



IFHNOS

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HEAD AND NECK ONCOLOGIC SOCIETIES

OFFICERS (2018 - 2022)

FOUNDER & CEO

Jatin P. Shah, M.D.
New York, U.S.A.
shahj@mskcc.org

DIRECTOR

Claudio Cernea, M.D.
Sao Paulo, Brazil
cerneamd@uol.com.br

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pankaj Chaturvedi, M.D.
Mumbai, India
chaturvedi.pankaj@gmail.com

TREASURER

James Paul O'Neill, M.D.
Dublin, Ireland
joneill@rcsi.ie

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Ashok Shaha, M.D.
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shahaa@mskcc.org

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IFHNOS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Report of the CEO

Dr Jatin Shah

In its 34th year since its establishment, IFHNOS remains the single most robust international organization in the specialty of Head and Neck Surgery with 70 National societies and organizations, as its members from 57 countries. Interest in its established programs continues to grow year after year, as IFHNOS continues to introduce new programs. For the past two years the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, caused significant disruption in the regularly scheduled activities of IFHNOS in 2020 and 2021. However, with some modifications, several programs continued, and others were offered virtually on the zoom platform. Concurrently, online offerings on the web site increased significantly.

- The 7th world congress scheduled for September 2022, had to be moved to June 2023.
- The world tour programs were changed from on-site conferences to virtual online programs, delivered in four zones in March, June, October and December.
- In spite of Covid numerous centers and institutions observed the World Head and Neck Cancer Day in the week of July 27, and conducted programs of awareness, early diagnosis, cancer screening, and CME programs
- The Master Courses on surgical techniques and cadaver dissections had to be postponed indefinitely
- The Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF) program continues with the same vigor and interest. However, the final oral examinations were conducted virtually and very efficiently on the zoom platform. The experience of the past two years, has led us to conclude that going forward the oral examinations will continue to be conducted virtually on line.
- The International Observership Program had to be suspended indefinitely due to travel restrictions and inadmissibility of visitors at many institutions in North America

7th World Congress
June 2023
Rome, Italy

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- Educational activities and offerings on the website www.ifhnos.net, have increased significantly with addition of several new lectures, videos of procedures, and article citations of “what’s new in the literature”
- A new program of a comprehensive hands on clinical and academic training called the “International Fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery” (IFHNS), was introduced this year. This program will offer a one year of clinical fellowship in an approved center of excellence in Head and Neck surgery around the world, and will require completion of the GOLF program. Upon completion of the program, candidates will be awarded the degree of “IFHNS”, giving them international recognition as a well-trained Head and Neck Surgeon. At the moment the approvals process for several centers is on way, and it is expected that by mid-2022, these fellowship positions will be available to prospective candidates.
- While the near future remains uncertain for on-site activities for IFHNOS, we will continue to strive to maintain the thrust of education, training and camaraderie, through virtual platforms in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology
- We are hopeful that situation might ease a bit in 2022.

Director`s Message

By Prof Claudio Cernea

The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) has struggled to keep its endeavor to promote continuous education in the field of head and neck oncology during these last 2 years, while the COVID-19 was negatively impacting the whole world. Obviously, this has been a very difficult task, but the Council and the Executive Committee are doing their best to minimize the damage. Therefore, they decided to postpone the realization of the 7th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies to the first semester of 2023, in order to assure its viability. Undoubtedly, the World Congress is one of the most important events in the field of head and neck oncology, and has been an invaluable opportunity for physicians, residents and medical students from all parts of the world to update their knowledge, as well as to interact with some of the most renowned specialists. In 2023, the 7th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic

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Societies will be held at the wonderful city of Rome. It is important to emphasize that the 8th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies is already confirmed to take place at Brisbane, Australia, in 2026.

Global On Line Fellowship

Dr James Paul O'Neill

The Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF) program continues to provide an excellent educational platform to trainees across the World. In total 322 students have graduated from 56 countries.

Given the COVID pandemic we have continued to conduct virtual oral examinations to our candidates that have successfully completed the 'online examination' components. From our recent class- final oral examinations, 21 candidates passed, 9 candidates achieved a high pass and 10 candidates failed.

Our current class numbers are 53 in the Class 7 (2020-2022) and 38 in Class 8 (2021Oct-2023). Class 8 have their first examination January 12, 2022.

In April 2022 we will begin a dedicated recruitment drive for Class 9 of the GOLF program. We intend to ask our graduates their reasoning for completing the GOLF program and the benefits they have gained from the overall experience.

We are very grateful to our examination committee who continue to write questions for the online component and indeed the oral examiners. The experience is unique and our students continue to report the improvement in their understanding of the diagnostics and multidisciplinary management of Head and Neck disease.

International Observership Program

Dr Ashok R. Shaha

The IOP program was started in 2014 through the generosity of "Shah Foundation" for worthy candidates between 4-5 every year. These candidates will visit the center of excellence in Head and Neck Oncology of their choice and spend a month as a clinical observer under the mentorship of the head and neck leader of their choice. Obviously, starting from March of 2020 because of the Covid-19 this program is on hold primarily



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because the host institutions are not allowing any clinical observership programs. Hopefully, this will open up as Covid-19 gets over with and we may be able to invite IOP candidates starting September of 2022. The current details of the program are as follows:

2014 – 5 candidates

2015 – 4 candidates

2016 – 4 candidates

2017 – 4 candidates

2018 – 3 candidates

2019 – 5 candidates

The total number of candidates awarded IOP over the last six years is 25. This has been a wonderful program from the point of view of the candidates as they can get financial support for their visit to a major head and neck cancer center.

IFHNOS Virtual Tour 2021

Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi

In view of the global COVID-19 pandemic the Annual IFHNOS world tour was organized successfully in four zones on Zone 1 (North & South America) May 29th,

Zone 2 (Europe & Africa) October 2nd, Zone 3 (West Asia and Middle East) December 4th and Zone 4 (East Asia & Oceania) July 31st. The registration fees were \$100 for a single zone, \$150 for two, \$250 for three and \$300 for all zones. Delegates from Medium and Low-income criteria were given a 50% discount.

- Total delegate registrations for zones 1,2,3 and 4 was 115, 168, 159 and 121 respectively while total Faculty registrations were 107, 89, 88 and 89 respectively.
- Seventy-five delegates registered for all four zones, 15 for three zones, 25 for two and 50 delegates registered for a single zone.
- Total income generated by delegate registration was \$39,675 and by sponsorship was \$3000, while total expenditure was \$5,008 thus generating a net profit of \$37,667 for the organization.

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June 2023
Rome, Italy**

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Social Media Updates

Dr Sandro Porceddu and Dr Apurva Garg

IFHNOS is now present in all popular social media websites and apps, IFHNOS LinkedIn page has been created this year. Social media outreach has further increased the reach of IFHNOS amongst the Head & Neck Oncologist worldwide specially in the age group 25-44 years. It has also helped in increasing the awareness about Head Neck Cancers amongst patients and common people.

- This year saw over 50-200 % growth in our social media following across the different platforms, with Instagram getting the maximum new followers.
- Over 50% of our followers are from India followed by USA, Latin America and over 1/3rd are females. Hence, we need to concentrate more on Europe, Africa, Eastern Asia and Australia to increase our follower base.
- All the core members are being encouraged to increase their social media presence and share, tag, retweet IFHNOS posts to increase their reach many folds.
- The number of posts from the IFHNOS social media handles will be further increased in 2022, with the support from the core members and the IFHNOS app with added features our social media outreach is expected to grow 2-3 times in the coming year.

Online Tutorial

Dr Vincent Vander Poorten

IFHNOS introduced a new section of Online video lectures by World Leaders in Head & Neck Surgery and Oncology.

- We have sent invites to many prominent leaders and have received four videos from Professors Pierre Delaere, Cesare Piazza, Vincent Vander Poorten and Tan which have been uploaded on the IFHNOS website and YouTube Channel.
- Professors De Bree, Jonathan Clarke, Hans Langendijk, Paolo Castelnuovo and Bob Ferris have agreed to send their videos shortly which will be uploaded in early 2022.



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World Congress

Dr Giuseppe Spriano

Regarding the 7th IFHNOS World Congress, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation still in place and compelling in many countries it was decided to postpone the Congress.

This was mainly due to two reasons. In fact, 2022 will host other congresses and meetings which were both postponed from 2021; therefore, some concerns were raised whether they would constitute a "competition" for our Congress, both in terms of audience and sponsorship opportunities. Furthermore, we hope that by moving it up a few months we will be able to host our 7th IFHNOS World Congress as an only-physical meeting, without having the need to come up with complicated hybrid solutions.

After discussion, proposed dates for the 7th IFHNOS World Congress are June 21-25, 2023.

IFHNOS Societies which have already committed to participating to the Congress with a Society Symposium will be notified of the change and their original proposal will be considered valid for the new dates.

IFHNOS APP

Dauren Adilbay and Rogerio Deviditis

To attract more interest and active users from head and neck oncology community and member societies, IFHNOS council decided to update the IFHNOS app. After discussion, several points have been made, and the work on the upcoming update have been started with the developers.

The new update will include several features, that will make app user friendly, useful for everyday and conference use.

- The app is going to be a platform for interaction between physicians interested in head and neck oncology worldwide.
- The app will give member societies an interactive page for posting their news and for use as their official page.

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- Interface will change to become a social interaction platform with possibility to post news and clinical cases by any user (after moderation).
- Each case discussion will be a separate post so that there is no mixing of contents, and any case published by users, will be commented by IFHNOS designated expert. New content will be posted both by users and officially by IFHNOS on regular basis
- Notification feature will be added for new post/news in the app.

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