February 16th-18th to review ISH activities in the previous year and plan those for the following year.

From a scientific viewpoint, I am delighted to report that the ‘CREOLE’ trial which is running in 6 sub-Saharan countries and is designed to evaluate the optimal 2-drug combination of antihypertensive agents in terms of BP-lowering in black patients, has almost completed recruitment. This trial should be ready to report in time for the Beijing meeting and will generate unique data as to which combination of 2-drugs (A+C or A+D or C+D) lowers 24 hour BP levels most effectively in black hypertensive patients.

From an administration viewpoint, we are in the process of re-arranging the five ISH Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) to hopefully generate more equitable distribution of ISH activity around the world.

We will update you on this matter once the revised RAGs have been ratified by the council.

May I remind current members to renew their ISH memberships for 2018 in response to the renewal notices that many will receive in the next few weeks.

Finally, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ISH, may I wish all members of ISH and readers of Hypertension News a very Happy Christmas.