



## IFSSH Newsletter – January 2013

### Eastern European Hand Surgery Course

The IFSSH was pleased to provide a grant to the Regional Education Project held in Hungary, September 2012. This provided the opportunity for many surgeons from the local and neighbouring regions to receive gratis or subsidised registration rates to attend a three day course. Grants from the IFSSH and FESSH covered the attendance of 50 hand surgeons from 12 Eastern European countries. A report from David Warwick follows:

*The sharing of knowledge is one of the key aims of IFSSH and FESSH. For this reason, the Secretary General Zsolt Szabo recruited an enthusiastic and well-known faculty from across Europe, Turkey and South Africa, to teach over 120 surgeons from Eastern Europe. The venue was the spa town of Hajduszoboszlo in the Hortobagy region of Eastern Hungary, about two and a half hours drive from Budapest.*

*The course was designed to be as cost-effective as possible for the delegates (just 300 euros) helped by very generous sponsorship from several companies and by the Faculty who gave up their time for free to prepare the lectures and teach. The course was hugely oversubscribed- a testament to the quality and value of the programme.*

*Asszisztencia, the Hungarian management firm which already provides invaluable support for FESSH, gave flawless logistical assistance throughout the course.*

*The course ran for three days. The first day comprised several lectures on topics such as Dupuytren's, wrist arthroscopy. The second day involved a 30 minute bus trip across the vast Hungarian plains to the Medical School at Debrecen University. Here, the faculty provided 12 surgical demonstrations on cadavers on techniques such as tendon transfers, wrist replacement, wrist arthroscopy, skin flaps and distal radius fixation. A state-of-the-art IT system allowed the dissections and surgical technique to be projected at high definition into a lecture hall, from where the delegates could ask questions. The third day was back in the lecture hall, with further lectures this time on broader educational topics such as the basics of congenital hand surgery, the future of nerve surgery and operations that should no longer be performed.*

*The other aspect of the course was, of course, social. This was a great opportunity for the delegates and faculty from so many countries, to meet each other and develop friendly and professional contacts. The first evening had a Hungarian supper with traditional dancing and music from several accomplished performers. The second evening, of some concern especially to the staid and shy British author of this report, was a pool party- everyone in their bathing costumes relaxing in the hot natural spring water for which Hajduszoboszlo is famous.*

*For the faculty, there was the opportunity for a 4 day cycle and wine tour after the Course. To keep the costs for the course at a minimum, the faculty willingly paid for this themselves. We were able to cycle along side a beautiful lake, across fields and up rather steep hills (rewarded by the free-wheeling down the other side....). As a special event, there was even a five mile section of tranquil river that we paddled along in rather wobbly canoes. To keep us safe on the road sections, 2 police motorcyclists accompanied us and kept the lorries and cars away. In the evenings we had the opportunity to try the local Tokaji wines for which the region is rightly famous.*

*So many thanks to the delegates for wanting to come to the Course, to the faculty for providing the programme, and to Dr Szabo and Asszisztencia for the meticulous arrangements. This sort of programme is really what makes Hand Surgery such a special thing.*

*David Warwick MD FRCS FRCS(Orth) EDHS  
Hand Surgeon, University Hospital Southampton, UK  
Training Committee Chairman, FESSH*

The IFSSH Executive and Committee for Educational Sponsorship encourages member nations to consider hosting similar courses.

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

The triennial IFSSH Congress will be held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March in New Delhi. Raja Sabapathy and his Organising Committee are busy with preparations to welcome you to “Incredible India”

Registration is open on the website - [www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com) – along with details of the scientific programme, social activities and tour suggestions.

I visited the congress site in March 2012 and am looking forward to returning for the Congress. It promises to be a spectacular event with a scientific programme of high quality and an entertaining social schedule.

We look forward to seeing our hand surgery friends and families gather in India and hope that you can join us.

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