provided an overview of the ICHOM project. The Hand and Wrist project will look at the existing hand surgery outcome measurement tools and design a core set of measurements that would be applicable for the most frequently performed hand surgery procedures. Dr. Hovius asked for IFSSH endorsement and financial support of the project. The IFSSH delegates agreed the ICHOM would be of benefit to world hand surgery and voted unanimously to endorse the project and provide it with a \$10,000 grant.

The IFSSH Historian, Dr. David Warwick, has been leading the charge to bring the IFSSH communications capabilities into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He along with Dr. Sabapathy and our Webmaster Santhosh Kumar have been diligently updating the IFSSH website which will go live in the near future. In addition to the website update Dr. Warwick has been investigating how the IFSSH might benefit from the use of "social media." Thanks to Dr. Warwick the IFSSH now has a Twitter account. Dr. Warwick has been busy uploading Tweets of the recent Copenhagen meeting and I encourage you to follow the IFSSH at @IFSSHHand.

We are now moving toward the 14th Triennial IFSSH congress that will be held in Berlin June 17 -21, 2019. The hosting German Society for Surgery of the Hand (DGH) and the German Society for Hand Therapy (DAHTh) during a recent site visit, provided a thorough tour of the congress venue and overview of the meeting educational and social activities to Dr. Szabo and Dr. Nagle as well as to Anne Wajon (President of the IFSHT). Dr. Jörg van Schoonhoven and Dr. Max Haerle, members of

the local organizing committee, were most gracious hosts during the Berlin site visit. The new Berlin CUBE Congress Center will serve our needs well and the city of Berlin offers a dazzling array of cultural and gastronomic options. The local hosts have made a commitment to provide excellent educational content at an affordable price. I hope to see you at the Berlin CUBE June 17 -21, 2019!

Best wishes to all from the IFSSH Executive Committee.

Dan

Daniel J. Nagle MD  
Secretary General IFSSH

### **MESSAGE FROM THE IFSSH NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Delegates and societies are reminded that Pioneer nominations for outstanding and exceptional contribution to hand surgery must be received by the administrative office by December 17th, 2018. Nominations must follow the format detailed in the previous IFSSH newsletter and be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, which is listed on the website, along with the checklist document confirming that all criteria have been completed.

Nominations for President-Elect, Secretary General-Elect, Historian and Member-at-large will be considered at the Berlin IFSSH Congress Delegates' Council meeting. These nominations must be received from a member society, signed by the society President and the society IFSSH delegate, or from members of the IFSSH Executive Committee, and may be received up to and including the time of the Delegates' Council meeting (according to current By-laws). However, we recommend that nominations be forwarded to the IFSSH administrative office by December 17th, 2018. It is intended that delegates consider an amendment to the By-laws at the Berlin meeting to establish this more formal process of nomination to the Executive Committee.

Michael Tonkin  
Chair, IFSSH Nominating Committee

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **Triennial IFSSH Congresses**

XIVth IFSSH – XIth IFSHT Congress – **Berlin, Germany**

**17-21 June, 2019**

[www.ifssh-ifsht2019.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2019.com)

**XVth IFSSH – XIIth IFSHT Congress – London, United Kingdom  
2022 (Dates to be confirmed)**

**National and Regional hand surgery meetings**

Please see announcements in the Ezine and IFSSH website.