



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

DELEGATES' COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12 midday, Monday November 1st, 2010

Art Hall

Seoul, Korea

James Urbaniak (President) opened the meeting, welcomed Delegates and representatives and requested Michael Tonkin (Secretary-General) to chair the meeting.

Michael Tonkin welcomed Delegates and requested they collect the country-specific envelope provided and complete current contact details for both society and delegate to assist with secretariat communication.

1. Present

ExCo:

James Urbaniak (President) Ulrich
Mennen (President Elect) Michael
Tonkin (Secretary-General)
Zsolt Szabo (Secretary-General Elect; Hungary delegate)

Belinda Smith (Administrative Secretary)

Delegates and Guests:

Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina)
Stephen Coleman (Australia)
Werner Girsch (Austria)
Anne Lejeune (Belgium)
Don Lalonde (Canada)
Manuel Mendez (Chile)
B. Zalesak (Czech Republic)
Abdel-Hakim Massoud (Egypt)
Philippe Saffar (France)
Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany)
Panayotis Soucacos (Greece)
Raja Sabapathy (India; IFSSH 2013)
Paul Sagiv (Israel)
Mas Massoumi (Iran)
Roberto Adani (Italy)
Moroe Beppu (Japan)
Goo Hyun Baek (Korea; IFSSH 2010)
Moon Sang Chung (Korea; IFSSH 2010)
Roohi Ahmad (Malaysia)
Leszek Romanowski (Poland)
Alexandru Georgescu (Romania)
Jan-Ragnar Haugstvedt (Scandinavia)
Michael Solomons (South Africa)
Enrique Mackenney (Spain)
Esther Vogelin (Switzerland)
David Chwei-Chin Chuang (Taiwan)

Ada Sait (Turkey)
Rupert Eckersley (United Kingdom)
Peter Amadio (USA – AAHS)
Alex Shin (USA – ASSH)
W. Bruce Conolly (APFSSH President)
Lynne Feehan (IFSHT President)
Francisco del Pinal (IPRAS delegate)

NB: Not all guests have been listed.

2. Apologies

W Cooney (IFSSH Historian)
A Pardini (IFSSH Past-President)
Luiz Carlos Sobania (Brazil)
Hernando Leverde (Colombia)
Joao Mota de Costa (Portugal)
Jorge de Vecchi (Uruguay)
Ricardo Tobio Martel (Venezuela)

3. Proxies

Brazil
Colombia
Portugal
Uruguay
Venezuela

4. Election of new member societies

Michael Tonkin advised that the Georgian Hand Surgery Branch of Medical Foundation "Mkurnali" had applied for IFSSH membership and satisfied the criteria. Regrettably, Georgian representatives were unable to attend the Seoul Congress due to visa restrictions.

The Executive Committee recommended that Georgia be elected to membership of the IFSSH.

Motion put and passed unanimously.

Michael Tonkin welcomed Georgia to IFSSH membership.

5. Confirmation of previous minutes

Proposed: Raja Sabapathy; Seconded: Roohi Ahmad

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Michael Tonkin advised that these will be covered within the following agenda items. He confirmed there have been membership enquiries received from Estonia, Latvia, Myanmar and Guatemala, and that discussions are ongoing with China, Russia and Ireland.

7. President's Report

James Urbaniak

James Urbaniak conveyed a message of thanks to the Korean organising committee, in particular Moon Sang Chung and Goo Hyun Baek, on behalf of the IFSSH Executive and Delegates' Council. He thanked Michael Tonkin for his efforts as Secretary-General, and expressed gratitude to all Executive members and Delegates.

He reported that 800 copies of the book "Hand Surgery Worldwide" are available for purchase at this congress for \$30 each. After the conference they may be ordered at a cost of \$100. All profits from the sale of this book will be directed back to the IFSSH.

He submitted the following Presidential Report:

First and foremost on behalf of all the Member Societies of the IFSSH, I wholeheartedly thank Dr Moon Sang Chung and his Organizing Committee for organizing and hosting this outstanding 11th Congress of the IFSSH in Seoul, Korea. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to share and exchange our knowledge and skills with old friends and new acquaintances from around the globe in this magnificent venue.

Our Federation was founded more than 4 decades ago for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the various societies for surgery of the hand throughout the world (which now total 50), and in this manner increase and spread knowledge of surgery of the hand. The Federation has been relatively successful in achieving its goals via the triennial congresses, scientific publications (printed and electronic), website, financial support for education of physicians, and reports from some of the 30 established scientific committees.

Since the activities of the scientific committees have varied over the years, I attempted to simplify their charges and requested each committee to complete one focus project, or perhaps attempt to answer one question about a new or old finding or procedure in the category of their committee. Despite this modest request, only one third of the committees will report at this Congress (which is a similar number to recent Congresses). The future of the scientific committees will be addressed at this meeting.

Anticipating a less than enthusiastic productivity of the committees, I embarked upon the ambitious project to involve all 50 societies of the Federation. This goal has been successfully achieved in the form of a book entitled "Hand Surgery Worldwide: International Reconstruction of a Beautiful and Ready Instrument of the Mind". This text includes a historical section with representatives from all 50 countries and describes the history of hand surgery, training, certification, major contributions, pioneers, and culture related to hands in each country. In addition, a clinical section contains 32 chapters on hand surgery from experts on the subject from more than 20 countries. The historic book is being distributed at this Congress and all the profits from the sale of the book will be given to the Federation for its Educational Bursary.

It has, indeed, been an honor to serve as your President and I am indebted to your Secretary General, Michael Tonkin, who has been the workhorse of the Federation. I look forward to enjoying this Congress with you and many other global friends.

Respectfully submitted

*James R. Urbaniak, M.D.
President*

8. Secretary-General's Report

Michael Tonkin

Michael Tonkin thanked the Executive and Delegates for their support. He acknowledged the efforts of Santhosh Rajan and Raja Sabapathy for their assistance with the IFSSH website.

He submitted the following report:

It has been three and a half years since the 2007 Sydney IFSSH Congress. During that time, the IFSSH has had to weather the storm of the global financial recession, as have all countries and individuals. Fortunately, as detailed in the summary of the Treasurer's Report, we have re-couped initial losses and are now in a position to again consider optimal use of our funds.

You have heard of the substantial achievement of producing an elegant book detailing the history of the IFSSH member societies and we are indebted to our President, Jim Urbaniak, aided by our Historian, Bill Cooney, who have been responsible for this.

Since the 2007 Congress, we have welcomed the Bangladesh Society to IFSSH membership and have received communications relating to future membership from Latvia, Estonia, Myanmar, Ireland and Guatemala. Georgia have completed an application which will be considered at this Delegates' Council Meeting. We have continued a dialogue with our Chinese and Russian colleagues.

The IFSSH website is now established as a sophisticated website and is updated regularly. The IFSSH acknowledge the work of Raja Sabapathy, from India, and our webmaster, Santhosh Rajan, who have been largely responsible for the establishment and maintenance of this website. It contains a great deal of information, including contact details of all member societies. Of course, this information relies upon the society delegates informing the Secretary-General of any changes and I am appreciative of the assistance I have received in this regard. Regular newsletters are placed on the website and are published in both Journals of Hand Surgery, the American and European, and also the Asia-Pacific Journal Hand Surgery. We are indebted to the Editorial and Administrative Boards of these journals. Society delegates also receive this newsletter and are encouraged to distribute it amongst their society members. I would use this report to appeal to all societies to provide information which is appropriate to be placed on the IFSSH website.

More recently it has been possible to include the text "Terminology for Hand Surgery" on the webpages. This text was predominately the work of the IFSSH Committee on Standardization of Nomenclature: Alberto Lluch, Ian Leslie, Geoffrey Hooper, Ulrich Lanz, Adalbert Kapandji and Hans-Martin Schmidt, amongst others, resulting in translation in five languages of hand surgery terminology. One appropriate task for the future is to update this text and to include Asian translations.

The Executive Committee and Delegates' Council have attempted to improve the structure and decision making of the Federation. We have agreed upon an alteration in the method of selection of host societies and venues for IFSSH Congresses. Following the vote at this Delegates' Council Meeting, the IFSSH Congresses will be conducted in our three main geographic areas on a rotating basis. The details of these changes are included in the official guidelines and have been distributed to all societies via the minutes of previous meetings.

Similarly, there have been changes in assessment of annual subscription fees payable by each society such that those societies deemed by the World Bank classification as being financially disadvantaged pay lower subscription rates. I believe that there is room for further modification in the manner in which our annual subscriptions are raised such that the criteria for determining contribution amounts become fairer. These proposals will be discussed at this Delegates' Council Meeting.

An alteration in the Charter during this triennium, determined at the Poznan Delegates' Council Meeting, deems that a society is unable to vote on any matter if non-financial for a period of three years. Some societies remain non-financial and are encouraged to meet their commitment to support the Federation.

I believe it is time to reconsider how IFSSH funds are best utilised and this matter will be discussed at this Delegates' Council Meeting. Recently we have supported a Fellowship programme at the Baragwanath Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa; subsidised therapists' attendance at the IFSHT Congress; and supported registration costs at the IFSSH Congresses.

Finally, may I thank all members of the Executive Committee for their support of the secretariat, all societies and their representatives, and particularly our Administrative Secretary, Belinda Smith, without whose efforts the secretariat would not function.

9. Treasurer's Report

Michael Tonkin

Michael Tonkin thanked Jim Urbaniak for establishing the reliable investment fund and reminded Delegates that we want to continue to build up the IFSSH capital but direct funds towards deserving projects. All Delegates were asked to consider applicable projects and submit suggestions to the Executive, and to ask the same of their society members.

He submitted the following report:

This report has been circulated to all societies and delegates and the balance sheets are attached.

In summary, our total funds have risen since the 2007 Congress from \$602,381.55 to approximately \$700,000, an increase of about 16.5% in spite of the global recession which at one stage saw our investment account drop by 35%.

The report is offered for discussion.

				Fidelity	Wachovia	
Balance reported at 2009 Poznan Delegates' Council Meeting (Fidelity - March 31; Wachovia - May 4) 2009				574,454.14	288,893.33	285,560.81
Opening balance (Wachovia bank) - 4th May, 2009				285,560.81		
INCOME						
Member Nation fees paid	95,519.84					
IFSSH Congress	0.00					
Interest - Wachovia Bank	63.21					
Misc	0.00					
				Total income	95,583.05	
EXPENDITURE						
IFSSH Congress		50,000.00				
Executive/Secretariat expenses		32,262.91				
Bursaries and Grants		2,850.00				
Bank fees - Wachovia Bank		449.88				
Misc		0.00				
				Total expenditure	85,562.79	
Wachovia Balance @ August 31, 2010				Bank	295,581.07	
Fidelity Investment Account Balance @ August 31, 2010				Investment	392,508.99	
Balance @ August 31, 2010					688,090.06	

	PERIOD ENDING				
	June 30, 2006	March, 2007	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2009
<i>Opening balance - Wachovia</i>			178,469.94	207,934.27	271,238.34
<i>Opening balance - Fidelity</i>				479,003.40	307,683.67
INCOME					
Member Nation fees paid			19,439.00	97,773.42	78,814.42
IFSSH Congress			44,919.04	0.00	0.00
Interest - Wachovia Bank			4,122.37	2,009.35	97.10
Merchandise			100.00	0.00	0.00
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00
Total			73,494.31	99,782.77	78,911.52
EXPENDITURE					
IFSSH Congress			7,596.33	0.00	0.00
Executive Travel/Wages			31,375.61	21,457.35	29,762.91
Bursaries and Grants			0.00	15,000.00	0.00
Bank fees - Wachovia Bank			144.14	21.35	368.74
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00
Total			44,029.98	36,478.70	30,131.65
BALANCE					
Wachovia			207,934.27	271,238.34	320,018.21
Fidelity Investments			479,003.40	307,683.67	401,760.92
Total Funds	584,252.37	602,381.55	686,937.67	578,922.01	721,779.13

James Urbaniak asked for any questions from the Delegates present.

Mas Massoumi (Iran) commented that they are unable to transfer funds electronically but will pay their outstanding dues at the meeting.

James Urbaniak requested, in the absence of further questions or comments, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Proposed: Mas Massoumi; Seconded: Joerg van Schoonhoven
Motion put and passed.

10. Historian's Report

William Cooney (apologies)

James Urbaniak reported that "Hand Surgery Worldwide" has been a major project of the Historian and thanked Bill Cooney for his assistance.

Michael Tonkin noted that Bill Cooney's term as Historian will cease at this congress and moved a vote of thanks for his efforts. This was applauded by the Delegates.

11. 11th IFSSH Congress – Seoul, 2010

Goo Hyun Baek

Goo Hyun Baek thanked IFSSH members for attending the Seoul Congress and acknowledged that 1500 surgeons had registered for this Congress prior to commencement (more registrations expected on site). The Korean Society hoped to contribute \$100,000 of profit to the Federation. Michael Tonkin thanked Goo Hyun Baek for his efforts, along with Moon Sang Chung and their committees. Goo Hyun Baek wished all registrants a good stay in Seoul and submitted the following report:

Scientific Programme Overview

<i>Session</i>	<i>No. of Sessions</i>	<i>No. of Abstracts</i>
<i>Swanson Lecture</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Plenary Lecture</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Symposia</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>299</i>
<i>Free Paper (Invited Speech)</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>811 (237)</i>
<i>EWAS</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Poster Display</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>287</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>1429</i>

Participants Overview

<i>Category</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Delegate</i>	<i>863</i>
<i>Resident & Fellow</i>	<i>242</i>
<i>Hand Therapist</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Shoulder Day</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Accompanying Person</i>	<i>136</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1291</i>

A book of “IFSSH Pioneers”

- 1000 copies were printed
- will be distributed at the Opening Ceremony
- will be distributed at Delegates’ Council Meeting

Participants’ Nations

No.	Country	Participant	Presentation	No.	Country	Participant	Presentation
1	Argentina	5	11	31	Kyrgyzstan	1	4
2	Australia	26	25	32	Lithuania	1	1
3	Austria	7	13	33	Luxembourg	2	2
4	Bangladesh	5	6	34	Malaysia	6	8
5	Belgium	12	14	35	Mexico	2	3
6	Brazil	4	13	36	Myanmar	2	
7	Bulgaria	3	2	37	The Netherlands	19	23
8	Canada	13	19	38	New Zealand	5	1
9	Chile	6	8	39	Nigeria	2	
10	China	47	92	40	Norway	8	2
11	Colombia	1	3	41	Pakistan	2	
12	Czech	5	5	42	Philippines	3	2
13	Denmark	2	1	43	Poland	7	7
14	Egypt	7	20	44	Republic of Korea	270	190
15	Estonia	1		45	Romania	4	7
16	Finland	15	5	46	Russian Federation	11	17
17	France	15	29	47	Singapore	21	22
18	Germany	20	31	48	South Africa	6	4
19	Greece	9	21	49	Spain	10	29
20	Hong Kong	30	48	50	Sweden	24	15
21	Hungary	5	6	51	Switzerland	15	9
22	India	25	48	52	Syria	1	2
23	Indonesia	16	4	53	Taiwan	19	29
24	Iran	30	15	54	Thailand	43	18
25	Israel	11	2	55	Turkey	18	22
26	Italy	16	30	56	Uganda	1	1
27	Japan	260	244	57	United Arab	2	3
28	Jordan	2	1	58	UK	32	41
29	Kenya	2		59	USA	151	251
30	Kuwait	1		60	Vietnam	2	
					TOTAL	1291	1429

12. 12th IFSSH Congress – New Delhi, 2013

Raja Sabapathy

Raja Sabapathy informed the Delegates’ Council that dates have been set for the 12th Congress – March 4th-8th, 2013. This will be a joint meeting with the IFSHT. Committees have been formed to prepare for the congress and the venue has been chosen.

Raja Sabapathy will provide a presentation for the New Delhi congress at the Seoul closing ceremony.

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

Lynne Feehan

The IFSHT met in June in Orlando with over 500 therapists from 35 countries in attendance. Lynne Feehan reported that the IFSHT look forward to participating in the 2013 joint IFSSH/IFSHT Congress in New Delhi and preparations are underway. At the Orlando meeting, the therapists discussed Germany and Argentina's submissions for the rights to host the 2016 IFSSH/IFSHT Congress and both were acceptable to their Council and members.

Lynne Feehan informed the IFSSH Delegates' of a new member category within the IFSHT – "Corresponding member". This membership is available to individuals in countries without an IFSHT therapy organisation and the IFSHT have asked that surgeons forward this information to any therapists that may fit this category.

Lynne Feehan acknowledged the financial support provided from the IFSSH which supported 10 therapists to attend the Orlando conference.

She submitted the following report:

IFSHT TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

8th IFSHT Triennial Congress: Orlando, Florida. June 24-26, 2010

We had a successful Congress in Orlando with 518 attendees (including 86 exhibitors) representing 35 different countries. To date this is the largest gathering of therapists for an IFSHT Congress held separately from an IFSSH meeting.

9th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 12th IFSSH Triennial Congress.

Delhi, India. March 4-8, 2013. (<http://www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com/>)

- *Ongoing communications between IFSHT and Dr Sabapathy (ISSH)*
- *Signed agreement between IFSHT and ISSH.*
- *Sarah Ewald (Secretary General) and Lynne Feehan (President Elect) travelled to India in December of 2009.*

10th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 13th IFSSH Triennial Congress.

Location TBD, 2016

- *Two bids to jointly host the IFSSH / IFSHT meeting in 2016, one from Germany and one from Argentina were presented to council, on June 23, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.*
- *Both bids were comprehensive and acceptable as potential host organizations for the IFSHT 2016 triennial meeting.*
- *Final decision tabled pending the IFSSH council decision in Seoul, Korea.*

ORGANIZATION

Executive Committee: [Term: June 2010 to March 2013]

President: Lynne Feehan (Canada) president@ifsht.org

President-Elect: Sarah Ewald (Switzerland) presidentelect@ifsht.org

Secretary-General: Ursula Wendling (Switzerland) secretarygeneral@ifsht.org

Treasurer: Heidi Miettinen (Finland) treasurer@ifsht.org

Historian: Patricia Rappaport (USA) historian@ifsht.org

Past President: Judy Colditz (USA) pastpresident@ifsht.org

Bylaws Changes:

New Membership Category: Corresponding -Individual therapist (PT or OT) in a country with no organized regional or national hand therapy organization. 1 time membership, 3-year term.

Regional / International Liaisons: Organized societies or federations, with an interest in hand therapy and / or hand surgery. Goal to support / facilitate communication and to enhance the working relationship with IFSHT. (IFSSH, EFSHT, AAHS etc)

Website / Electronic Voting: Allows IFSHT to conduct ongoing business that requires council ratification on an annual basis.

Membership: No change in membership fees. Executive committee able to waive / reduce fees based on World Bank listing of GNI less than \$6000.

Full: (n=31) Corresponding: (n=5) Commercial: (n=3)

COMMUNICATION

Executive committee:

- *Face-to-face (2007-10 and 2010-13) meetings in Orlando, June 2010.*
- *Ongoing Skype-call meetings: Every 6 to 8 weeks*

Delegate communication:

- *IFSHT Update: Published approximately 4 / year in the US and the British Journals of Hand Therapy and distributed to all member countries.*
- *IFSHT website (www.ifsht.org): To be launched soon*
- *Language barriers / translation: New ad hoc translation committee. (Spanish)*

SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES:

- *International Hand Therapy Teaching Awards (@\$500 each): 6 awards*
- *Dynamometers (donated to IFSHT): 50 of ~200 dynamometers distributed. Available to anyone traveling and teaching / consulting / working in hand therapy in a developing country. (Contact: Pastpresident@ifsht.org)*
- *Silent Auction Funds (raised at triennial meeting): Supports international hand therapist faculty to attend India, 2013.*
- *Evelyn Mackin Award (Up to \$3000): Sponsorship of 1 therapist from a developing country (GNI < \$6000) to attend triennial congress. First recipient, Orlando, 2010. Nelly Salas (Peru).*
- *Membership Fee Donations (as available): To sponsor developing country membership fees.*
- *International Therapist Triennial Meeting Sponsorship Funds (as available): To partially assist international therapists to attend the IFSHT triennial congress.*

OF NOTE: IFSSH donated \$2850 to this fund for the IFSHT Triennial meeting in Orlando in June 2010.

***THANK YOU TO IFSSH . . .** This money in combination with other sponsorship funds raised, including the silent auction funds from Sydney, were used to assist 10 therapists who applied for financial assistance with some of their expenses for attending the Orlando meeting.*

8TH IFSHT TRIENNIAL CONGRESS

This Update presents photo highlights from our 8th Triennial Congress in June. Over 500 people from 35 countries attended this stimulating educational and fun social/cultural event. Educational events included morning general sessions and afternoon concurrent break-out, workshop, and poster sessions.



IFSHT 8th Triennial Council Meeting includes 2007-10 executive committee, 24 of 31 full member society delegates, 2 of 5 corresponding member country representatives, all 7 past-presidents, and other invited guests.



IFSHT Presidents, past and present: L to R back: Margareta Persson, Annette Leveridge, Lynne Feehan, Judy Colditz, Corrienne van Velze; front; Victoria Frampton, Evelyn Mackin, & Jean Claude Rouzaud.



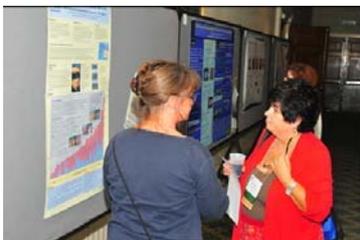
New member country representatives L to R: Cecilia Li (Full Member, Hong Kong), Reema Yusuf (Corresponding Member, Bahrain) and Christine de Armas (Corresponding Member, Mexico). [Not shown: New Full Member representatives from Kenya, & Corresponding Member representatives from Barbados, Jordan, Mexico & Latvia.]



L to R: Judy Colditz (USA), IFSHT President (2007-2010); Marc Garcia-Elias, MD, PhD (Spain), Presidential Invited Speaker; Stacey Doyon (USA), Chair 8th Triennial Congress Organizing Committee.



Nelly Salas Basili (Peru) was the recipient of the 1st Evelyn Mackin IFSHT Award which assists an international therapist to attend the Congress. Ms. Basili says: "This important event has helped me obtain important knowledge in hand therapy and also at a cultural level since I was able to share with several therapists from different parts of the world and all of this will help me continue in the rehabilitation of the hand and upper extremities working in conjunction with other therapists and hand surgeons."



*Posters were displayed and presented by authors.
Afternoon workshops provided opportunities for hands-on learning.
Break-out sessions on a variety of topics were well attended.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: Listing of upcoming courses sponsored by member countries does not indicate IFSHT endorsement.

Oct 15-17, 2010 AHTA National Conference Perth, Western Australia www.ahta.com.au

Oct 23, 2010 BHT (with surgeons) Gent, Belgium tom@bht.be

Oct 29, 2010 Annual Autumn Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark www.etf.dk/haandterapi/

Nov 11-12, 2010 BAHT Conference (with surgeons) London, United Kingdom www.hand-therapy.co.uk

Nov 18, 2010 Annual Meeting Ljubljana, Slovenia www.sdrr.si

Dec 3-5, 2010 SHTI Congress Mumbai, India nandgaonkar.hemant@gmail.com

Dec 16-18, 2010 Annual Congress GEM Paris, France www.gem-sfcm.org

Mar 24-25, 2011 Annual Meeting Gothenburg, Sweden www.sfh.nu

May 25-28, 2011 EFSHT Eurohand2011 Oslo, Norway www.Eurohand2011.com

Sep 22-25, 2011 ASHT Annual meeting Nashville, Tennessee USA www.asht.org

**9TH TRIENNIAL IFSHT CONGRESS • NEW DELHI, INDIA • MARCH 4-8, 2013 •
WWW.IFSSH-IFSHT2013.COM**

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

W. Bruce Conolly

Bruce Conolly informed Delegates of the success of the recent APFSSH Congress in Taiwan and extended an invitation to participate in the 2012 Congress in Indonesia. He submitted the following report:

Many of us will be meeting at the IFSSH meeting in Korea. Next year, 2011, we will be involved in our own local and national meetings and then planning to support Dr Erwin Ramawan and his Indonesian colleagues for the 9th Congress to be held in Bali, Indonesia in October 2012.

The 1st APFSSH meeting was organised by Professor Michael Tonkin and Dr Mark Allison at the time of the annual meeting of the Australian Hand Surgery Society at which time I was AHSS President. Subsequent meetings have been held in Singapore 1999, Chennai 2000, Seoul 2002, Osaka 2003, Bangkok 2006, Hong Kong 2008 and Kaohsiung-Taiwan 2009.

Efforts have been made to attract membership from all countries in the Asia/Pacific area. I am personally delighted that Associate Professor Khin Mg Myint will be representing Myanmar and presenting a paper at the IFSSH in Korea. We plan that those countries where there has not as yet been permission to form a Hand Society as such, will be invited to attend and present their work at future APFSSH meetings.

I am reminded of Objective 3 in Article 2 in our Constitution which reads that we should enhance the opportunity of Hand Surgery training through friendly exchange programs.

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

Massimo Ceruso (absent)

Michael Tonkin summarised the report and submitted Dr Ceruso's report:

In July 1989, a group of representatives of various national Hand Societies of Europe met in Taranto, Italy, to discuss the possibility of creating a Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH). The purpose of that organization was to represent hand surgeons throughout Europe by advising European authorities on the requirements for, and standards of, hand surgery. At the same time, the Federation was also established to improve hand surgeons' working conditions as well as their rights.

The first delegates meeting of FESSH took place in Paris in February 1990, under the leadership of founder Secretary-General Professor Alain Gilbert, from Paris, France. He was succeeded in this position by Alfred Berger (Germany) in 1996, followed by Steven Hovius (The Netherlands) in 1999, by Ann Nachemson (Sweden) in 2002, Marc Garcia-Elias (Spain) in 2005, Massimo Ceruso (Italy) in 2008. Secretary General elect is Zsolt Szabo (2011).

The members of the Federation are National Societies of Surgery of the Hand belonging to countries that are members of the Council of Europe. Currently FESSH has 26 full member countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and The United Kingdom) and 4 corresponding members (Israel, Lithuania, Slovak republic and South Africa). The Assembly of delegates is formed by one representative of all National Societies.

Every year, FESSH organizes its annual Congress, except when the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand holds its own congress in Europe. All FESSH meetings include an Instructional Course whose contents are published in the form of a book, and are available in specialized bookshops. The following is a list of the cities which have held a FESSH meeting: Brussels (1993), Dublin (1994), Paris (1996), Bologna (1997), Vienna (residents meeting, 1998), Bonn (1999), Barcelona (2000), Amsterdam (2002), Lisbon (2003), Gothenburg (2005), Glasgow (2006). Athens (2007), Lausanne (2008), Poznan (2009) and Bucharest (2010). The locations for the upcoming FESSH meetings are: Oslo (2011), Antwerp (2012), Antalya (2013), Paris (2014).

One of the goals of FESSH is to encourage research and educational exchange between accredited hand surgery centers mainly within Europe. To promote this, several initiatives have been implemented: 1) a web site (www.fessh.com) is actively updated containing pertinent information about the activities of the different national societies (meetings, symposiums, national congresses, directory of member societies and national delegates etc). The web also contains information about hand surgery training centers in Europe. 2) Three Junior and one Senior FESSH traveling fellowships, endowed 2000 € and 10000 € respectively, are assigned every year to hand fellows wishing to extend their knowledge in countries other than the one where they live. 3) FESSH is an active member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Hand Surgery (European volume), contributing one Associate Editor, 7 members of the Editorial Board, and one member of the Committee of Management of the Journal. 4) The Federation, through its European Accreditation Committee, promotes guidelines for training and qualification in hand surgery at a European level. The European Board of Hand Surgery –EBHS- was initiated in 2010 and endorsed by the UEMS Council in Prague, October 9, 2010; it is formed by the MJC of Hand Surgery of UEMS and FESSH. On the same date, the UEMS Council also endorsed the “White Book on Hand Surgery” made by cooperation of the specialist sections of UEMS which deal with the education and qualification in hand surgery in EU countries and FESSH. 6) Every year, since 1996, and usually during its annual congress, FESSH has been setting an examination board that organizes and runs the Examination for the European Diploma in Hand Surgery. As for 2010, over 200 hand surgeons have successfully obtained this unique qualification.

The Federation is successful, with a growing number of participants in all its events and scientific activities. The Council is currently formed by 11 members, each being responsible for one area (see annex 1). To cope with the increasing complexities of the Federation, a decision has been made in 2007 regarding the remodeling of its administration around a Central Office, which is located in Budapest, Hungary, under the expert hands of professional managers. Needless to say, this has contributed to make our ultimate goal more efficient and successful. That is, to raise the standards of hand care disorders throughout Europe.

References

- Hovius SER: *The Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand: Its birth and development- The first decade.* J Hand Surg 2002;27B:215-218
- Nachemson AK: *The FESSH Diploma Examination in Hand Surgery.* J Hand Surg 2000; 25B:235-236
- Verdan C: *The history of hand surgery in Europe.* J Hand Surg 2000; 25B:238-241

Secretary-General

Massimo Ceruso (2008 – 2011)
 S.O.D.C. di Chirurgia della Mano e Microchirurgia
 Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria Careggi
 C.T.O. Largo P. Palagi 1
 50139 Firenze, Italy
 Tel: +39 055 7948262
 Fax: +39 055 2321080
 E-mail: cerusom@tin.it

Treasurer

Chantal Bonnard (2010-2014)
 Clinique de Longeraie
 Av de la Gare 9
 CH-1003 Lausanne, Switzerland
 Tel: +41 21 321 0320
 Fax: +41 21 321 0321
 E-mail: ch.bonnard@logeraie.ch

Research Committee

Jan Fridén (2008 - 2011)
 Dept of Hand Surgery
 Sahlgrenska Universitetssjukhuset
 413 45 Gothenburg, Sweden
 Tel: +46 31-342 30 39
 Fax: +46 31-8205 89
 E-mail: jan.friden@orthop.gu.se

Journal of Hand Surgery Committee

Marco JPF Ritt (2008 - 2011)
 Dept of Plastic Reconstructive and Hand Surgery
 VU Medical Center
 P.O. Box 7057
 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Tel: +31 20 444 3261
 Fax : +31 20 444 0151
 E-mail: ritt@vumc.nl / ritt@wxs.nl

Secretary General Elect

Zsolt Szabo (2010- 2011)
 BAZ County Teaching Hospital
 Dept of Traumatology
 Szentpeteri kapu 76
 H-3526 Miskolc, Hungary
 Tel: + 36 30 2053554
 Fax: +36 46 51 52 37
 E-mail: zsoltszabo@axelero.hu

European Accreditation of Hand Surgery

Frédéric Schuind (2009 - 2012)
 Hôpital Erasme Orthopédie
 Route de Lennik 808
 1070 Bruxelles, Belgium
 E-mail: frederic.schuind@erasme.ulb.ac.be

Examination Committee

Maurizio Calcagni (2010-2013)
 University Hospital of Zurich
 Raemistrasse 100
 CH-8091 Zurich, Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 44 255 2376 (secre), 44 255 3540 (dir)
 Fax: +41 44 255 8977
 E-mail: maurizio.calcagni@usz.ch

Hand Surgery Training Committee

David Warwick (2008 – 2011)
 Hand Clinic
 Wessex Nuffield Hospital
 Southampton, SO53 2DW, UK
 Tel: +44 2380-258-422
 Fax: +44 2380-258-446
davidjwarwick@btinternet.com

Internet Committee

Giorgio Pivato (2008 - 2011)
 Policlinico Multimedita
 U.O. Chirurgia della Mano
 Via Milanese 300
 20099 Sesto San Giovanni (MI), Italy
 Tel : +39 02 24209476
 Fax: +39 02 24209308
 e-mail: giorgiopivato@fastwebnet.it

Hand Trauma Committee

Thierry Dubert (2008 – 2011)
 Clinique La Francilienne
 16 Avenue de l'Hôtel de Ville
 77340 Pontaut Combault, France
 Tel: +33 01 64 43 43 90
 Fax: +33 01 64 43 44 98
 E-mail: thierrydubert@gmail.com

Historian

Andreas Gohritz (2010- 2013)
 Klinik für Plastische, Hand- und
 Wiederherstellungschirurgie,
 Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
 Carl-Neubergstr. 1
 30625 Hannover, Germany
 Tel.: +49 511-5328865 (Hospital)
 +49 511-3375610
 E-mail: andreas_gohritz@yahoo.com

16. South American Federation Report

Eduardo Zancolli

Eduardo Zancolli reported of the intent of having a further four South American nations join the Federation – including Peru, Bolivia and Paraguay.

A recent meeting has been held in Peru, with a future meeting planned for Paraguay.

Eduardo Zancolli indicated the intention of Argentina to bid for hosting rights of the 2016 IFSSH/IFSHT Congress.

17. La Federacion de Mano Report

Peter Amadio

Peter Amadio report that La Fed remains an informal group of north American societies. They meet annually, usually in conjunction with the AAHS conferences. La Fed will next meet in Cancun, Mexico, in 2011.

18. IPRAS Report

Francisco del Piñal

Francisco del Pinal informed the Delegates' Council of recent and future IPRAS meetings and submitted the following report:

The next IPRAS meeting will be held in 2011, Vancouver 22-27 May 2011. (16th Congress of the International Confederation for Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery)

The last one was held in India in Nov- 2009. I attended this one. I was asked about the number of Hand surgeons in the IFSSH. After talking to M Tonkin I let them know that the total membership of 48 societies including approximately 6500 individual members.

I also updated them on the new coming meetings of the IFSSH, and actually made sure they uploaded in their web.

*Best regards
Paco Piñal.*

19. Educational Bursary

Michael Tonkin reported of the use of IFSSH funds to support the Swanson Lecturer and disadvantaged registrants attend the Korean IFSSH Congress (\$9000 to support 13 registrations).

a. IFSHT sponsorships

The IFSSH provided the IFSHT with funds amounting to \$2850 to assist 10 financially disadvantaged to attend the 2010 IFSHT Congress in Orlando.

b. Baragwanath Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme

Prof Fleming from Baragwanath Hospital in South Africa has twice previously requested and received funding for a Hand Surgery Fellowship Programme to educate African surgeons. Reports from these Fellows are available on the IFSSH website. He has now submitted a third

request and was informed that the IFSSH cannot routinely provide funding, but in the absence of alternative requests for educational bursaries and grants, this could be awarded again in 2010 after further consideration.

20. IFSSH website

Michael Tonkin reminded all Delegates of the website – www.ifssh.org – and of the information placed on this. He requested that Delegates and Societies forward any relevant material for the website to the Secretary-General.

21. IFSSH newsletter

Michael Tonkin informed Delegates that the Secretary-General distributes approximately six IFSSH newsletters annually. He thanked the American and European Journals of Hand Surgery, and Asia Pacific's *Hand Surgery* for their assistance with publishing these newsletters. All newsletters are available on the website. Delegates were asked to ensure these newsletters are forwarded to their societies' membership.

22. IFSSH Pioneers

Michael Tonkin advised that 28 Pioneers were honoured at the Seoul IFSSH Opening Ceremony and awarded certificates and pins. The criteria for Pioneers of Hand Surgery is available on the website and societies were encouraged to consider future Pioneer candidate submissions.

23. Swanson Lecture

Michael Tonkin explained that the Swanson Lecturer is nominated by the host IFSSH Congress society and approved by the Executive Committee. The inaugural lecturer in Sydney was Goran Lundborg and the Swanson Lecturer in Seoul will be Jesse Jupiter from the USA.

24. Correspondence

Michael Tonkin reported that the correspondence of significance was mostly regarding IFSSH membership from various societies (see Matters Arising from previous Minutes). Other correspondence included bank/investment reports and routine administrative matters, correspondence regarding fee structures and the like.

All incoming and outgoing correspondence is filed and available to view on request.

25. New business

a. Selection of 2016 Congress Host and Venue

Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina) and Joerg van Schoonhoven (Germany) presented bids for hosting rights of the 2016 IFSSH Congress. Details of the bids had previously been distributed to society delegates.

James Urbaniak asked for questions or comments from the Delegates' before voting commenced.

Michael Solomons requested further information regarding the timing of the meeting, and clarification of FESSH Congress adjustments if Germany were to win.

Eduardo Zancolli indicated Argentina would probably hold the Congress in October.

Joerg van Schoonhoven suggested Germany would choose May. He and Michael Tonkin clarified that it is not usual to hold the FESSH meeting the same year if the IFSSH Congress is within Europe.

A question from the floor asked if the bids included a combined Congress with the IFSHT.

Eduardo Zancolli and Joerg van Schoonhoven confirmed that both bids include combined IFSSH/IFSHT Congresses. Michael Tonkin reminded Delegates that Lynne Feehan has provided the IFSHT's approval to accept either bid.

With no further questions, the Delegates and ExCo voted in a closed vote. Votes were counted by Michael Tonkin who announced that a substantial majority of these votes awarded the hosting rights of the 2016 IFSSH/IFSHT Congress to Argentina. Joerg van Schoonhoven, along with the ExCo and Delegates, congratulated Eduardo Zancolli.

Michael Tonkin reminded Delegates that the rotation system for congress hosts and venues will now take effect. As 2016 has been awarded to South America, any bids for 2019 (to be submitted in 2013) will come from Europe.

b. Executive Committee nominations

James Urbaniak placed the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2010-2013 ExCo positions before the Delegates. These were:

President – Ulrich Mennen

President Elect – Michael Tonkin

Secretary-General – Zsolt Szabo

Secretary-General Elect – Marc Garcia-Elias

Historian – Frank Burke

Past-President – James Urbaniak

Nominating Committee Member-at-Large – Goo Hyun Baek

No alterations were recommended from the Delegates' Council.

The motion to accept the recommendations of the IFSSH Nominating Committee was put and carried unanimously.

c. Proposal re alteration in annual subscription fees

Michael Tonkin reported that the Executive Committee has considered the disproportionate fees paid by some member nations due to large memberships within their societies. The ExCo recognises these justifiable concerns from societies who only receive one vote each on any matter at the Delegates' Council meetings.

He reminded Delegates that the current fee structure is set at \$100 per society plus \$10 per member. For those countries classified as low-income by the World Bank, these dues are reduced to \$50 per society plus \$5 per member.

The Executive proposes that one solution could be for any society with over 500 members (i.e. currently paying over \$5000 per annum), the dues could be reduced by a formula which sees any amount over \$5000 reduced to 1/3 of this excess. James Urbaniak asked for comments or questions from the Delegates to guide the Executive in preparing dues motions for future meetings.

Peter Amadio, on behalf of the AAHS, suggested that he was unaware of negative feedback from his society over this matter and thought that the fee scale was not a particular burden for the AAHS.

Mas Massoumi agreed, suggesting that with the wealth of these large membership countries, there should not be a need to reduce fees.

Michael Tonkin explained that the concerns arise because the dues are seen to be a large “lump sum” payment (e.g. \$8000 in one payment), rather than recognising that it is \$10 from each member’s individual subscription fees that is then passed on to the IFSSH.

Alex Shin, on behalf of the ASSH, indicated that the proposal from the IFSSH Executive could be advantageous in promotion of IFSSH membership, given the current fiscal health of the IFSSH. He indicated that he must justify to his members the level of payment to the IFSSH and the benefit received.

Moroe Beppu, on behalf of the JSSH, explained that it is the duty of societies to pay fees and that this is an accepted process amongst his society to forward on payment of subscriptions to the IFSSH. The JSSH believe that the current fee schedule is appropriate.

Joerg van Schoonhoven, speaking for the German Society, indicated that it is not a great effort for the US, Germany and Japan (i.e. the societies who could benefit from this proposal) to support the IFSSH and that the funds they pay are used to provide an investment in international education and connections amongst hand surgeons, therefore benefiting all members. He suggested it was also unnecessary to reduce fees in the manner proposed.

As the general mood of the members of the Delegates’ Council was to retain the current method of raising annual fees, Michael Tonkin and James Urbaniak requested that Delegates discuss this matter with their societies and forward comments and suggestions to the Secretary-General. They suggested reviewing this fee structure at the 2011 Delegates’ Council meeting.

d. Proposal re alteration in society voting rights

Given the outcome of the above discussion, this matter was not discussed.

e. Utilisation of IFSSH funds

As discussed in the Treasurer’s Report and Educational Bursaries earlier in the meeting. Michael Tonkin requested Delegates inform society members of the availability of funds for grants and bursaries and submit written requests to the Secretary-General.

f. IFSSH e-zine concept

Ulrich Mennen presented the Delegates with a proposed IFSSH e-zine. This would bring the hand surgery community into regular contact with the IFSSH through electronic media. The e-zine is simply a means of providing and sharing information with members. He explained

that it is not a journal or newsletter, but a free of charge e-zine (funding provided by trade) with inclusions such as letters to the editor, interviews with journal article authors, product news, journal highlights, updates from Scientific Committees, etc. It will be produced approximately every three to four months and is delivered by email to Delegates.

Ulrich Mennen provided an example to the Delegates and requested their input with the production and content.

26. Next meeting of the Delegates' Council

James Urbaniak explained that until 2000, Delegates' Council meetings were held in conjunction with US Hand Surgery meetings. These were then moved to Europe to take advantage of the geographic concentration of Delegates.

Delegates were asked to consider an ExCo-supported proposal to now hold the next two Council meetings at one FESSH meeting and one US meeting before the IFSSH Congress in New Delhi.

The options for such a proposal are:

2011 – Las Vegas (ASSH); 2012 – Antwerp (FESSH)

or

2011 – Oslo (FESSH); 2012 – Chicago (ASSH).

When asked for a show of hands, the Delegate votes were split evenly. Jan-Ragnar Haugstvedt offered a welcome to all Delegates if Oslo were chosen for 2011.

It was decided that in the lack of a Delegate majority, the ExCo will consider this matter and send a decision with the minutes to all Delegates.

James Urbaniak and Michael Tonkin thanked all Delegates for their attendance.

Meeting closed 1:30pm.

Addendum:

The Executive Committee advises the Delegates that the next IFSSH Delegates' Council meeting will be held in conjunction with the ASSH meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 8-10, 2011.