Inside this Issue:

Message from the President ........................................... 2
From IFFS to FIGO .................................................. 3
Burkina Faso Workshop ............................................ 4
Secretary General’s Report .......................................... 4-5
Treasurer’s Preliminary Report .................................. 5-6
Education Committee .................................................. 6
Staying on top of things in Germany ......................... 6-7
General Assemblies .................................................... 7
Contact Information for IFFS Secretariat .................. 8
Message from the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The President is proud to present this report for the three year period of his term, ending at the time of the second General Assembly (Dublin, Wednesday, May 2, 2007). From 2004 to 2007 the Federation made a lot of progress in fulfilling its mission. It has gained in efficiency and focus. It has strengthened its functioning and financial basis. It has made crucial decisions and moves to reach financial capability to act according as it wished, in particular for what concerns education.

Education is the key word for IFFS. It can be said that all possible efforts have been made to stimulate a comprehensive education programme in all parts of the world. This has been efficiently implemented by Ian Cooke. His position as Director of Medical Education has become an official Officer’s position, giving him the necessary autonomy and a large possibility of initiatives. His personal scientific dimension and undisputed recognition in the field of Reproductive Medicine as well as his academic background have brought him the confidence of both his international colleagues and industry. A large number of workshops have taken place in all parts of the world, in particular in places where such events seldom occur. An e-learning academic programme is on the way. IFFS is also fully involved in the thinking going on about “low cost IVF”. I invite you to read Ian Cooke’s report and you will get the real feeling that true efforts have been made to bring Reproductive Medicine awareness and knowledge to colleagues in remote parts of the world where medical information is not as easily available as elsewhere.

With this educational impetus and programme, IFFS is fully in accordance with its Constitution that describes the objectives of IFFS as to stimulate dissemination of knowledge in all aspects of reproduction and fertility, to stimulate the creation of societies for basic and applied work in the field of reproduction and fertility. This educational purpose of IFFS, with a worldwide emphasis, does not overlap with the objectives of such important societies as FIGO, ESHRE and ASRM. On the contrary, a true collaboration has been developed with the membership of each society. Regular meetings have taken place in order to reach a common position and attitude on subjects affecting our profession. This applies to ethical issues, and also to the sometimes unconstrained organisation of new societies and events.

According to its strategic plan, IFFS has made moves and decisions to be able to self-organise its triennial World Congress. Up to 2010, the National Society, as a member of IFFS which has gained the organisation of the Congress from the General Assembly, is fully responsible for all organisational and financial aspects of the congress. IFFS is responsible for the scientific programme elaborated by the elected Scientific Programme Committee and obtains from the organisers a percentage of the income. This scheme has been successful for many years and IFFS World Congresses have always had an exciting local flavour. But with the increasing complexity of everything, the necessity to build a durable and permanent relationship with industry and to obtain financial control of operations, it has now become necessary for IFFS itself to take full responsibility for the organisation. To do so, IFFS needs to structure itself in a professional and permanent way. No decision concerning the Central Office has been taken without fully examining its consequences for the future with regard to this self-organisation of congresses by the Federation.

All committees have been very active, but at the time of the report I want to stress in particular the work done by the Industry Committee chaired by David Healy. Partnership is not a unilateral decision. It is a slow and growing process that needs to be carefully monitored. An important part of it is personal relationships, confidence, mutual respect and shared objectives. In this regard, the committee has done a wonderful job. Every IFFS activity is being boosted by the industrial partnership and it is also a key feature in the strategic plans for the future.

Three years ago, giving my Presidential Address to the General Assembly, I presented my team as the “dream team” every President would like to have with him in order to implement his programme. The achievements have been fulfilled beyond my expectations and special and sincere thanks go to the officers who have spent time and energy, with no personal reward, and to the Central Office, the sadly missed Bob Talley and his wonderful people who have served IFFS as if it had always been their own family.

Bernard Hedon MD
President of IFFS

OFFICERS
Bernard HEDON President
Basil C. TARLATZIS President Elect
Gamal I. SEROUR Secretary General
Juha TAPANAINEN Assistant Secretary General
Ester POLAK DE FRIED Assistant Secretary
Joe Leigh SIMPSON Assistant Treasurer
Roger D. KEMPERS Past President
Ian D. COOKE Director of Education

Executive Committee
Richard KENNEDY UK
Alla TITTINEN FINLAND
Janos URBANCSEK HUNGARY
Hans R. Tinneberg GERMANY
Paul DAMEYER SOUTH AFRICA
Roberto MATORRAS SPAIN
Yung Kwee SOOING TAIWAN
David HEALY AUSTRALIA
Jose Ignacio MADERO COLOMBIA

Scientific Committee
Roger KEMPERS USA (Chairman)
Basil C. TARLATZIS GREECE
Paul DAMEYER SOUTH AFRICA
Thinus F. KRUGER SOUTH AFRICA
Serge BELISLE CANADA
Gamal I. SEROUR EGYPT
Ian D. COOKE UK
Frank Michael KOHN GERMANY
Jung Gu KIM KOREA
Patricia M-BARBARINO FRANCE
Christine VAP SINGAPORE
Carlos SIMON SPAIN
Guillermo CAPARRIO URUGUAY
Robert REBAR USA

Editor in Chief
Juha TAPANAINEN

Editorial Board
Ian COOKE
Bernard HEDON
Gamal I. SEROUR
Janos URBANCSEK
From IFFS to FIGO

It was a great honour for me to join the Board of IFFS in Melbourne, Australia in 2001 when my name was put forward by the Nominating Committee for the post of Assistant Secretary General and I was elected by the IFFS General Assembly for this post for the period 2001–2004.

During my term in office as Assistant Secretary General under the competent leadership and expertise of Roger Kempers I witnessed major changes and activities in the Federation. One major change has been the reallocation of the IFFS headquarters of the secretariat.

IFFS bade farewell to its central office in Montpellier, France and the distinguished service provided by Mme Aline Le Gars and her staff. The secretariat headquarters have been relocated to Talley Management Group in Mt. Royal, New Jersey. During the past six years IFFS enjoyed the extensive expertise provided by Mr. Robert Talley and his group in developing its strategic plans. This helped the Federation to implement and expand its vital educational outreach mission, to expand and modernize its website and to develop an extensive database of members from each national Society to transmit its newsletters, reports, statements and communications electronically. That resulted in enormous savings for IFFS. The format of the newsletter was radically changed, modernized, became more attractive and enjoyed extensive distribution world wide. In addition to regular contents it also included short articles on burning issues from top scientists in the field of Reproductive Medicine which made it more appealing to a larger spectrum of readers.

IFFS, enriched by its important liaisons with international sister organizations such as WHO, FIGO, ESHRE, ASRM and FLASEF, was able to strengthen its relationship with these organizations. IFFS and FIGO, the two organizations established by one great man, Hubert de Watteville, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of FIGO, held the first IFFS/FIGO postgraduate symposium in Barcelona, Spain during the period July 24th–26th, 2004. This symposium on Advances in Reproductive Medicine was most successful and was attended by a large number of participants.

As a member of the Board, under the masterful leadership of Roger Kempers, IFFS President, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the extraordinarily hard working group of officers and IFFS Executive Committee members. Indeed it has been a great pleasure and privilege for me to be a member of this team and to learn a lot from all of them. With great pride I say they have made a difference.

Under the dedicated leadership of Ian Cooke the Education Committee achieved a number of objectives including supervision and updating the website, conducting successful workshops in a number of developing countries, supervision of IFFS Surveillance 2004 developed by Jean Cohen and Howard Jones and the IFFS Newsletter edited by myself. The Industry and Development Committee, ably chaired by David Healy, established continuing corporate bonds with industry. The Finance Committee and the Policies, Procedures and By-laws Committee, under the skilful supervision of Prof. Bernard Hedon, performed a superb job. The Scientific Committee, under the dedicated chairmanship of Robert Harrison, prepared an outstandingly high quality scientific program for IFFS’s 18th World Congress in Montreal Canada, May 23–28th, 2004. Attendees at the conference thoroughly enjoyed the outstanding science and memorable social events.

In Montreal I was honoured to be nominated for the post of Secretary General of IFFS and elected by the General Assembly for the period 2004–2007. During this term in office, as I got to know the Federation better, I thoroughly enjoyed my post and it was a great privilege and pleasure for me to work as a member of such an outstanding, friendly and dedicated team. A great deal has been accomplished under the outstanding chairmanship of Prof. Bernard Hedon during the last three years. (Please see the Secretary General’s Report).

I must say that, as I tremendously enjoyed serving IFFS for the past six years, I had no intention whatsoever of leaving IFFS at this particular time. When I was nominated by the Egyptian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the post of FIGO President Elect 2006–2009, I had mixed feelings. Although I have served IFFS for almost six years, I had also served FIGO for 14 years as a member and then the Chair of the Committee for the Ethical Aspects of Human Reproduction and Women’s Health. At the FIGO General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur on 10th November, 2006, I was voted in favour of my candidacy for President Elect, I was overwhelmed by the trust bestowed upon me and the great responsibilities and obligations ahead of me. It was extremely hard for me to inform Bernard Hedon, IFFS President, and Basil Tarlatzis, IFFS President Elect, that I had no other option but sadly to leave the IFFS Board at the end of my term in office in Durban in May, 2007. However, remembering that the two Federations, FIGO and IFFS, had been established by the same great man, Hubert de Watteville, I thought that this move would certainly help to strengthen collaboration between these two great sister organizations. Both work for the betterment of our profession and improvement of safety and quality of life of women around the world in the field of reproductive health.

Moving from IFFS to FIGO with these strong links and friendships, which I have developed with the IFFS leadership over the years, will certainly enable us to achieve these noble objectives for the betterment of our profession.

As I bid farewell to my colleagues and friends in the IFFS Leadership I look forward in the near future to even stronger collaboration, a win–win formula, between these two great and beloved organizations, IFFS and FIGO.
Burkina Faso Workshop

A Workshop was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), West Africa on 25–26 November. It had been organised by Prof. Bernard Hedon through the University of Montpellier, France, which is developing a relationship with Burkina Faso, a country of 12 million people with 1.2 million living in the capital, Ouagadougou. Two other members of Montpellier staff were involved, Prof. Hervé Dechaud, gynaecologist and Prof Samir Hamamah, biologist. The lectures and discussion were in French, Prof. Hedon kindly providing translation for my lectures and the discussion.

The programme negotiations had been developed in conjunction with two local academics, Prof Jean Lankoande of Ouagadougou and Prof Blami Dao of Bobo Dioulasso. They were two officeholders in the Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Burkina (SOGOB), which in turn had excellent links with other francophone countries. That meant that there were representatives present from Chad, Niger, Togo, Benin, Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, although Cameroon and Gabon were unable to be present. The government had provided good publicity for the meeting in other francophone countries. The principal pharmaceutical representatives were also there, Mr A. Tahri, the Director of North and West Africa for Organon and his Gynecology Sales Manager, Mr Karim Alaoui, both from Casablanca, Morocco.

The Serono representative, Mr Slah-Eddine Aloui was also the manager for North and West Africa and he was based in Tunis, Tunisia. There were opportunities for significant discussions with each of them and both expressed great satisfaction with the outcome and had high hopes of contributing to the further development of education in Africa.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Health. Altogether there were 60 participants and attendance was constant throughout and persisted until the last presentation. The two days were very long and the presentations covered all aspects of ART, but this was difficult for the audience as no delegate had experience of ART. The question times at the end of each presentation were quite long and there was active audience participation with questions at a good level. The local organisers produced an electronic copy of all presentations, providing a CD which was given to each participant at the end of the meeting. The local facilities had been well prepared and the visitors were grateful for the kindness shown them and the social support provided.

Feedback suggested that it would be helpful to have practical workshops for about 20 participants with hands on experience, andrology being deemed the best candidate subject to begin.

At the end of the meeting Prof. Hedon suggested that the SOGOB should canvass all the members of the francophone grouping, which has a meeting every two years, and discuss the possibility of their joining IFFS as a group. None of the countries would ultimately be large enough to constitute a separate entity according to IFFS rules. When they respond, this question can be pursued further by IFFS.

Ian Cooke
Director of Education

Secretary General’s Report

The central office continued to provide its secretarial service to a very high, professional standard under the supervision of the Secretary General. However, as IFFS is moving towards organizing its own congresses and expanding its educational program, IFFS approached sister organizations including FIGO, ESHRE and ASRM and investigated how best to achieve these objectives. Documents have been prepared with the required specifications and new terms of reference and professional companies will be invited to apply. Another alternative which IFFS is investigating carefully is to have its own office and appoint an Executive Director. These two
alternatives will be thoroughly discussed by the new Board so as to choose what is in the best interest of IFFS.

The IFFS leadership, under the competent chairmanship of Prof. Bernard Hedon during its term in office from 2004–2007, focussed on education using all possible means. IFFS witnessed a great number of achievements in these three years. Prof. Ian Cooke was appointed by the Executive Committee as the Director of Medical Education. He initiated, promoted and organized workshops in various parts of the world in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Several pre congress courses at IFFS’s 2007 Congress in Durban have been scheduled, each with a specific educational purpose and one in the French language to accommodate different needs.

Arrangements have been taken to develop an e-learning programme in collaboration with experts in the field. The Scientific Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Roger Kemper prepared a superb scientific program for the IFFS 2007 Congress in Durban to address the most appropriate topics. The Congress includes the Trilogies and several preCongress courses (Please see the Program). The Industry and Development Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. David Healey continued to create and maintain a strong relationship with the medical industries. This relationship allowed IFFS to achieve its educational objectives within an ethical framework, which outlines the relationship between not-for-profit scientific organizations and associated medical industries.

The Georgian Association of Reproductologists (GAR), Indian Fertility Society, Irish Fertility Society and Turkish Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) applied for membership of IFFS. The applications were approved by the Executive Committee and will be subject to ratification by the General Assembly in Durban. Few suggestions have yet been received. Member societies were invited to suggest topics of interest they would like discussed by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. Few suggestions have yet been received. The Secretary General urges these member societies to pay their dues, which would help IFFS to achieve its educational and training objectives particularly in the developing world.

Member societies have been invited to apply for vacant posts on the Executive, Scientific, Nominating and Audit Committees. Several applications have been received and they will be subject to election at the General Assembly in Durban. Member societies were invited to suggest topics of interest they would like discussed by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. Few suggestions have yet been received. The Secretary General received four excellent bids to host IFFS 2013 from Argentina, Egypt, Japan and the United States. The bids were discussed at length at the last Executive Committee meeting in New Orleans on 23rd October, 2006. Considering the intended changes in IFFS headquarters and the offers provided by the four countries, the Executive Committee agreed to accept the bid from US and submit it to the General Assembly for discussion and approval.

Our colleagues in South Africa have been working very hard for many years to arrange the next Congress which will be remembered scientifically, culturally and socially for many years to come. Under the competent leadership of Paul Dalmeyer, they have very efficiently all along kept the IFFS leadership well informed about their unfailing endeavours to make the Durban Congress a real success. Personally and on behalf of IFFS Leadership I am deeply grateful to all of them.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Durban.

---

**Treasurer’s Preliminary Report**

Our complete report will be presented at the IFFS General Assembly in Durban showing the evolution of our finances through the years 2004, 2005 and 2006; this one extends to November, 2006 so it could be published in this Newsletter.

The graph illustrates a global evaluation of Income and Expenses over the last three years. There are two important items of income corresponding to the Montreal Congress in 2004 and to the grants received for Education which are shown for 2006. The income received from our 54 member societies of 53 countries has been stable. Another substantial improvement in this period is the growing profit from the financial investments of IFFS which resulted in a progressive increase of almost 100% from 2004 to 2005 and more than 100% from 2005 to 2006. From 2004 to 2006 this increase is approximately 300%.

Expenses were essentially similar to those of previous years. The graph shows an increase in 2005 which corresponds to the investment in Education.

The Treasury handed over all required information to the IFFS Auditors for their evaluation and presentation.
During the General Assembly in Durban the tables and numeric values from this period will be presented. The Treasury is grateful for the strong support received from member societies that enables it to achieve the aims of the Federation that represents them.

Education Committee

The education programme has developed strongly over the past 3 years and a continuing series of Workshops is being planned with emphasis on low resource economies. The pattern of organisation is becoming clear. First, enquiry is made to the Secretary of the national Fertility Society offering a partnership in organising a joint Workshop. Sometimes these have been a component of an annual national meeting and sometimes freestanding. With support of the Society a date and venue are agreed to fit in with the IFFS schedule. Local suggestions for topics are sought and quality speakers from that country or adjacent countries are identified. IFFS then suggests a small number of quality speakers from abroad, from one to four, to fit into the topics in the programme and the final programme agreed. All arrangements are made efficiently using e-mail, which is essential for effective communication.

A strategy for developing a Low Cost form of IVF involves other centres and studies are being encouraged.

In an attempt to create a global complex for e-learning in reproductive medicine via the internet, plans have been pursued for accessing existing teaching networks, a preliminary syllabus has been created and links are being made with committed academic institutions. The appropriate technology is available, both as software and hardware and these connections are being integrated.

IFFS has committed significant resources to expanding its educational activities and I am most grateful for its drive and understanding and for the co-operation of so many national societies. The unstinting support of speakers has been crucial to this success.

Ian Cooke
Director of Education

During this time local contact is made with various pharmaceutical companies for local support in order to cover the local expenses including external speaker accommodation. IFFS covers the international travel expenses of their invited speakers from funds raised from Organon, Schering and IBSA unrestricted educational grants.

In 2005 Workshops were held in Uruguay, the Philippines, Nigeria and Romania and in 2006 in Bulgaria, Vietnam, and Burkina Faso. This year the first Workshop was to have been held in Sudan, but had to be cancelled because of security concerns. More are planned for this year in Venezuela, Russia, Colombia and Sri Lanka and negotiations are continuing with China, Iran, Kenya and Malaysia.

Apart from the academic aspects of the Workshops themselves, there has been an opportunity to interact about other aspects of training, extending contacts abroad and stimulating other local initiatives.

Staying on top of things in Germany

The field of infertility treatment is proceeding at a breathtaking pace. It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with new developments. To meet the ever growing demand for information on recent advances, the German Society for Reproductive Medicine (DGRM) has initiated a unique program of continuing medical education – the “DGRM-School of Reproductive Medicine & Endocrinology”.

Four times a year, leading experts in gynecology, urology, andrology, endocrinology, human genetics, reproductive biology and psychosomatic medicine convene at a one-day intensive course to offer an update on current developments in infertility treatment. The target audience comprises interns, residents, researchers, clinicians and educators interested in reproductive medicine.

The School features important advances in topics as diverse as techniques of ovulation induction, sperm preparation, embryo culture, cryopreservation of ovarian tissue, in-vitro maturation, polar body biopsy, polycystic ovary syndrome, recurrent pregnancy loss, the impact of sperm DNA damage, surgical management of endometriosis, treatment of tubal ectopic pregnancies, cutting edge andrology techniques, stem cell research and cloning. In addition, relevant moral, legal and social issues arising from new reproductive technologies will be discussed.
Participants are required to finish our workshops with a self-assessment test and to fill in a course evaluation form. The courses are approved by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education of the German Medical Association.

The School is based on the close integration of scientific research and clinical practice. Consistent with these values, our comprehensive educational program aims to increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance of physicians involved in the field of reproductive medicine. We are confident that it will foster innovation in clinical practice, facilitate a career-long continuum of medical education and enhance the safety and efficacy of new reproductive technologies. Even more importantly, it will encourage clinicians and other health service providers to use their knowledge and apply it to the care of their patients, or, as the President of the German Society for Reproductive Medicine, Professor Hans-Rudolf Tinneberg, recently put it: “As a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to the advancement of the art, science and practice of reproductive medicine, we must offer an outstanding continuing medical education program. Providing state-of-the-art education to our physicians is the ideal way to ensure the best care for our patients.”

Manuela Simoni and Jan-Steffen Krüssel
Members of the Board of the German Society for Reproductive Medicine

First General Assembly: Monday 30 April 2007 at 15.15 Hours

Welcome by the President of IFFS
Introduction of the high table
Roll call of Member Societies and Associated Societies
Adoption of the Agenda
Adoption of the minutes of the General Assembly held in Montreal 2004
President’s Report (B. Hédon)
Secretary General’s report (G. Serour)
• Ratification of admission of new member societies
• Ratification of withdrawal of member societies
Financial matters
Treasurer’s report (E. Polak de Fried)
Audit committee’s report (D. Adamson)
Education report (I. Cooke)
Election and installation of the Nominating Committee
Bids for IFFS 2013 World Congress
• Process of bidding
• Bids received
• Bids selected by the Executive Committee
Topics proposed for discussion by member societies
Concluding remarks

Second General Assembly: Wednesday 02 May 2007 at 15.15 Hours

Welcome by the President of IFFS
Roll call of Member Societies and Associated Societies
Adoption of the Agenda
Adoption of the minutes of the previous General Assembly
Adoption of IFFS official statements and documents
• Surveillance 2007
• Other
Report of the Nominating Committee and elections
• IFFS officers and Executive Committee member countries
• Scientific Programme Committee chairman and member countries for the 20th World Congress (Münich, Germany – IFFS 2010)
• Audit committee chairman and members
Report on Congresses
• 2007 (Durban)
• 2010 (Münich)
• 2013
Presidential Address
Concluding Remarks

International Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd Annual Meeting of ESHRE</td>
<td>1-4 July 2007</td>
<td>Lyon, FRANCE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eshre.com">www.eshre.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility Society Australia Annual Conference</td>
<td>8-12 September 2007</td>
<td>Hobart, Tasmania, AUSTRALIA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fsa.au.com">www.fsa.au.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63rd Annual Meeting of the ASRM</td>
<td>13-17 October 2007</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asrm.org">www.asrm.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>