

IFFS Vacancy – Director of Medical Education

The post of IFFS Director of Medical Education will become vacant in September 2010 and applications are being sought. The Director sits on the IFFS Executive Committee. Applications should be submitted to the IFFS Secretariat, IFFSSECRETARIAT@talley.com before 1 September.

The Education Committee of IFFS was established in 2001 and the first meeting was held just prior to the Vienna meeting of ESHRE in 2002. The post of Director of Medical Education was established 3 years later to co-ordinate the activities of the Committee throughout the year.

Looking at the membership of IFFS about half the members are from low resource economies. Education is well organised in the developed world, but it was felt that greater efforts should be made to bring such activities to less affluent countries. So the concept of restricting these activities to the developing world was created. It was agreed to attempt to hold one Workshop in each of five different continents each year on subjects requested by local societies and to raise the funds to do so. Thirty five workshops will have been held from 2003 to the end of 2010, so we are close to our target. IFFS typically supports the travel of two external experts via economy air fares to each workshop, but there is extensive liaison with the local organiser and his scientific committee to assist in the organisation. Many educational aspects are usually discussed, not only during the Workshops, but at the associated events, and usually continue afterwards.

In addition to these workshops, which can be held on any subject or series of subjects in Reproductive Medicine, special emphasis has been put on Low Cost IVF and on e-learning, although these areas are less well developed.

Given the exceptional demand for education it is important that IFFS, which is well placed to identify expert speakers, continues this work and develops its educational activities further.

Ian Cooke
Director of Medical Education