

IFSSH Newsletter – September 2011

2011 Delegates' Council Meeting

The 2011 IFSSH Delegates' Council meeting was held in September, in Las Vegas, USA, in conjunction with the annual congress of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH). This meeting was well attended, with delegates from 22 member nations along with representatives of regional federations and related groups joining the Executive Committee to discuss important matters of the IFSSH.

These discussions led to exciting new developments, including:

1. **Educational Bursaries and Grants** – The IFSSH treasury is in a sound position and it is recognised that a proportion of these funds should be allocated to the education and teaching goals of the IFSSH. The Executive and Delegates agreed that up to 75 percent of the financial growth of the treasury (reviewed annually) could be used for such purposes and a committee will be formed to assess applications and administer funds. The Committee for Educational Bursaries and Grants will be chaired by the IFSSH Secretary-General Elect, currently Marc Garcia Elias, and include the IFSSH Member-at-Large, a representative of the forthcoming triennial congress committee, and members of geographical representation. Dr Garcia Elias will distribute updates on this initiative in future editions of the ezine.

The IFSSH Executive appealed to all Delegates and their society members to propose methods of utilisation of these funds and submit applications for worthy projects. The current guidelines are available on the IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info).

2. **Regional Education Project** – The Executive put forward a proposal to establish a regional education project, involving financially and educationally supporting an annual course which would rotate through the geographic regions. This concept would involve a local organiser defining a suitable course topic based on the needs of the region. The IFSSH would support the free participation, accommodation and catering of 20-25 young hand surgeons from the surrounding countries selected by the national societies

This proposal was accepted by the Delegates' Council and the 2012 inaugural course will be held in Hungary, where an Eastern European hand Surgery Course will be organised with participants from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Albania.

Applications for the 2013 Regional Educational Course in another geographical region may be submitted early next year and discussed and decided in June 2012 at the next IFSSH Delegates Council meeting. Detailed information on this Regional Education Project is available on the IFSSH website.

3. **Dues structure** – As discussed in previous Delegates' Council Meetings, it has been noted that a large portion of the IFSSH dues income results from a small number of societies. To recognise this contribution, it has been suggested that

large societies pay their dues under a new formula, that being \$100 per society plus \$10 per member capped at 700 members. Above the 700 members, these societies will then only pay one third of the current rate. For example, if a society has 900 members, under the current system they would contribute \$9100 (\$100 plus \$10 x 900). Under the new proposal, this would become \$7766 (\$100 plus \$10 x 700 plus \$10 x 200/3). This proposal was voted and accepted by the Delegates' Council. The IFSSH Executive and Delegates will continue to discuss the feedback of the involved societies to this proposal.

Detailed information, including the President's report, the Secretary General's report and Federation reports will be published in future Newsletters.

The IFSSH Executive expresses its thanks to the ASSH for their assistance in hosting this annual business meeting.

Ezine

An outstanding third issue of the IFSSH ezine was published in August. The IFSSH President, and Editor of the ezine, Ulrich Mennen, reminded delegates that they are essential in the distribution process. If individuals are not receiving the ezine, the link to each edition is available on the IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info) and any individual can subscribe to this free resource via these links.

IFSSH website

The IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info) is continually updated with society details. If your society wishes to place details of its annual meeting on this website, please also inform the secretariat and include details of the dates, location and website/email for enquiries.

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:

XIIth IFSSH - IXth IFSSH Congress - New Delhi, India.
4th - 8th March, 2013

XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina
2016

The next IFSSH Delegates Council will be held during the forthcoming IFSSH Congress in Antwerpen, Belgium: 21st -23rd June, 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Zsolt Szabo

Secretary-General, IFSSH