

THE EFSHT CERTIFICATION PROCESS

by Angela Harth

Chair of EFSHT Education Committee &
Past-President of DAHTH

One aim of the European Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (EFSHT) is to establish common standards throughout Europe by means of a European Hand Therapy accreditation system. In 2006 the EFSHT Education Committee (EC) was founded and assigned the task of developing a process for accreditation: “European Certified Hand Therapist” (ECHT).

The EC has produced a number of documents, the most significant of which are: “Hand



Melanie Eissens (on right) receiving the first ECHT Certificate from Angela Harth

Therapist Profile,” “European Curriculum,” and “Handbook.” The latter describes the process by which therapists who are already accredited hand therapists in an EFSHT member country can achieve ECHT status. These documents can be found on the EFSHT website: www.eurohandtherapy.org. The ECHT process requires the candidate to have five years clinical experience, including 4,000 hours of hand therapy practice, before applying. The applicant prepares and submits a portfolio

in English that includes the following:

- An extended Curriculum Vitae which demonstrates continuous professional development.
- Three recommendations attesting to the candidate’s experience and abilities.
- Two case studies: one long (2,500 words) and one short (1,500 words) that demonstrate the candidate’s knowledge and practice of hand therapy.

Each portfolio is independently reviewed by two reviewers from countries other than that of the candidate. The portfolio is objectively evaluated using ECHT Standards.

At the 2011 EFSHT Congress in Oslo, Norway the first two ECHT designations were awarded to Melanie Eissens (NL) (see photo) and Nick Gape (UK). They may now add “ECHT” to their professional designations.

The ECHT accreditation process is open to all therapists who are within a member country of EFSHT that currently has a certification process in place.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .

**9th IFSHT Triennial Congress
New Delhi, India, March 4-8, 2013**

March is a perfect time to travel to India, so start planning your trip now to attend the 9th Triennial IFSHT Congress in New Delhi, India. This will be a combined meeting with the 12th Triennial Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH). Post Congress sightseeing tours will be available for attendees. To submit an abstract



starting February 2012 or for additional information go to www.ifssh-ifsht2013.com.

**13th SOUTH AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR
HAND THERAPY CONGRESS &
7th Argentina Hand Therapy Association
Congress
Buenos Aires, Argentina October 5-7, 2011**



Left to right: Erick Lopos (Chili), Beatriz Piso (Argentina), Lynne Feehan, president of IFSHT (Canada), Birgitta Rosén (Sweden), Janine Hareau (Uruguay) and Valeria Meirelles Elui (Brazil) in Buenos Aires.

Approximately 120 hand therapists and 400 hand surgeons from all regions of South America gathered in Buenos Aires for the South American Congress. Simultaneous translation of all sessions ensured that all Spanish, Portuguese or English speaking participants were able to fully participate in the meeting. A number of exceptional scientific and clinical papers were presented on a diversity of topics. Additional highlights were the panels and round table discussions on selected topics hosted by different member countries as well as a series of lectures presented by Birgitta Rosén OT, PhD (Sweden) on sensibility recovery and the importance of early sensibility retraining following peripheral nerve repair.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: Listing of upcoming courses sponsored by member countries does not indicate IFSHT endorsement.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 4-5, 2012	CSHT Annual Meeting	Toronto, Canada	www.csht.org
June 22, 2012	European Hand Therapy Day	Antwerp, Belgium	paul@bht.be
Aug 30-Sep 1, 2012	Scandinavian Hand Society Meeting	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.ssh2012.dk
Oct 11, 2012	DAHTH Annual Meeting	Lübeck, Germany	www.dahth.de
Oct 18-21, 2012	ASHT Annual meeting	San Diego, California USA	www.asht.org