



IFSSH Newsletter – April 2012

2012 Delegates' Council Meeting

The 2012 IFSSH Delegates' Council meeting will be held on **Friday 22nd June, 2012 – 10:15am-12:00pm**. This will take place in Antwerp, in conjunction with the FESSH annual congress.

We look forward to welcoming the delegates from all IFSSH member nations and discussing the activities and plans of our Federation.

An agenda and relevant documentation will be forwarded to all delegates in the near future. If your society has updated its contact details or appointed a new delegate, please ensure the IFSSH secretariat has been notified (email: administration@ifssh.info). If your delegate is unable to attend could you nominate an alternative member to represent your society.

Further information regarding the 2012 FESSH Congress is available via the website: www.fessh2012.org.

Bursaries and Grants

As discussed at the 2011 Delegates' Council Meeting, one of the goals of the IFSSH is to support worthy hand surgery proposals with financial assistance. Examples of previous projects/recipients have included the Baragwanath Hospital Hand Fellowship, production of the Terminology for Hand Surgery publication in five languages, and an educational DVD on Pollicization.

To increase the profile of this programme, the IFSSH Executive and Delegates have initiated the “**IFSSH Special Committee on Educational Sponsorship**”, chaired by Marc Garcia-Elias (IFSSH Secretary-Elect). The full details of this committee and the process for applications are detailed on the IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info).

If you have a relevant project, please consider applying for an IFSSH grant.

Triennial Congress: India 2013

With only one year remaining until India hosts the 2013 triennial IFSSH Congress, Zsolt Szabo (IFSSH Secretary General) and Lynne Feehan (IFSHT President) will visit Delhi this month to perform the site inspection and discuss the conference plans and progress with the Indian Society's Organising Committee.

Dr Raja Sabapathy, Organising Chairman, and his committee have prepared an informative scientific programme, accompanied by memorable social events and we look

forward to joining the Indian Society for the triennial IFSSH Congress – March 4-8, 2013. Further information is available via www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com.

Regional Education Programme: Eastern Europe, 2012

At the 2011 meeting, the Delegates' Council approved a new education programme which will start this year. The IFSSH will financially assist (up to US\$20,000) a hand surgery teaching programme in economically handicapped regions. This is to be organised on an annual rotation basis (through Europe, America, Asia and Africa). The IFSSH also hopes to assist by providing the experience and knowledge of its members to the faculty of these courses.

The format will entail a 2-3 day course with a number of young hand surgeons (under 45 years) from the region participating for free. These surgeons will be selected by their own national societies within the geographical region of that year's course. The number of free participation possibilities will be influenced by the budget, but will be announced at least four months prior to the event. Beyond this, the course will be open for registrations from hand surgeons within the region for a very reduced fee. The course organisers should attract sponsors, other educational grants and support in order to significantly reduce the cost of participation, accommodation and catering. The scientific programme of the course must be approved by the IFSSH ExCo. The Delegates' Council will consider the region/host society options for the following year at each annual Council meeting.

This Regional Education Programme will commence in 2012 with the Eastern European Course, sponsored and endorsed by the IFSSH and FESSH. This course will be organised in Debrecen, Hungary, close to the Romanian border, allowing participants from all Eastern European countries to come by car or train. Each national society from Eastern Europe will have the option to nominate four delegates for free (registration, accommodation and catering). In this way, a total of 50 participants may attend for free and another 50 will have the chance to register for a reduced fee of 300 Euro (all inclusive). The course will have two days of theoretical education – “highlights in hand surgery” – and one cadaveric workshop day involving ten internationally well-known experienced hand surgeons presenting their favourite operations to small groups – the “masters at work”. The Eastern European course aims to provide the possibility to see and learn from the best. The complete course programme will be available on the IFSSH website and presented during the Antwerp Delegates' Council meeting.

New horizons

The IFSSH ExCo launched a program to involve societies, hand surgeons from all around the world who still now were not part of our great family. One of the first societies, with a tradition, knowledge and significant history, to be included in this project was the Russian Society for Surgery of the Hand. As a first step the President and Secretary General of IFSSH were invited to discuss the possibility of collaboration in the future with the Russian Society members.

On 14-16 September 2011 an Instructional Course was held entitled “Topical issues of Hand Surgery” at the St. Petersburg Orthopaedic Institute (1200 beds) under the Directorship of Professor J Kocsis. Professor Igor Golobev, President of the Russian Society for Surgery of the Hand, was responsible for organising the course and the IFSSH was invited to participate in this event. President Ulrich Mennen and Secretary-General Zsolt Szabo presented some of the lectures and demonstrated surgical procedures in the very well-equipped Department of Anatomy. A group of 150 hand surgeons from around Russia attended this course.

A great interest was shown from both parties to develop a collaboration, and everybody agreed that such events should be continued.

Ezine

IFSSH President, Ulrich Mennen, continues to produce outstanding quarterly issues of the ezine. This informative publication is distributed to many thousands of hand surgeons, therapists, societies and interested friends around the world.

Past issues are available on the IFSSH website (www.ifssh.info). You can subscribe for a copy to be delivered via email, free of charge, by sending your contact details to ezine@ifssh.info.

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:

XIIth IFSSH - IXth IFSHT Congress - New Delhi, India.
4th - 8th March, 2013

XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSHT Congress – Buenos Aires, Argentina
2016

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