Message from the President

Joe Leigh Simpson
President of IFFS

What a sensational IFFS/ASRM Congress in October, 2013 in Boston!

The scientific program was outstanding, with up to date (and beyond) information in IFFS and ASRM keynotes and in IFFS trilogies. Our member society American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) provided registrants many robust postgraduate courses and seminars. Abstracts presented innovative science with ready clinical application. As President, I took special pride in the organization of the meeting, crediting both the IFFS Secretariat and, of course, the ASRM staff. Our Secretariat deftly handled the multitude of IFFS Board and Committee meetings, liaisons with other organizations, and most importantly, our General Assemblies. Kudos as well to the many member societies who put on their society-speak sessions and presented expertise to all Congress participants.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:
- Richard Kennedy, President Elect
- Zi-Jiang Chen, Assistant Secretary General
- Hrishikesh Pai, Assistant Treasurer

Re-elected: Edgar Mocanu, Treasurer

Gabriel de Candolle advanced to Secretary General

Newly elected member societies to our Board of Directors and their representatives:
- British Fertility Society (Jane A. Stewart)
- Finnish Gynecological Association (Antti Perheentupa)
- Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia (K.K. Iswaran)

Our 2016 hosts (Indian Society Assisted Reproduction; Indian Society Reproductive Medicine) and our 2019 host (Chinese Society Reproductive Medicine), will now begin preparation for the 2016 Congress in New Delhi. To assist, member organizations elected to the 2013-2016 Scientific Committee and their representatives are:

Czech Society for Sterility and Assisted Reproduction (Pavel Ventrubta)
Fertility Society of Australia (Ossie Petracco)
Italian Society of Fertility, Sterility and Reproductive Medicine (Andrea Borini)
Japan Society of Reproductive Medicine (Osamu Ishihara)
Nigerian Fertility Society (Oladosu A. Ashiru)
Russian Association of Human Reproduction (Anna Smirnova)

Members of the Audit Committee are elected as individuals. Those chosen and their parent member societies are:
- Steven Ory (American Society for Reproductive Medicine)
- Peter Brinsden (British Fertility Society)
- Friedrich Gagsteiger (German Society of Reproductive Medicine)

IFFS educational activities are burgeoning. Director of Medical Education, Paul Devroey, continues to lead an ambitious schedule of 4-5 workshops each year. Information on those already held and those to be held in 2014 are provided elsewhere in this issue. In conjunction with ESHRE and partners, the resource center housed at Elsevier is robust. A singular example is that all lectures from the 2014 IFFS/UIT meeting in Prague are now online at: http://www.iffs-uit.com. The highlight of the year in education promises to be the 2014 IFFS International Regional Symposium, to be held November 11-14 in Buenos Aires in conjunction with the Argentinian Society. Marcus Horton is doing a superb job as the responsible authority.

There truly has never been a better time to be active in IFFS, and for this I feel privileged.

In addition to those officers elected by the IFFS General Assembly, selected appointments are made by the Board to assure continuity and targeted responsibilities as our federation grows. Paul Devroey continues as Director of Education.

New appointees:
- Tina Buchholz, Scientific Director;
- Basil Talatzis, Director of External Affairs;
- Mauricio Abrao, Associate Director of External Affairs;
- Bruce Dunphy, Assistant Director of Education.

You will find biosketches of these newly appointed individuals in this and following Newsletters.

OFFICERS
Joe Leigh Simpson USA President
Richard Kennedy UK President Elect
Gabriel de Candolle Switzerland Secretary General
Zi-Jiang Chen China Assistant Secretary General
Edgar Mocanu Ireland Treasurer
Hrishikesh Pai India Assistant Treasurer
Basil Tarlatzis Greece Past President/Director of External Affairs
Paul Devroey Belgium Director of Medical Education
Tina Buchholz Germany Associate Director of Medical Education
Bruce Dunphy Australia Associate Director of External Affairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER SOCIETIES
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  G. David Adamson  2007 - 16
Argentine Society for Reproductive Medicine  Marcos Horton  2010 - 19
British Fertility Society  Jane A Stewart  2013 - 22
Finnish Gynecological Association  Antti Perheentupa  2013 - 22
Indian Society of Assisted Reproduction  Dhira Gada  2010 - 19
Japan Society of Reproductive Medicine  Minoru Ishihara  2007 - 16
Jordanian Society for Fertility and Genetics  Mazen El-Zbibeh  2010 - 19
Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia  K.K. Iswaran  2013 - 22
Swedish Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology  Petter Gambuturo  2007 - 16

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Basil Tarlatzis Greece Chair
Joe Leigh Simpson USA President
Richard Kennedy UK President Elect
Linda Giudice USA 2013 Congress Chair
Dhira Gada India 2016 Congress Chair
Narender Malhotra India 2016 Chair Local SC
Zi-Jiang Chen China 2019 Congress Chair
Dian Jie China 2019 Chair Local SC
Gabriel de Candolle Switzerland Secretary General, ex officio
Paul Devroey Belgium Director of Medical Education, ex officio
Tina Buchholz Germany Scientific Director, ex officio

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBER SOCIETIES
Czech Society for Sterility and Assisted Reproduction  Pavel Ventrubta
Fertility Society of Australia  Ossie Petracco
Italian Society of Fertility, Sterility and Reproductive Medicine  Andrea Borini
Japan Society of Reproductive Medicine  Osamu Ishihara
Nigerian Fertility Society  Oladosu A Ashiru
Russian Association of Human Reproduction  Anna Smirnova

Member Societies and readers are invited to send all comments, reports or articles of 800 - 1200 words no later than 1st February for the Spring Issue and 1st July for the Autumn Issue. The views expressed in articles in the IFFS Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official viewpoint of IFFS.
New Member Societies

New members who have joined since the last General Assembly in Munich 2010 were welcomed: Chinese Society of Reproductive Medicine, China in 2011; Costa Rican Association of Human Reproduction in 2012; and Indonesia Association of In Vitro Fertilization, Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia and Russian Association of Human Reproduction in 2013.

Elections

The First General Assembly elected the following societies to membership on the Nominating Committee led by President Joe Leigh Simpson: British Fertility Society, Finnish Gynecological Association, Japan Society of Reproductive Medicine, and the Taiwanese Society of Reproductive Medicine. The committee presented their recommendations for open officer and committee membership positions to the Second General Assembly where the recommended slates were approved by acclamation. Election results can be found inside the front cover of this Newsletter. Following the closing ceremony of the Congress, the new officers and committees assumed their roles.

Future IFFS World Congresses

President Joe Leigh Simpson reviewed the process for identifying the location for the World Congresses. Consideration is given to where past congresses were held, to growth in the specialty and to global distribution of member societies. The Board of Directors had endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the 2019 World Congress be held in China. Prof. Zi-Jiang Chen, on behalf of the Chinese Society of Reproductive Medicine (CSRM), requested the support of the General Assembly to host the 2019 IFFS World Congress in Shanghai. A vote of the General Assembly ratified the selection of China for the 2019 World Congress. The planning work for the 2016 IFFS World Congress has begun with the election of the 2016 Scientific Committee chaired by Basil Tarlatzis, Past President. The 2016 congress will be co-hosted by the Indian Fertility Society (IFS) and the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction (ISAR) in New Delhi.

All IFFS member societies are requested to maintain their contact information current with the IFFS Secretariat through the IFFS website www.iffs-reproduction.org and are encouraged to offer suggestions and opportunities for educational events. Federation information will be posted to the IFFS website for efficient distribution.
The 10th Women’s Health Congress took place in Geneva, Switzerland, 8-9 January 2014, at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG) and the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters. This Congress was co-organized by the Swiss Societies for Reproductive Medicine and Menopause together with the IFFS, and technical support and participation of WHO. There was additional support provided by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE).

During the 2 days, prominent international experts in the field met and discussed environmental issues and their effects on the continuum of life, from very early in utero life until the age of menopause, and included discussions on trans-generational effects. Key reproductive health issues of the female and male were addressed.

Concerns were raised and recognized not only concerning known adverse factors such as cigarette smoking and obesity but also the effects of toxicants, endocrine disruptors and other chemicals widely present in food and environment, worldwide. In addition, models for developing an evidence-based set of guidelines in this area of work, which allow extrapolation from and between animal and clinical human studies, were discussed. Specialized talks included: the effect of aluminium salts present in anti-perspirants and their effect on increased breast cancer risk which was presented at the CICG.

In the Executive Board room of WHO, there were three keynote presentations: the WHO Director of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research addressed the importance of the continuum of care, and emphasized the importance of the pre-conception/pre-pregnancy period on maternal/newborn birth outcomes; the President-elect of IFFS presented an evaluation of the effects of reproductive technologies on the resultant child; and the third talk, by the WHO Director of Public Health and the Environment & Social Determinants presented on the effects of environment during fetal life and infancy.

The meeting was very well attended, and included clinicians, embryologists and other health care professionals involved in Medically Assisted Reproduction, as well as those active in clinical and programme areas of maternal, newborn, female and male reproductive health.
On November 29-30, 2013, the first congress of the Algerian Society of Reproductive Medicine (SAMERE) was held in Algiers in collaboration with the International Federation of Fertility Societies / UIT under the leadership of Professor Paul Devroey.

More than 500 delegates and 22 exhibitors participated in this event.

12 international speakers from Belgium, Egypt, France, Spain and Lebanon and nine local speakers animated this congress. Dr Amina Oumeziane, chair of the local organizing and scientific committees, and her team developed an exciting scientific program with the support of Professor Devroey. Different topics were presented including: OHSS, how to avoid ohss, antagonist protocols, gyno-endocrinology, quality management, endometriosis surgery, hysteroscopy, vitrification embryo and oocytes, the decline of male fertility and different treatment.

The comprehensive program addressed current issues and controversies in the field of the productive medicine and improved understanding of the basic concepts.

Two workshops were organized as well. The first one was presented on site on the topics, how to do a study, and how to make an oral presentation. The second one was presented in an ivf center on the topic vitrification.

The congress presented a perfect opportunity for professionals in the field of reproductive medicine to come together to hear and learn about the latest developments in the field from respected international and local speakers. The objectives of the first SAMERE congress were to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of topics of current importance and interest in productive medicine enabling those working in the fields to inform and update themselves.


Many aspects of infertility were investigated during the scientific program. Several of these were presented such as the ovarian reserve, the comeback of Letrozole, the role of LH, and the OHSS Free Clinic.

A specific IFFS-UIT session was organized on the 16th of February 2014, dealing with scientific aspects of our field. Four lectures were given by Dr. Nikolaos Polyzos and Prof Paul Devroey.

These topics drew a fully packed room of interested attendees. The sessions dealt with some key aspects of our field such as:

- How to design a scientific study?
- How to write an abstract?
- How to write a paper?
- How to present a paper?

Many participants were very interactive and asked poignant questions. The attendance and interest in these sessions has demonstrated the need for education on these topics worldwide. One realizes that many of our colleagues are eager to initiate these types of studies but have not been instructed on how to accomplish them. However during the interactive Question and Answer session it has been noted that elaborating on a correct study design is feasible in the hands of many colleagues.

One of the most important points of course is the establishment of national, local, or regional ethics committees. IFFS can play an important role in education of our colleagues to participate in these types of studies as well as help them to approach their national authorities to build ethics committees.

During this IFFS-UIT session discussion took place about the IFFS-UIT Resource Center (http://www.iffs-uit.com) that was launched last year. Many colleges expressed their wish to learn more, the resource center is a great source for additional education with articles, lectures, images, slides and links. It was realized that doing a decent study leads to a correct abstract which can be presented on the international scene. Also it allows for international publication.
New IFFS Appointees

Scientific Director

PD Dr. med Tina Buchholz

Tina Buchholz is a clinical specialist in Reproductive Genetics. During her training, Tina specialized in Human Genetics and in Gynecology and Obstetrics and Reproductive Medicine. She is head of a private centre for Reproductive Genetics in Munich, Germany as well as head of the Cytogenetics Unit of the Institute of Human Genetics at the Technical University in Munich. Her major interest is identifying genetic problems in human reproduction as well as facilitating solution for genetic problems in reproduction worldwide.

Currently she is the President of the German Society of Reproductive Medicine. Tina represented this society for many years on the board of IFFS. With regard to her interdisciplinary expertise, she is the editor for Genetics for the Journal of Reproductive Medicine and Endocrinology. Recently Tina has been elected as member of the International Academy of Human Reproduction.

Prior to be appointed as Scientific Director Tina Buchholz has been involved in the scientific and local organisation of numerous international congresses, such as the World Congress of IFFS in Munich 2010, the upcoming ESHRE congress in Munich 2014 as well as the World Congress of the International Academy of Human Reproduction in Berlin in 2015.

Associate Director Education

Professor Bruce Dunphy,
MB, ChB, MD, PhD, MEd, FRCOG, FRANZCOG, CREI

Bruce is a subspecialist in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI), he holds a research doctorate in male infertility and he is an Adjunct Professor of Public Health. As a citizen of Australia, Canada and Great Britain he has held academic appointments and leadership roles in the field in a number of international settings.

With regard to his expertise in education, Bruce is a Conjoint Professor of Education, he holds a PhD in Education and a Masters of Education, and when living in Canada he held a cross appointment as a Professor in Medical Education.

Bruce is the Editor-in-Chief of the IFFS-UIT Resource Centre and a member of the editorial board of Reproductive Biomedicine Online, of Best Practice and Research: Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology and of the Australian Journal of Educational and Developmental Psychology.

In addition to his role with the IFFS, Bruce is involved in a number of international projects with the World Health Organization (WHO), including being co-chair of the WHO Global Infertility Guidelines Development Group Steering Committee, principal investigator of the WHO Country Assessment and Integration Tool, and co-Coordinator of the GFMER-WHO-ASRM online course and virtual consultation for building research and evidence gathering capacity at country level.
History of the International Federation of Fertility Societies

Roger D. Kemmers, MD
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emeritus
Mayo Clinic School of Medicine

The XVI World Congress was held in San Francisco, CA, October 3-9, 1998. This was the third joint meeting of IFFS with the American society, now the ASRM. The President of the IFFS was Otto Rodriguez-Vargas and the President of the ASRM was Larry Lipschultz. J. Benjamin Younger, Executive Director of the ASRM was credited with most of the organizational work for this large meeting. The congress was an enormous success with a registration of 6500. This was the first time the concept of a Trilogies format was instituted into the Scientific Program. To each selected topic were assigned three subtopics focusing on applicable Review, Practice, or Research. There were 72 invited speakers and 6 Keynote lectures. Three trilogies were held simultaneously in different halls allowing the participants a great choice of subject matter from which to select.

The XVII World Congress was held in Melbourne, Australia, November 23-30, 2001. The President of IFFS was Robert Harrison and host Presidents of the congress were Gab Kovas and David Healy. The program was developed at a high scientific level and the social events were outstanding. Unfortunately, the infamous September 11, 2001 aerial terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City had just occurred. Many physicians around the world, who had planned to attend, cancelled their plans over fear of flying and registration was limited to less than 1100 participants. There was significant national interest in the congress with extensive media coverage and the congress was judged a great success.
Welcome to
the land of rich heritage
NEW DELHI

22nd IFFS World Congress
September 2016 | Delhi, NCR

Hosted by:
Indian Fertility Society &
Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction

Contact Information for IFFS Secretariat

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FERTILITY SOCIETIES

IFFS SECRETARIAT OFFICE
19 MANTUA ROAD, MT. ROYAL, NJ. 08061
TEL.: +1 856 423 7222, FAX.: +1 856 423 3420
E-MAIL: SECRETARIAT@IFFS-REPRODUCTION.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.IFFS-REPRODUCTION.ORG