

Dear Dr. Tonkin:

### **IFSSH SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTION TO IFSHT**

As promised, I am following up with feedback on the attendee you sponsored to Orlando. Although we had identified one attendee, Ms. Nelly Salas Basili from Peru, for your full sponsorship, closer to the meeting we were able to provide some reduced housing rates as well as complimentary registrations. Therefore, your entire \$3,000 contribution was not needed for Ms. Basili and we took the liberty of pooling the remainder of your contribution with those of others and the silent auction funds raised in Sydney. This pooling of funds allowed us to partially sponsor an additional ten therapists who requested funding assistance. We endeavored to provide greater sums to those from countries with greater currency challenges. Below are quotes from nine of the eleven sponsored attendees, with Ms. Basili first. English remains a challenge for her, so her statement is perhaps not as articulate as some of the others. Ms. Basili shared her work with us through numerous photos of her workplace and her patients.

As you can see from the other comments, all were eager to share what they had learned. Please thank IFSSH for this generous donation which we feel was put to very good use.

**“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. Thanks again to those who contributed the funds to sponsor my attendance at this very important meeting.”**

**Nelly Salas Basili- PERU**



**“I got to learn a lot in terms of presentations of scientific papers, it is a bit different from the way we do it in our national conferences. I had never done a poster presentation, so it was a great thing to do it at the 8th Triennial congress of IFSHT at Orlando. It did give me more ideas on how to be expressive without speaking. Overall it was a fantastic experience to be there at Orlando, Florida for the 8th Triennial congress of IFSHT.”**

**Pragyan Singh-INDIA**

**“As a Member of the Argentine Chapter of Hand Therapists and Head of a Unit for Rehabilitation of Hand and Upper Limb in a Rehabilitation Institute, I think I am able now to bring new knowledge to others colleagues about differences and similarities in treatments uses all around the world. In few words, I think you have helped Hand Therapy in my Country.”**

**Sandra Frigeri-ARGENTINA**

**“When I saw elements of work I have done in the past in three different presentations from three different parts of the world, I understood the true meaning of sharing knowledge from therapist to therapist from country to country. I wish to say an enormous thank you to the sponsors of the bursaries. Being in a new job, I was not eligible for any financial support to attend and it would have been prohibitively expensive for me to fully self fund. I pledge to promote the value of International congresses to my colleagues and await the meeting in Delhi with eager anticipation.”**

**Nicola Goldsmith-UNITED KINGDOM**

**“The intensity of the presentations and the thirst for knowledge I experienced in Orlando was far greater than at any other conference I have previously attended. The result is that I have more confidence to continue doing what I am doing. I also realise that I have a lot further to go. My commitment to my profession has been strengthened and I am determined to work harder to further it. I am determined to have a career that is worth following.”**

**Hamish Anderson- AUSTRALIA**

**“Without financial assistance it would have been difficult to attend the congress. I should have missed a great learning opportunity. Even though I am interested in Hand Therapy, I never attended Hand Therapy conference before. Basically in our country, India, we do not have such kind of specialty conference. I was amazed by the amount of work done all over the world in the field of Hand Therapy. I could discuss the scenario in different countries and imagine how hand therapy is practiced in different cultures. It gave me boost feeling that “We are in better conditions but we need to be better”.**

**Some of the things which were totally new to me are:**

- **Hand surgeons addressing hand therapy conference**
- **Instructional courses during the conference**
- **Concurrent sessions for scientific paper presentation**

**I promise to work for betterment of hand therapy profession.”**

**Nandgaonkar Hemant P- INDIA**

**“The congress was a great professional challenge. Having been for many years on an ‘island’ of leprosy work it was not always easy to keep up with developments in the larger global hand therapy work. Much of what I learned, I will also be able to disseminate through the (inter)national courses that I am involved in and my visits to leprosy hospitals where there are often surgeons and therapists working who find it difficult to stay in touch with recent developments.”**

**J Wim Brandsma - NETHERLANDS (Also Ethiopia & Nepal)**

**“It was a fantastic opportunity to network with therapists from around the world and discover the most recent research and therapy interventions. Without the sponsorship provided I could have only dreamed of such an experience. The conference provided me with inspiration to adjust some of my clinical practice especially after the fantastic lectures and discussion of flexor tendon rehabilitation on Saturday morning. I have already had discussions with the surgical team at my workplace regarding performing more operations under local anesthesia and a more dynamic rehabilitation protocol. We will audit our results and hopefully write a report for a future conference.**

**We had many discussions on how therapy is administered in different countries and health care systems. This opportunity has opened my eyes and inspired me to travel to other countries in the future to further enhance my clinical practice.”**

**Nikki Burr-UNITED KINGDOM**

**“The opportunity to be at the 8th Triennial International Federation Society of Hand Therapy in Orlando - Florida, last June was truly invaluable. The subjects were related one to the other so as to offer a deep view about certain approach. In this way I could learn new things and see other subjects related to reinforce the content. Moreover, I had the opportunity to see Dr. Marc Garcia Elias talking about the wrist instability and Terri Skiven describing, with many practical examples, about the conservative management. Sometimes we treat wrist injuries and we do not know how important it is understand in details, what happens in relation of the physiology concepts and the biomechanics principles during the unstable wrist function. These lectures impressed me lot.**

**I hope to apply all this concepts to my everyday practice and pass it all!!! On the next Saturday I and some Brazilians therapists will meet to discuss and exchange what we learnt in 8th Triennial International Federation Society of Hand Therapy.**

**See you in India 2013 !!! “**

**Silmara Nicolau Pedro da Silva-BRAZIL**

Although I now proudly sign out as past-president of IFSHT, please let me know if I can ever do anything in support of the ongoing activities of IFSSH.

With warmest regards and appreciation,

Judy

Judy C. Colditz OT/L, CHT, FAOTA  
Immediate Past-President, IFSHT