



MINUTES

DELEGATES' COUNCIL MEETING INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR SURGERY OF THE HAND

1:00pm, Thursday 27th October 2016
Room Atlantico C, Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires

Michael Tonkin, IFSSH President, opened the meeting at 1:10pm.

Chair: Marc Garcia-Elias, IFSSH Secretary-General

1. Present

Michael Tonkin (President)
Zsolt Szabo (President Elect; Hungary)
Marc Garcia-Elias (Secretary-General)
Daniel Nagle (Secretary-General Elect)
Moroe Beppu (Member at Large; Japan)
Ulrich Mennen (Past President)
Frank Burke (Historian)
Belinda Smith (Administrative Secretary)
Eduardo Zancolli (Argentina; Guest: Buenos Aires, 2016)
Tony Berger (Australia)
Martin Leixnering (Austria)
Anne Lejeune (Belgium)
Juan Carlos Suarez (Bolivia)
Pedro José Pires Neto (Brazil)
Margarita Kateva (Bulgaria)
Don Lalonde (Canada)
Lorena Parra (Chile)
Fabio Suarez (Colombia)
Karsten Krøner (Denmark)
Nash Naam (Egypt)
Timo Raatikainen (Finland)
Gero Meyer zu Reckendorf (France)
Karl Prommersberger (Germany)
Ping Tak Chan (Hong Kong)
Raja Sabapathy (India)
Teddy OH Prasetyono (Indonesia)
Ali Dianat (Iran)
Amiram Sagi (Israel)
Riccardo Luchetti, Pierluigi Tos (Italy)
Goo Hyun Baek (Korea)

Ruban Sivanoli (Malaysia)
Miguel Hernandez Alvarez (Mexico - SMCMM)
Juan Ramón Bonfil Ojeda (Mexico - AMCM)
Arnold Schuurman (Netherlands)
Jan Ragnar Haugstvedt (Norway)
Tammy Dela Rosa (Philippines)
Maria Manuel Mouzinho (Portugal)
Alexandru Georgescu (Romania)
Aymeric Lim (Singapore)
Michael Solomons (South Africa)
Roberto S Rosales (Spain)
Peter Axelsson (Sweden)
Esther Voegelin (Switzerland)
Chih-Hung Lin (Taiwan)
Haluk Ozcanli (Turkey)
David Newington (United Kingdom)
Maria Noel Fraga (Uruguay)
Peter Amadio (USA - AAHS)
Terry Light (USA - ASSH)
Jose G Vicari (Venezuela)
Jörg van Schoonhoven (Guest: Berlin, 2019)
Zong-Ming Li (Guest: Hand and Wrist Biomechanics International)

2. Apologies

Husam Basheer (Kuwait)
Roohi Ahmad (Malaysia)
Emmanuel Estrella (Philippines)
Nathaniel Orillaza (Philippines)
Sandeep Sebastin (Singapore)
Per Hessman (Sweden)
Igor Indriago (Venezuela)

3. Confirmation of previous minutes – 10th September, 2015

Motion: To accept the minutes as a true record of the 2015 Delegates' Council meeting.

Proposed: Nash Naam; Seconded: Raja Sabapathy - Unanimous agreement

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

i. IFSSH registration / Tax exempt status / 2015 tax return

Michael Tonkin reported that, following the discussions held at the Seattle 2015 Delegates' Council Meeting, the IFSSH Articles of Incorporation were registered with State of Illinois on 18th August 2015. An application for tax exempt status was forwarded to the US Inland Revenue Service (IRS) and a letter of approval of federal tax exemption was received on 9th June 2016. Therefore, the IFSSH is now a tax exempt organisation registered in the State of Illinois, USA. The 2015 "Annual Information Return" was submitted to the IRS on 12th July 2016 and accepted with no penalties or tax owing.

One further document is undergoing review by US officials to receive registration as a charitable organisation in the State of Illinois. When this is approved, all registration regulations will be complete. The IFSSH then needs to maintain its registration by completing annual forms for the US IRS and State of Illinois Attorney-General, and with the submission of tax returns to both parties.

ii. Protocol updates

The Bylaws (v1.1, Sept 10 2015), as approved at the 2015 Delegates' Council Meeting and subsequently used for the IFSSH registration, have replaced previous versions.

iii. Membership updates

Marc Garcia-Elias reported that the IFSSH has 55 member societies from 54 countries (with the Mexican applications yet to be considered - see below). There is excellent communication with all member societies except for long term contact problems with Lithuania, Puerto Rico, Slovakia and Thailand.

IFSSH dues are requested by October 31st each year. As of September 30th 2016, 46 member societies up to date. A small number of societies have not paid dues for over 3 years and are therefore excluded from voting in this meeting - this status is marked on the country-specific voting pages to be distributed to each society's delegate. The ExCo explained that if fees are not forthcoming for extended periods, the Delegates' Council can choose to remove a member society from IFSSH membership but this requires a unanimous decision.

Membership interested has been forthcoming from Guatemala, Pakistan and Peru but formal applications have not been received.

Correspondence continues to be exchanged with Dr Jin Bo Tang who represents a recently founded Chinese Speaking Association of Hand Surgeons. This organisation must be active for at least two years prior to applying for IFSSH membership, along with meeting the other membership criteria, but the IFSSH ExCo remain hopeful that this large group of surgeons will actively pursue IFSSH membership.

The IFSSH ExCo has received an application from the Emirates Society and exchanged correspondence with Dr Alawadi (President of the Hand surgery chapter and Vice President of Emirates Plastic Surgery Society) regarding the criteria required for membership. When these requirements have been met, the application will be considered by the ExCo and discussed at a future Delegates' Council Meeting.

The IFSSH ExCo has been in discussion with a number of Mexican surgeons. The Mexican representatives present at the Delegates' Council Meeting were requested to leave the room while their applications were considered.

Historically, a Mexican group was involved in the IFSSH but there has been no interaction for an extended period and dues payments have not been received since 2003. The current circumstance involves hand surgery representation in Mexico by two main groups. Therefore, the Executive considered it reasonable to invite all interested parties to apply for IFSSH membership.

Two independent applications for IFSSH membership have been received:

- Asociación Mexicana De Cirugía De La Mano A.C. (Mexican Association for Surgery of the Hand)
- Sociedad Mexicana De Cirugia De La Mano Y Microcirugia S.C. (Mexican Society of Hand Surgery and Microsurgery):

The Association is presided over by Dr Ricardo Pacheco-Lopez and its application has been supported by the IFSSH member societies of Australia, Spain and Brazil, to fulfil the criteria requiring three letter of support from IFSSH member societies.

The Society is presided over by Dr Miguel Angel Hernandez Alvarez and its application has been supported by the IFSSH member societies of Brazil, Colombia and Chile.

The two applications fulfil the criteria for IFSSH membership, except that the submitted bylaws are in Spanish and require translation to English. Hence, the Executive Committee has decided to present both candidacies for their approval.

The ExCo advised the Delegates' Council that the IFSSH may accept multiple groups from one country to membership, as long as they fulfil the application criteria. For example, both the AAHS and ASSH are member societies of the IFSSH from the USA and Korea previously was represented by two societies.

Motion: To accept the "Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía de la Mano" as a member society of the IFSSH

Proposed: Eduardo Zancolli; Seconded: Michael Tonkin - Unanimous agreement

Motion: To accept the "Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugía de la Mano y Microcirugía" as a member society of the IFSSH

Proposed: Terry Light; Seconded: Peter Amadio - Unanimous agreement

Marc Garcia-Elias welcomed the Mexican representatives to the meeting and announced the IFSSH membership of the Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía de la Mano and the Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugía de la Mano y Microcirugía.

iv. Rotation of congress hosts

Michael Tonkin reported of some difficulties with the congress host rotation schedule, due to an over-direction of successive congresses to the Asia-Pacific region (Australia in 2007, Korea in 2010, India in 2013). This biased the geographic balance of congresses and the IFSSH ExCo has worked for a number of years on a formula to provide fair and even distribution of the international congresses. This includes the number of societies within each region, as well as the membership numbers within each of those societies. Competition to host a congress is increasing, and more societies may be interested as the membership numbers continue to grow.

To avoid any further confusion over the long-term schedule, the IFSSH ExCo announced the regional rotation until 2037, as follows:

- 2013 - Asia (India)
- 2016 - Americas (Argentina)
- 2019 - Europe (Germany)
- 2022 - Europe
- 2025 - Americas
- 2028 - Asia
- 2031 - Europe
- 2034 - Asia
- 2037 - Europe

The ExCo reported that the circumstance of two successive European congresses (2019 and 2022) is not optimal and will not be repeated. The ExCo will discuss the impact of these meetings with the congress hosts and FESSH to ensure all outcomes are considered.

The rotation schedule will be distributed in newsletters and the ezine. The guidelines to place a bid for hosting rights are on the IFSSH website - <http://ifssh.info/guidelines.html>. This rotation may be discussed and altered at future Delegates' Council meetings, if the need arises.

5. President's Report

Michael Tonkin delivered the following report:

Much of this report has been covered or is to be covered within the agendas of the Executive Committee and Delegates' Council Meetings.

In summary, a significant time over this triennium has been devoted to the reestablishment of the IFSSH as a charitable, not-for-profit entity with tax exempt status. These processes have been completed such that the IFSSH is now legally registered as a charitable organisation in the State of Illinois, USA, and has received tax exempt status from the US Internal Revenue Service. It is necessary to provide certain annual regulatory documents, including tax information returns to both the US IRS and the State of Illinois.

The congress host rotation formula has been clarified and discussions are ongoing with other bodies, such as FESSH and IFSHT, as to the optimal methods of cooperation in the organisation and timing of congresses. The IFSSH encourages combined meetings with the IFSHT but recognises the independence of the IFSHT in the process of determining optimal geographic sites for congresses. The congress rotation has been organised so as to cause as little competition with other congresses, be they in Europe, the Americas or any Asia Pacific regions.

Our funds have slowly increased, touching momentarily the desired level of US\$ 1 million. The IFSSH does not exist to accumulate funds. Its Committee for Educational Sponsorship is working hard to identify optimal methods of distribution of IFSSH funds for educational purposes, particularly for those societies representing countries with a lesser financial advantage. Applications are encouraged so that we can utilise these funds optimally.

These three years have been a period of consolidation. I believe that we are now in a position to expand our activities in a more sophisticated manner, supporting educational causes, congresses, registration for the financially disadvantaged at meetings, financial support for Visiting Professorships, and the like.

I am cognisant of the enormous support I have received from the Executive Committee members and from the Belinda Smith as Administrative Assistant. Not everything works perfectly but our level of sophistication within the administration of the IFSSH has been significantly enhanced. I look forward to observing the further progress of the IFSSH in the coming years.

*Michael Tonkin
IFSSH President*

6. Secretary-General's Report

As covered by these minutes.

In addition, Marc Garcia-Elias reported:

- This year the IFSSH is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its formation. The presentation delivered on Tuesday of the IFSSH History will be made available to all

those societies wishing to have a copy for their internal use. The content will also be published as an article in the IFSSH Ezine.

- The Hand and Wrist Biomechanics International is an allied organization of the IFSSH and has hosted two of the IFSSH 2016 scientific sessions this, both well attended and successful. The ExCo is supportive of promoting these types of collaborations with allied organisations. Dr Garcia-Elias will act as the link person to ensure a most satisfactory relationship with this institution. Dr Zong-Ming Li (Chair, Board of Directors of HWBI) was introduced to the Delegates' Council and provided a brief overview of the organisation.

- Hand Surgery Worldwide: The IFSSH has purchased all hard copies, but has not progressed in gaining the electronic rights to this important publication by Dr Urbaniak. Assistance would be sought from Greek hand surgery colleagues to continue negotiations with the publishers (Konstantaras Medbooks, Greece).

7. Treasurer's Report

Marc Garcia-Elias delivered the Treasurer's Report, including the spreadsheet previously forwarded to the Delegates' Council members.

At the 2015 Delegates' Council meeting in Seattle, a balance of \$885,402.43 (at July 31st 2015) was reported. In the past 12 months there has been financial growth from dues income and the investment account. Major outgoings include the travel expenses of the ExCo, secretariat payments, ezine expenses, grants and legal/accounting fees. On September 30th 2016, the IFSSH balance was \$910,245.42.

With further income during October 2016 of dues payments and the reimbursement of the Buenos Aires \$90,000 seed grant, the current balance now exceeds \$1,000,000.

The IFSSH ExCo actively promotes the use of funds for educational programmes. As will be discussed in the Committee for Educational Sponsorship's report, there have been no new requests for grants this year. The IFSSH is not aiming to have a big bank balance and save this money - it should be distributed to worthy educational projects. Marc Garcia-Elias asked all delegates to ensure they take this news to their society and consider ideas for educational projects that could be supported by the IFSSH.

Raja Sabapathy endorsed this suggestion, explaining that he was involved in the organisation of a regional hand surgery meeting in Coimbatore, India, that was supported by the IFSSH. The grant allowed for reduced registration rates and an excellent faculty, to provide a high quality course for all. Over 250 people attended and this was a worthwhile use of IFSSH support.

Further information will be placed in upcoming newsletters and ezines. The guidelines for applications are available on the IFSSH website: <http://ifssh.info/fellowship-grants.html>



**IFSSH Funds
2006-2016**

	PERIOD ENDING											
	June 30, 2006	March, 2007	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2008	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2010	December 31st, 2011	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2015	Sept 30, 2016
OPENING BALANCE (US\$)												
Wells Fargo #1			176,469.94	207,934.27	271,238.34	320,018.21	376,457.80	403,121.69	383,725.79	437,624.90	416,992.11	347,723.23
Wells Fargo #2				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,955.75	1,188.75	2,120.75	1,961.75	1,817.75
Fidelity			479,003.40	307,683.67	401,760.92	401,760.92	426,334.49	421,690.43	460,416.18	485,313.05	537,710.27	528,355.15
INCOME (US\$) - Wells Fargo #1												
Membership fees			19,439.00	97,773.42	78,814.42	51,829.92	77,115.02	73,307.91	87,746.85	71,844.21	80,189.37	72,305.33
IFSSH Congress			44,919.04	0.00	0.00	100,300.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	14,221.57	0.00	0.00
Ezine			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A - See Wells Fargo #2			1,635.00	2,600.00	300.00
Interest - Wells Fargo Bank			4,122.37	2,009.35	97.10	23.73	55.61	36.51	37.13	37.74	13.26	0.00
Merchandise			100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			73,494.31	99,782.77	78,911.52	152,153.65	77,170.63	73,344.42	138,383.98	87,738.52	82,802.63	72,605.33
INCOME (US\$) - Wells Fargo #2												
Ezine sponsorship							17,975.00	0.00	1,088.00		N/A - see Wells Fargo #1	
Misc (Incorrect acct for deposit)							9,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,625.00	0.00	1,088.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURE (US\$) - Wells Fargo #1												
IFSSH Congress			7,596.33	0.00	0.00	67,285.90	0.00	5,283.15	17,410.00	40,000.00	54,889.96	0.00
Executive Expenses			31,375.61	21,457.35	29,762.91	22,975.79	36,104.22	25,096.00	23,667.25	18,230.19	21,926.69	0.00
Secretariat												
Bursaries and Grants			0.00	15,000.00	0.00	2,850.00	15,000.00	40,999.99	15,050.00	19,350.00	35,000.00	9,500.00
Ezine			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	See Wells Fargo #2	6,000.00	12,459.00	11,729.99	11,025.29	17,881.90
Lawyer/Accountant Services			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,123.38	17,037.33
Bank fees - Wells Fargo Bank			144.14	21.35	368.74	602.37	1213.52	2,086.49	2,107.67	3,132.51	2,412.86	1,357.01
Misc			4,913.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	189.00	13,274.69	2,046.75	2,297.91	0.00	0.00
Total			44,029.98	36,478.70	30,131.65	93,714.06	52,506.74	92,740.32	84,484.87	108,371.31	152,071.51	53,276.24
EXPENDITURE (US\$) - Wells Fargo #2												
Editorial / layout set up fees							16,526.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Fees - Wells Fargo Bank							143.25	117.00	156.00	159.00	144.00	36.00
Misc (Incorrect deposit reversed)							0.00	9,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,669.25	9,767.00	156.00	159.00	144.00	36.00
CLOSING BALANCE (US\$)												
Wells Fargo #1			207,934.27	271,238.34	320,018.21	378,457.80	403,121.69	383,725.79	437,624.90	416,992.11	347,723.23	367,052.32
Wells Fargo #2			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,955.75	1,188.75	2,120.75	1,961.75	1,817.75	1,781.75
Fidelity Investments			479,003.40	307,683.67	401,760.92	426,334.39	421,690.43	460,416.18	485,313.05	537,710.27	528,355.15	541,411.35
Total Funds (US\$)	584,252.37	602,381.55	686,937.67	578,922.01	721,779.13	804,792.19	835,767.87	845,330.72	925,058.70	956,664.13	877,896.13	910,245.42

8. Historian's Report

Frank Burke advised that this report is his last official commitment as IFSSH Historian, after 6 years of working on the establishment of the IFSSH archives. An extensive search has now been finalised into an electronic store of important documents, all filed within Dropbox. These documents include information on congresses, committees, Pioneers, scientific committee reports, finances, etc, as well as important correspondence throughout the history of the IFSSH.

A list of documents yet to be found has been written and will be passed to the incoming Historian. These include:

- ExCo minutes of 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1997 and 2000.
- Delegates Council minutes of June 2000 (Barcelona, Spain).

Frank Burke will make one further attempt to find these missing documents by contacting those inducted as Pioneers at this ceremony, as many have been involved in the IFSSH for a number of years.

When the new Historian is elected, Frank Burke will pass on two items in his possession - the original minutes of the first IFSSH meeting and the IFSSH copy of Jim Urbaniak's Hand Surgery Worldwide book.

Frank Burke completed his report by acknowledging the enjoyable association he has had with the IFSSH and its members throughout his term, and asked that all consider applying for grants that would enable advancements in hand surgery education around the world.

The IFSSH ExCo and Delegates' Council thanked Frank Burke for his contributions.

9. Committee for Educational Sponsorship Report

Dan Nagle (Chair, CES) reported that two sponsored projects were undertaken in 2015:

- South Asian regional course, 3-5 July 2015 - report submitted to Seattle meeting
- Educational course in rheumatoid hand surgery including some trauma, aspects in eastern Hungary (Hajdúszoboszló) September 2015 - report submitted to Seattle meeting

Following the 2015 Seattle meeting, the approved grant was forwarded to the IFSHT. This comprised:

- IFSHT (International Hand Therapy Teaching Awards - \$1500
- Evelyn Mackin Triennial Award - \$3000
- IFSHT Triennial Congress Travel Grants - \$5000

No further applications have been received, and only one enquiry regarding options for financial support for a regional meeting of the Middle East and the Arab Countries in Cairo Egypt in April 2017.

Dan Nagle asked that delegates look at the guidelines and advise the CES/ExCo if the application process is too onerous. It is essential that those projects receiving sponsorship are of high quality and appropriate, but if it is administrative components of the application process that are a deterrent, then the CES/ExCo can reconsider these demands. He again asked the delegates to ensure that all societies are aware of the available funding.

Dan Nagle also reminded the Delegates' Council of the IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship. This is another avenue of educational support available from the IFSSH. Guidelines are on the website - <http://ifssh.info/fellowship-grants.html>

10. 13th IFSSH Congress – Buenos Aires, 2016

Eduardo Zancolli addressed the Delegates' Council, thanking all for coming to Buenos Aires and reporting on the congress to date. He advised that there were 1617 registrations prior to the opening of the congress, but many more had been received on site. Latin American participation is strong, comprising around half of the overall registrations. He and his committee received the support of a lot of international speakers and moderators to provide a high level of scientific sessions. The social events and museums have complemented the scientific programme and all have worked to plan. The financial balance is positive, though yet to be finalised with the inclusion of onsite registrations and payment of some components.

The ExCo and Delegates' Council thanked Eduardo Zancolli and his colleagues for hosting this congress and welcoming all to Buenos Aires.

11. 14th IFSSH Congress - Berlin, 2019

Jörg van Schoonhoven reported that the dates, venue and PCO have been chosen for the Berlin 2019 Congress. It will be held from 20-24 May 2019 at The Cube. The congress committee has had a preliminary meeting and examined previous congress programmes. Many are in Buenos Aires to further understand the logistics and get feedback.

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

Sarah Ewald, IFSHT President, submitted a written report - see Appendix.

13. IFSSH Scientific Committees

The 2016 IFSSH Programme Book contains a list of all reports received in the 2013-2016 triennium. The ExCo are grateful to all chairpersons and scientific committee members who have contributed. The reports are published in the ezine and placed

on the website. The scope of the reports is to provide a review of the topic, rather than a controversial argument or personal opinion.

The IFSSH Executive advised that scientific committees are charged with preparing one report on a given topic - though they may choose a specific sub-topic within the broad subject. If they wish to provide subsequent reports, they can communicate this request to the IFSSH President, who is responsible for inviting colleagues to act as chairpersons. In the near future a further set of invites will be forwarded to surgeons to commence the next round of reports. Input from delegates would be welcomed.

14. IFSSH Website / Newsletter / Ezine

The IFSSH Executive recognised the assistance provided by its webmaster, Santhosh Rajan in India.

Ulrich Mennen reported that the ezine continues to be prepared and distributed every 3 months. Its philosophy is “for the members, by the members” and therefore contributions are always encouraged. These could be interesting case report, tips, ideas, photographs, etc. He also appealed that individuals sign up to receive the ezine (free of charge, via the website - <http://ifssh.info/ezine.html>) and that all delegates forward each issue to the membership of their society. The industry representatives at this congress have all been approached to consider advertising in the ezine as a way to offset the cost of the production.

15. IFSSH Pioneers of Hand Surgery

37 Pioneers and 1 Giant were inducted at Monday’s Opening Ceremony. The full lists of Pioneers and Giants are available on the website, as is a booklet of the profiles of the 2016 Pioneers - <http://ifssh.info/pioneerbooklet2016.pdf>

16. New business

a. 2016-2019 Executive Committee

Ulrich Mennen, Chair of the IFSSH Nominating Committee, explained that an important function of this committee is to prepare a list of recommendations for Executive Committee positions for the next triennium. All positions, except that of Past President, are also eligible for nominations from the floor of the Council Meeting.

In turn, each recommendation of the Nominating Committee was announced by Ulrich Mennen:

- Past-President – Michael Tonkin (Australia)
- President – Zsolt Szabo (Hungary)
- President-Elect – Marc Garcia-Elias (Spain)
- Secretary General – Dan Nagle (USA)
- Secretary General Elect – Goo Hyun Baek (Korea)
- Historian – David Warwick (United Kingdom)
- Member at Large – Raja Sabapathy (India)

With no nominations from the floor and unanimous agreement, the election of the above members to form the 2016-2019 IFSSH Executive Committee was confirmed.

b. 2022 Congress Host Society

Four eligible bids to host the 2022 congress were received from European member societies. These bids were presented to the Delegates' Council as follows:

- Brussels, Belgian Society (Anne Lejeune)
- London, British Society (David Shewring)
- Lisbon, Portuguese Society (Fernando Cruz)
- Bern, Swiss Society (Esther Voegelin)

Delegates voted by secret ballot and Marc Garcia-Elias announced that London would host the 2022 Congress, receiving 37 of the eligible votes.

Correspondence has been received from FESSH representatives, relating to the allocation of the 2022 congress to the European region and its impact on the FESSH congress. Michael Tonkin and Marc Garcia-Elias will continue discussions with FESSH and the congress hosts, owing to insufficient time within this Delegates' Council Meeting.

c. Congress contract

Insufficient time to discuss.

d. IFSSH Secretariat

Insufficient time to discuss.

17. Next meetings of the Delegates' Council

2017: Within ASSH: September 7-9, San Francisco

2018: Within FESSH: June 13-16, Copenhagen

2019: within IFSSH Congress, Berlin, Germany

Meeting closed: 2:35pm

APPENDIX:

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



IFSHT REPORT TO IFSSH FALL 2016

Sarah G. Ewald (Switzerland), President 2013-2016, president@ifsht.org
Presented October 27, 2015

IFSHT TRIENNIAL MEETINGS:

10th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 13th IFSSH Triennial Congress, October 24-28, 2016, Buenos Aires, Argentina

- **360 Therapists registered for the congress as of October 10, 2016.** Therapist program includes: 2 full days, 2 half days; general sessions in the morning, breakout sessions in the afternoon. One combined session with surgeons. Workshop registration has been implemented by IFSHT as workshop rooms have limited space and are three floors above auditoriums. IFSHT Keynote Speaker: Dr. Adriana Pemoff, Argentina, Musician's Hand; Program committee chairs: Birgitta Rosen (Sweden) and Sarah Ewald (Switzerland), have worked with localizing committee chairs Beatriz Piso, Therapists and Dr. Eduardo Zancolli, Surgeons.

11th IFSHT Triennial Congress / 14th IFSSH Triennial Congress, 2019 Berlin, Germany

- Written agreement under discussion.

IFSHT MEMBERSHIP

- **Overview of membership:** 8500 hand therapists worldwide are members of IFSHT, 36 full members, national hand therapy societies, 2 additional members since last report. Four associate members, hand therapy interest groups in countries with no society. Eight corresponding members, individual therapists from countries with no society, two corresponding members have upgraded to associate membership. Two additional applications for membership will be voted on at the IFSHT Council meeting. Five commercial members. Five liaison organizations.

COMMUNICATION

Within IFSHT:

- **Executive committee:** Skype-call meetings, every 6 to 8 weeks, a virtual office is utilized for on-line discussions and document sharing.
- **Delegate communication:** receive regular updates from the IFSHT Secretary General and vote electronically in IFSHT elections.

With Hand Therapists around the world:

- **IFSHT Update:** published 4 x annually in the *US* and the *British Journals of Hand Therapy* and distributed to all member countries. Available on the IFSHT website: <http://www.ifsht.org/page/ifsht-updates>.
- **IFSHT website (www.ifsht.org):** ongoing development of new features and content.
- **IFSHT Hand Therapy Connections E-Newsletter:** sent out 2x per year. Currently, 2227 subscribers. Subscription via website.
- **IFSHT Facebook Page:** initiated in the fall of 2014, continues to grow in popularity.
- **IFSHT contributes to IFSSH E-zine**

IFSHT AWARDS

- **Christine Alegri Award:** New award for innovation in hand therapy, awarded for the first time in Buenos Aires. Blind electronic review evaluation process created and implemented for nine reviewers to utilize to evaluate the five nominations. Awarded to Birgitta Rosen of Sweden for innovations in the treatment of nerve injuries.
- **Evelyn Mackin Award:** sponsorship of a therapist(s) from a developing country (GNI < \$6000) to attend triennial congress

SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES:

- **IFSHT-IFSSH International Hand Therapy Teaching Awards (@a maximum of \$1000 each):** Available for therapists traveling and teaching (clinical or academic) in areas of the world with limited hand therapy access. During this term 2 projects supported: 1 project in the Czech Republic and 1 project in Ghana.
- **Dynamometers (donated to IFSHT):** ~ 40 dynamometers available. Available to therapists or surgeons traveling and teaching / consulting in a developing country. To request a dynamometer contact secretarygeneral@ifsht.org. In 2015 /16 dynamometers have been sent via projects to the following countries: Ghana, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Ecuador, Thailand, Swaziland, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Brazil.
- **Evelyn Mackin Award:** 5 Therapists (from: Nepal, Ecuador, Chile, Philippines, Mexico) fully sponsored to attend 2016 IFSHT-IFSSH Congress. IFSSH generously contributed 3000\$ to this fund.
- **International Therapist Triennial Meeting Sponsorship Funds (as available):** assists international therapists to attend the IFSHT triennial congress. IFSSH generously contributed 5000.00\$ to this fund, to support therapist participation at the 2016 congress, additional funds were also received from other donors. In total 17 therapists received partial sponsorship to attend the 2016 IFSHT IFSSH congress.

APPENDIX:

2. Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) Report

The combined congress of the 11th APFSSH and the 7th APFSHT will be held at the Radisson Blu hotel, at Cebu city in Philippines from 7th to 10th of Nov, 2017. Dr Ida Tacata will be Chairman of the Organizing committee. The registration begins on October 1, 2016 and details are available at www.handsociety.org.

The Hand Surgery journal is being published under the editorship of Dr Goo Hyun Baek and there are efforts to increase the issues from the present number of 3 to 4 issues per year.

With the meeting in Philippines, one cycle of the congress venues at the various members countries is complete.

S Raja Sabapathy
Secretary - General