

International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS)



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

Office bearers

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CEO's Message

IFHNOS in 2019 remains a robust and vibrant global organization uniting clinicians and scientists from around the world in the specialty of Head and Neck cancer. Since its establishment 32 years ago, IFHNOS has grown from strength to strength year after year with a series of educational and informational interactive events in various parts of the world.

This year IFHNOS introduced two new programs, “What’s new in head and neck oncology” and an “Online lecture series”. Each month, the what’s new program publishes up to three citations of the most informative and high impact articles published in the preceding months on the IFHNOS website. This gives the most up to date information to our members and keeps them at par with the current research. The online lecture series offers lectures delivered by the faculty of the World tour program through the preceding year.

The quadrennial World Congress, annual World Tour, the Masters of Head and Neck Surgery program, the Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF) and the International Observership Program remain the most imperative educational events offered by IFHNOS. New national organizations continue to join IFHNOS further improving our reach to every corner of the world.

We are proud to say that our organization has created a major impact amongst clinicians and scientists from all corners of the world by offering a global platform for professional interaction and enhancing camaraderie in the specialty of Head and Neck surgery.

Director's Message

The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) is the most important worldwide organization dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Head and Neck neoplastic diseases. Established in 1986 as a pioneer initiative of Dr. Jatin P. Shah, it is actually a “society of societies”, presently including organizations from 65 countries devoted to the care of patients with Head and Neck tumours. In fact, IFHNOS primary task is to promote high-level education of Head and Neck health professionals. Among these endeavours, we would like to highlight the World Congress of Head and Neck Cancer, the IFHNOS Educational World Tour, The Global Online Fellowship, The Masters of Head & Neck Surgery and the establishment of the World Head and Neck Cancer Day.

The World Congress of Head and Neck Cancer takes place every 4 years. The 2014 Meeting in New York City was the largest congress on this subject ever, with more than 3,000 registrars. The IFHNOS Educational World Tour gathers a travelling faculty of internationally recognized H&N oncologists, blending with local faculty members in several venues around the world to offer a comprehensive 2½ days course on H&N oncology.

The Global Online Fellowship (GOLF) is a 2-year online educational program, including a 1-2 month Observership in an accredited service around the world. The candidates have to pass a final exam. The approved candidates receive a certificate of excellence in H&N Oncology.

The Masters of Head & Neck Surgery is a program offering a tour of 2 experienced H&N surgeons to several locations around the globe sharing their practical skills and knowledge with local surgeons for 2-3 days, including live surgery and cadaver dissections.

The World Head and Neck Cancer Day, established in 2014 during the previously mentioned World Congress of Head and Neck Cancer, was a personal initiative of the Secretary-General of IFHNOS, Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, and aims to increase the global awareness of the severity of H&N cancer, with special focus on prevention and early diagnosis.

International Observership Program

This year for the International Observership Program (IOP) we received a total of 16 applications. The applicants were from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, Egypt, and Africa. Five applicants were selected for IOP award. We have suggested that the candidates submit a summary report of their experience and critique of the program. This will help us to make any future changes as necessary.

World Head and Neck Cancer Day

<http://ifhnos.net/whncd/Index/>

The 5th World Head & Neck Cancer Day (WHNCD) was observed in 62 countries and 6 continents, the participation and reach of this day is getting better and stronger with each passing year. These events were organised from a week before and a week after 27th July. They were organised by various medical societies, medical colleges, private hospitals, government agencies, non-profit organisations and patient support groups in the participating countries. These comprised a wide variety of events like CMEs, workshops, discussions, survivor meets, awareness rallies, pop-up events, screening camps, etc.

It was covered in all the popular social media websites and apps like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube through the official IFHNOS accounts. These were very helpful in generating the buzz before the event on 27th July. World over all the WHNCD events were also publicised on social media by the organisers. The social media activity increased the reach of WHNCD widely and was very helpful in creating awareness about this disease. There were over 20,000 impressions across various IFHNOS social media accounts and handles.

The maximum number of events were organised in India which had 10 programs followed by Australia, Philippines and Hungary with 3 events each. The participation from other countries like Oman, Moldova, Colombia, etc. was also very encouraging.

All these events were well covered by the electronic, print and social media of the respective countries and were very helpful in creating greater awareness about Head & Neck cancers amongst the medical professionals and public. All the IFHNOS council members participated actively for WHNCD in various national and international events.

With greater awareness being created by the council members and enhanced social media coverage we hope to have greater participation with a greater number of countries and events in the coming year.

World Congress

The 6th World Congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between September 1st and 4th, 2018. The venue was the Catholic Argentinean University, in the attractive Puerto Madero area.

Congress Leadership was under the eminence of Marcelo Figari (Chair), Snehal Patel, Giuseppe Spriano and Juan Larrañaga (Program Chairs).

Besides the words during the Opening Ceremony of Jatin Shah, as IFHNOS Founder, and Ashok Shaha, as IFHNOS President, the Congress had 6 Keynote lecturers: William Lydiatt, Louis Harrison, Michael Tuttle, Piero Nicolai, Vincent Vander Poorten and Se-Heon Kim, who updated the most relevant topics in the field of head and neck oncology.

The Congress had 1123 attendants, representing 61 countries (60% Latin America, 11% North America, 18% Europe, 7% Asia and 2% Oceania). The number of Faculties reached 210 and the IFHNOS Congress had also 2 Guests of Honour. Out of the submitted abstracts, 104 proffered papers were presented, and 348 e-Posters were in permanent exhibit. 4 Awards were granted (best science paper, best clinical paper, best science poster, best clinical poster).

Besides that, IFHNOS had the support of 10 commercial exhibitors and 4 Scientific Societies.

706 participants (62%) answered the post Congress survey: 85% considered that the academic level was excellent or very good; 70% found the Congress very useful for their clinical practice and 70% rated the Congress as excellent or very good.

Global Online Fellowship Program

http://ifhnos.net/global_online_fellowship.html

In 2014 IFHNOS in collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) developed an On line Fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, known as the Global On Line Fellowship (GOLF).

This year we examined 50 candidates in Belgium, India and Costa Rica. We now have over 300 Board Certified Surgeons from 45 countries around the world who have graduated from this program.

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to the entire faculty who examined this year making it one of the most successful years in the GOLF program.

Scientific Research Consortium

The goal of the IFHNOS Scientific Research Consortium is to become the premier global force in multi-institutional collaborative clinical outcomes and basic science head and neck cancer research. The first four anatomic sites, which are being addressed for collaborative clinical outcomes research, are skin cancers, oral cancers, salivary gland and skull base cancers. We have identified the REDCap[®] data base as the platform ideally suited for collaborative data base creation, and we are in the process of working out the precise methodology for sharing anonymized data to adhere to HIPAA regulations. While this happens, the next steps will include agreement on a minimal common data set for each disease site; establishing mechanisms for soliciting, peer reviewing and selecting study proposals; and establishing standard operating procedures for data collection, and analysis, reporting.

The first of these collaborative studies is expected to open for participation in the second quarter of 2020.

Masters of Head and Neck Surgery
http://ifhnos.net/master_head_and_neck_surgery.html

A two-day cadaver dissection course was born when Prof Shah was approached in mid-2018 with the idea to have a combined meeting based on the same principles as the well-known IFHNOS World Tours. He immediately assisted in providing the necessary vehicle with the Masters of Surgery concept (under the umbrella of IFHNOS), and the concept of a first ever South African Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Congress, in collaboration with IFHNOS, was born.

A comprehensive didactic congress from 11 to 14 September 2019, with South African leaders in this specialty interacting with the invited international faculty to produce a lively debate on the controversies in head and neck oncology in order to explain the contemporary management of these malignancies was delivered. This preceded the two days of cadaver dissection, which included in-depth discussions on the indications for and the selection of the most appropriate surgical procedures for the most common cancers of the head and neck region. Every attendee was absolutely absorbed in the explicit video demonstrations and live dissection demonstrations by the expert international faculty.

The cadaver dissection course was complemented with a colourful surgical dissection manual, discussing in a step-by-step manner the successful completion of various operative procedures. This manual is an excellent keepsake to remind participants of this remarkable event, tutored by two of the current most well-known and respected head and neck surgeons, Prof Jatin Shah and Prof Ehab Hanna. Participants were attracted from far and wide – some even from Europe and the Middle East, and several from African countries. The congress took place at the excellent new venue, Future Africa, at the LC de Villiers campus in Pretoria, South Africa. The dissection

course was conducted in one of the newly refurbished dissection laboratories of the Department of Anatomy at the Prinsh of Campus of the University of Pretoria. The academic standard of the Maters course was very high, with excellent interaction and participation by all participants – surpassing all expectations, with the primary purpose of giving our patients the best treatment and care. This event emphasised once again the importance of the opportunities provided by a highly respected and recognised international body like IFHNOS to collaborate and share information and experiences between local and international colleagues, with the primary purpose of giving our patients the best treatment and care. IFHNOS created an opportunity for leaders in the field to step to the plate and earn their place in the international head and neck fraternity.

World Tour

Leuven, Belgium

<https://kuleuvencongres.be/ifhnos2019/>

On October 18th and 19th, The 2019 IFHNOS World Tour Faculty had their European stop in the Anno 1425 “Promotion Hall” of the Leuven University Headquarters Leuven, Belgium (www.ifhnos2019leuven.org). The meeting was endorsed by IFHNOS, the Belgian Head and Neck Societies and ESTRO, and under the auspices of The Royal Belgian Society for ORL-Head and Neck Surgery. The 253 participants from 34 countries were taken on a vibrant multidisciplinary journey through the Head and Neck. The excellent Touring Faculty and the regional European experts alternated keynote lectures, interactive case discussions, supplemented by satellite symposia on Immunotherapy, Targeted Therapy, and Proton Therapy. A sincere thanks to the IFHNOS touring faculty, the European Opinion Leaders, the Sponsors and the enthusiastic attendants that made this a very successful event.

San José, Costa Rica

<https://www.ifhnoscostarica2019.org>

Central America is made up of 6 developing countries with very few specialists in every cancer field. The Costa Rican Association of Head and Neck Oncology was actively involved in requesting the IFHNOS board for choosing Costa Rica as part of this 2019 World Tour and making it the largest head and neck cancer meeting ever held in Central America. As the Latin American Federation of Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting was taking place also in Costa Rica just one week apart from the World Tour, both meetings were merged. It was a complete academic success and fulfilled completely all its academic goals.

There were 188 registrants from various specialties that included ENT, general surgery, surgical oncology, maxillofacial and dentistry, GPs and residents of these specialties. There were a total of 15 GOLF examination candidates, most of whom passed the oral test.

Chennai, India

<http://www.fhno2019.com>

The IFHNOS World Tour Program was conducted on 10th - 13th October 2019 at the Leela Palace, Chennai. The IFHNOS Program was conducted alongside the FHNO 2019, the Annual Head and Neck National Conference of India. The program received a tremendous response, which were reflected in the numbers attending the conference. We had a total of 718 participants for the programs of which there were 636 doctors and 82 speech and swallowing pathologists and therapists. Among the 636 doctors, there were 130 residents and post-graduates in training as well, who benefited greatly from the dynamic sessions conducted by the world leaders in head and neck surgery. The participants were from all over the globe including Indonesia, Burma, Germany, Bangladesh, Italy, The United Kingdom, the United States, Nepal, South Africa and of course India. All aspects of Head and Neck Surgery were covered comprehensively in the IFHNOS sessions with focus on clinical aspects, decision-making and recent advances. The panel discussions were designed to be very interactive and informative.

On October 10TH we had pre-conference workshops that covered technical details of various aspects of head & neck.

The GOLF exam was also conducted during this IFHNOS world tour program, taken by 25 examinees. Overall it was a world-class experience of the highest global standards possible for all attendees.

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

<https://www.eashno.org/ifhnos2019>

The Nur-Sultan part of the tour was co-organized by Kazakh Head and Neck Oncology Society and Eurasian Society of Head and Neck Oncology (EASHNO) from the 15th to 16th October 2019. The course was a part and preceded the bi-annual Kazakh Cancer Congress and took place in the Duman Hotel. Bearing in mind the language barrier of post-Soviet states, we organized simultaneous translation to Russian and English. We gathered 56 participants: 36 practitioners [31 Surgeons, two radiation oncologists, three medical oncologists], and 20 Undergraduate/Post Graduate students. We had participation from all central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, and the majority of CIS Russia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. One participant came from Colombia. The most of participants are from Kazakhstan, 23 physicians representing different regions. Overall the tour was a great success giving practice-changing tips and tricks to many regional physicians.

Social Media Updates

IFHNOS is now present in all popular social media websites and apps namely Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. The exclusive IFHNOS app was launched this year on Android and iOS platforms. This is useful in sharing regular updates on the upcoming IFHNOS events, recent publications, IFHNOS faculty, etc. Social media outreach has increased the reach of IFHNOS vastly, especially amongst the younger age group and helped in increasing the awareness about Head Neck Cancers. This year saw over 500% growth in our social media following across the various platforms. This will help in further strengthening and popularisation of the organisation. Metrics are as follows –

Twitter

Impressions: 28,300

Engagements: 1,456

Facebook

Total Impressions: 102,622

Total reach: 61,599

Total engagements: 5,929

Total likes: 2,223

What is New?

http://ifhnos.net/Member_Section/Index/whats_new_in_literature

What's new in Literature" is a feature IFHNOS has added to enhance and expand the section on "On Line Education" on the IFHNOS web site. This consists of links to important and landmark articles published in the current year. This is a dynamic Tab, which is updated every month. The idea is to help current GOLF fellows and the head and neck community at large to remain abreast with the emerging knowledge in the field. Previous GOLF fellows with honours and leaders of Head and Neck around the world submit the articles. A subcommittee of the On-Line Education program reviews and selects submitted abstracts for uploading on the IFHNOS website.

Pankaj Chaturvedi
Secretary General- IFNHOS

Dated: 18th December 2019