



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES

Dear Councillors,

First of all, Dr Rosa Manzanilla, the Vice-president, Safia Siddiqi, the Secretary and myself, your IFNS President wish you and the nematology society you represent a successful 2011. As last year, I want to provide you an update on the activities of IFNS realized in 2010.

The main activity concerned the organization of the selection process for the next congress site. By 1 March 2010, five societies (CSPN, JNS, NSI, NSSA, SON) had submitted a well documented proposal. On 4 March a first **voting** round was launched. It resulted in an equal number of highest votes for JPN and NSSA. A second round in April had as winner: the Nematology Society of Southern Africa will organize the 6th International Nematology Congress. I hereby wish to thank all councillors of the different societies for their commitment to vote and this within the proposed time schedule. It was a very exciting election and for me a real pleasure to organize it.

A second activity dealt with IFNS Constitution. At the end of 2009, all councillors received a **ballot** with the question if: 1) we should keep IFNS without legal status, with or without rectifying the draft of the constitution as a kind of working agreement, or 2) should IFNS go for a legal status as an international non-profit organization with tax-exempt status and keep the Federation registered in the US or go for another country. The response to the ballot was very low; no other suggestions were made except for the very kind proposal by Dr Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana to help us as an US citizen to explore what are the steps to be taken and the costs to go for a legal non-profit tax exempt status. The Attorney T. A. Bush of Sirote & Permutt of Birmingham, Alabama contacted by Rod informed us that the easiest way to proceed is to incorporate IFNS and be a C3 (tax exempt) organization. This requires formalization regarding rules and regulations pertaining among others, as to who is going to control the monies and financial activities and estimated budgets, if any (so far IFNS did not have finances). Most of this is already written or implied in the proposed constitution and would not be difficult to do. If we decide to give IFNS tax exempt status, then a mechanism will have to be developed to maintain objectivity, continuity and independence of the funds from the rest of the IFNS. The estimated cost of the legal work will be U.S. \$4000 - 5000 plus \$700 user's fee. The cost will depend on how much information and work we can provide the Attorney and how much he has to actually do.

- Why going for a legal status? For example, last September, Safia Siddiqi had a big problem to renew the domain name www.ifns.org because IFNS is a not-for-profit scientific society that has not been officially registered nor has a business license.

- So far, we did experience problems but all is founded on good will and mutual confidence, respect and commitment since there are no binding statutes/rules.
- IFNS an officially registered society could make it easier to obtain financial support from official institutions and avoid possible communication problems or others by applying the Constitution.

Therefore, I would ask for your cooperation to give your opinion by filling in the **new ballot** (see attached file).

A third activity concerns the IFNS website.

- So far the website has been regularly updated for announcements of nematology symposia and congresses.
- An update on new books published in 2010 will soon be uploaded.
- An update on Obituaries is ready to be uploaded.
- We will start with “*Well-known nematologists, role models for the science*” with a page and illustration on de Man (The Netherlands) based on his Biography by G. Karszen.
- The lay-out of a poster of IFNS has been developed but I need an original of the symbol of your society or pictures

As fourth activity we have started our contacts with the Nematology Society of Southern Africa in order to discuss all matters with respect to the 6th Congress. A first meeting was held with Driekie, Mieke, Alex and Shaun in September 2010 in Rothamsted Research (UK). Rosa and I are going to attend the next NSSA symposium in May 2011 to continue activities related to the organization and scientific programme of the next Congress.

NEEDED from YOU:

- Please check the IFNS website and inform us on changes for your Society such as change of President, councillors,..
- Provide us pictures of any nematode related subject so that every month we can update the home page of the website
- Send us information on nematology meetings, new job possibilities, interesting results, worrying developments,..
- Provide us an original of symbol of your society for the poster
- Send us the ballot

FORTHCOMING

According to the working rules of IFNS, art 4 on Structure of Organisation of the draft of the constitution: “At the end of 3 years, the same officers are re-elected or replaced by new officers in case of non-confidence voting or resignation for an additional 3 years. A quorum of Councillors from at least 5 Societies can request a vote of confidence for any officers anytime during their term.” I have contacted David Chitwood to organize this election. He has accepted this and will contact all councillors.

Dear Councillors, Dr Rosa Manzanilla and myself, thank you for the confidence we received so far and hope to be able to continue to serve IFNS and help with the arrangement and scientific programme of the coming congress.

Roza Manzanilla
Vice-President

Wilfrida Decraemer
President of IFNS