



## **IFSSH Newsletter**

### **Message from the IFSSH Secretary-General, Dr. Daniel Nagle**

The IFSSH aims to support educational endeavours around the world. IFSSH funds are available to member societies who are organising an educational activity likely to improve the quality of hand surgery throughout the world.

The IFSSH Executive asked all delegates at the 2016 Congress in Buenos Aires to take this information back to their societies and consider appropriate requests for educational sponsorship. There are general grants available, as well as sponsorship for specific activities. These descriptions and application processes are outlined below. We hope that ideas are being generated within your societies and discussions are ongoing. We look forward to receiving your applications.

Daniel Nagle MD  
Secretary-General, IFSSH

### **The Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES)**

The 2016-2019 CES consists of Dr Marc Garcia-Elias (IFSSH President Elect), Dr Goo Hyun Baek (IFSSH Secretary-General Elect), Dr Raja Sabapathy (IFSSH Member-at-large) and Dr Jörg van Schoonhoven (Chair, 2019 IFSSH triennial congress - Berlin).

All applications are assessed in a competitive process and must be approved by the both the IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship and the IFSSH Executive Committee.

### **General Educational Sponsorship Opportunities**

IFSSH funds are available to support worthy hand surgery educational projects. Examples of previous projects/recipients have included:

- the “Terminology for Hand Surgery” publication in five languages
- an educational DVD on Pollicization.
- the Baragwanath Hospital Hand Fellowship
- the International Hand Therapy Teaching Award
- the hosting of Mongolian surgeons by the American Association for Hand Surgery

- an Australian hand and upper limb surgery charity mission to Cambodia

Most recently, the CES has provided financial assistance to the organisers of the Surgery of the Spastic Upper Limb Symposium in Paris, March 2017.

**Application Process:** Applications from the Hand Surgery Society and/or local institution need to be proposed and signed by a Council representative of the IFSSH member society.

Applications for sponsorship should be submitted to the IFSSH Secretary-General at least three months prior to the celebration of the educational project. They should include a written document detailing:

- The purpose of the educational project
- Who will benefit from this sponsorship
- Who will be involved in the delivery of this educational project
- A complete itinerary and program of the proposed educational project
- A full budget, including utilization of the requested funds.
- What other funding will be requested/used

Applications will be assessed by the CES and approved by the IFSSH Executive Committee. Successful applicants are asked to provide a short report at the completion of the project, describing the use of the funds and the benefits of the programme. This report may be published in the IFSSH ezine and placed on the website.

***Applications from individuals (e.g. personal fellowship travel costs):*** It is important to note that the IFSSH is not a society, but a federation of societies. The IFSSH members are societies, not individuals. The IFSSH assists by representing societies at a supranational level to foster inter-society relationships, and by helping the IFSSH member societies to fulfill their specific duties. Therefore, the grant applications that would be generally considered as worthy are those which help the member societies. Individual needs should be taken care of by their national society. Only exceptionally, if that society cannot meet the educational needs of its single members, the IFSSH may consider the possibility of providing some help, but this is always at the society's request.

## **Specific Educational Sponsorship Programmes**

### ***1. IFSSH Congress Assistance Grants***

The IFSSH provides up to US\$20,000 in total each triennium to assist hand surgeons from poor or developing communities to attend the IFSSH triennial Congress. This grant is intended for surgeons who would not be able to attend the IFSSH meeting without financial support. This funding is provided to the organiser of the triennial congress, who evaluates the applications and decides how to best distribute funds amongst the chosen recipients.

**Application Process:** Grant applications should be sent to the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the IFSSH Congress at least three months before the congress to which the applicant plans to attend. This application should include:

- The reason for attending the congress
- The reasons for requesting financial support e.g. Monthly income, absence of other sponsors.
- The amount needed. Depending on the availability of funds, a maximum limit of funding/person/congress may be applied.
- Professional position (hospital, field of work, work experience)
- A letter of support from a chief or department head explaining how the knowledge and experience gained by the applicant in that congress would benefit the applicant's community.

Grant recipients are asked to send a full report of their experience to the IFSSH Secretary-General no later than three months after completion of the event. These reports may be published in IFSSH publications (e.g. IFSSH ezine, website)

## ***2. Regional Courses in Hand Surgery***

IFSSH assistance may be requested to promote Hand Surgery courses in developing countries with limited economical resources to finance any educational activity of this kind. A Regional Course in Hand Surgery is an educational activity organized by a Hand Surgery Society and/or local institution with the assistance and sponsorship of IFSSH. Financial assistance will be determined according to need and availability, to a maximum of US\$20,000 per course.

Such courses would usually consist of two or more days of Hand Surgery training, including instructional course lectures, discussions, practical demonstrations, and interactive case presentations, and may include cadaveric dissections and, where practical, live surgery. The course may be organized in conjunction with a congress of the sponsoring Hand Surgery Society in order to encourage attendance at both events.

The funds may be used to cover travel and accommodation expenses of surgeons from the local geographical area in need of this form of training according to the recommendations of the participating society(ies). The IFSSH may also finance travel and accommodation of internationally known Hand Surgery experts willing to participate in this type of initiative.

Examples of regional courses co-sponsored by the IFSSH include:

- The 2012 Eastern European Regional Hand Surgery Course in Hungary (Dr Zsolt Szabo). This was a three day course with 130 participants and 12 faculty presenting lectures and cadaveric demonstrations. The IFSSH provided a \$20,000 grant which, along with FESSH and trade sponsorship, assisted 48 participants from 14 Eastern European countries to receive gratis registration, accommodation and meals.

- The IFSSH - South Asian Regional Course in Hand Surgery, July 3rd-5th 2015 in Coimbatore, India (Dr Raja Sabapathy). A three day workshop consisting of lectures and operative demonstrations. The IFSSH committed \$20,000 of funding to assist with the costs of the course, which in turn allows for the registration fees for 100+ surgeons from the region to be kept to a minimum.
- The Eastern European Regional Course: Hand Reconstruction in Trauma and Rheumatoid Arthritis, September 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Hajdúszoboszló, Hungary (organised by the IFSSH Scientific Committee on Arthritis, with Daniel Herren (Switzerland) and Kevin Chung (USA) as Course Chairmen). The IFSSH allocated \$15,000 to allow the gratis registration of 30-50 participants.

**Application Process:** Applications from the Hand Surgery Society and/or local institution need to be proposed and signed by a Council representative of the IFSSH member society, and the member of the IFSSH Society who will act as Chairman of the Regional Course. The application should be endorsed by the Council of the Hand Surgery Society that will co-sponsor the regional course.

Applications for sponsorship should be submitted to the IFSSH Secretary-General at least three months prior to the commencement of the proposed course. They should include a written document detailing:

- The purpose of the educational project
- Who will benefit from this sponsorship
- Who will be involved in the delivery of this educational project
- A complete itinerary and program of the proposed educational project
- A full budget, including utilization of the requested funds.
- What other funding will be requested/used

If the application is successful, the IFSSH logo will be made available to the organisers for use in promotional material. Flyers and updates may be placed in the quarterly IFSSH ezine. Following completion of the course, all participants will be asked to evaluate the content and success of the course. The Organising Chairman will provide a report, evaluating whether the purpose of the course has been achieved and detailing the nature of support to registrants/speakers. This information should be used for planning future courses. This report will be published in the ezine.

### ***3. IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor***

IFSSH member societies may apply for funding for a Visiting Professor to attend an educational programme hosted by the society, to promote the international exchange of hand surgery knowledge. The IFSSH will provide up to US\$20,000 (US\$5,000 as a stipend and up to \$15,000 to be used to cover the professor's expenses (business class travel, other transportation, food and lodging)).

The society is responsible for the organisation of the educational programme and must provide full details of the programme. It may be a practical course, a scientific meeting or a specific teaching programme. The society will nominate three candidates for Visiting Professorship. The IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship will select one of the nominated candidates to be the Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor.

One professorship will be awarded every two years and not less than every three years. The professor will be expected to spend at least three days at the approved education programme venue(s). The venue must be of sufficient importance to have a meaningful impact on the education of the region's/country's hand surgeons/residents/fellows. The professor must NOT be a resident of the sponsoring country. The professor should be an expert in his/her field and have expertise likely to improve the practice of hand surgery in the host country/region.

**Application Process:** The application will be submitted by the proposing national hand surgery society (member of the IFSSH), adhering to the IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) Guidelines. The application will include a detailed description of the education programme and include an agenda. The application must include a detailed outline of the proposed professorial activities.

The application should be received twelve months in advance of the proposed professorship. This will give the CES and Executive Committee (ExCo) time to review the applications and give the sponsoring society time to organise the programme, venue and secure a commitment to participate from the visiting professor.

## Further Information

The full details of the educational sponsorship opportunities and processes are on the IFSSH website - <http://ifssh.info/fellowship-grants.html>. Please direct any enquiries to the Secretary-General ([administration@ifssh.info](mailto:administration@ifssh.info)).

Best regards,



Daniel Nagle MD  
Secretary-General, IFSSH