Hand Therapy Facts in 2014
Info from the IFSHT Membership Survey

Did you know that there are 44 nations represented within IFSHT? Worldwide 8385 Therapists are members of IFSHT, about 70% of these are Occupational Therapists and 30% are Physical Therapists.

In 13 member countries there is a qualification process in place to formally recognize "Hand Therapists". The title awarded to the "Hand Therapist" varies by country as does the process to obtain the title. The country a therapist lives in plays a role in becoming a hand therapist too! In Turkey only Physical Therapists specialize in Hand Therapy, whereas in Denmark 99% of Hand Therapists are Occupational Therapists.

The 10th IFSHT Congress

October 24-28, 2016
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Plans for the joint IFSSH-IFSHT Congress in 2016 are shaping up. The congress will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Buenos Aires. As always all sessions are open to therapists and surgeons. Registration and abstract submission will open in October 2015. The therapists program will include general sessions, focus sessions and hands on clinical application sessions. A sneak preview of some of the topics on the IFSHT program include: flexor tendons, brachial plexus injuries, the musician's hand, the thumb, the
Coming Soon: Free Hand & Wrist Therapy App
Volunteer Reviewers Needed

In the Netherlands, Ton Schreuders is working on a free Hand and Wrist App for smart phones and tablets. The app will be available in early 2015 and is designed to help therapists keep up with current hand and wrist literature and research around the world. One aim is to include information from non-English language journals and a greater variety of journals than those that are indexed in PubMed. Volunteers with a background in Hand Therapy are needed to find relevant articles and prepare abstracts for publication on the app. If you are interested in assisting with this please apply using the following link http://goo.gl/forms/hPCQ1mibrE

IFSHT IFSSH News
Recent issues of the IFSSH E-zine available

The November 2014 IFSSH E-Zine features an article by Judy Colditz on the treatment of stiff hands using a method she calls "active re-direction". The E-zine also includes a useful overview of articles recently published in various hand surgery and hand therapy journals. The E-zine is available at http://www.ifssh.info/ezine.html

Hand Therapy Projects
IFSHT -IFSSH International Teaching Grants

Did you know, that IFSSH and IFSHT offer partial funding to support educational projects that further the development of Hand Therapy in geographic areas where Hand Therapy is still developing? Funding application forms are available on the IFSHT website: http://www.ifsht.org/en/about/funding

Interested in getting involved in a project that needs a Hand Therapist but don't know where to start? The IFSHT website also has a listing of organizations in need of Hand Therapy volunteers: http://www.ifsht.org/en/membership/opportunities

Neoprene PIP Splint
Article in French on How to Make a Neoprene PIP Splint

You may recall in the last Hand Therapy Connects E-Newsletter in June 2014, a link was provided to a step by step video, made by two therapists in Switzerland on how to make a PIP splint out of neoprene: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYs2bHSCkPw
Subsequently, a therapist from Spain Vincenc Punsola-Izard contacted IFSHT to let us know that he had published the method for making this splint in French in 2001. Here is the reference to that article: Punsola-Izard AV, Rouzaud JC, Thomas D, Lluch, García-Elias (2001) Le collage en tension dans les orthèses dynamiques en matériau néoprène. Chirurgie de la Main, 20:231-235. It is truly amazing how ideas make their way around the world! Thanks to YouTube and the IFSHT E-mail, these therapists are now in contact with one another. It would be interesting to know where else in the world this splint is made this way.

The IFSHT Mission:
To provide global networking and educational opportunities to develop and enhance the practice of hand therapy.