Neil Poulter
President 2016 - 2018

This fifth report of my Presidency allows me to wish all members a Happy New Year – albeit rather belatedly!

The end of 2017 saw the final bits of MMM data being submitted from around the world. Since then the two statisticians, Tom Beaney and his mentor Cono Ariti, have been working on the analysis. That work goes on!

The main ISH event in January was a MMM investigator meeting held at a hotel strategically located between London Gatwick and Heathrow airports and thereby providing easy access for representatives from 50 countries who took part in MMM17 to fly to the meeting. In total 76 delegates attended the meeting at which the results of MMM so far were presented and discussed. Equally importantly, the details of the MMM18 campaign were thrashed out with a view to improving the quality and possibly to a lesser extent, the quantity of the data.

Over the weekend of February 16th-18th a second ISH meeting was held at the same hotel for all ISH officers – all those on the Council, Regional Advisory Group (RAG) chairs and the secretariat.

Twenty one members attended the meeting and received an update of the ISH activities carried out over the last year and helped to set the strategy going forward. Reports of the activities of all five RAGs, the New Investigator Committee, the Membership Committee and the Women in Hypertension Research Committee among others served to emphasise just what a dynamic society ISH is increasingly becoming. This is reflected in an expanding membership year after year particularly of younger people interested in hypertension.

The Vice President, Professor Alta Schutte, presented plans for extending the society membership even further to include nurses and other health care workers who are frequently at the coal-face of hypertension management and critical to the effective detection and control of the problem of the world.

In the next few months I look forward to visiting National Hypertension or CV Society meetings in Portugal, Greece and Finland.

The inaugural face-to-face meeting dedicated to the development of a Certified Course of Hypertension Management in Africa will take place in Nairobi at the end of February. The meeting represents a collaboration between the Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR), the Public Health foundation of India (PHFI) and the Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) from Delhi (India), the British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS) and the ISH. This educational programme is expected to be rolled out to 25,000 primary care doctors in Africa over the next two years. The original course, which began in India, is currently running in India with over 1,200 primary care doctors either having completed or now going through the programme.

Looking ahead to the next biannual ISH meeting in Beijing from 20th-23rd September, the programme is largely completed by the relevant ISH committee superbly led by Professor Thomas Unger in collaboration with the local organising committee in China. We hope that you will all put the dates of this meeting in your diary, send in an abstract (deadline 22nd March) and be there along with your colleagues!

With very best wishes for the next few months.

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