



IFSSH Newsletter
January 2021

Message from Secretary-General: Goo Hyun Baek

The New Year 2021 has dawned with the silver lining in the dark cloud of Covid-19 pandemic.

Most of the people on earth have suffered from fear, frustration and exhaustion caused by uncontrollable dissemination of the viruses, however we need to be strong because things will get better.

It might be stormy now, but it can't rain forever. As Baruch Spinoza said, 'Fear cannot be without hope nor hope without fear'.

Better and more careful consideration for our patients as well as for our family and friends even in this bad situation, is our vocation.

The Executive Committee will keep on trying to find a way to support educational programs especially for young hand surgeons, and to prepare 15th IFSSH Congress and 12th IFSHT Congress which will be held in London in 2022.

I wish all of you and your family have a happy and healthy New Year.

Best regards to all,

Goo Hyun

Goo Hyun Baek

Secretary-General, IFSSH

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Through a year of challenges and changes

The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) thanks all societies for their support and friendship in 2020. We pass on our heartfelt thanks to our Delegates for their willingness to assist and adapt.

We wish all hand surgeons throughout the world all the very best for 2021.

Marc Garcia-Elias, President
Daniel Nagle, President Elect
Zsolt Szabo, Immediate Past President
Goo Hyun Baek, Secretary-General
Raja Sabapathy, Secretary-General Elect
David Warwick, Historian
Jin Bo Tang, Member at Large
Belinda Smith, Administrative Secretary

Scientific Updates: Congenital Conditions

Further work continues to be undertaken on the OMT Classification of Congenital Anomalies of the Hand and Upper Limb, with an update recently submitted to the IFSSH.

Historically, the Swanson Classification was proposed in the 1960s and subsequently adopted by the IFSSH Committee on Congenital Conditions. In 2014 the Committee recommended adoption of a revised classification system for Congenital Anomalies of the Hand and Upper Limb, as proposed by Drs Oberg, Manske and Tonkin, popularly known as the ‘OMT’ (https://ifssh.info/pdf/2014_Congenital_conditions.pdf). (https://ifssh.info/pdf/2015_OMT_Classification_Congenital_Report.pdf)

The Committee recommended ongoing review of the ‘OMT’ system according to responses from the hand surgery community. The refinements incorporated in 2015 were adopted (https://ifssh.info/pdf/2015_OMT_Classification_Congenital_Report.pdf). The Committee invited comments and advice based on improvements in knowledge at the time of these reviews when the classification may be modified.

In 2020, an update was chaired by Dr. Charles Goldfarb. The 2015 OMT was examined to address comments given by others through different publications and also through the committee’s own experience when using the OMT. A number of changes were recommended and the final report is available on the IFSSH website: <https://ifssh.info/pdf/Congenital-Update-2020-10-05-with-OMT-extended.pdf>

To complement the classification system, an app has been developed, led by Dr. Wee Lam and colleagues. The purpose of the ‘OMT App’ is to create a mobile platform where the classification can be easily accessed, for example, in the busy outpatient setting. The App is regularly updated to mirror any changes to the OMT classification, new knowledge of etiologies, as well as add to the growing collection of images. These updates will automatically be refreshed for all those who have downloaded the App. Further information is available on the IFSSH website: <https://ifssh.info/OMT-Classification-App.php>

Educational Sponsorship

We have been impressed with the adaptation and creativity shown in continuing education programs throughout 2020. Please remember that if your society is planning education programmes and needs support to fulfil the goals, please consider if it may be appropriate to submit a request to the IFSSH. The full guidelines and reports of sponsored programmes are available via https://ifssh.info/educational_sponsorship.php.

Future Meetings

A detailed list of national and regional hand surgery meetings is available on the IFSSH website. The triennial IFSSH Congresses are as follows:

*XVth IFSSH – XIIth IFSHT Congress – London, United Kingdom
6th - 10th June, 2022*

*XVIth IFSSH – XIIIth IFSHT Congress – Washington D.C., USA
29th March - 3rd April, 2025*