Hypertension Beijing 2018 gets into gear!

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Chair, ISH Beijing 2018 Committee

The International Society of Hypertension (ISH) will hold its 27th Scientific Meeting on September 20–23, 2018 in Beijing, China, in collaboration with the Chinese Hypertension League (CHL) and the Asian Pacific Society of Hypertension (APSH).

With plenary lectures by internationally renowned experts in hypertension and related diseases, around 80 parallel oral sessions, including ‘meet the expert’ sessions, debates on hot topics, award ceremonies, and industry symposia, Hypertension Beijing 2018 will host an exciting three-day scientific programme.

More than 1,500 abstracts have already been submitted to be presented in free oral and poster sessions, and even more will come in as late breakers. With more than 150 invited lectures, the scientific programme will cover all disciplines of prevention and treatment of hypertension, hypertension-related diseases and their risk factors.

The Plenary Lectures will give an overview of some of the burning issues in hypertension-related cardiovascular and metabolic diseases:

On the first day, David G. Harrison, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA, will inform about “The immunology of hypertension”, followed by Nilesh Samani, University of Leicester, UK, with “Understanding the genetic basis of coronary artery disease: progress, clinical translation and challenges”.

On the next day, the plenary session will be opened by Daniel Levy, NIH, Bethesda ML, USA, with a lecture on “New recommendations for the classification and treatment of hypertension”, followed by Peter Camelier, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, with “Angiogenesis revisited: role and (therapeutic) implications of endothelial metabolism”. Finally, Victor J. Dzau, National Academy of Medicine, Washington DC, USA, will explore “The future of hypertension”.

On the third day, the plenary session will be reserved for the ISH: After the traditional Presidential Lecture, given by the president of ISH, Neil Poulter, Imperial College, London, UK, and the Franz Volhard Lecture, named after the eminent German nephrologist Franz Volhard, and presented by this year’s awardee, the ISH 2018 awards will be presented.

Further to the above mentioned keynote addresses and award lectures, the scientific programme will explore and discuss virtually all aspects of hypertension and related diseases based on three pillars: Basic Science, Clinical Science, and Population Science.

From the very beginning of the society, support and presentation of Basic Hypertension Research has
always been a hallmark of its activities. The presentations on the discovery of atrial natriuretic factor by Adolfo de Bold in Interlaken, of endothelin by Masachi Yanagisawa in Kyoto, or the first comprehensive discussion of angiotensin receptors in Glasgow, these were unforgettable highlights of previous ISH congresses, just to name a few. This time, a broad spectrum of new basic results will be presented with emphasis on recent exciting data on salt handling in the skin, microbiota in the gut, immunological processes, vascular biology and vascular dementia, and all the “omics” such as genomics, proteomics and metabolomics. The renin-angiotensin system, still a rich source of new experimental and clinical results, will be given two sessions, one on the (pro-)renin receptor and signaling mechanisms, the other one on the “Protective Arm” of the RAS, an exciting new aspect of the system.

The Clinical Sessions will cover a wide spectrum of hypertension-related clinical factors and conditions as well as therapeutic approaches. Clinical cardiovascular trials, hypertension-related kidney- and heart disease, atrial fibrillation and stroke will be in the focus as well as secondary forms of hypertension with strong emphasis on primary aldosteronism, a condition which has received increasing interest in recent years. Further clinical topics will be discussed in sessions dedicated to obstructive sleep apnea, to metabolic aspects of hypertension, to life-span issues from pregnancy to old age, and to ‘e-health’. More practical clinical sessions include ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, adherence problems, and the management of resistant hypertension.

This brings us to therapeutic issues. Since the congress takes place in China, traditional and non-pharmacological measures of treatment will have a special place besides drug development and pharmacotherapeutics. Here, we expect an exciting debate on inhibitors of the RAS: ACE inhibitors versus ARBs.

The clinical part will be rounded up by the popular case discussion in a clinical-pathological setting, as has been done with great success in the past, and by two joint sessions, one of the two sister societies, ISH and ESH, the other of the Chinese, Japanese and Korean Hypertension Societies (CHL, JSH, KSH).

Coming to Population and Public Health: Due to its global extension including more and more countries of low and middle income, these topics have increasingly gained importance on the agenda of the ISH. This fact will be widely acknowledged with several sessions including the management of hypertension in the population as well as May Measurement Month (MMM), a global ISH initiative. Specific population-related problems in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America will also receive special attention in dedicated sessions. Furthermore, a particular session will be devoted to RESOLVE, an international highly recognized, non-profit initiative devoted, among others, to healthy people and communities.
The never-ending question of salt intake in the population will be dealt with in a dedicated session with the (traditional) pro- and con debate, and, of course, there will be a lot of discussion on recent hypertension guidelines, a topic, which has fueled vivid debates around the world since the recent publication of the US-American hypertension guidelines.

As a special gift to the programme this year, one of the internationally leading clinical journals, The Lancet, will be represented with a session named 'The Lancet Commission on Hypertension Group'.

Complementary to the many parallel oral sessions, Breakfast Workshops such as 'Meet the Experts', this time on renal hypertension, extra-renal salt handling and hypertension registers, will be offered as well as two joint breakfast sessions of the European Council for Cardiovascular Research (ECCR) and the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia (HBPRCA). Additionally, the Asian Pacific Society of Hypertension (APSH), co-organisers of the congress, will run several dedicated sessions.

Two further topics have recently gained lively interest and have seen increasing activities: 'Women in Hypertension' and 'New Hypertension Investigators'. These two important fields will be especially recognised with a session 'Women in Hypertension' dealing with particular aspects and problems of females in a hypertension research career, and a breakfast session on hypertension in females. The 'Austin Doyle Award' session for young investigators (supported by Servier Australia) will select the awardee(s) from a shortlist of top-ranked abstracts which will be presented during this session. In addition, the 'ISH New Investigator Awards' for oral presentations and posters as well as the 'New Investigator Oral Presentation' session are directed to attract young researchers around the world to the field of hypertension. This is accompanied by a special breakfast workshop 'ISH Mentorship Scholar Award / Mentorship and Training Committee session'.

Finally, let’s not forget the posters: Every day, there will be a Moderate Poster Session in the early afternoon based on the submitted abstracts, and there will be several Industry-sponsored Symposia on different hypertension-related topics.

Altogether: ISH Beijing 2018 is a highly topical, comprehensive hypertension congress of global orientation and importance, organised by the ISH, the truly international hypertension society, together with regional partners around the world and hosted by our colleagues and friends of the Local Organising Committee of the Chinese Hypertension League, represented by Professor Zhaosu Wu (Congress President) and Professors Jiguang Wang (Executive President) and Yuqing Zhang (Secretary General).

Don’t miss this exciting event: come and join in!

Tian’anmen Square, the Forbidden City & Hutong

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