

Belgian Hand Group

Report Board Meeting

4/6/2025 19h30

Le Monde est Petit (Brussels)

BUREAU

PRESENT

Bernard Lefebvre, Xavier Libouton, Sofie Goeminne, Matthias Vanhees, Filip Stockmans, Fabian MOUNGONDO, Philippe Hoang, Ilse Degreeef

ABSENT and EXCUSED

Joris Duerinckx, Jeroen Van Haecke, Anne Lejeune, Morgane Pottier

Agenda

1. Approval report board meeting BHG 19/03/25

No comments. The report is approved.

2. Approval report of the General Assembly 16/05/25

We note the lack of investment by our members at the general meeting, which remains the essential link in the management and life of our society.

The report is approved.

3. Debrief of Dupuytren International conference 16-17/05/25

The Dupuytren's disease conference was a success, with high-quality presentations and excellent attendance. There were 225 participants, including 40 sales representatives, 23 BHG members, 45 surgeons who are not BHG members, and 95 therapists. We were surprised by the low turnout among young people.

From a financial standpoint, the conference generated a profit of €11,400.

4. Simplification of the status of senior members within the BHG

This point has already been discussed at previous meetings and is related to the following point.

5. Journal Hand Surg Eur : Online only

Currently, only the 70 full members of the BHG receive the European Journal of Hand Surgery.

Under the new rule, the 60 senior associate members will pay the same membership fee as full members, which will increase revenue by nearly €9,000. In order to motivate senior associate members to pay the higher membership fee, it has been proposed that they also subscribe to JHSurg Eur, which will almost double the cost. Sage has proposed replacing the mixed subscription with an exclusive digital subscription at €75 per person. We would like to make other digital journals available to our senior members. However, OVID-type platforms are too expensive. A subscription to the French journal (JHSurg and Rehab) costs us \$95 per person, or approximately €13,000.

We are considering other options: partnering with France to reduce costs, including a ticket for a second free conference with the subscription fee, opening a forum for clinical cases, allowing members to “submit” complex cases for discussion, etc.

In conclusion, several options are being explored and still need to be considered.

6. BHG congresses

- a. Ollier Congress; “Les Vans” France : 05-07 June 2025

Jean-Luc Roux's last conference. Three-day conference: one day on upper limb prostheses, one day on lower limb prostheses, and one day on history.

- b. FESSH Helsinki ; Finland : 25-28 june 2025

Many Belgians will be in attendance.

- c. ASSH Vancouver ; Canada :09-11 october 2025

An invitation has been extended by the ASSH to a Belgian candidate.

- d. BHG Congress 'Sports-related hand injuries' 18/10/25

The conference will take place in Louvain-la-Neuve in order to reduce costs. There will be four sessions, with one sport per session.

For each sport, there will be a presentation by a sports doctor, a surgeon, a physiotherapist, and/or a radiologist, followed by a round table discussion with professional athletes and/or managers to cover all points of view.

At the end of the day, there will be either a fifth sport or a lecture by the coordinating doctor for the Paris Olympic Games.

The sports should be: hockey, judo, rugby, and cycling and/or rock climbing.

7. FESSH updates

- a. FESSH Academy Advanced Course ; Budapest Hungary : 17-19/10/25

On behalf of FESSH, we are excited to welcome you to our 4th FESSH Academy Advanced Course in hand surgery. The course is focused on arthroplasty of the hand and wrist and we have a very experienced faculty from around Europe. The course is aimed at established surgeons and will include tips and tricks to prepare you . The course will include four two hour cadlab sessions for each delegate

- b. FESSH Academy Foudation Course

The next course will take place in Prague from February 11 to 14, 2026. This four-day course is suitable for senior trainees preparing for the EBHS exam and experienced surgeons.

Two BHG members may apply for a €250 discount on the course fees. Applications, including a CV, must be sent to Sofie by September 10.

c. FESSH travel award

The FESSH Travel Award is for surgeons, both in training and established, to visit another Hand Centre in Europe with the purpose of furthering their knowledge of Hand Surgery. The applicant should be member in a national hand society which is a FESSH member. FESSH Council will be awarding a maximum of 4'000 Euro per applicant. The FESSH Travel Award is to be used for travel, accommodation and subsistence, to visit a single centre for a clinical activity. The award must be taken between 1 January and 31 December of the year subsequent to the award. The same person cannot get the Award within 5 years more than once. Application is made through a simple on-line application form. The applications open after the 15 June in the current year with a closing date on the 25 August the same year. Successful candidates will be informed by 15 September.

d. HTC update

Ilse and Anne wish to relinquish responsibility for the accreditation of Belgian hand surgery centers.

Matthias for the Dutch-speaking part and Fabian for the French-speaking part are interested. They will be proposed to take over these activities.

e. Giants FESSH nomination

Luc Desmet was nominated and accepted.

He will be present in Helsinki.

f. The next FESSH congresses are:

- Basel, June 3-6

- Prague, June 2-5

- Strasbourg, June 28 to July 1

- For 2029, there are six candidates:

Austria (Innsbruck), Portugal (Porto), Greece (Athens) , Spain (Madrid) , Sweden (Stockholm), and Turkey (Istanbul).

8 IFSSH updates

a. Delegate news

Ilse Degreeef has been appointed member at large for Europe and Africa on the 2025–2028 committee. Congratulations, Ilse!

- b. Debrief of Congress 24-28 march 25 in Washington
Filip shares his report on the latest IFSSH congress in Washington.

Many Belgians were present, with three presentations, two moderators, and two co-authors for training courses.

Two of our members were elevated to the rank of pioneers in hand surgery. They are Professors Alain Carlier and Luc Desmet.

The organization ran a deficit of more than \$800,000. This is probably due to the geopolitical situation, the fact that Washington is a very expensive city, and the fact that the national conference was not taking place at the same time.

The next IFSSH congresses will take place in Singapore from October 23 to 27, 2028, and in Rio de Janeiro in 2031.

The mid-term course will take place in Venice from March 21 to 25, 2027.

- c. Renewal of the position of IFSSH delegate

Currently, the term of office for the BHG national delegate within the IFSSH is three years. A discussion has been initiated on the fact that positions within the IFSSH office can only be accessed by a former IFSSH national delegate. The idea of promoting rotation within the position of IFSSH national delegate in order to increase the number of potential candidates for positions within the IFSSH office is supported. This does not apply to the position of delegate to the FESSH.

Filip Stockmans currently holds this position and wishes to continue for a second term, as he feels that three years is too short a period to fully understand how the society works.

Finally, it was decided to allow Filip to continue for a second term, but thereafter this position will be limited to a single, non-renewable term. This must be clearly stated in the statutes and voted on at the next general meeting.

9 Other agenda points

- a. Partnership proposal with the thumb osteoarthritis group

This project is too closely linked to a commercial company: Keri Médical. The Office believes it must remain neutral and is therefore unable to respond favorably to this request.

- b. Questionnaire to test the tagging system for distal radius fractures 3D reconstruction project of distal radius fractures. Make an announcement in the newsletter.

10 Next meeting

Next board meeting : **24/09/2025**