

Summer is coming to an end in the northern hemisphere and autumn is here to stay. This issue of the *IFSHT Update* highlights three of our member countries: France, Norway, and Venezuela.

GEMMSOR

The French Society of Hand Therapy was founded in 1984 and currently has 153 members. The Society communicates with their members through a quarterly Newsletter in French and also via their website: www.reeducation-main.com.

The next annual meeting of GEMMSOR will be held December 13-15, 2007 in Paris jointly with the French Society for Surgery of the Hand. On October 8th, 2008 a meeting on MCP and PIP joint arthropathies will take place at Palavas (near Montpellier). In the past year GEMMSOR has held a joint meeting with the hand surgeons in April and a meeting on prevention of disorders in professional musician in March.

France has two post graduate programs related to hand therapy: An inter-university European diploma in hand therapy and orthoses is available in Grenoble and a university diploma in surgical anatomy of the hand is offered in Bordeaux.

NORWEGIAN SOCIETY FOR HAND THERAPY

Founded in 1993, the Norwegian Hand Therapy Society at present has 75 members. Their annual society meeting will take place in Oslo on October 18-19, 2007. Ton Schreuders from the Netherlands will be the guest lecturer, speaking about various aspects

of functional anatomy and biomechanics of the hand and also giving a workshop on motor function evaluation. Other topics will be: mirror training, and hand function in daily activities.

The 2006 annual meeting also took place in Oslo where in addition to the scientific program the attendees enjoyed a photography display of hands of more than 400 people visiting the local market. An invited artist displayed the photographs at the meeting.

The Norwegian society communicates with their members through their website www.haandterapi.org as well as through e-mail.

No post graduate education in hand rehabilitation is available in Norway, requiring hand therapists in Norway to seek such education abroad.

With the cold Norwegian winters, the Norwegian hand therapists can keep their hands warm with mittens displaying the society logo. See photo.

A Norwegian hand therapist models woollen mittens adorned with the Norwegian hand therapy society logo.



Photo courtesy of Griet van Veldhoven

SOCIEDAD VENEZOLANA DE TERAPEUTAS DE MANO (S.V.T.M.)

SVTM is the name of the hand society in Venezuela which was founded in 1995 and currently has 41 members. Their annual meeting in 2007 was held jointly with the hand surgeons on September 20-22. Earlier this year courses were held on Evaluation of the Upper Quarter and Flexor Tendons Evaluation and Treatment. In 2006 the SVTM also held their annual meeting jointly with the hand surgeons as well as four additional courses with a variety of hand therapy topics.

SVTM publishes a printed bulletin once a year. The society does not yet have a website but e-mail correspondence may be directed to the Venezuelan international delegate at joeykat291@hotmail.com to the society at sovetema@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Dec 13-15, 2007	SFRM Annual Meeting (with French Society for Surgery of the Hand)	Paris, France	www.reeducation-main.com
Feb 14-17, 2008	APFSHT & Hong Kong Society of Hand Therapists (with Hong Kong & Asian Pacific Hand Surgeons)	Hong Kong, China	www.hkssh.org/apfssh20081.htm
March 2008	Swedish Society Annual Meeting	Uppsala, Sweden	www.sfh.nu
June 19-21, 2008	EFSSH Congress (with European Surgeons)	Lausanne, Switzerland	www.eurohand2008.com
Sept 3-5, 2008	Scandinavian Hand Society Meeting	Helsinki, Finland	www.congreszon.fi/SSSH08
Oct 8, 2008	SFRM Annual Meeting (with French Society for Surgery of the Hand)	Palavas, France (near Montpellier)	www.reeducation-main.com
Oct 23-26, 2008	ASHT Annual Meeting	Boston, USA	www.asht.org
Oct/Nov 2008	AHTA Annual Meeting	Melbourne, Australia	www.ahta.com.au