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Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to be able to write to you at the start of a three-year term as President of the International Federation of Fertility Societies, a task I undertake with humility and enthusiasm.

The period 2013-2016 saw the IFFS make substantial progress in its mission and further raise its international profile. As we start a new triennium we have just held our 22nd World Congress. This event was a first for India and a success in every respect thanks to the efforts of Basil Tarlatzis who led the Scientific Programme Committee and the local organising team led by Dhiraj Gada, Kuldeep Jain and Hrishikish Pai.

2016 has also seen the publication of the IFFS Surveillance (Editor, Steve Ory), the launch of our journal Global Reproductive Health (Editor, Alan DeCherney), further developments in our educational programme (Director, Paul Devroey) and consolidation of our NGO role with World Health Organisation. In addition, we have begun planning for the 23rd World Congress to be held in Shanghai (2019) and are set to co-host a major international meeting with the Russian Association of Human Reproduction in St Petersburg (6-9 September 2017).

The fact that we begin the triennium 2016-19 in such good shape is due in no small part to the tireless efforts of Joe Leigh Simpson who, as Past President, now takes on the Chairmanship of the Scientific Committee which will prepare the program for the 23rd World Congress. Together with Joe Leigh, I am joined by President Elect, Linda Giudice and with the support of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoint of IFFS.

I look forward to the next three years and am confident that with a talented and committed Executive Team and Board we will continue to progress our mission in support of our members and to the benefit of patients.

Warm regards.

Richard Kennedy, MD
President, IFFS
Announcing the 2016-2019
IFFS Executive Committee and Board of Directors

**IFFS Executive Committee 2016-2019**

**President**
Richard Kennedy, MD  
*United Kingdom*

**President Elect**
Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, FACOG, FRCOG (hon)  
*United States*

**Secretary General**
Gabriel de Candolle, MD  
*Switzerland*

**Assistant Secretary General**
Zi-Jiang Chen, MD, PhD  
*China*

**Treasurer**
Marcos Horton, MD  
*Argentina*

**Assistant Treasurer**
Osamu Ishihara, MD, PhD  
*Japan*

**Immediate Past President**
Joe Leigh Simpson, MD, FACOG, FACMG, FRCOG  
*United States*

**Director, Medical Education**
Paul Devroey, MD, PhD  
*Belgium*

**Assistant Director, Education**
Bruce Dunphy, MD, PhD  
*Canada*

**Scientific Director**
Tina Buchholz, MD, PhD  
*Germany*

**Past President/ Special Advisor**
Basil Tarlatzis, MD  
*Greece*

**Director of External Affairs**
Hrishikesh Pai, MD  
*India*

**Communications Director**
Antti Perheentupa, MD, PhD  
*Finland*

**GRH Editor in Chief**
Alan DeCherney, MD  
*United States*

**IFFS Board Member Societies 2016-2019**

**Argentine Society of Reproductive Medicine (‘10-19)**
Gustavo Botti, MD  
*Argentina*

**Association for Fertility and Reproductive Health (Nigeria) (‘16-‘25)**
Faye Iketubosin MD, FRCOG  
*Nigeria*

**British Fertility Society (‘13-‘22)**
Mark Hamilton, MD  
*United Kingdom*

**Chilean Fertility Society (‘16-‘25)**
Carlos Troncoso, MD  
*Chile*

**Finnish Gynecological Association (‘13– ‘22)**
Antti Perheentupa, MD, PhD  
*Finland*

**Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction (‘10-19)**
Kuldeep Jain, MD  
*India*

**Jordanian Society for Fertility and Genetics (‘10-19)**
Mazen El-Zibdeh, MD  
*Jordan*

**Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia (‘13-‘22)**
K.K. Iswaran, MD  
*Malaysia*

**Russian Association of Human Reproduction (‘16-‘25)**
Vladislav Korsak, MD  
*Russia*

**NGO Liaison (ICMART) (‘07 – ‘19)**
G. David Adamson, MD  
*United States*

**NGO Liaison (FIGO)**
Edgar Mocanu, MD  
*Ireland*

**Surveillance Editor**
Steven Ory, MD  
*United States*

**Audit Committee, Chair**
Edgar Mocanu, MD  
*Ireland*
Surveillance 2016

Steven J. Ory, MD | Editor-in-Chief

International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) Surveillance 2016 represents several milestones. Surveillance 2016 serves as the first edition of the new online IFFS journal, Global Reproductive Health. Surveillance 2016 represents a broader joint effort of the IFFS and World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the IFFS status as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with WHO. WHO representatives participated in the reorganization and reformattedting of the 2012 questionnaire and expansion of the database of contacts among global public health officials and experts in order to supplement the pre-existing Surveillance contact list. We anticipate, that as we fulfill our responsibilities in our relations with WHO, that our joint activities in subsequent editions will likely continue to expand.

An entirely new survey was developed and used for Surveillance 2016. The contract for conducting the online questionnaire, follow-up, data analysis an ultimate product development was awarded to Medtech For Solutions. The previous Excel spreadsheet was abandoned in favor of a streamlined, more focused web-based questionnaire that eliminated redundancies and sought more focused information in evolving areas of interest. A few sections were added addressing reporting mechanisms, policies regarding access for same sex and single parenting individuals, as well as policies governing cross-border reproductive care.

The questionnaire (2015 survey or questionnaire) consisted of 97 questions in English, and took the average respondent 2.5 hours to complete (cumulative onsite time). The online survey was launched on October 1, 2015 and requests to participate were submitted to over 600 individuals in 215 countries for preparation of the publication of Surveillance 2016. The survey officially ended on December 31, 2015, however responses were received as late as March 1, 2016 and were included in the report. Ultimately, responses were received from respondents in 75 countries with 70 providing data sufficient to be included in the overall analysis. Not all countries provided complete responses to all queries and the number of countries responding varied as noted within the chapter discussion and tabulation of topic responses.

Surveillance 2016 represents the culmination of the efforts of many. I am profoundly grateful to the respondents listed below who committed a great deal of time and effort to accurately compile and convey the information that was sought. A very talented editorial board was assembled and Drs. Sonia Allan, Basak Balaban, Manish Banker, Peter Brinsden, John Buster, Edgar Mocanu, Hrishikesh Pai, and Paul Le Roux all contributed substantially to the revision of the questionnaire, the selection of new content, the analysis of the data, and the individual organization and production of each section. Dr. Marcos Horton deserves special mention for doggedly and successfully pursuing countries that had not responded to the initial invitation to participate and assuming extra editorial duties. Kathleen Miller, from Medtech For Solutions, was a superb managing editor and was indispensable to the final product. She had essential roles throughout the process including oversight of the development of the new questionnaire, execution of the online survey, compilation and distribution of the data, facilitation of the online development of the manuscript, and production of the figures and tables.

Dr. Sheryl van der Poel also made unique contributions. During her tenure at WHO, she served as a liaison between WHO and IFFS and made numerous suggestions pertaining to content, organization and language for both the development of the questionnaire and this final report. She played a key role in the revision of the 2009 International Committee Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ICMART)-WHO Glossary on Assisted Reproductive Terminology and was invaluable in ensuring that our terminology was consistent with the new draft 2016 glossary on terminology for fertility care and infertility. I would also like to acknowledge the IFFS officers, Board of Directors, and administrative staff for their unflagging support and contributions.

Surveillance 2016 serves as a record and an overview of the practice, policies and activities associated with assisted reproductive technology (ART) as it existed globally, at the end of 2015. It also, provides an evaluation of specific national and global trends over time that concern specific, and sometimes controversial, topics and issues. However, there are significant limitations to this report. All aspects of ART are dynamic and continuing to change. The respondents for the 2016 edition represent the majority of countries with the most active ART services worldwide; however, the experiences of over 100 countries are not depicted in this report despite intensive efforts to find representative respondents to include them. The responses to the questionnaire were provided by one or two well-informed individuals in each country but these responses were not validated and may contain inherent inaccuracies. Caution should be taken when interpreting or re-presenting these data. There are limitations in the completeness and quality of the surveillance data reported, including the variability in responses from countries who provided feedback to surveys in 2013 versus in 2016. Nevertheless, this report remains the only source of information that provides a global overview of ART practices. Potential partnerships with other global organizations and an increase in awareness of this IFFS data collection should improve the quality in years to come. Nevertheless, Surveillance 2016 attests to a robust and expanding scope of ART practices, policies, and activities among nations around the world while highlighting significant and important differences with a review of trends that have occurred the triennium.
During the IFFS 22nd World Congress in Delhi in September 2016, IFFS Board members, led by 2013-2016 President Joe Leigh Simpson and 2016-19 President Richard Kennedy, had an unprecedented meeting with new leadership at the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Ian Askew, new Director of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, requested the meeting, which was arranged by Presidents Simpson and Kennedy. In addition to Dr. Askew, the new Coordinator of the WHO Human Reproduction Team, Dr. James Kiarie, and representatives from each of the current fertility/infertility-focused non-governmental organizations in official relations with WHO (now called “non-state actors” or NSAs) were invited and attended, including IFFS, ASRM, ICMART, and FIGO. ESHRE, currently in an unofficial NSA relationship with WHO, and funders who share common interests in the fertility space were also present. Drs. Askew and Kiarie emphasized their interest and strong support for IFFS, ASRM, FIGO, ICMART, the Population Council and ESHRE to work together and with WHO in the global fertility/infertility space, along with other key stakeholders. As your President-elect, I have been asked to lead this effort, and at the ASRM meeting in Salt Lake City in October 2016, we assembled the group to begin discussion about the goals of each organization broadly, where we have common ground, and sharing our WHO Plans of Work with each other. We also discussed frequency of upcoming meetings (scheduled teleconferences over the coming months), agenda setting, and moving forward together.

We are off to a great start in building collaborations with our global partners, ensuring that we optimize our individual goals and also our collective goals and impact. We have an unprecedented opportunity at this moment in time to work together and with WHO, towards the aspirational goals of enabling evidence-based infertility evaluation, care, education and research, and promoting access to infertility care among women and men across the globe. We anticipate working hard over the next few months and meeting face to face again with WHO colleagues in Geneva in July 2017.

Thank you for your support.

Announcing *Global Reproductive Health*, an international, multidisciplinary journal published on behalf of the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS). Its aims are to further knowledge, foster innovation, support research and promote good clinical practice in the field of reproductive medicine within a global setting.

Contributions are welcome from healthcare professionals and researchers in the following areas: infertility, ART, fertility control (contraception), periconceptual health, sexual health, reproductive genetics, early pregnancy loss, gynaecological practice related to reproductive health, reproductive surgery, imaging, epidemiology of reproduction, service delivery, science and practice of assisted reproduction, quality and safety systems and health economics relevant to this area.

The journal will publish peer-reviewed articles and refereed abstracts arising out of the activities of the IFFS, its various educational activities and conjoint meetings held with other organizations. Published articles in this journal have undergone rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and anonymous reviewing by independent reviewers.

We invite submissions including original papers, reviews, policy statements, commentaries, debates, correspondence, reports of sessions at meetings, refereed abstracts from our meetings and, subject to individual agreement, those meetings that we hold conjointly with other organizations. Submissions are particularly welcome in respect of research undertaken in reproductive medicine in developing health economies and resource poor settings.
Workshops
Structure Training in Reproductive Medicine – an Exciting New IFFS Initiative

Mark Hamilton MD, FRCOG

Since its inception in 1968 the IFFS has had a deep concern for the quality of reproductive healthcare available around the world. Over the years through its regular congresses, symposia and workshops healthcare providers in many countries have been able to access IFFS assisted educational events covering a wide range of locally relevant topics. These remain at the heart of educational outreach to which the Federation is committed.

While opportunities such as these are enormously helpful in enhancing continuing professional development for participants it is clear that in many countries access to structured training for emerging specialists in reproductive medicine can be haphazard. The organisation of training differs widely in member society states but common to all is the need for clear guidance on what elements of knowledge and skills are key to the development of high quality clinical specialists in the 21st century. Beyond that there is a need to ensure that the systems in place to deliver, monitor and assess training knowledge and competences are robust, quality assured and regulated appropriately.

The Education Committee of the IFFS has recently developed and endorsed a template to facilitate training in general management of infertility and assisted conception. The documentation is geared for those who provide and access training as well as those who regulate the provision of postgraduate medical education. We are now at the stage of piloting the scheme in a select number of countries in collaboration with the relevant national fertility organisations and governmental departments.

The underlying principle of this initiative has been to enable and empower interested members of the Federation to engage as appropriate with professional colleagues and Ministries of Health in nation states. The establishment of quality assured and standardised, sustained, robust programmes of learning in participating countries, matched to local needs and circumstances, we believe can consolidate existing opportunities for learning. This can only enhance the quality of care for patients and encourage the highest standards of practice within institutions.

The documentation which has been prepared includes samples of:

1. A syllabus and guide to learning
2. Registration paperwork for trainers and trainees
3. Educational contracts
4. Complementary study day programs in infertility and assisted conception

The IFFS role is to badge such programmes with its authority and to assist implementation, in particular in relation to complementary study days. The faculty for the study days will comprise a mix of local experts complemented by IFFS endorsed speakers covering topics relevant to the syllabus. In addition, it is planned to have parallel sessions whereby topics relevant to the delivery, monitoring and assessment of training will be covered.

It is important to understand that the delivery of training and ultimately specialist certification remains the responsibility of the member state. The study days represent an essential component of the training modules but critically have to be complemented by self-directed and locally provided teaching/supervision administered by local educational systems. IFFS will be able to provide advice if wished to assist member societies in local negotiations.

We are delighted to announce that the Romanian Society for Human Reproduction is enthusiastic to embrace this initiative and as such hopes to be the first in the world to adopt the programme of learning as outlined above. The complementary study days for the programme are planned for 9-11 June 2017 and will take place in Iasi, Romania.

We believe this initiative is ground-breaking in concept and has the potential to have a major impact in enhancing the quality of training in reproductive medicine with consequent real benefit for the people of Romania.

IFFS expects to roll out similar schemes in other parts of the world and negotiations are already in hand with a number of other societies. If you would like more information about the scheme and are interested to explore with us how the initiative could apply in your own country, then please contact the IFFS Secretariat.
The IFFS Remembers Prof. Robbie Harrison

It is with great sadness that the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) announces the death of Professor Robert F. Harrison, past president of the Federation who passed away on the 28th of January 2017 after a period of illness.

Professor Harrison was born on the 15th of May 1940 in Mansfield, England, the son of a general practitioner. Having been educated in Liverpool, he attended the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in Dublin graduating in 1967. He was subsequently appointed Professor and Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the RCSI and Rotunda Hospital in 1989. Professor Harrison was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh (1971), Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (1984) and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (1980). He held a Doctorate in Medicine from the National University of Ireland (1981). His major academic drive, having published over 200 peer-reviewed papers, was awarded with a Doctorate of Science from the same institution in 2001.

His career as an educator was complemented by sound clinical practice. He was a pioneer not only in setting up the first IVF service in Ireland but also in recognising the need to train future generations of reproductive medicine specialists. He provided the facilities for such training to happen in Ireland and encouraged young doctors to pursue this subspecialty. Clinically, he believed in and delivered evidence based patient care and proved visionary in identifying oncology patients as potential beneficiaries of preventative cryopreservation. The establishment of a state of the art, public purse funded national oncology cryopreservation service for males and females was one of the few worldwide.

Professor Harrison was a generous “giver” supporting the activities of many national and international societies. He engaged in and promoted the activities of the Irish Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as a member of the Postgraduate Training Committee, Treasurer and subsequently President of the Institute.

Internationally, he was special advisor and subsequently Chair of the WHO Infertility Task Force between 1983 and 1988.

His contribution to the International Federation of Fertility Societies spanned nearly 20 years. He was appointed Secretary General between 1983 and 1996. His Office in Dublin hosted the Secretariat of the Federation during this time. He became President elect in 1996 and took Office in 1998 until 2001. During this long-standing affiliation with the IFFS he actively promoted the mission of the Federation, supporting the recognition of developing countries as the main target for the scientific and educational programmes.

While such achievements are remarkable, his true legacy are the many families, children and parents, that would have not had the opportunity to enjoy each other’s company would Prof Harrison not persevered in establishing IVF in Ireland. A life lived with purpose: to offer help and give joy. Robbie, your dreams have come true.

His passing represents a great personal and professional loss to the IFFS, its board, its members, and those who knew him. The IFFS extends its condolences to Professor Harrison’s family, his wife Mary and his children Peta, Sinead, Charlotte and Robert.

International Calendar

ESHRE 2017 Annual Meeting
2-5 July 2017
Geneva, Switzerland
www.eshre.eu

IFFS Emergency General Assembly
To be held during ESHRE 2017
Geneva, Switzerland
www.iffs-reproduction.org

IFFS/RAHR International Symposium
6-9 September 2017
St. Petersburg, Russia
www.iffs-reproduction.org

ASRM 2017 Annual Meeting
28 October – 1 November 2017
San Antonio, TX, USA
www.asrmcongress.org
SAVE THE DATE!

St. Petersburg, Russia
International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) and
Russian Association of Human Reproduction (RAHR)
International Symposium
6-9 September 2017