

FROM THE EDITOR

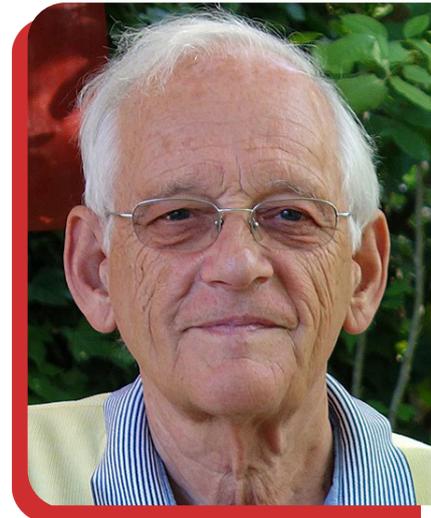
ISH adjusts to the new normal in 'Corona times'

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Dear member,

Again, it is a pleasure for me to present a new issue of Hypertension News. We are delighted that the previous one, published in June 2020, was accessed by 8,156 readers in three months (page 29).

Today's Newsletter starts with three papers, which should be read together, on what has happened in the Society during the last two years and what the plans are for tomorrow. You will find that there is some consensus between the authors on what was most important in the past but some differences in how they see the future.

First, an elegant interview with Maciej Tomaszewski – the New ISH Man at the Helm – by Stuart Spencer from The Lancet. ISH is fortunate to have Stuart as an honorary member and we owe him a lot of gratitude for the considerable time he has spent on this interview. Also, Maciej has been most cooperative and quick to respond to Stuart's provocative questions and I have the feeling that the two have enjoyed working together. Making sure that the Society adapts to the new reality during and after the Covid-19 pandemic is not an easy task to undertake for Maciej, and there are some financial concerns. It is unclear how far traditional conferences will return to normal in the future, but hopefully the biannual meetings can continue in the traditional format, starting in 2022 in Kyoto (see a welcome message on page 32). All organisations need to evolve and refresh, and Maciej's brilliant idea of having a combination of younger members with enthusiasm and vigour ("New Blood") and older members with experience involved in ISH matters gives hope for the future and longevity of the Society.

Second, a farewell from Alta Schutte who has had a challenging time as president of the ISH. Her watch started with the necessary move of the ISH Secretariat from Conference Collective in London to In-Conference in Glasgow and ended with the ESH/ISH meeting in June 2020 having first to be moved to April 2021 and then to be changed from a traditional format to a virtual meeting, because of the pandemic (see interview with Anna Dominiczak on page 30). In between, many things have happened. A five-year strategic plan for the ISH has been developed and the ISH Constitution has been revised. Moreover, new global hypertension guidelines have been developed and the Society has now added two new categories of members ("Health Professional Affiliates" and "Fellows of ISH") as well as several certification courses. Well done Alta!

Third, a final contribution from Thomas Unger as the ISH Secretary. Thomas is very experienced indeed and has previously had the responsibility for the scientific programmes of three very successful ISH meetings in Heidelberg (1986), Berlin (2008) and Beijing (2018). Thomas agrees with Maciej Tomaszewski that we need to recruit and foster a new generation of hypertension scientists from all countries, but not just from the established Western and Eastern world. He also underlines the great success of the *Young Investigator Initiative*, which was started by Stephen Harrap during my watch and was further improved by Maciej. Thomas writes that future members of the ISH Committees should be carefully selected, but it should be remembered that young scientists still need to invest most of their time in hospital care, university obligations, individual professional careers, and personal matters such as building a family. Words worth considering, since the add-on of pro bono work for a society takes a lot of time if it is going to be successful! Hence, there should always be a mix of the spirited but non-experienced young and the experienced old in all society activities. Thomas also brings up the dominance of ISH presidents coming from the former British Commonwealth institutions during the last few decades and he has a point here! I joined the ISH Council in 2000, and during my time ISH has had 11 presidents and only two (18%) have come from countries outside the Commonwealth (from France and Sweden); if you look at the presidents' origin instead, this figure goes up to four (36%), when Argentina and Poland are added. Needless to say, this ought to be considered by the ISH Council in the future.

Maciej Tomaszewski, Alta Schutte, and Thomas Unger all point at the positive value of the May Measurement Month (MMM) project started by Neil Poulter, collecting blood pressure recordings from more than four million people living in about a hundred countries – a Flagship of the Society! ISH has previously substantially contributed to the funding of MMM, but external funders have now taken over most of the costs. This year, however, for security reasons, the Covid-19 pandemic has made the global blood pressure recordings impossible. Time will tell whether they can be made in May 2021.

The Newsletter continues with the usual sections and headlines. “Learning the Ropes” this time covers “Secondary Hypertension” and I strongly recommend you to read three interesting papers by Markus Schlaich, Maria-Christina Zennaro, and Peter de Leeuw, with an introduction by Ottawa Hypertension Research Group on page 15. We have also invited Mattias Brunström and Bo Carlberg to take a closer look at “Scientific misconduct in clinical hypertension research” and their findings are published on page 12.

In addition, three early-career-scientists: Ida T Fonkoue, Yan Wong, and Chudan Xu together with Augusto Montezano from the Society's Mentorship and Training Committee share their important experiences of working as a young investigator during a Covid-19 pandemic on page 50.

Finally, please don't miss Herman Haller's lovely paper on “What was the blood pressure of Mona Lisa?” on page 34 under “News, Old News, and Culture”. To quote Thomas Unger in a comment to the Hypertension News team: “It's refreshing to have people in our society whose medical and human interest expands beyond blood pressure measuring!”

As always, sincere thanks to the authors and to the members of the Hypertension News team: Dylan Burger, Thomas Kahan, Thomas Unger, and Maria-Christina Zennaro for their superb pro bono work! Special thanks also to Araceli Segreto for her excellent secretarial work.

Have a good read!

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