



## MINUTES

### DELEGATES' COUNCIL MEETING

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 12.30-14.30  
Room G, Poznan International Fair Congress Centre  
Poznan, Poland

J Urbaniak (President) called the meeting to order at 12:45 and welcomed Delegates.

Dr Urbaniak requested Michael Tonkin (Secretary-General) chair the meeting.

#### 1. Present

James Urbaniak (President, USA)  
Ulrich Mennen (President Elect, South Africa)  
Michael Tonkin (Secretary-General, Australia)  
Zsolt Szabo (Secretary-General Elect, Hungary)  
Belinda Smith (Administrative Secretary, Australia)

Eduardo Zancolli III (Argentina)  
Stephen Coleman (Australia)  
Jean Goubau (Belgium)  
Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany)  
Muneaki Abe (Japan)  
Goo Hyun Baek (Korea)  
T Sara Ahmad (Malaysia)  
Roohi Ahmad (Malaysia)  
Nuno Rebezo (Portugal)  
Alexandru Georgescu (Romania)  
Ileana Matei (Romania)  
Jan-Raugner Havstedt (Scandinavia - Norway)  
Michael Carides (South Africa)  
Enrique MacKenney (Spain)  
Esther Vogelín (Switzerland)  
Tufan Kaleli (Turkey/Hand Trauma Committee)  
Huseyin Brylam (Turkey)  
Geoffrey Hooper (United Kingdom)  
Peter Amadio (USA AASH)  
Judy Colditz (IFSHT President)

**- Member nation updates**

**Society contact details**

M Tonkin requested all Delegates provide updated contact details if applicable.

**2. Apologies**

W Cooney  
A Pardini  
R Sabapathy

**3. Proxies**

Nil

**4. Election of new member societies**

No formal applications. M Tonkin informed Delegates that Ireland, Georgia and Guatemala are all interested in applying for IFSSH Member Society status. Russia and China are in communication.

**5. Confirmation of previous minutes – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Accepted: P Amadio (proposed), G Hooper (seconded)

**6. Matters arising from previous minutes**

**a. Member society contact details**

M Tonkin informed the Delegates Council that the secretariat is unable to contact Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand and Venezuela.

M Tonkin requested that Delegates with contacts in these countries pass on this message.

**b. Charter**

M Tonkin advised articles VIIIa and Article XB2 were altered following the motion passed at the 2008 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting.

***VIIIa: A quorum, consisting of more than half the number of delegates, or their appointed representative, shall be required for the transaction of business. Voting may be closed by ballot, upon the request of any delegate. A majority vote of members present is required for a decision. A society is unable to vote at the Delegates' Council Meeting if outstanding dues are present for three years.***

***XB2:*** *In the event that a constituent society becomes delinquent in the payment of dues for a period of three years or more, they may, after appropriate notification has been sent, by unanimous consent of the Council, be excluded from the Federation. The Council may forgive delinquency of dues payment as it deems appropriate. However, if outstanding dues are present for three years, that society is unable to vote at the Delegates' Council Meeting.*

**c. Historian re-election**

M Tonkin advised that Bill Cooney retracted the resignation offered at last year's meeting and has returned to the role of IFSSH Historian.

**d. Proposal: Selection of Congress hosts and venues**

See General Business

**e. Proposal: Fee schedules**

- Congress fees
- Subscription rates

See General Business

**7. President's Report**

J Urbaniak circulated his report.

*IFSSH Presidential Report  
June 3 and 4, 2009  
Poznan, Poland*

*The primary responsibility of the President is to preside over the meetings of the Executive Committee and Council, and he also has the obligation to organize the various committee chairs and members. The number of committees has increased from six in 1996 to currently 30. The productivity of the committees has been variable since their origination. The initial charges of the committees have been to establish the adoption of the standards of nomenclature classification and evaluation and recommended treatment for hand injuries and diseases. A few committees have produced monographs and extensive and comprehensive reports while others have been relatively inactive. This is understandable because of the international makeup of these committees, however electronic communications have made these tasks much easier and currently there are at least four reports on the IFSSH internet web page.*

*The committee members have varied slightly over the years and everyone who has volunteered to participate on a committee has been included. I have made an effort to simplify the charges of the committees for their reports at the 2010 Congress in Korea. The committee chairs have been asked to focus on one particular subject or they can just answer one important question about their area. I have received initial responses from just over half the committees and they will receive constant reminders during the next year.*

*In an effort to involve all member societies in the Federation, my “presidential project” has been to publish a book entitled “Hand Surgery – Worldwide – International Reconstruction of a Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind”. This book will be co-authored with me by Dr Baek of Korea, Dr Soucacos of Greece and Dr Levin of the USA. All 50 member countries will be represented in this historic document. The book will be comprised of three sections: 1. History and description of hand surgery in each country, 2. Twenty-six clinical topics with contributions from each or most countries, 3. Glossary – member society demographics. The book will include many illustrations representative of each country especially as it pertains to hand usage related to culture, work, sports or injuries of the particular country. The book will be published by Elsevier International Publishing Country and be completed for distribution at the November 2010 Congress in Seoul, Korea, at a reasonable price.*

*To date we have received positive responses from 41 of the 50 countries and 24 of 26 clinical authors. It is my goal to obtain positive responses from the remaining countries while at the meeting. I encourage any individuals who are interested in participating to contact me directly. We are confident that this book will make the world more aware of hand surgery in all of our member countries. Because of the planned artistic design and scope of the book, we anticipate that it will be of interest to many individuals, not just hand surgeons.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
James R. Urbaniak, M.D.*

Discussion: Nil.

## **8. Secretary-General’s Report**

Report previously circulated to all Delegates and Societies:

### ***IFSSH Funds***

*On the debit side, there has been a significant downturn in our funds as detailed in the Treasurer’s Report. This is due to a 33% loss of capital in our investment account, consistent with the global economic conditions. This is balanced a little by the improvement in the level of our cash management account as a consequence of improvement in the receipt of annual subscription dues.*

### ***Bursary Grant***

*The Executive Committee has approved a one-off Hand Fellowship bursary grant at Baragwanath Hospital, University of Johannesburg, to support the training of young surgeons from financially-disadvantaged African countries.*

### ***IFSSH website***

*The IFSSH website is active and contains much invaluable information. The Executive Committee is indebted to the efforts of Raja Sabapathy and his team, who maintain this website. All material is placed on it through the office of the Secretary-General. It does depend upon the Secretary-General receiving information from the Delegates of member societies, who are encouraged to forward society or regional news for inclusion. The website also contains regular newsletters. These newsletters are published in the American Journal of Hand Surgery, the European Journal of Hand Surgery and the Asia-Pacific journal – Hand Surgery.*

### ***Congress venues and hosts***

*The Executive Committee has worked throughout the last year to prepare a fair proposal for discussion regarding a geographic rotation of IFSSH Congress venues and hosts and this proposal is presented for comment. It has been necessary to comply with certain historical guidelines and, of course, to satisfy the demands of the IFSSH Charter. Hopefully, following discussion at the Delegates' Council, a fair consensus can be agreed but one which does take into account the over-riding principles with which we must comply.*

### ***IFSSH Congress fees/IFSSH annual subscription rates***

*There has been a great deal of discussion regarding possible support for members from financially disadvantaged countries. Proposals will be presented to the Delegates' Council regarding this matter, pertaining to costs of attendance at our triennial Congresses and variable rates of subscription dues. The FESSH meetings have incorporated consideration of the former into their Congress costs. Our discussions for IFSSH Congresses may be based on the experience of the current FESSH practices.*

### ***IFSSH Historian***

*The Executive Committee was delighted when Bill Cooney retracted his resignation from the position of IFSSH Historian. We welcome him back.*

*We look forward to a successful meeting in Seoul, Korea, next year and beyond that in New Delhi, India, in 2013. We encourage all society members to attend.*

*I would express my own gratitude to the Delegates of all Member Societies for their responses to my communications throughout the last year. Finally, may I pay tribute to Belinda Smith, our Administrative Secretary, whose work is invaluable.*

#### **Discussion:**

J Goubau advised that not all information forwarded to Delegates from secretariat is passed on to individual members. He asked that the secretariat forward correspondence to more than one person per society if requested. M Tonkin advised that we rely on being provided with this direction and are willing to do so if requested. He pointed out that most information forwarded to Delegates is placed on the IFSSH website.

*Individual members should contact the secretariat if they wish to receive additional correspondence.*

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Report previously circulated to all Delegates and Societies.

*Balance sheets are attached.*

*Total funds as of June 30th 2008 totalled \$688,684.05 made up of the Fidelity investment account totalling \$436,851.02 and the Wachovia bank cheque account of \$251,833.03.*

*The current total is \$574454.14, made up of \$288,893.33 in the investment account and \$285,560.81 in the bank account.*

*The 33% loss in the investment account reflects changes in the global economy. The increase in cash management funds results from receipt of subscription fees minus expenses and a \$15,000 bursary to the Baragwanath Hand Fellowship in Johannesburg, South Africa.*

M Tonkin advised the current total funds has increased to US\$599,633 since report compiled.

***Financial report accepted: P Amadio (proposed), T Ahmad (seconded).***

## **10. Historian's Report**

W Cooney sent apologies and forwarded his report which was presented by M Tonkin and has indicated that he will also be contacting societies for updates for the archives.

## **11. 11<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Congress – Seoul, 31<sup>st</sup> October - November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

GH Baek advised that Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand (KSSH) representatives have been promoting the 2010 IFSSH Congress at many international meetings over the past few years.

First announcement distributed to Delegates.

Website active.

Abstract deadline set for 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010, notification 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

GH Baek reported that the Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand (JSSH) is now unable to host a post-congress meeting due to JSSH incorporation problems. J Urbaniak asked Delegates to consider if any other societies would like to host a pre- or post-Congress meeting.

J Urbaniak asked GH Baek to comment on political situation in Korea. GH Baek advised that this is only a problem as perceived by foreigners and the KSSH feels it is quite safe. At a local level there is no concern for safety but that the KSSH is worried that foreign attendees may be wary of visiting.

## **12. 12<sup>th</sup> IFSSH Congress – New Delhi, 2013**

R Sabapathy forwarded his apologies and a report which was presented by M Tonkin.

*Greetings to all the members of the executive of the IFSSH. Due to certain commitments I am not able to personally present this report on the progress made towards organization of the 12th Triennial Congress of the IFSSH and the 9th Triennial Congress of the IFSSH in 2013. I will be grateful if you could convey the following information to the council.*

*1. The executive of the ISSH met at Coimbatore on 22nd Feb 2009 and discussed the preparations for the IFSSH 2013. As the first step they elected Dr S Raja Sabapathy to be the Organizing Chairman for the 2013 congress. He was authorized to assume the responsibilities and perform the necessary duties towards the preparations for the congress on behalf of the Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand. The individual committee*

*chairpersons would be decided after the ISSH meet in New Delhi in Dec 2009 and the full team will be in place before the IFSSH 2010.*

*2. The venue will be New Delhi and the provisional dates are **4th to 8th March 2013** (Monday to Friday). The IFSSH executive is requested to approve the dates. Alternate dates would be 11th to 15th March 2009. The weather at that time in New Delhi would be **10 deg to 20 deg Celsius**. November to Feb is the peak season in Delhi and hotel rates are high. So we have chosen the first week of March when the weather is almost the same and we get better rates.*

*3. The executive of the IFSHT has confirmed their participation in the meeting and we are very happy to say that it will be a combined congress. This followed a series of discussions we had with the executive council members of IFSHT at the previous APFSSH (Hong Kong) and the FESSH (Lausanne) meetings.*

*4. A **Contract** has been signed between the **ISSH and the IFSHT** for the participation of IFSHT. (Ms Judy Colditz **and** Ms Sarah Ewald, President and Secretary General of IFSHT and Dr T Chadraprakasam and Dr S Raja Sabapathy, President and Chairman from the Hosting Society signed the contract)*

*5. As a further impetus to therapists participation we have invited Ms Lynne Feehan, (who will be the President of IFSHT in 2013) to this year's ISSH meet at New Delhi in Dec 2009 as a special Guest and we also hope to conduct a separate therapist session.*

*6. Few venues have been shortlisted but we would like to wait till 2010 before confirming them. By June 2010 we would have drawn the contracts.*

*7. We understand that we will only have **2 years 4 months** after the Seoul Meeting. We are doing all the ground work now and are actively spreading the message of the meeting during our participation in all international meetings.*

*8. All the members of the ISSH look forward to welcoming you to India.*

*With kind regards*

*Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy, MS, M.Ch, DNB, FRCS(Ed), MAMS  
Congress Chairman,  
12th Triennial Congress of the IFSSH and the 9th Triennial Congress of the IFSHT  
New Delhi*

Discussion: Nil

### 13. International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT) Report

J Colditz thanked IFSSH for invitation to attend and continual support. Presented report as follows:



#### REPORT TO IFSSH

*From: International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy  
Poznan, Poland  
June 2009*

*Judy C. Colditz, President*

#### **ORGANIZATION**

- *Membership*
  - *Upcoming: Spain and Hong Kong as full members; Bahrain and Mexico as associate members at our next Triennial Meeting.*
  - *Possible new “membership” category of Corresponding Federations:*
    - *IFSSH*
    - *South American Society of Hand Therapy*
    - *European Federation of Societies of Hand Therapists*
    - *Asia Pacific Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy*
    - *American Association for Hand Surgery (therapy members)*
    - *La Federacion de Mano (Central American & Caribbean hand surgery/ hand therapy society)*

#### **COMMUNICATION**

- *Following a April 2008 face-to-face meeting in the USA, the IFSHT EXCO has continued to meet at least quarterly via Skype phone calls.*
- *IFSHT Update, continues to be published in the US and the British Journals of Hand Therapy and distributed to all member countries.*
- *THE IFSHT website ([www.ifsht.org](http://www.ifsht.org)) is being upgraded so all member countries can update their information and IFSHT historical and current documents can be archived.*
- *Many therapists do not speak English. We are recruiting translators for our website and as well as informal Spanish translators at our Triennial Meeting.*
- *We are seeking contact information of therapists in countries without a hand therapy society who have an IFSSH delegate.*

#### **SOCIETY ACTIVITIES**

- *IFSHT has supported the following special projects with grants of US\$500.00 each:*
  - *Hand Therapist teaching trip to Moldova*
  - *Travel for therapist from Armenia to France for study.*
  - *Hand Therapist teaching trip to Peru*
- *IFSHT has received a donation of 218 hand grip dynamometers which will be distributed to hand therapy initiatives in developing countries via personal delivery.*

#### **IFSHT TRIENNIAL MEETING**

- *The next IFSHT Triennial Congress will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA June 24-26, 2010. The website is [www.hands2010.com](http://www.hands2010.com).*



- *We are working to raise funds for sponsorship for therapists who cannot afford to travel to Orlando. We encourage surgeons to assist local therapists if possible.*
- *In 2013 IFSHT will meet jointly with IFSSH in India.*
- *IFSHT has to date received no bids for the 2016 IFSHT Triennial Congress.*

Discussion: Nil

#### **14. Asia-Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) Report**

M Tonkin presented the APFSSH report provided by YK Tu and P Songcharoen.

*8<sup>th</sup> APFSSH Congress, Taiwan, November 13-15, 2009:*

*The programme and further information is now available on the website [www.apfssh2009.org](http://www.apfssh2009.org)*

*Professor Ikuta has been invited to present the Tajima Lecture.*

*There will be at least 31 invited speakers, and we are actually waiting for more recommendation names from China, Hong Kong, and Korea.*

*A number of free papers have been submitted, and we are expecting more to come.*

*We will have a "2 and half day" scientific program, and we will also have an official APFSSH administrative meeting on November 12, 2009 (one day prior to conference).*

*Pre-Congress Instructional Course for Adult Brachial Plexus Injuries*

*November 10-11, 2009, Taoyuan, Taiwan.*

*Convenor: David Chuang. Website: <http://bpi2009.idv.tw>*

Discussion: Nil

#### **15. Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH) Report**

M Tonkin presented the FESSH provided by M Ceruso.

##### *FESSH REPORT FOR THE IFSSH DELEGATES COUNCIL MEETING*

*One of the main issues of this year has been cooperating with UEMS, a representation of all medical specialists in the European Union (celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) with the aim of reaching an official recognition of Hand Surgery as an Added Qualification. F.E.S.S.H., by having its own training programme and a 12 years' history in examination, already meets the necessary requirements, and this year the FESSH Diploma Examination is being held under the umbrella of UEMS.*

*Thanks to the ongoing collaboration between UEMS and FESSH a Multidisciplinary Joint Committee (MJC), with the participations of representatives of the various Sections involved, has recently been established and has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year. One of the intents is to form a European Board in Hand Surgery having to manage examination and accreditation. The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of MJC in Hand Surgery will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Brussels.*

*Another important appointment is the CESMA meeting (Council of European Specialist Medical Assessment) in which FESSH participates represented by the Secretary General,*

*Dr Massimo Ceruso and other members of the Council. CESMA has a list of forthcoming exams to be included in the menu, among which the FESSH one.*

*As a European Federation, there are FESSH members from 24 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom); plus 4 corresponding members (Israel, Lithuania, Slovak Republic, South Africa).*

*The process of centralisation of all FESSH administrative tasks in one single central office – Asszisztencia, a professional managing group from Budapest - on a European basis, has been fully achieved and is proceeding with success.*

*As far as the yearly Junior and Senior Fellowships in Hand Surgery, information is available and constantly updated on the FESSH website. The chairmanship of the Hand Surgery Training Committee, recently taken over by Dr David Warwick from UK, manages these fellowships. A precise report and further advertisement on these opportunities offered by the Federation will be detailed during the Annual FESSH Congress Meeting in Poznan.*

*The Journal of Hand Surgery Committee (chaired by Dr Thierry Dubert, France) has worked on the network of hand surgery training centres to be established all over Europe and a list of the accredited centres in the various countries has been published and is available on the FESSH website and will be also included in the Journal of Hand Surgery (European volume).*

*The FESSH/UEMS Diploma Examination session of this year (under the care of the chairman of the Examination Committee, Dr Zsolt Szabo, Hungary) has been organized, and will be held in Poznan, immediately before the FESSH congress.*

*As for the Research Committee, its chairman Dr Jan Fridén has carried out a survey with 800 tetraplegic patients, inquiring about their priorities. The responses confirmed that arm/hand function is the highest one and therefore that hand surgeons have a tremendous responsibility to this community. What we should improve by surgery is not only the performance of being treated, but also his/her satisfaction with that performance. One of the aims of this survey is to show the benefit for the society, too. An investigation was financed by the health authority of Iceland, where 8 patients were involved in evaluating their abilities before and after reconstruction. 100% of these patients needed assistance before reconstruction. After reconstruction every patient's ability had improved with an average of 28%. Multiplying the cost of continuous treatment paid for by society over an average of 40 years, it is surely a win-win situation for the patient, for society and for hand surgery as well. That is the background for which FESSH was approached in order to guide colleagues how to train surgeons and how to take responsibility for tetraplegic patients. The Fellowship on Reconstructive Hand Surgery in Tetraplegia offered by Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Göteborg, Sweden was also very important. The aim of the fellowship is to strengthen the participating physician's skill in surgical reconstruction of hand function in tetraplegia. The program is the foundation for future collaboration within a network of experts and the development of this particular subspecialty in the applicant's home country. The training will provide insights into all aspects of the process of examining, treating and training patients with tetraplegia undergoing reconstructive upper extremity surgery. A research project is included in the program and reported during the course of the fellowship and a final*

*examination is also included. Information about this Fellowship is available on the FESSH website*

*Another activity of the Research Committee was to organize an Instructional Cadaver Course on Reconstructive Tetraplegia Hand Surgery in Budapest, Hungary. The Hungarian Society for Hand Surgery has supported this course, with the title "Tendon Transfer in Reconstructive Tetraplegia Hand Surgery" a cadaver course under the patronage of FESSH, in collaboration with the Hungarian Society for Medical Rehabilitation and the J6sa Andras Teaching Hospital of Ny6regyh6za. Participants were from 13 countries in Europe and they were able to benefit from this course, improving their knowledge in tetraplegia surgery.*

*An important role within the Federation has been taken over by the Historian, Dr Andreas Gobritz. His main objective is to provide an overview of the research and advances in European countries.*

*He has collected more than 150 articles on the internet from various journals, and having been contacted by A. Gobritz, the German Society for Surgery of the Hand is to implement a new scholarship under the name of Otto Hilgenfeldt in 2009 supported by the industry sector. Translations were made on Ernst Weber's 'The Sense of Touch' from 1834 and on Igino Tansini's description of the latissimus dorsi flap and his merits for modern flap surgery from 1906. He introduced the biography of Prof. Stefan Jellinek (1871-1968), pioneer of electrical injury therapy and the Electropathological Museum in Vienna open to the public earlier, where all kinds of electrical accidents were presented. Oscar Scaglietti, founder of the Italian Society for Surgery of the Hand and his famous text on 'Sindromi cliniche immediate e tardive da lesioni vascolari nelle fratture degli arti' - La Riforma Medica (1957) was also presented.*

*Next FESSH annual Congress will be held in Bucharest on 25-26 June 2010. Further information and all details are available on the FESSH website and in Poznan a desk will be provided to give all useful information about the Romanian edition of the FESSH event.*

*Yours sincerely  
Dr Massimo Ceruso  
Secretary General of FESSH*

Discussion: Z Szabo discussed FESSH Diploma and advances in MCQ book preparation. 26 candidates accepted to sit the 2009 examination. Information available on the FESSH website. Open to all individuals from IFSSH member societies.

## **16. South American Federation Report**

E Zancolli advised Argentina will be bidding for hosting rights of the 2016 IFSSH Congress. He noted the IFSSH Congress has not been awarded previously to South America, which provides a large contribution to hand surgery developments. He requested that the IFSSH consider a joint meeting.

Discussion:

J Colditz advised that South America has enthusiastic therapy groups but may need to resolve language problems. E Zancolli suggested that all meetings may be held with simultaneous English-Spanish translations.

M Tonkin reminded all Delegates of the guidelines for preparing a bid – available on IFSSH website or by contacting the secretariat. Indication of a formal bid must be forwarded to the Executive Committee three months prior to the next IFSSH meeting (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010). A copy of the bid submission must go to Delegates three months prior (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010). All countries that intend to submit a bid should discuss with IFSHT – not a mandatory requirement to hold a joint meeting but, in principle, this combination is supported.

J Colditz commented that the IFSHT needs to be contacted by the associated therapist society who would be preparing the IFSHT bid, rather than the surgeons. M Tonkin suggested that both would be appropriate.

## **17. La Federación de Mano Report**

P Amadio presented report.

Current members: US (x2 societies), Canada, Mexico and Latin-American societies.

La Federación de Mano will hold next half-day meeting in San Francisco (in association with ASSH meeting) in September.

La Federación de Mano to co-sponsor a meeting in conjunction with Mexican Society for Surgery of the Hand (led by Dr Gonzales).

Discussion:

E Zancolli advised Mexico has two societies – the official society no longer exists, but an unofficial organisation runs meetings.

## **18. Educational Bursary**

### **a. Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme**

See Secretary-General Report – further information available on IFSSH website.

## **19. IFSSH Website**

See Secretary-General Report – Dr Raja Sabapathy and Mr Santhosh Rajan acknowledged and thanked for their assistance with this.

## **20. IFSSH Newsletter**

See Secretary-General Report

## **21. IFSSH Pioneers**

Secretary-General will call for nominations in January 2010 for Pioneers to be recognised at Korea IFSSH Congress. Nominations must be received by June 2010.

**22. Correspondence (note: this does not include multiple email communications but summarises important correspondence)**

**a. Incoming**

1. **Guatemala Society for Surgery of the Hand (G. Lopez Paz, Guatemala. 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008)**  
Interested in IFSSH membership.  
No discussion
2. **IFSSH Committee: Hand Trauma (T. Kaleli, Turkey. 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008)**  
Z Szabo explained the role of Hand Trauma committee. This group becoming increasingly popular. Full details available on FESSH website. IFSSH not involved - responsibility lies with national societies.
3. **Dutch Hand Surgery history (J.C. van der Meulen. 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2008)**  
To be used in J Urbaniak's publication.
4. **Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme request for funding (J. Fleming, South Africa. 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008)**  
Bursary provided.  
Reports available on website.
5. **Egyptian Society for Surgery of the Hand (N. Naam, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2008)**  
Advised of changes to society.  
No discussion.
6. **Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme Summary (J. Fleming, South Africa. 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2008)**  
See above (item 22-a-4)
7. **Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme Report (O.G. Afulo, Kenya. 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2008)**  
See above (item 22-a-4)
8. **Terminology for Hand Surgery (A. Lluch, I. Leslie, G. Hooper, J. Dias, multiple communications, November/December, 2008)**  
Update terminology as IFSSH project – 5 languages of hand surgery terminology. 6000 copies published and distributed but now out of print. ExCo feel worthwhile.  
Delegates: T Ahmad spoke in favour. Few Delegates seen book. J Goubau asked where to find book, hence project worthwhile. G Hooper (co-author of original publication) recollects financial difficulties of hard copies and suggested website – original published by Elsevier and asked about copyright issues. J Urbaniak recalls approx \$20,000 spent on original project. G

Hooper advised many of these were in BSSH office. M Tonkin to pursue possibility of publication on IFSSH website.

9. **Scandinavian membership – individual countries (Matti Vastamaki. 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. J-R. Haugstvedt. 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2008)**  
Ongoing discussions as to member nation status – grouped or individual.
10. **Pioneers in Hand Surgery BSSH recommendations (F. Burke, United Kingdom, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2008)**  
Enquiry and recommendations forwarded. See Pioneers (item 21 above).
11. **Puerto Rico Society for Hand Surgery (R. Nevares, Puerto Rico. 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2009)**  
R Nevares advised that Puerto Rico's hand society ceased to exist, and now is a division of the medical specialist board.  
M Tonkin advised Delegates that this organisation remains within the criteria of IFSSH membership.  
M Tonkin to pursue renewed membership.
12. **Geographic rotation of host countries (A. Pemoff, Argentina, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2009)**  
Correspondence from Asociación Argentina de Cirugía de la Mano expressing Argentina's intent to bid for 2016 and their society's support for the host society/venue rotation proposal.
13. **Re: Irish Society for Surgery of the Hand IFSSH membership (K. Cronin, Ireland, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2009)**  
Expression of interest in joining IFSSH. M Tonkin to pursue.
14. **Terminology for Hand Surgery book (C. Lindberg, Sweden, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009)**  
Request from Swedish library for a copy of this publication. See item 22-a-8 above. M Tonkin to respond.
15. **Request for IFSHT scholarship (W. Brandsma, Ethiopia, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009)**  
Re-directed to J Colditz for further discussion.

**b. Outgoing**

1. **Re: IFSSH Committee: Hand Trauma (J. Urbaniak. 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2008)**
2. **Re: Dutch Hand Surgery history (J. Urbaniak. 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2008)**
3. **Re: Guatemala Society for Surgery of the Hand (M. Tonkin. 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2008)**
4. **Irish Society for Surgery of the Hand IFSSH membership (M. Tonkin, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2008)**

5. **Re: Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme request for funding (M. Tonkin. 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2008)**
6. **Egyptian Society for Surgery of the Hand (M. Tonkin, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2008)**
7. **Terminology for Hand Surgery (M. Tonkin, November/December, 2008)**

## 23. New business

### a. Proposal: Selection of Congress hosts and venues

At the IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting in Lausanne, June 2008, the matter of selection of IFSSH Congresses and Hosts was again discussed.

The minutes from that meeting pertaining to this matter have been distributed. As a consequence, the following proposal has been compiled by the IFSSH Executive Committee. This was distributed prior to this Delegates' Council Meeting.

M Tonkin presented the proposal paper – previously distributed to Delegates. Accompanying tables attached.

#### ***Discussion paper – Selection of IFSSH Congresses and Hosts***

*Proposal for discussion:*

*For selection of IFSSH venues and hosts:*

- *That IFSSH Member Societies be divided into three geographic regions:*
  1. *Asia / Oceania*
  2. *Europe*
  3. *The Americas*
- *That each geographic region be “weighted” according to (a) the number of societies and (b) the number of individual members within each of the respective regions – see Table 2.*
- *That a geographic rotation system be established, based on the “weight” of each region – see Table 3.*
- *That member societies of one specific geographic region be invited to apply for hosting rights for the IFSSH Congress according to the geographic rotation system.*
- *That submissions be invited from the next geographic region on the rotation list if there are no appropriate bids from the designated geographic region societies.*

- *That no single member society host a second Congress if there is a bid from a society which has not hosted a Congress. Some allowance is necessary to recognise that the societies of the United States make up about four-fifths of the member numbers within the geographic region of the Americas.*

*In implementing the above proposal, the following established guidelines must be taken into consideration:*

- *The host country bid must comply with IFSSH guidelines and the bid must remain a competitive process.*
- *The Executive Committee and the Delegates' Council must consider whether any particular bid is of reliable quality and whether the host country can fulfil its responsibilities.*
- *The ability to conduct a combined IFSSH/IFSHT Congress is preferred but is not an absolute pre-requisite.*
- *The principle of "best bid should win" remains the overriding principle of selection.*
- *The final decision is that of a majority of the IFSSH Delegates' Council.*

Discussion:

M Tonkin reminded Delegates' that all were asked to comment and the few responses have been taken into account. The ExCo feels that this proposal cannot apply for the 2016 meeting as bid preparation is already underway, but if the proposal was carried it could take into account the 2010, 2013 and 2016 locations and be effective as of the 2019 meeting.

M Tonkin explained that the bid must still be a competitive process, but within regions. If no country from the region wishes to place a bid, the next region in the rotation would be invited to do so.

To make this proposal fair, M Tonkin clarified the need for this rotation process to be weighted, with the weight of the number of societies in a particular region having a greater influence than the number of individual members per society/region.

E Zancolli commented that this rotation ideal is not reflected historically as South American societies have never hosted a Congress. J Urbaniak commented that South America has withdrawn bids in the past, therefore may have had opportunity if pursued. He reiterated that the bid process is dependent upon the enthusiasm of societies to participate and remains competitive.



M Tonkin advised that the previous three/four Congress venues should be taken into consideration if the proposal is accepted and applied from 2019 onwards, i.e. following the Korean and Indian Congresses:

- If Europe bids and wins for 2016, then 2019 would be allocated to the Americas.
- If the Americas bids and wins in 2016, then 2019 would be allocated to Europe.

J Urbaniak reminded Delegates that it is their Council that votes for the congress venue and therefore all Delegates must play an active role.

TS Ahmad noted the proposal involved a rotation for 9 Congresses and asked for details. M Tonkin explained that this rotation would be a set order, advised in advance, but with the factor remaining that if a particular region did not have any societies wishing to bid when their turn arose, then societies from the next region on the list would be invited to bid.

TS Ahmad congratulated M Tonkin on work presented in the proposal.

**Motion: To accept the “Selection of Congress Hosts and Venues” rotation proposal.**

*Accepted: M Tonkin (proposed), E Zancolli (seconded). All in favour.*

#### **b. Proposal: Fee schedules**

M Tonkin presented proposals based on the tables previously distributed to Delegates (attached).

##### **- Congress fees**

M Tonkin reported that the Host society and IFSSH may choose to subsidise individual members for congress registrations. This support already exists.

TS Ahmad enquired as to how this is monitored. M Tonkin advised that the concept of good faith applies: the applicant should apply to his or her national society and this request would be forwarded to the IFSSH if considered appropriate.

##### **- Subscription rates**

Proposal:

M Tonkin advised that the ExCo has looked at overall finances and noted that the IFSSH income relies on the payment of annual subscription dues.

Current annual dues rates are set at US\$100/society plus \$10/member.

The ExCo recognises that there is no absolutely fair way of measuring wealth and determination of subscription rates, but the World Bank classification is one of the better methods.

The ExCo suggested that to increase membership, and as a good-faith gesture, annual dues be reduced to US\$50/society plus \$5/member for member societies in World Bank classified “low income” and “low-middle income” countries. This would include: Egypt, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Iran, Thailand and Armenia under current assessments.

Other countries may lodge an application to the ExCo for review on an individual basis

Due to low member numbers in these “low income” and “low-middle income” countries, this alteration to the fee structure will not substantially affect IFSSH income.

Discussion:

E Zancolli commented that this should not be a static judgement. M Tonkin recognised this classification should be updated in each triennium. He noted that this alteration to the fee structure is not needed to be made as a change to the charter and hence can be updated as required.

M Tonkin advised a further method of assisting individuals can be with IFSSH Congress grants (see above).

J von Schoonhoven noted that the total number of members in low income and low-middle income countries is small (approx 200) and would benefit them without impacting on overall IFSSH funds. M Tonkin noted this is to encourage these memberships and provide collegiality.

**Motion: That subscription fees for “low income” and “low-middle income” countries be reduced to US\$50/society plus \$5/member and that this be reviewed at each triennial Congress.**

***Accepted: M Tonkin (proposed), TS Ahmad (seconded). All in favour.***

### **c. Location of annual Delegates’ Council Meetings**

E Zancolli noted that annual IFSSH Delegates’ Council Meetings are held in conjunction with FESSH (except that of the triennial IFSSH Congress year). He felt this may introduce a bias in the regional representation as difficult for members from South America, etc, to attend. M Tonkin

advised that proxies are always called for and are accepted to overcome any absence in Delegates during voting procedures.

J Urbaniak noted the Delegates' Council meetings were historically held in conjunction with FESSH conferences due to the concentrated membership population in Europe. This resulted in an increased attendance at the Delegates' Council Meetings.

M Tonkin suggested that the US could be considered as a potential meeting site to gain a different population of Delegates at some Council meetings.

E Zancolli requested that if the meetings remain within FESSH Congresses, the IFSSH Delegates' get gratis registration to attend. Z Szabo advised that Delegates are able to attend the IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting without payment of FESSH registration, but if wanting to attend Congress then need to pay. M Tonkin advised that it is not the right of the IFSSH to instruct local FESSH organisers to provide free registrations for delegates. Jean Goubau enquired if the IFSSH could pay for Delegates' to attend, and hence attract numbers. Z Szabo and U Mennen said that this is not suitable as social events, etc, all covered and the expense to IFSSH and FESSH would be too great. J Urbaniak questioned whether this could be done on a regional basis but also possibly not suitable. M Tonkin advised that Delegates should try to attend Council meetings, or nominate a replacement who is willing to be present, or finally to provide a written proxy if attendance is not possible.

**24. Next meeting of the Delegates' Council**  
**IFSSH Congress, Seoul, October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Meeting closed 2:15pm.