



IFSSH Newsletter

February 2025

Message from the Secretary-General

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH), I extend my warmest wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. As we reflect on 2024 and look forward to 2025, I am delighted to share some of our recent accomplishments and future initiatives.

Highlights from 2024

Launch of the IFSSH Patron of Hand Surgery program

Last year marked the introduction of the IFSSH Patrons of Hand Surgery program, which has already begun receiving donations. These contributions will transform our ability to advance hand surgery education globally. Donors are recognized on the IFSSH website, in the Ezine, and during events such as our Triennial Congresses and Mid-Term Courses. We encourage you to support this initiative. For more details, visit our [donation program page](#).



Inaugural IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery: Ecuador, January 2024

2024 saw the successful completion of our first Mid-Term Course in Ecuador, providing vital educational opportunities to our members.

Educational Grants and New Resources

Under the leadership of Dr. Raja Sabapathy, the IFSSH Committee for Educational Sponsorship awarded various grants. We also acquired the Hand Surgery Resource, a comprehensive online tool designed to support practitioners worldwide. This is made available to all, free-of-charge, accessible through the [IFSSH website](#).

Expanded Secretariat Team

Our secretariat welcomed Rama Sudakar, who has provided invaluable support to Belinda Smith. Rama will be present at the Washington, D.C., Congress, so please take the opportunity to meet her.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The upcoming year promises to be another milestone in the journey of IFSSH:

- **Washington, D.C., Congress – 24-28 March 2025:** We are now just weeks away from our Triennial Congress! We already have participants from 80 countries joining us for the 2025 IFSSH-IFSHT Congress - the 16th IFSSH triennial event. This is our opportunity to gather from all parts of the world under one roof in Washington, D.C., for an amazing week of science and socializing, in collaboration with our hand therapy colleagues.
Jim Chang and his US host team have prepared a superb educational program, with over 50% of presentations being delivered by international registrants. Prof Fu Chan-Wei, the 2025 IFSSH Swanson Lecturer, will share his career in hand surgery and this highlight of the Congress should not be missed. The Congress textbook focuses on Trauma Reconstruction and belongs on every hand surgeon's bookshelf.
We are thrilled that the local hosts have secured an evening in the National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian American Art Museum) for the Gala Dinner, and the SPIN games night earlier in the week promises to give that much-needed time to unwind with colleagues and have fun. The city itself will be at its most beautiful with the conference timed to fall in cherry blossom season - make sure you allow yourself some extra days to see all of the sights while you're there.
We can't wait to welcome you to the Congress, to honour our Pioneer of Hand Surgery inductees, to hear from our guest lecturers, to meet our 2025 IFSSH-AAHS/ASSH Travelling Fellows, to share knowledge and collegiality with you, to dine together and play ping pong, and to introduce you to Washington, D.C..
We eagerly anticipate the 2025 Delegates' Council Meeting within this Congress, where the 2025-2028 Executive Committee will be elected by the Delegates.
- **Future Planning:** Preparations will begin for the 2nd IFSSH Mid-Term Course in Hand Surgery and the 2031 IFSSH-IFSHT Congress, with our Delegates' Council again choosing the host societies following presentation of the bids at the 2025 meeting. Progress will also continue for the 2028 Congress in Singapore.
- **Expanded Grants and Education:** We remain committed to delivering more grants and expanding educational opportunities for members across the globe.
- **Growing Secretariat:** As the IFSSH's scope widens, we will further expand our secretariat to meet the demands of our growing initiatives.

A Note of Gratitude

As this is my final message as Secretary General, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the IFSSH team:

- **Executive Team:**
 - **Past President:** Special thanks to Marc Garcia-Elias, whose dedication has greatly enriched IFSSH. Marc has given his time to the IFSSH Executive Committee since 2010, when selected as the IFSSH Secretary-General Elect. We are truly blessed to have had such a kind and talented person in our organisation.
 - **President-Elect:** Raja Sabapathy continues to motivate engagement and has led the Committee for Educational Sponsorship through the 2022-2025 triennium, in which time more grants have been provided than in IFSSH history.
 - **Communications:** Jin Bo Tang has enhanced our reach through his exceptional work as Communications Director.
 - Our **Members-at-Large** - Aida Garcia, Jorge Clifton, Greg Bain, Paco del Pinal, and David Shewring - have ensured global representation, encouraging collegiality amongst the IFSSH Delegates from each region and bringing the IFSSH closer to our members.
- **Nominating Committee:** Past-Presidents Marc Garcia-Elias and Zsolt Szabo, current President Daniel Nagle, and Nominating Committee Members-at-Large Peter Amadio and Ilse Degreef,

have worked diligently to refine the IFSSH honours and committee processes, and reviewing Pioneer and Executive/Nominating Committee applications for 2025.

- **Ezine:** Ulrich Mennen continues to produce each edition with care and precision, ensuring this vital resource remains a cornerstone of IFSSH's work.
- **Website:** The IFSSH website is pivotal to our ability to share information and resources. We are indebted to our webmaster, Mr Santhosh Kumar, who has maintained and improved our website for over 10 years throughout periods of major growth.

Personal Thanks

I would like to personally thank Belinda Smith, whose tireless work, exceptional organizational skills, and dedication make the role of Secretary-General possible.

Finally, my deepest gratitude to Dan Nagle for his outstanding leadership as President and his unwavering partnership. Dan's commitment to IFSSH has been extraordinary, and I have been privileged to work alongside him. I look forward to the leadership of our incoming President, Dr. Raja Sabapathy, as he continues to guide IFSSH to new heights.

Wishing you all a successful 2025,

David

Prof David Warwick

Secretary-General, IFSSH



2025 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting

The 2025 IFSSH Delegates' Council Meeting will be held within the 2025 Triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress in Washington, D.C. All IFSSH Delegates are invited to attend this Council Meeting on **Wednesday 26th March 2025, 12:30-2:30pm.**

The 2025 Council Meeting will include voting items, such as selection of:

- the 2nd Mid-Term Course host
- the 2031 Triennial Congress host
- the 2025-2028 Executive Committee and Nominating Committee positions, where automatic succession does not occur.

Relevant documents will be emailed to all Delegates in February. If your society's official IFSSH Delegate (refer to https://ifssh.info/member_societies.php), a proxy may be appointed. This must be done prior to the meeting – full information will be provided to all IFSSH Delegates.

Please continue to encourage your society's membership to join the 2025 Triennial IFSSH-IFSHT Congress. It is sure to be a wonderful event, showcasing the international world of hand surgery - whilst the US are hosting this congress, over 50% of presentations are by surgeons from outside of the US to ensure diverse representation. There are exciting social events planned and we are honoured that Prof Fu-Chan Wei will deliver the prestigious IFSSH Swanson Lecture, and the IFSSH Congress textbook will be given free of charge to the first 2500 registrants.. More information about the venue, program, events, hotels and visas can be found on the Congress website: www.ifssh-ifsht2025.org. Please make sure you and your colleagues register soon to ensure you gain your place before events sell out!

Committee for Educational Sponsorship (CES) call for submissions

The IFSSH now calls for submissions for general IFSSH educational funding and from societies wishing to host an IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor.

General funding can support educational projects of varying size and cost, from a single society or a collaborative effort, for work occurring in your home country or as outreach. The [recipient reports](#) may provide your society with inspiration of what can be achieved with financial support from the IFSSH. Please review the application process within the [IFSSH CES guidelines](#). If you have an idea and wish to discuss opportunities, please contact the IFSSH secretariat – administration@ifssh.info.

The IFSSH Harold Kleinert Visiting Professor scheme involves the IFSSH funding the travel and accommodation of a distinguished surgeon to an IFSSH member society's scientific and educational program. Dr Steven Moran was the inaugural Professor, travelling to Australia in 2020. Prof Jin Bo Tang then received this honour and undertook an intensive program of lectures, courses, workshops and teachings in Poland in 2023. If your society wishes to be a part of this Visiting Professorship program, please forward an application – the guidelines 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:

XVIth IFSSH – XIIIth IFSHT Congress
Washington D.C., USA
24th - 28th March, 2025



XVIIth IFSSH – IVth IFSHT Congress
Singapore
23rd – 27th October, 2028



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