



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES

Dear Councillors,

With the end of 2009 in sight, this is a perfect time to provide you with an overview on the actions undertaken by the IFNS officers with respect to the Federation and also to make some reflections on the future of IFNS and its role and to exchange ideas on what direction IFNS should take in order to serve better in the future despite the small number of officers.

We are convinced that all of you are very committed to the science of Nematology, to your respective societies and to the Federation as your common platform for communication. We see IFNS and its website as an additional tool to promote the science of Nematology and improve communication between us without interfering/hampering the societies. Therefore, we do hope to receive some increase in response especially with respect to the status of IFNS and its website despite your very busy schedules.

2010 will be an important year for our Nematological Societies and the Federation since we will have to elect the location of the 6th International Nematology Congress. I thank all the societies who have submitted a Letter/e-mail of Interest to organize the next congress.

By the 1st of March 2010 the IFNS officers expect to receive your formal submission of a location proposal with documented evidence (on air travel, accommodation and food, communications, tours and spouse activities and financial support) to support the merits of the location. I'm sure that the outcome will be very promising and the elected location supported by every councillor.

The overview of 2009 here after, deals first with some historical facts, followed by the steps undertaken in 2009 with respect to the IFNS status, constitution and website. In addition some tasks for 2010 are presented. We would like to receive your opinion on the status of IFNS, the need for the creation of special committees e.g. to provide an overview of "Education of Nematology" or an overview on "Type and Voucher collections of Nematodes and there importance for e.g. agricultural Nematology", or others subjects.

Above all, I wish to thank you all for your commitment to the Federation. The IFNS Officers wish you a prosperous and interesting and successful 2010.

Wilfrida Decraemer

IFNS: historical facts

- 1984: 1st International Nematology Congress at Guelph (Canada)
Concept of Nematological Federation, involving ESN, ONTA, SON
- 1990: 2nd International Nematology Congress at Veldhoven (The Netherlands)
Study group appointed for developing IFNS organization
- 1996: 3rd International Nematology Congress in Guadeloupe
Proposal for IFNS approved, involving 14 nematological societies with about 2500 members affiliated
The need for a Constitution and Operations Manual was expressed
- 1996-2002: more than 10 different drafts of a constitution were proposed
Upon an e-mail ballot Ghent (Belgium) was indicated as IFNS domicile but Ghent later withdrew and Beltsville (Maryland, USA) was accepted as IFNS domicile
- 2002: 4th International Nematology Congress at Tenerife
Draft of a constitution of IFNS was discussed and resulted in an adapted proposal
- 2008: 5th International Nematology Congress at Brisbane (Australia)
The draft of the Constitution dd Tenerife was presented and adaptations proposed
It was agreed to keep Maryland as IFNS domicile and to further explore the possibility to make IFNS a legal non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Updates 2009-12-07

1. IFNS: Constitution

As a consequence of the agreement at the Brisbane meeting to keep IFNS domicile in Maryland, the proceedings for a legal status of the Federation has to follow USA law and therefore a US collaborator is needed. The president has been exploring many possibilities and contacted several people. She also contacted the board of Directors of the Cobb Foundation to learn more about the steps to become a legal organisation. IFNS has no financial means but receives financial support from the Cobb Foundation to maintain a website. There has been quite some substantial mailing going on. I wish to thank all for their kindness and help and more in particular Steve Thomas, Pat Donald, Robin Giblin-Davis, David Chitwood and Larry Duncan. At he Congress on Tropical Nematology at Maceio (Bresil), the president and vice-president had informal meetings with IFNS Councillors present.

2. Options for IFNS status resulting from the discussions:

- We keep IFNS as it is, this means without legal status and without rectified Constitution
- We keep IFNS without legal status but discuss and rectify the draft of the Constitution
- We go for a legal status for IFNS i.e. as an international non-profit organization with tax-exempt status
 - a. If domicile remains in Maryland, we put an announcement via SON for an American representative to help

- b. If no help can be provided we inquire for possible domicile in another country; if the councillors would chose for this option, I'm prepared to take the necessary steps in Belgium.
- We do not go for a legal status as organization but go for a copyright of the name IFNS under the law on trademark protection.

3. *Remarks on the different proposals*

- We keep IFNS informal as it is since the federation works well and was so far very successful in fulfilling its main task: to plan, facilitate and promote the International Nematology Congress every six years. All is founded on good will and mutual confidence, respect and commitment since there are no binding statutes/rules.
- IFNS as a legal organisation: a legal status could make it easier to obtain financial support from official institutions; possible communication problems or others can be solved according to the Constitution.

You will receive an e-mail with an inquiry on your view concerning IFNS and its status.

IFNS Website

- So far the website has been regularly updated for announcements of nematology symposia and congresses.
- Some small other changes have been made with respect to the home page, and location of collections, the minutes. However, this voluntary task by Safia Siddiqi is time consuming and so we will seek some help for her so that the website can be extended and more informative. In January an extensive update on new books (published since 2002) will be uploaded.
- Apparently, the website is rarely visited by the councillors or members of their society. Some of the pages on the societies need to be updated e.g. reference to the website of the Society is missing or subscription rates have changed,...
- Also information concerning the journals of the societies need update
- *You will receive an e-mail with a demand to provide the president updates of the information concerning the Societies.*
- If you would consider it relevant we could provide you twice a year a *Newsletter* but to make it interesting we need contributions from your respective societies. We would like to hear your opinion.

The website provides the possibility for interaction, post your opinion news e.g. under Letters, profiles,

Future

- Further steps with regard to IFNS status depending on the results from the inquiry to the councillors
- Organizing the selection process for the next congress site
By 1 st March 2010: Formal submission by the societies to IFNS President and Officers of a location proposal with documented evidence to support the merits of each location. The President

will forward all proposals at the same date to all IFNS Councillors together with a ballot paper and with indication of time of submission of the votes.

- A poster on IFNS is being made. The poster will be presented at all Nematology symposia and congresses in order to make nematologists better aware of the Federation and its aims.
- In order to make the website more informative, information additional to that on the websites of the societies could be provided but therefore your collaboration is needed e.g. with the help of working groups or committees. For example it would be interesting if the IFNS website could provide an overview on education in Nematology and links to existing information on other websites. Where can you study nematodes?
- Another interesting subject especially for non-specialists interested in our field are “nematologist role models” i.e. providing an inside in the life and career of a nematologist who made an important contribution to Nematology.
- Other suggestions for topics for the website are welcome.
- As soon as the website is updated, other societies related to our field will be contacted to put a link on their website to IFNS
- A letter on the importance of Nematology is being prepared and will be sent to official Institutions to improve the visibility of our federation.

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- Since she does this voluntarily and because pages include links, these changes take time. It would be very helpful if someone could help her.
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- It would be interesting if the IFNS website could provide an over view on the existing education in Nematology or provide a link to the website of those Societies who provide such information as e.g. SON. We could approve a committee if considered useful.
- Another interesting subject especially for non-specialists interested in our field are “role models” i.e. an inside in the life and career of a nematologist who provided an important contribution to nematology.
- Other suggestions for topics for the website are welcome.
- A poster on IFNS is being made in order to make IFNS more visible for your nematologists. The poster will be presented if possible at all Nematology symposia and congresses.
- Non-nematological societies but related to our field are being contacted to put a link on their website to IFNS
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