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International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand  
Dr. Mark Garcia-Elias, Secretary General

garciaelias@institut-kaplan.com

July 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Garcia Elias,

On behalf of IFSHT and its 40 member countries, thank you for your generous donation to IFSHT this year. The donation of \$ 4500.00 US, allowed IFSHT to support ten therapists: three from Argentina, 2 Indian Therapists studying abroad and one therapist each from Canada, United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands, to attend the 9th IFSHT Triennial Congress in New Delhi, India.

The opportunity to exchange information and discuss innovations in the practice of hand surgery and hand therapy was appreciated by all who attended and will surely further the practice of hand therapy. Here are a few excerpts from the many letters we have received from sponsored participants:

***From the United States:** I feel fortunate to have attended my first meeting with IFSHT as both a participant and presenter. There was an atmosphere of camaraderie, enthusiasm for hand therapy and a free flowing exchange of ideas. It's not often, an experienced therapist will say they learned something at a meeting, however I must say my head was filled with fresh ideas and my heart touched by new friendships!*

***From India/ Canada:** Being a Junior researcher in the field of upper extremity and hand rehabilitation, it was an ideal time and venue for me to learn from expert researchers, to hear international debates on the most effective treatments and service delivery models for mobility issues and to see clinical practice and culture variations from around the world.*

***From the United Kingdom:** The Congress itself was a fantastic experience. The organizers did a great job both for the Scientific and for the Social programmes. It was a privilege to hear so many excellent speakers and to have the opportunity to speak to them informally. I met hand therapists from around the globe, making new friends and contacts and renewing old friendships. As IFSHT is a non-profit making organisation, I know that there is no allocated funding for speakers or organisers. It was a huge bonus to have my registration fees covered by IFSHT, as I was unfortunately unable to get any funding for this trip from elsewhere*

Without your generous donation much of this would not have been possible, we are deeply grateful for your support of the worldwide practice of hand therapy. We look forward to partnering with IFSSH for the next joint congress Triennial Congress, October 10-13, 2016, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We hope that we may once again count on your support then.

Sincerely,

Sarah G. Ewald  
IFSHT President

Lynne Feehan  
Immediate Past President

IFSHT is registered as a non-profit organization in Switzerland, depending on local tax laws your contribution may be tax deductible. Please retain this letter as a receipt for your contribution.

# Message from the Secretary-General: Marc Garcia-Elias

## Dear colleagues,

A new year is around the corner with 365 empty pages waiting for us. Like a new car, every page of the 2014 new calendar is an invitation to hit the road (Jack, or whatever your name is!). The IFSSH car is ready - let's use every single gallon of oil we can get to explore new ways of serving our community of hand surgeons. Every page of the calendar left blank is a missed opportunity, is a mile that we refused to drive, is a hand surgeon that has not been reached. The IFSSH is ready to fill each incoming calendar page with meaningful contents.

The following are some examples of what we plan to do. Please, join us!



## 2014 Delegates' Council Meeting

The annual IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting will be held in June 2014 in Paris, in conjunction with the FESSH meeting (June 18-21). Full details will be sent to the delegates and secretariats of each member society in the near future. We hope to see a representative from each member nation at the Council meeting to participate in the discussions and with the planning of future IFSSH endeavours.

## 2016 IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Organising Committee of the 2016 IFSSH-IFSHT triennial congress in Buenos Aires wish to advise that the congress dates have been altered. The congress will now be held from October 24-28, 2016. The Opening Ceremony will take place on the evening of Monday 24th October and the scientific and social programmes will conclude on Friday 28th October.

Dr Eduardo Zancolli and his colleagues are preparing a congress of a very high standard and waiting to welcome the international hand surgery community to Buenos Aires.

Details of the meeting are available via [www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com](http://www.ifssh-ifsht2016.com)

## Educational bursaries and grants

Delegates are asked to read the guidelines on the website ([www.ifssh.info](http://www.ifssh.info)) and encourage applications from their societies.

## Report from Educational Bursary recipient: IFSHT

On behalf of IFSHT and its 40 member countries, thank you for your generous donation to IFSHT this year. The donation of US\$4,500.00 allowed IFSHT to support ten therapists: three from Argentina, two Indian therapists studying abroad and one therapist each from Canada, United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands, to attend the 9th IFSHT Triennial Congress in New Delhi, India.

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- From the United Kingdom: The Congress itself was a fantastic experience. The organisers did a great job both for the Scientific and for the Social programmes. It was a privilege to hear so many excellent speakers and to have the opportunity to speak to them informally. I met hand therapists from around the globe, making new friends and contacts and renewing old friendships. As IFSHT is a non-profit making organisation, I know that there is no allocated funding for speakers or organisers. It was a huge bonus to have my registration fees covered by IFSHT, as I was unfortunately unable to get any funding for this trip from elsewhere

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**TOP: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor – Dr Kevin C. Chung with fellows from Japan, Macedonia, US in the OR. ABOVE LEFT: San Francisco – observing Dr Edward Diao when doing endoscopic carpal tunnel release. ABOVE RIGHT: Stanford University, Palo Alto – Dr Amy Ladd with residents and fellows after a lecture in Robert A. Chase Hand & Upper Limb Center. LEFT: Walking to the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York.**

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*Sincerely,*

**Sarah Ewald** IFSHT President,  
**Lynn Freehan** IFSHT Immediate Past President

**Report from Educational Bursary recipient: Dr Piotr Czarnecki**

This travelling fellowship was a result of an invitation of the ASSH to national societies, including the Polish Society for Surgery of the Hand, and with the financial support of the IFSSH, I travelled to a number of hand surgery centres in the USA from September 16th to October 18th, 2013.

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, host – Kevin C. Chung, September 16th – 20th**

That was my first stop on my USA Hand Surgery Tour. The visit was very well planned and I received a schedule for before arriving in Ann Arbor. I had the opportunity to observe Dr Chung in the OR, both performing reconstructive and microsurgery procedures such as free gracilis transfers and usual every day procedures. I attended clinics and could consult preoperative patients and evaluate great postoperative results. Dr Chung showed also his great scientific possibilities which are really impressive and are proof of evidence based medicine, his practice is truly influenced by results evaluation. I also met Drs Ochi and Kato from Japan and we were asked to present our experiences in the form of a mini hand symposium. The week was concluded by dinner together with Dr Chung and his fellows.

**San Francisco, host – Edward Diao, September 23th – 27th**

With Dr Diao I experienced the way that a private hand surgeon works by being his shadow for most activities during busy days. I joined him in clinics and the OR in a few different hospitals/units which was really valuable. It was extremely beneficial to discuss together some issues connected with CMC joint arthritis including trapeziectomy with suspensionplasty in contrast to joint replacement. Dr Diao is also an expert in endoscopic carpal tunnel release which gave me different perspective on this issue. Sharing both his surgical and also

clinical experience was really fruitful and supported the thought that choice of the treatment should not only be based on fancy techniques. I really appreciate the personal input of Dr Diao to my stay and the possibility to discuss many issues during the dinner at his home.

**ASSH Annual Meeting, October 2nd – 5th**

This kind of meeting is always a big event and I had my time full of sessions, courses and lectures. The scientific quality was exceptional and courses provided really recent information on many important issues such as nerve repair and congenital deformities.

**Stanford University, Palo Alto, host - Amy Ladd, October 7th – 11th**

Continuing my stay in California, I couldn't choose better. The team at Stanford is really a group of exceptional people, including James Chang, Jeffrey Yao and headed by charismatic Amy Ladd. I could observe each of them during top quality hand surgeries in a few facilities including Lucile Packard Children Hospital, Stanford Medicine in Redwood City and the Robert A. Chase Hand & Upper Limb Center. I saw great presentations of wrist arthroscopy, CMC joint surgery, distal radius fractures and much more. The clinics I attended with Dr Ladd were a great opportunity to see her devotion to paediatric hands and share some of our experiences. Department meetings improved my theoretical knowledge. Dr Ladd was also very kind to invite my family for a dinner at her home which was a true American experience.

**Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, host – Edward Athanasian, October 14th – 18th**

My last stop was in New York with great opportunities to observe Dr Weiland, Dr Wolfe, Dr Lee and Dr Hotchkiss at work. The operating room time was used to a maximum and I switched from surgeon to surgeon. I observed and learned many techniques in CMC joint surgery. I also saw beautiful demonstration of elbow release and double nerve transfer for shoulder reanimation in upper plexus palsy. The clinics with Dr Weiland gave me the perspective of an extremely experienced hand surgeon, which is a big influence on everyone's practice. One of the biggest benefits was listening to Dr Athanasian discussing upper extremity tumours, as he is world-wide expert in this matter.

As well as observing operative techniques and various methods of treatment, this fellowship provided the opportunity to experience the US health system organisation and medical education. These are important issues when discussing treatment options and results, and also showing possible ways of improvement of my own practice. The benefits are clinical and scientific, personal and systemic. These are not possible to experience in any way other than travelling and visiting top world hand surgery centres.

**Piotr Czarnecki, MD, PhD**

*Hand Surgery Department, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland*