

Although the 7th Triennial Congress in Sydney is now over, IFSHT work continues within the executive committee (EXCO) and the IFSHT committees according to directives from the Sydney Council Meeting. A central question discussed in Sydney was how to make IFSHT more known to our member societies and their individual members. This *IFSHT Update* is one way we hope more individuals are aware of IFSHT.

THE ORGANIZATION OF IFSHT

IFSHT is a non-profit Society, initially founded in France in 1987 and re-registered in Switzerland in 2006. IFSHT has 29 Societies for Hand Therapy as members and represents almost 5000 occupational therapists and physiotherapists who work in the specialty of hand rehabilitation. Each member country has a representative delegate at the Triennial Council Meeting, deciding matters about bylaws, economy, congress locations, and policy.

THE EXCO

The executive committee (EXCO) consists of six individuals: president, president-elect, secretary-general, treasurer, historian and past-president. The EXCO meets preceding the Triennial Council Meeting as well as following the Triennial Congress to establish goals and directives for the next three years. Communication among the EXCO occurs primarily via e-mail and when financially possible, the EXCO meets once a year. Work within the EXCO is open and all EXCO members take part in the discussions.

TRIENNIAL CONGRESSES

The centerpiece of IFSHT is our congress held every three years that brings together hand therapists from all over the world. Past IFSHT Triennial Congresses have taken place in Tel Aviv, Paris, Helsinki, Vancouver, Istanbul, Edinburgh and Sydney. Whenever possible the IFSHT Congress is held in conjunction with the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH) congress. The next IFSHT congress will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA in 2010. Three years later in 2013 IFSHT will meet jointly with IFSSH in New Delhi, India. Congress planning starts early and is a joint effort between the IFSHT member host country and IFSHT. The current IFSHT president is most involved in the planning of the next upcoming congress.

IFSHT COMMITTEES

IFSHT has four standing committees: education, sponsorship, nominating and bylaws. Committee chairs are elected at the Triennial Council Meeting. The individual committee members are chosen to represent as many different member countries as possible. Contact IFSHT directly at info@IFSHT.org if you would like to participate in IFSHT activities or committees.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The calendar of events below is based on information submitted by IFSHT member countries to the historian. We encourage all member countries to share their upcoming annual meeting information by contacting historian@IFSHT.org.



2007 IFSHT COUNCIL MEETING in SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: Listing of upcoming courses sponsored by member countries does not indicate IFSHT endorsement.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept 2007	NZAHT Annual Meeting	New Zealand	www.nzahst.org.nz
Oct 4-7, 2007	ASHT Annual meeting	Phoenix, AZ, USA	www.asht.org
Oct 4, 2007	DAHST Annual Meeting (with German Society of Hand Surgeons)	Berlin, Germany	www.dahst.de
Oct 8, 2007	BAHT Annual Meeting	Manchester, UK	zoelift@mac.com
Oct 17-19, 2007	Argentina Annual Meeting (with Argentina Hand Surgeons & South American Surgeons/Therapists)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	www.martaharriague.com
Oct 23, 2007	Slovenian Annual Meeting	Ljubljana, Slovenia	www.sdrr.si
Nov 17, 2007	Symposium on Tendon Transfers (with Dutch Society for Hand Surgery)	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.handtherapie.com
March 2008	Swedish Society Annual Meeting	Uppsala, Sweden	www.sfh.nu
June 19-21, 2008	IFSHT Congress (with European Surgeons)	Lausanne, Switzerland	www.eurohand2008.com