



# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES FOR HAND THERAPY

## **Annual report of the EFSHT Scientific Committee (SC) 2015-2016**

Period: June 2016 (Santander Meeting) to June 2017 (Budapest Meeting)

### **2016**

During the meeting in Santander, Spain, Ali Kitis and Silvio Tocco resigned from the SC EFSHT. We thank both for their engagement and work for the SC EFSHT during the past years. Therefore, the SC continued their work with three members only. Due to the reduction in members and the upcoming abstract reviewing process for Budapest 2017, some projects the SC had been discussing in 2016 - such as the "hand therapy guidelines project" or creating a paper for the future collaboration with local committees of organizing countries of Eurohand Conferences - had to be put aside.

Towards the end of 2016, we were able to gain a new member, Tone Vaksvik from Norway. Being an occupational therapist, she finished her PhD at the University of Oslo in 2016. Besides having a range of publications, her main areas of interest are major hand injuries, nerve injuries, brain plasticity and cold hypersensitivity. We warmly welcome Tone to the committee!

Also towards the end of 2016, the SC EFSHT was busy in reviewing the abstracts for the Eurohand Conference in Budapest in June 2017. We therefore created an Excel file with before set criteria we had discussed within the SC, allowing each SC member an individual rating of each abstract according to each one's personal skills and competences. We thereafter hold two Skype meetings discussing discrepancies in the rated abstracts only, which allowed us an efficient and timely rating of the abstracts with a high quality standard.

### **2017**

In January 2017, we finalized our abstract rating and were finally able to present the accepted oral presentations and posters to the ExCom EFSHT. Thereafter, Bernadette Tobler-Ammann as chair of the SC EFSHT volunteered being in close contact with the organizing committee of the Eurohand Conference, namely with Saara Raatikainen (president ExCom EFSHT), Turid Aasheim (vice-president ExCom EFSHT) and Paul de Buck (secretaire ExCom EFSHT). She informed the SC members about the updates on a regular basis. The organizing committee asked us to nominate a "best abstract" for Budapest. We are currently busy in selecting such an abstract.

## Outlook

Until the Eurohand Conference in Budapest, the SC will be busy with selecting and nominating a "best abstract". We will further have to take a final decision on whom we will present as followers of Ursula Wendling and Bernadette Tobler-Ammann, as both will resign after Budapest. We currently have 4 applicants. Additionally, we decided not to have a regular meeting of the SC during Budapest, as only Bernadette Tobler-Ammann and Tone Vavsvik will attend the conference. After Budapest, the new SC EFSHT will have to decide in which form they will continue working together (e.g. by using "teamwork" <https://scientificcommitteefsht.teamwork.com/projects/131987/overview> again as a platform to share ideas / projects), and which projects they would like to finalize or create new ones.

We are looking forward to the council meeting in Budapest and to the future collaboration within the SC and with the ExCom EFSHT.

The members of the SC EFSHT,

Bernadette Tobler-Ammann  
Ursula Wendling  
Lucelle van de Ven-Stevens  
Tone Vavsvik

## Appendix 3

### Project ideas for the SC:

- To prepare a **list of RSS feeds** to insert on the EFSHT website that our members could then download on their computers to stay updated with the latest news and articles on hand therapy/surgery which relate to their professional reality. In other words, our website would be a sort of melting pot of RSS feeds that relate to hand rehabilitation, whether be scientific or other information. Any one from the SC could add a feed when they come upon a new one (to be sent to the chair of the SC: he/she will send it further to Paul De Buck, secretary of the ExCom). This would also be sustainable throughout time.
- To **identify research projects** within the member countries and give the possibility to present the study, or to upload the presentations of the invited speakers from the congress. This could make the SC page on the EFSHT website worth visit!
- To create a kind of **questionnaire** to obtain information from the member countries about **needs and wishes concerning scientific information**, to collect information about societies publications (journals, newsletters, websites, etc.), about scientific activities in their countries etc. After having evaluated the answers of the EFSHT members, we can summarize and upload them on the EFSHT website.
- To **improve the collaboration with the local organizing committee** of the hand therapy conference and adapt the abstract submission guidelines to their needs and facilities in the future.
- To **upload new guidelines** (if there are any) under "what's new in science" or however we will call that section / link on the EFSHT website.
- To **upload the national educational events** from the member countries and postgraduate education programs as the IFSHT is doing it on their website [www.ifsht.org](http://www.ifsht.org).
- Create a **professional practice survey throughout Europe**: the SC would have to develop a questionnaire, validate it, distribute it Europe-wide, analyze the data and produce a report (or article similar to those done by ASHT in USA). This project can be completed within 2 years (less time is improbable since the questionnaires would also have to be translated and distributed among all member associations).
- To **collect all certification curricula in Europe** (and other countries) and summarize them on the EFSHT website: this could be helpful for those therapists from a member country without certification process and wishing to apply for ECHT.