FROM THE ISH PRESIDENT

Neil Poulter
President 2016 - 2018

This is my last report with only 3 months (once this article goes to press) to run of my 2-year term as President.

I write this as May Measurement Month 2018 (MMM18) is in full swing with a target of improving on the 2017 data – in terms of quality and quantity. Meanwhile the MMM 2017 results were published in The Lancet Global Health. Click here to read this paper.

Plans for the Hypertension Beijing 2018 (ISH) meeting are progressing well and we are looking forward to receiving further abstracts to be included in the late-breaker sessions. Abstracts will be accepted from 15 – 29 June, click here to submit your abstract.

In early May, ISH joined with the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) to hold a one-day meeting in London on ‘Clinical Care of Obesity and Hypertension’. The meeting was well attended by over 50 people with an interesting scientific programme. We hope that this will be the first in a series of annual meetings to be held around Europe.

I have had the pleasure of being involved with the CREOLE trial, designed to evaluate the most effective 2-drug combination for BP control among black patients from Sub-Saharan Africa. An investigator meeting was held in April and the trial includes the last patient, ‘last visit’ this month. The results of this unique trial should be presented later this year at one or more of the major meetings and we hope that a similar trial will be set up in India during 2018 and a third trial of the same type is also needed in the Far East.

The European Society of Hypertension (ESH) congress just took place in Barcelona and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) will take place in Munich at the end of August. Joint sessions with the hosts have and will take place at these respective events.

Meanwhile, the whole world of hypertension was shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Alberto Zanchetti, one of the founding fathers of ISH. We encourage you to read a tribute to Professor Zanchetti by John Chalmers in this issue of Hypertension News (see page 20).

ISH was invited to submit a commentary about the most recent US (ACC/AHA) guidelines for publication in Hypertension. This will be published imminently and raises a few questions about whether such a guideline is suitable at the global level. In general, ISH joined several other commentators in expressing concern over the new definition of hypertension – to our mind an unnecessary distraction with no obvious advantages.

The Vice-President, Alta Schutte is, I know, planning ahead for her 2-year Presidency and I have every confidence that she will at least maintain the momentum on several fronts which the societies activities have shown in the last 2 years.

I hope very much that ISH will continue to play a truly global role in promoting and encouraging the advancement in research and knowledge required to optimise the prevalence detection and management of raised blood pressure.

As the only global society for individual members, I’m delighted to say that ISH has made real strides in that direction since 2016 and I have every belief it will continue to do so after 2018.

Neil Poulter
secretariat@ish-world.com