



IFSSH Newsletter

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XIIIth IFSSH – Xth IFSHT Congress October 24-28, 2016 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

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Report of the on-site inspection of the congress venue undertaken by IFSSH Secretary-General, Dr. Marc Garcia-Elias, and the President of the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT), Mrs. Sarah Ewald, on December 4th, 2015

Dear friends:

I started working on this report in the darkness of a bumpy aircraft, night-crossing the Atlantic, on my way back home. In the previous 48 hours, we had inspected the facilities of the convention center that will hold our next congress in Argentina, we had discussed different aspects of the scientific program (plenary lectures, debates, hands-on sessions, combined activities with the hand therapists, invited lectures, free paper presentations), and we had visited the sites of the social events being planned for that occasion. I was tired, of course, but also very pleased with all I had seen.

As you know, the IFSSH bylaws state that one year before the Federation's triennial congress, a representation of the Executive Committee must visit the site of the meeting. The goal: to ensure that the venue is adequate, that the accommodation is comfortable and that all the preparations (importantly, the scientific and social programs) are properly under way. Mrs. Sarah Ewald, the President of the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (IFSHT), also attended the inspection as this 2016 congress is a joint meeting of the IFSSH and IFSHT. The date of the onsite inspection, 4th of December, could have not been more appropriate: it coincided with the celebration of the annual meeting of the Argentine Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, one of the largest meetings of that country. This allowed us to see how efficient our future venue can be in the presence of more than 3000 delegates. We are grateful to the Orthopaedic Association and venue staff for allowing us to join all the session rooms and their backstage areas (kitchen, laundry, etc): impressive facilities, indeed! What we saw was very convincing: choosing the Hilton convention center had been an excellent idea. It is a modern, carefully maintained convention venue with session rooms of varying sizes, all well equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology. The industry/trade

groups will enjoy roomy spaces for their commercial exhibits. The accompanying persons will benefit from an enormous lobby with plenty of little spaces to plan their next tourist adventures or just to relax while appreciating a great variety of tea blends.

And all of this is just right in the center of Puerto Madero, one of the trendiest boroughs in Buenos Aires and one of the most successful recent waterfront renewal projects in the world. Since the 90's, all warehouses on the west side of this old harbour were recycled into elegant offices, lofts, luxurious hotels and restaurants. On the east side, a new district of cinemas, theatres, cultural centers, and corporate buildings has emerged. This will be the backdrop of our meeting. I am sure that you, the delegates, will enjoy the place, as much as I did. But if you are still not convinced, maybe you should watch "Nine queens", a great thriller by Fabián Bielinsky. Most of this movie was filmed in the Hilton Hotel, the venue of our meeting, and its surroundings. It's worth watching, particularly the last 50 seconds! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN3LlzcLGJY>) You'll fall in love with that place.

During our visit to Buenos Aires, we were hosted by the President of the 2016 IFSSH/IFSHT Congress, Dr Eduardo Zancolli and his colleagues. One of his first remarks, on our way to the congress venue, was: "For the last two years we have had weekly meetings to ensure that everything, scientific program included, was ready for this inspection". They had made it - the site was not only ready for inspection, the meeting was almost ready to go. All important decisions have been made, all facilities reserved, and the process of collecting abstracts is under way. Nothing can stop this from becoming a successful meeting, thanks to the generosity of the members of the Argentinean Association of Hand Surgery. Their determination in hosting this event is unparalleled. I am sure that nobody will leave Buenos Aires unchanged. Thank you, Eduardo, for so expertly leading this team!

There is another reason for this upcoming meeting to be very special. It will be held 50 years after the 1966 founding meeting of the IFSSH in Chicago. Initially formed by only eight hand societies (Italy, Japan, USA, UK, Sweden, Germany, Brazil and France), the IFSSH has grown enormously since. We are now 56 societies from all over the globe, and the prospects for the future are excellent. Let's take this opportunity to have a much deserved celebration.

On a related topic, in early 2016 we will send a call to the delegate of each IFSSH society for nominations of Pioneers in Hand Surgery. Remember that the nomination must come from the IFSSH member society, not an individual, and should be reserved for those with outstanding achievements. Details of the criteria and nomination process are available on the IFSSH website: <http://ifssh.info/pioneers.html>. The deadline for submitting nominations for the Buenos Aires congress is April 24th, 2016.

During the Buenos Aires Congress, the IFSSH Delegates' Council will also be assessing applications to host the 2022 Triennial Congress. The guidelines for these submissions are also on the website: <http://ifssh.info/guidelines.html>

In short, our Argentinean colleagues are ready. It is time to go and join them. The 2016 IFSSH/IFSHT congress will be one of the best, if not the very best!

Best regards,

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