



IFSSH Newsletter

November 2022

Message from the Secretary-General: David Warwick

I thought that perhaps hand surgeons around the world might like to learn a bit more about the work of the team which keeps your IFSSH running - our administrator Belinda, the Executive Committee (ExCo), the Ezine Editor, Ulrich Mennen, and the Delegates.

A lot goes on behind the scenes to keep our organisation running smoothly and moving forwards. Every day our Administrator Belinda deals with enquiries, sorts out the finances, sends letters and generally keeps the Executive Committee (ExCo) informed and on top of its tasks. There are at least weekly exchanges between the Officers (Communications Director Jin Bo Tang, President Elect Raja Sabapathy, Past President Marc Garcia Elias, President Dan Nagle and myself) to discuss and organise matters like educational awards, finances and bylaw changes. Every 3 or 4 weeks, Dan Nagle, Belinda and I meet on Zoom to run through all the ongoing administrative nitty gritty.

Professor Mennen has been part of IFSSH for so many years. His memory of the institution and his stewardship of the Ezine are central to the success of our IFSSH.

We welcome the involvement of each Society's Delegate, not only in the Annual Delegates' Council meeting but more and more in the daily running of our work and in our future growth.

In order to improve the involvement, inclusivity and diversity, as well as the effectiveness of your IFSSH, the Delegates approved the suggestion by the previous Executive Committee to increase the numbers of Members-at-Large from one to five. This provides a wider reach of the ExCo from each region of the world, enabling the easier interaction of the IFSSH societies and their membership. The new structure also creates more opportunities for more people to enter the ExCo and then perhaps become Secretary-General and thereafter President in due course.

For yet more inclusivity and involvement beyond the ExCo, the IFSSH Nominating Committee has two extra Members-at-Large - Peter Amadio and Ilse Degreef, who work with the two most recent Past Presidents and current President in procedures such as elections, Pioneer selection and so on.

Prior to the pandemic, the Executive Committee might only meet once or twice a year (rotating through the FESSH, ASSH and IFSSH meetings each triennium), but now that we are familiar with Zoom, we can have far more frequent ExCo meetings. More regular meetings together with the new energy and expertise infused by the five Members-at-Large will produce a noticeable increase in the number of projects and reduction in the time to deliver.

Here is a screenshot of the new ExCo coming together from all corners of the world at very different time zones on Sunday 21 August for a very enthusiastic meeting, the products of which I will expand upon more in my next newsletter.



Please all take care and if anyone anywhere has a suggestion or comment about how we run the IFSSH for you, please send me a personal email to davidwarwick@handsurgery.co.uk or a Whatsapp message to +447887651451.

With very best wishes,

David Warwick
Secretary-General, IFSSH

2022 IFSSH Swanson Lecture, London

The Swanson lecture, first approved in 2004 as acknowledgement of Alfred Swanson's many contributions in the IFSSH, and inaugurated in 2007, is part of our IFSSH culture. We recognise the excellent Swanson Lecture "*Current Concepts on the Management of Scaphoid Injuries*", given in London by Professor Tim Davis, one of the world's leading researchers on this tiny enigmatic bone which causes us so many problems.

Professor Davis joins an eminent group of hand surgeons to have delivered the IFSSH Swanson Lecture, that is now a centrepiece of the IFSSH triennial congress programmes:

Goran Lundborg, Sweden: "*The intelligent hand and the plastic brain*" (Sydney, 2007)
Jesse Jupiter, USA: "*Fracture of the distal radius: an historical perspective*" (Seoul, 2010)
Wayne Morrison, Australia: "*Milestones in Reconstructive Hand Surgery*" (Delhi, 2013)
James Strickland, USA: "*Moments in Time: Hand Surgery*" (Buenos Aires, 2016)
Steven Hovius, The Netherlands "*Challenges?!*" (Berlin, 2019)

IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES)

The IFSSH CES has achieved a great milestone: in 2022 over US\$100,000 has been awarded to assist educational projects worldwide. This is by far the largest amount to be made available in the history of the IFSSH.

The IFSSH supports a wide range of educational programmes. The funds are awarded on a competitive basis, following application to the Committee for Educational Sponsorship (refer to https://www.ifssh.info/educational_sponsorship.php for full details). Beyond general educational support, the IFSSH CES also administers funding to the IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professorship scheme, IFSSH Triennial Congress Assistance Grants, and Regional Courses in Hand Surgery. Reports from completed projects are published in the Ezine and on the website (<https://www.ifssh.info/ifssh-sponsored-educational-projects.php>).

The projects supported from the 2022 applications to date include:

- WALANT courses, workshops and meetings in Kenya - Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, and Mombasa
- The combined Colombian-Venezuelan annual congress
- The 2023 World Symposium on Congenital Malformations of the Hand and Upper Limb
- Therapists' activities through contributions to the IFSHT Evelyn Mackin Award and IFSSH-IFSHT Triennial Travel Award
- Editorial grants towards the "Current Practice in Hand Surgery" textbook
- The London 2022 IFSSH Travelling Fellowship programme
- The IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor - awarded to the Polish Hand Surgery Society and Professor Jin Bo Tang, involving an extensive programme of teaching at multiple Hand Surgery centres in Poland and the Polish Hand Surgery Society ASM.

The CES thanks all delegates and societies for encouraging applications from their membership. We look forward to receiving and granting further applications in the future.

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:

1st IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery

Guayaquil, Ecuador

31st January - 3rd February, 2024



XVIth IFSSH – XIIIth IFSHT Congress

Washington D.C., USA

23rd - 28th March, 2025



XVIIth IFSSH – IVth IFSHT Congress

Singapore

23rd – 27th October, 2028 (TBC)



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