



IFSSH Newsletter

July 2019

14th IFSSH Congress – Berlin, 2019

Message from outgoing Secretary-General: Daniel Nagle

The 14th Triennial Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand and the 11th Triennial Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy were held in the Berlin CityCube from June 17 through June 21. This was the first Congress to include many activities of the Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH). The organizing committee chaired by Professor Jörg van Schoonhoven, Professor Max Haerle, Professor Andreas Eisenschenk, Natascha Weihs & Beate Jung orchestrated an extraordinary Congress.

There was outstanding participation: 4002 physicians and therapists participated in this meeting representing 92 countries - 560 from Germany, 222 from the United Kingdom, 219 from Switzerland, 203 from Netherlands and over 100 from each of USA, Japan, Brazil, Australia and Austria; through to individual participation from nations including Algeria, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Serbia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe! The Congress theme was "Building Bridges Hand in Hand" and given the massive international attendance it is clear the Congress did indeed accomplish that goal.

The meeting featured a pre-Congress Monday education day which featured many industry sponsored courses and lectures. The Congress officially opened Monday afternoon with the Opening Ceremony that featured the recognition of newly nominated Pioneers of Hand Surgery. Thirty-seven Pioneers from 19 societies were honored. These Pioneers along with their families traveled from all over the world to participate in this ceremony that was indeed monumental and inspiring. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a cocktail party with an entertaining performance from "The Carpal Boss and Loose Bodies" band, featuring many hand surgeons and therapists from around the world.

The scientific program was impressive. There was an overwhelming response to the Call for Abstracts, with 1800 submissions assessed by 242 reviewers. The Congress Organizing Committee then appointed 45 German colleagues to lead 27 subgroups and work with 27 international hand experts to build the scientific programme. The final program included 357 invited lectures and 1123 free papers overseen by 347 chairpersons.

The IFSSH Delegates met on Wednesday, June 19, 2019. The first order of business was to welcome a new member to the IFSSH family, the Ecuadorian Society for Surgery of the Hand. The Ecuadorian society is the 60th society to join the IFSSH!

The next order of business was the election of the new Executive Committee (ExCo):

Immediate Past President	Dr. Zsolt Szabo of Hungary
President	Dr. Marc Garcia Elias of Spain
President Elect	Dr. Daniel Nagle of the United States
Secretary-General	Dr. Goo Hyun Baek of South Korea
Secretary-General Elect	Dr. Raja Sabapathy of India
Historian	Dr. David Warwick of England
Member at Large	Dr. Jin Bo Tang of The People's Republic of China

The ExCo, during the coming months, will be working with the Delegates on much needed bylaws changes as well as structural changes to increase Society participation in the ExCo.

The Delegates were then charged with the selection of the 2025 IFSSH triennial meeting site. Dr. Scott Levin, the current President of the ASSH, presented the well-prepared bid by The American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the American Association of Hand Surgery to host the 2025 IFSSH Triennial Congress in Washington DC. Dr. Marcello Rosa de Rezende, President of the Brazilian Society for Surgery of the Hand, provided the Delegates with an excellent presentation promoting Rio de Janeiro for the 2025 IFSSH Congress. Finally, Dr. Luis Naquira, President of the Colombian Association of Hand Surgery, gave a rousing presentation urging the Delegates to support the Colombian bid to take the 2025 IFSSH Congress to Cartagena de Indias. In spite of excellent presentations by Dr. Rezende and Dr. Naquira, the American bid prevailed. The 2025 15th Triennial IFSSH Congress will be held in Washington DC, USA from March 29 to April 3. The IFSSH is very indebted to the American, Brazilian and Colombian Societies for their dedication to the creation of extraordinary bids and superb presentations.

This year's invited Swanson Lecturer was Dr. Steven Hovius who provided an insightful and thought-provoking discussion of the challenges facing hand surgeons around the world as they try to provide the best care to their patients.

The Presidential Guest Lecture was delivered by Professor Dr. Klaus Leisinger, raising the interest of participants with his thoughts on "Critical issues for a world we want: What do we know? What shall we do? What may we hope?"

Of course, every IFSSH Congress provides opportunities for social interaction between the members of our member societies. The German society organized a "Berlin Night" at a renovated cold storage facility (The Kühlhaus) dating back to the early 20th century. High powered music filled the air while attendees danced and enjoyed iconic German

food and drink. The Gala dinner was held on Thursday night at the Ritz-Carlton and featured great food and drink as well as an outstanding band that kept hand surgeons and therapists dancing into the wee hours of the morning.

Once again, many thanks to the German Society for Hand Surgery, German Society for Hand Therapy, Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand and the International Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy for putting on a truly extraordinary Congress, Bravo!

Best wishes to all.

Dan

Daniel Nagle

President Elect, IFSSH

Welcome from the incoming Secretary-General: Goo Hyun Baek

It is a great honor for me to have an opportunity to serve the IFSSH as Secretary-General. During the previous three years as Secretary-General Elect, I tried to learn the heritages and legacies of the Federation as much as possible. Now we have 60 member societies from all over the world whose cultures, languages, and ways of thinking are different each other. Although I barely understand the differences among countries, I found that we can reach the agreement through harmony and teamwork. As mentioned in the Bylaws of the Federation, our mission is to coordinate the activities of the various societies for surgery of the hand throughout the world, and in this way to increase and spread knowledge of surgery of the hand.

Under the guidance of Marc Garcia-Elias, our new President, and with the help of Executive Committee members and Member Societies, I will do my best to coordinate the member societies and to increase and spread knowledge especially to the disadvantaged young hand surgeons.

Goo Hyun Baek

Secretary-General, IFSSH

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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
27th June - 1st July, 2022

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