

IFSHT EXCO HAS REAL TIME CONNECTION

The five members of the IFSHT Executive Board are now able to talk across nine time zones!! To assist communication and the ongoing support of IFSHT goals, the IFSHT executive board members are connected via computers through Skype™ which allows free telephone communication. The first two hour teleconference was held in December and two more are planned for January. Focused discussion based on a pre-agreed agenda allows timely decision-making, eliminating the need for multiple e-mails. Two sessions planned for January 2009 will focus on enhancements to the IFSHT website. IFSHT continues to grow with recent membership applications received from the Hong Kong Hand Therapy Society and from an individual in Bahrain who is applying as an associate member. IFSHT has also received inquiries from Spain, Mexico, Panama and Guatemala. The interest for hand therapy continues to expand world-wide.

TEACHING HAND THERAPY IN MOLDOVA

From: Margareta Persson
Immediate Past President IFSHT
Uppsala, Sweden

The Voinicel Centre in Chisinau, Moldova is a non governmental organization caring for children with disabilities. Established in 1999 by 13 physicians and therapists, the centre is mainly supported by the Norwegian organization AHEAD. Voinicel Centre uses

an interdisciplinary approach to teach families how to stimulate the child's development and provides contact with other families with disabled children. The staff of ten pediatric specialists have limited skills and experience in splinting.

In the last week of October 2008, Margareta Persson, past-president of IFSHT, taught a week-long course to a group of neurologists,



Maggi Persson moulding a splint for a boy with cerebral palsy at Voinicel Centre in Chisinau, Moldova



Course participants working on adjusting their splints
(They had to sleep in their splints and adjust them the next day.)

paediatricians, psychologists, physiotherapists, and orthopedic technicians from Voinicel and other centres in Moldova. The only orthopaedic facility in Moldova is for adults and currently the only custom made orthopaedic devices available for children are orthopaedic shoes.

The week long mix of theory and hands-on sessions focused on training 20 therapists and physicians to evaluate and treat children with upper limb functional problems. This was accomplished by Ms. Persson seeing patients at the Centre. Particular emphasis was placed on knowing when orthoses are applicable and how to construct them.

The long term goal of this training is to stimulate cross training of colleagues. Already in December 2008, the first report from Voinicel Centre showed a group of therapists teaching colleagues at other centres in Moldova and making splints for some children.

Partial funding of the project was given by funds from the IFSHT Voluntary Hand Therapy Programme. Further reports of progress in teaching hand therapy in Moldova will be at the IFSHT Triennial Congress in Orlando in June of 2010.

IMPORTANT DATES for IFSHT 2010 TRIENNIAL CONGRESS

To receive information about the IFSHT Triennial Congress in 2010 in Orlando, Florida, please sign up at: www.hands2010.com. REMINDER:

Call for Abstracts: opens on July 1, 2009
Abstract Submission Deadline: October 1, 2009.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Mar 26-27, 2009	Swedish Annual Meeting	Malmö, Sweden	www.sfh.nu
June 20-21, 2009	IAHT Summer Conference	Dublin, Ireland	www.handtherapyireland.com
April 24-25, 2009	CSHT Annual Meeting	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	www.csht.org
Sept 2-5, 2009	ASHT Annual Meeting	San Francisco, California	www.asht.org
Sep 30-Oct 2, 2009	Argentina Annual Meeting	Mar del Plata, Argentina	aacm@fibertel.com.ar
Oct 10, 2009	GIS RASM Annual Meeting	Rome, Italy	roseluciano@hotmail.com
Oct/Nov, 2009	AHTA Annual Meeting	Queensland, Australia	www.ahta2009.com
Nov 13-15, 2009	APFSHT Meeting (Asia Pacific Federation of Societies for Hand Therapists)	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	www.2009apfsht.ot.org.tw
Nov 12-13, 2009	Swiss Annual Meeting	Biel, Switzerland	www.sghr.ch