

ICOPLAST *International Confederation of Plastic Surgery Societies*

23 December 2015

Dear National Society Leader:

Over the past year, you, or another individual in your society received information about the founding of the new Plastic Surgery Federation, *the International Confederation of Plastic Surgery Societies (ICOPLAST)*, which was constituted by representatives of over forty national plastic surgery Societies at a meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts on 16 October 2015. We received inquiries from many national societies interested in joining the new federation.

This letter is to notify you that the first meeting of the Council of National Delegates of ICOPLAST will be held in **Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 8 March, 2016**. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the FILACP Congress 9-13 March, 2016. An Organizing Committee which was formed in October, has been very involved in developing the mission, organizational structure, bylaws, and committees. The purpose of the Council of National Delegates meeting on 8 March, will be to formally recognize the national delegates of each country, adopt the bylaws, and elect a Board of Directors for the new confederation.

Why Join? By joining ICOPLAST, your society is engaging with national plastic surgery societies from around the world. ICOPLAST will focus on promoting education, quality initiatives, humanitarian opportunities, philanthropy and collegiality among the national societies, members, patients and the public. ICOPLAST will have the singular goal to ensure better plastic surgery globally, improving the quality of life for plastic surgery patients. ICOPLAST believes each **National Plastic Surgery Society** serves as the primary communicator to the country's health ministry and as the official spokesperson for all citizens on important plastic surgery topics and related health issues. The new global organization will serve as a communications resource for your society to help provide a worldwide, unified voice for the safety and efficacy of new procedures and devices within plastic surgery, when public health issues arise.

Requirements for Membership: The ICOPLAST is a confederation, with membership limited to National Plastic Surgery Societies, and not individual plastic surgeons. One National Plastic Surgery organization will be admitted from each country, and this organization must represent the full scope of plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery in the country. The Council of National Delegates decides upon the admission of a National Society after considering the recommendation of the Board of Directors, and may use the following guidelines: a. The Society is recognized by the Minister of Health or other government body as the primary organization for the specialty of plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery; b. The Society is recognized as the major organization in developing the curriculum and training of plastic surgeons in the country where it is based; c. The Society represents the majority of board certified plastic surgeons in the country.

Countries interested in joining the new confederation may plan to attend the first meeting of the Council of National Delegates by advising the ICOPLAST Administrator, Ms. Carol Lazier, of their intent no later than **15 February 2016** to icoplast@plasticsurgery.org. The Society should identify their Official Delegate, provide a copy of the organization's charter or bylaws, the current officers, and the number of members in each membership category. Countries that are not yet ready to join can be admitted to ICOPLAST at the next meeting of the Board later in 2016.

Governance: ICOPLAST is governed by a Board of Directors and a Council of National Delegates. Each National Society may appoint one delegate, and one alternate delegate as their official representatives. The vote of the delegate will be weighted, based upon the number of plastic surgeons in each country, by a formula still under discussion by the Organizing Committee, which will ultimately be ratified during the meeting on 8 March 2016. Seats on the board are representative of the regions of the world and are allocated as follows: Central and South America - 2; Europe - 2; North America - 2; Asia - 2; Oceania - 1; Africa - 1; Middle East - 1.

Cost of Membership: Dues will be based on the number of plastic surgeons by country; countries that are considered to be "developing" will be set lower. The Organizing Committee agreed to set the dues at the same rate as the IPRAS dues of €10

FILACP Meeting in Punta del Este:

In order to secure accommodations and to register if you will be attending the FILACP meeting, please go to their website at www.filacp2016.org . Please note that the meetings will be held at the Headquarter Hotel, the Conrad. All ICOPLAST attendees will be invited to attend the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday evening, at which time the new Board will be recognized and formally "installed"; and to the Cocktail Party following the Opening Ceremony, as a courtesy of our hosts. We hope many of you will plan and attend the FILACP meeting. The preliminary program will be available on the website soon.

With this letter, we send our heartfelt wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Hinne Rakhorst, Robert Murphy, and Greg Evans

on behalf of the Organizing Committee of
The International Confederation of Plastic Surgery Societies (ICOPLAST)