

FROM THE ISH PRESIDENT

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Dear Members,

It has been a rollercoaster ride since our previous Newsletter in March! It was hard not to be rather overwhelmed by the effects the SARS-CoV-2 virus had on our lives – whether closely monitoring population infection across the continents, increased hours in the clinic and hospital, or affected mentally due to social isolation during our new ‘normal’ life and working-from-home.

These disruptions also hold true for some of the major activities of the Society:

1. In fact, I ended my previous message to you with the words **“See you in Glasgow!”**. Although I meant end of May, 2020, those words are still true although we have now postponed the Joint Scientific Meeting of the European and International Societies of Hypertension to 11-14 April, 2021 (www.hypertension2021.org). The meeting Chair, Anna Dominiczak, and ESH President, Reinhold Kreutz and myself will post regular updates on this website, but those who submitted abstracts for 2020 – we intend to keep the scientific programme as originally intended, and will shortly notify everyone on the way forward. Of course we also plan to include new sessions on the COVID-19 pandemic and how it impacts on cardiovascular disease. Also of note – we deeply thank Giuseppe Mancia for cancelling the ESH Milan 2021 meeting to accommodate the Joint ESH-ISH Meeting in April 2021.
2. Another disruption is that we sadly had to postpone May Measurement Month 2020. Running the risk of infecting many more people needlessly, we are focusing on MMM2021. So watch this space.

Fortunately, it is not all doom and gloom. The major highlight of recent times is that on 6 May 2020 the Society released the 2020 International Society of Hypertension Global Practice Guidelines, published in both the *Journal of Hypertension* and *Hypertension*. In this Newsletter a detailed overview will be given. To Thomas Unger as Chair and to the Guidelines Committee members, the Reviewers from across the world, and the Editors of the journals – my heartfelt thanks for the many hours and effort to get to this point. I find particular pleasure in the unique layout of the guidelines, namely, to have a two-tiered approach throughout, focusing on **ESSENTIAL** and **OPTIMAL** standards of care. This approach originated from my discussions with colleagues from Africa and other low resource settings mentioning their challenge in using the latest guidelines that were designed for affluent settings. I hope that these guidelines will serve as an important tool for many healthcare practitioners across the world.

More details, including the guidelines, the Powerpoint presentation, and a full online webinar with all authors discussing different sections of the guidelines, are to be found on the ISH Website: <https://ish-world.com/news/a/ISHGPG/>.

You will also be able to see where the guidelines have been picked up by the media. Here I particularly wish to thank Dylan Burger, Communications Chair of the Society, for a stellar job in ensuring that we could share the guidelines far and wide. The Altmetric scores of our publications are also at full speed as we see many shares on Twitter and other channels.

Before I end my message, a more formal note on the implications of the postponement of our Scientific Meeting. The General Meeting for our members that were supposed to take place in Glasgow, will now form part of an online General Meeting during October 2020. At this meeting the Terms of Council Members, including myself, will come to an end, and the President-Elect, Maciej Tomaszewski will take over the reign. At our Scientific Meeting in Glasgow - April 2021 - I will Chair the proceedings as originally planned.

Friends and colleagues, during these challenging times, I wish you all good mental and physical health. Please take care and stay safe until we meet again.

With my very best wishes,



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JOINT MEETING **ESH-ISH** 2021 Glasgow



April 11-14, 2021
Scottish Event Campus
Glasgow, United Kingdom
www.hypertension2021.org

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