1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from W. Anderson, H. Haller and B. Neal.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
The minutes of the previous Scientific Council Meeting held on 29th September 2010 in Vancouver (accessible via the Members’ Area of the Society website) were approved.

3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
S. Harrap summarised the key areas of his presidency.

New Investigators: S. Harrap was delighted to report that the role of new investigators has been crystallised in Society business in a meaningful way over the last two years. The New Investigators’ Symposium taking place that day at the University of Sydney, the new awards and Mentorship Scheme are an indication of this and the links that are being successfully established globally. The Symposium has been organised by trainees for trainees.

Global Initiatives: Five Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) – for (1) Africa, (2) Asia and Australasia (3) Central and South America (4) Eastern Europe and Middle East (5) Western Europe and North America - were created at the end of 2010 to establish an enhanced global perspective to Society activities. The Society has a responsibility to its global constituents and must offer a fair level of support and funding to all the regions. The level and variety of interactions with each of the regions in the propagation of hypertension prevention has been gratifying.

Membership: The number of Research Fellows has dramatically increased (to nearly 90) and membership has been extended to welcome clinicians who have given outstanding levels of commitment in the field of hypertension. Unfortunately this expansion of membership has only resulted in one new membership...
application to date, but it is envisaged that many more will follow. Members were asked to make friends and colleagues aware of this initiative.

**Communication:** Under the leadership of L. H. Lindholm, The Society has provided regular news via the quarterly newsletter (*Hypertension News*). A social media presence has additionally been created by the New Investigator Committee for the Society on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

**Inter-Society Liaison:** Links have been maintained and further developed with affiliated societies and related bodies to include:

- European Society of Hypertension (ESH)
- Asian Pacific Society of Hypertension (APSH)
- World Hypertension League (WHL): The ISH has a long standing link with this organisation.
- International Society of Nephrology (ISN): An ISH/ISN co-badged session was to take place during the Sydney meeting.
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Latin American Society of Hypertension (LASH)
- Inter-American Society of Hypertension (IASH)
- Council of High Blood Pressure Research (CHBPR) of the American Heart Association (AHA): The Society interacted successfully with the host societies of the joint IASH/CHBPR meeting in Orlando in 2011 and held the 1st ISH New Investigators’ Symposium on this occasion.

A breakfast workshop session will take place at the Sydney meeting called Research on a Shoestring. This is supported by APSH, ISH and the World Hypertension League (WHL) and gives young investigators (mostly from the Asia Pacific region) the opportunity to submit their proposals to gain advice and establish collaborative links.

The Society is yet to look at ways at how it can best interact and become established with two major alliances, Global Alliance for Chronic Disease and NCD Alliance.

**Secretariat:** First class support has been offered to the Society by Hampton Medical Conferences.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 **Membership Report**

R. Touyz reported that membership is healthy and has stabilised at around 1,000 people. The Society is delighted that the number of Research Fellows has increased to nearly 90. The increase is significant as these members will become future hypertension leaders.

Within membership there is tremendous representation from hypertension communities globally. Japan has the largest number of members and is followed by USA, Australia and China. HINARI (reduced membership) is very high from Nigeria. Membership recruitment does however need to be stepped up in several countries and India was highlighted as having very few ISH members.

She thanked Membership Committee members for their hard work in reviewing new applications.

4.2 **To ratify new members**

The 101 new members accepted in to the Society since the Vancouver 2010 meeting were ratified.

4.3 **Corporate Members**

L. Burrell reported that Corporate Membership is stable. This is great news bearing in mind the current global economic situation. The Society is delighted to have welcomed two new members in 2012 to include Shenzhen Kingyield Technology Co and Medtronic. This takes the total number of members to 15 for this year. Other current members include: Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, Boryung Pharm, Daiichi-Sankyo, Medimark, Medtronic, MSD, Novartis, Omron, Roche, Servier, Shionogi and Takeda.

Unfortunately, two very long standing members (AstraZeneca and Pfizer) have declined to renew their membership in 2012. It was noted that interest in membership by traditional pharmaceutical companies is declining. There is more of a move towards device manufacturers.

L. Burrell appealed to members to assist where possible in relation to Corporate Member development and retention.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

L. Burrell was pleased to report that the Society accounts are in good order. She presented the financial accounts for 2011 which showed a total income of US$341,636 primarily gained via the Journal royalties and Corporate Membership.

The total ISH funds available at the year-end were US$1,793,546. This compares with total funds available at the end of 2010 of US$1,828,912, 2009 of US$2,240,462 and in 2008 of US$2,108,708. There was a peak in the available funds following the highly successful Berlin 2008 meeting.

To retain its charitable status the Society must be seen to be spending money on education and research. As a result of this one of the major outgoings of the Society in 2011 relates to Regional Advisory Group activities.

It is hoped that the Sydney meeting will result in a good profit for the Society.

6. **NEW INVESTIGATOR COMMITTEE REPORT**

B. Carlberg gave thanks to his fellow New Investigator Committee members for their amazing levels of enthusiasm and tireless activity over the last two years. Highlighted activities include:

- 1st New Investigators’ Symposium, Orlando, September 2011
- ESH London Pub Night, April 2012
- 2nd New Investigators’ Symposium, Sydney, 29th September 2012
  - This event received 89 registrations and 51 submitted abstracts. The keynote presentation was given by S. Spencer (The Lancet) on how to write a scientific paper.
- Website – new site created for the New Investigators’ Network
- Mentorship Scheme
- New Investigator of the Month feature
- Newsletter – Explore
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube)
  - Podcasts from the Sydney can already be seen on Facebook.

It is hoped that the New Investigators’ Network will have more of an international spread in the forthcoming months. International Forum members have been asked to nominate young investigators from within their communities and assist with this matter.

The New Investigator Network has been a resounding success for the Society and it is hoped that it will grow from strength to strength during the next Presidency.

7. **GLOBAL INITIATIVES**

7.1 **Regional Advisory group activities 2012 & 2013**

The level and variety of interactions with the five regions over the last two years has been gratifying. Highlights from past and on-going activities (2011-2013) follow.

- February 2011: Indonesian Society of Hypertension Meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia
- March 2011: Master Course in Hypertension, Beirut, Lebanon
- April 2011: World Congress of Nephrology, Vancouver, Canada
- July/August 2011: Western China Teaching Workshops.
- September 2011: CHBPR/IASH meeting, co-funding activities, Orlando, FL, USA
- October 2011: Latino-American Consensus writing meeting, Columbia
- October 2011: LASH meeting, Venezuela
- October 2011: ISH Teaching Seminar in Maputo, Mozambique
- October 2012: ISH Teaching Seminar in Douala, Cameroon
- May 2012: ISH Teaching Workshops in Bangladesh
- February 2012: Serbian Hypertension Society, Belgrade
- August 2012: Western China Teaching Workshops
- October 2012: Teaching Workshops, Argentina
- October 2012: Teaching Workshops, Uruguay
- November 2012: LASH meeting, Brazil
- March 2013: Masterclass on Hypertension, Beirut, Lebanon
The following have been of major consideration when supporting or initiating activities: diversity, relevance, originality and flexibility. The Society has acknowledged that one size doesn’t fit all and has tried to apply this information to its support of the various regions.

One Society activity not listed above is a volunteering project lead by M. Weber (Chair of the Western European and North America RAG – on behalf of the Society). The intention has been to establish a hypertension programme in Haiti and develop basic knowledge of the disease at a grassroots level.

The Society has developed an active Teaching Faculty over the last few years. It is planned that basic teaching resources are developed to introduce to the regions and in particular via teaching faculty attended educational activities in resource poor countries.

It was noted that the Lower and Middle Income Countries Committee has been an important group charged with quality control of the work of the RAGs and vetting the plans developed for implementation in the regions regarding outreach-teaching initiatives.

7.2 International Forum
The ISH currently has over 85 Affiliated Society Members in 73 countries. Key recent activity relates to a survey of trends in the management of hypertension (Global survey of current practice in management of hypertension as reported by societies affiliated with the International Society of Hypertension). This was a simple study but it has been very revealing and results were collated from 31 societies into a paper which is it is hoped will be published in the Journal of Hypertension.

8. ISH SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
8.1 Departing members
S. Harrap thanked departing Council members for their important and innovative contributions during their terms of office. Departing ISH Council members were as follows.

- A. M. Heagerty (UK): He was instrumental in building the Society to its current level of success and in particular during his time as President.
- Z. Wu (China): He has been particularly active during his term on Council in disseminating education to areas of China where there is little knowledge.
- T. Fujita (Japan): He played an important role on the Executive as Vice President from 2008-2010. He was unfortunately not present during the meeting.

R. Fagard was also presented with a plaque in appreciation of his sterling work and years of service to the Society. He retired from the ISH Council in 2008, but has continued as an Executive Officer up to the Sydney 2012 meeting.

8.2 Second term membership 2012-2016
Second term membership of Council was ratified for members to include: R. Touyz, L. Burrell, G. Grassi, B. Onwubere and N. Stern.

8.3 Election of new members 2012-2016
Nominations were requested from members to fill three places on Council (ninety days before the General Meeting - as indicated in the Constitution). There was a strong requirement to ensure that the introduction of new members made the Council more globally representative and regionally balanced. Executive recommendations for three members to join Council from 2012-2016 were as follows.

1. A. Ramirez (Argentina): to fill the current gap from Latin America
2. C-H Kim (South Korea): important bearing in mind that a couple of the forthcoming meetings will take place in the Asia Pacific region including the 2016 meeting in Seoul.
3. A. Schutte (South Africa): to supplement Council membership from Africa and introduce young, female representation to Council.

Members were asked to vote in turn for each of the above mentioned candidates with a show of hands. There were no objections and all three members were ratified as new Council members.

9. JOURNAL OF HYPERTENSION
A brief report was given on the Journal of Hypertension. Key points of this included the:

- 2011 impact factor of the Journal - 4.021 (an increase from 2010: 3.980)
- Launch of the Journal of Hypertension iPad app in April 2012. Content is currently freely
accessible. Individuals will however shortly need to purchase separate issues. Members will continue to have free access.

- 761 papers were submitted to the Journal from January to 25th September 2012
- Origin of papers in 2011:
  - 44% Europe
  - 27% Japan, China and Asia
  - 17% USA and Canada
  - 4% Australia and New Zealand
  - 3% Latin America
  - 3% Middle East
- The contract between the Journal publisher and ISH and ESH is currently being renegotiated. This matter is progressing well and it is hoped that there will be a favourable outcome shortly.

10. ISH SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS 2014-2020
Future ISH scientific meetings will take place as follows.
- 25th ISH Scientific Meeting, Athens, Greece, 13-16 June 2012, in conjunction with ESH
- 26th ISH Scientific Meeting, Seoul, South Korea, 2016, in conjunction with APSH
- 27th ISH Scientific Meeting, Beijing, China, 2018, in conjunction with APSH

11. INTRODUCTION TO NEW ISH PRESIDENT
S. Harrap thanked the members of the Executive who had been instrumental in the successful day to day running of the Society from 2010-2012.

He then introduced E. Schiffrin as the incoming ISH President and wished him all the very best for his Presidency. On behalf of the Society, E. Schiffrin thanked S. Harrap for his hard work, dedication and extraordinary leadership during his tenure as President. Key areas of activities that have been developed under his stewardship are the New Investigators Network and development of knowledge transfer around the world.

12. AWARDS & PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE
Members were invited to attend the Awards Ceremony and Presidential Lecture session taking place later that day. All award and prize winners at the Sydney meeting were to be presented on this occasion.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Members were thanked for attending the 2012 General Meeting. The next meeting will take place during the ISH-ESH 2014 Scientific Meeting in Athens in 2014.