



IFSSH Newsletter

April 2016

Presidential Message - Join us in Buenos Aires for the 50th birthday celebrations of the IFSSH

The 13th IFSSH Congress will be held in conjunction with the 10th IFSHT Congress in Buenos Aires, 24-28 October 2016. This is the first IFSSH Congress to be held in South America. May I welcome you all to Buenos Aires, the Paris of the South, with its magnificent architecture, broad boulevards, opera, museums, and the remarkable surrounding countryside of Argentina, its coast, mountains, waterfalls, vineyards and Antarctic southern regions.

The scientific programme combines the expertise of Eduardo R. Zancolli and his scientific committee with that of the Argentinian therapists led by Beatriz Inés Piso, in conjunction with the guidance of the IFSHT. The list of speakers attests to an international presence from Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Argentina formally joined the IFSSH as an individual society in 1979, but the South American societies were represented by the combined South American society from 1967. Eduardo A. Zancolli, the Honorary President of the Buenos Aires congress, played a major role as did the Brazilian Society, which was one of the eight founding IFSSH societies in 1966.

We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in Buenos Aires. It is fitting to remember the words of the late Miguel Vargas Busquets from Puerto Rico, who was Secretary-General from 1989 until his untimely death in 1993. He wrote that "the concept of a mother organisation that acts as a universal umbrella and the creation of new societies worldwide is spectacular".

Join us for our 50th anniversary and embrace the flamboyant and sensuous culture of Buenos Aires and Argentina.

Michael Tonkin
IFSSH President

Historian Message

We have recently compiled extensive IFSSH archives containing administrative and financial histories, member nation information, congress material, Pioneer awards, etc. The IFSSH will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its formation at the 2016 Buenos Aires Congress and therefore the material in the archives is of great importance.

We welcome contributions of any relevant information that you may have.

In particular, we seek copies of the minutes of the following meetings:

Executive Committee - 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Delegates Council - June 2000 (Barcelona, Spain).

Please forward any contributions to administration@ifssh.info.

Frank Burke
IFSSH Historian

2016 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting

This year's annual IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting will be conducted in Buenos Aires, in conjunction with the triennial IFSSH Congress - October 24-28. Full details will be provided nearer to the meeting.

IFSSH Membership

The IFSSH currently consists of 56 member societies. We welcome applications from hand surgery societies to join the IFSSH.

The requirements for membership are:

1. The applying society must be a bona fide organization whose individual members have a major interest in surgery of the hand,
2. The applicant society shall have been in existence for at least two years,
3. The society shall submit a list of officers and members, its constitution (or Bylaws) and the requirements for admission of members,
4. Each applicant society shall be sponsored by three Council delegates.

Applications are considered by the IFSSH Executive Committee and Delegates' Council at the annual meeting (Buenos Aires, October 2016). Societies interested in applying for membership should contact the IFSSH secretariat: administration@ifssh.info.

2022 IFSSH Congress Host Society

The IFSSH Executive Committee has recommended that member societies from the European region* be invited to host the 2022 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 society hosting the event will be selected from applications six years before at the annual Delegates' Council meeting. Those societies from countries which also have a hand therapy association/society should discuss the possibility of hosting a combined meeting. The societies which are applicants must submit a formal petition to the Secretary General at least three months ahead of the Council meeting. The same documentation should be sent to each member country delegate and IFSSH representative for evaluation at least three months before the Council Meeting.

Therefore, any European member society that is interested in hosting the 2022 IFSSH Congress should inform the IFSSH Executive of their intentions and ensure that the full bid is forwarded, as detailed in the instructions above, by July 24th 2016, for consideration at the Buenos Aires meeting.

Information regarding the application process is on the IFSSH website: <http://ifssh.info/guidelines.html>

**The IFSSH member societies have been geographically grouped according to United Nations data. The IFSSH "European" region consists of: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom*

For the purposes of the IFSSH congress rotation system, the two IFSSH member nations that lie within the African region - Egypt and South Africa - have been aligned with the European region and are therefore also able to bid for the 2022 Congress.

Pioneers of Hand Surgery

The IFSSH awards "Pioneer of Hand Surgery" status to a person who excels exceptionally, beyond what is normally expected, in the field of hand surgery. These honours are awarded at each IFSSH triennial congress.

The nomination must come from a member society, not an individual, and should be reserved for those with outstanding achievements. Details of the criteria and nomination process are available on the IFSSH website: <http://ifssh.info/pioneers.html>

The deadline for submitting nominations for the Buenos Aires congress is April 24th, 2016.

Educational Sponsorship / IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor

The IFSSH invites applications for funding assistance of educational projects. These may be worthy education projects of any description and are awarded funding on a competitive basis, after assessment by the IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship.

In addition to the general funding available, specific grants are also available to:

- provide financial assistance to the organisation of Hand Surgery **regional education courses**;
- assist hand surgeons from poor or developing communities to attend an IFSSH triennial Congress through the provision of **IFSSH Congress Assistance Grants**; and
- promote the international exchange of hand surgery knowledge by sponsoring an **IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor** to an appropriate hand surgery education programme.

General applications can be submitted for assessment at any time throughout the year, but should be received at least three months in advance of when the funding is required. Full details of the application process, and further information regarding the specific grant categories, are on the IFSSH website: <http://ifssh.info/fellowship-grants.html>

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 IFSHT Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 24-28, 2016
www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com

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



Marc Garcia-Elias

Secretary-General, IFSSH

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