

Alta Schutte

ISH President 2018 - 2020

With January already a faint memory, I am delighted to say that the Society is taking the new year head on! The Council gained great momentum at the recent Council and ancillary meetings held on 1-3 February 2019 in London, and it is therefore my pleasure to share with you some of the great new initiatives.



- Members who attended my inaugural presentation as ISH President at the General Meeting in September 2018 in Beijing, or those who read the previous issue of Hypertension News, will remember that one of the main priorities for my term as ISH President is to establish **Worldwide Hypertension Guidelines**. It is particularly important to me that these new guidelines are relevant and widely applicable – *also* in lower and middle income countries. I am thus very excited to announce that the first meeting of the ISH Guidelines Committee also took place in London, lead by ISH Secretary, Thomas Unger. More details about these developments are in the *Secretary's Voice* section in this issue of Hypertension News.
- The Council Meeting kicked off with a spirited strategic session, lead by Richard Wainford, where all Council members were invited to put their heads together to identify short and long term goals for the Society. These will be shared with you in coming months, but an important outflow of this session was that the Council identified the need to redefine the Society's Vision and Mission to remain highly relevant. I am therefore pleased to share with you these updates:
 - ▶ **VISION:** Leading the drive towards the global elimination of raised blood pressure and its complications
 - ▶ **MISSION:** To reduce the global burden of raised blood pressure
- Serving as the **Membership** Chair of the Society from 2014-2018, issues related to membership remain close to my heart. Members come first, and it was therefore once again wonderful to see that during 2018 our membership numbers continued the upward trajectory seen in past years! All categories of membership expanded – from our Research Fellows in the New Investigator Network to Emerging Leaders and Professional members. Some important new additions include:
 - ▶ Implementation of the **Health Professional Affiliate** membership category. We now invite nurses, community health workers, pharmacists and related professionals to join the ISH Membership at a significantly reduced fee. Please refer to our website to join: <http://ish-world.com/membership/join.htm>. An important outflow of this category is anticipated for implementation later in 2019, namely online training modules on accurate measurement of blood pressure and management of hypertension.
 - ▶ I am pleased to mention that the Council approved the implementation of the new "**Fellow of the International Society of Hypertension**" (**FISH**). We wish to recognise and honour members of the Society who have distinguished themselves through excellence in clinical practice or research in the field of hypertension. FISH status will be a symbol of excellence, and will represent recognition by the ISH of our members' scientific and professional accomplishments in the field of hypertension. Members will be invited during 2019 to apply online. I am greatly looking forward to inaugurating our new Fellows of the ISH at the upcoming **Joint ESH-ISH Meeting** to be held in **Glasgow, Scotland from 29 May to 1 June 2020**. Please save the date!
- An important segment of the Council meeting was dedicated to updating (and modernising) the **ISH Constitution**. Please keep an eye out for upcoming emails where the Council would appreciate our membership's vote to approve these updates.
- With May fast approaching, the **May Measurement Month (MMM19)** team, lead by Neil Poulter, is actively preparing to involve even more countries and individuals in the coming months. The successes have been tremendous thus far, and the MMM network is an extremely valuable

component of the ISH. For more information, please refer to the piece on MMM19 in this issue of Hypertension News.

I trust that you are also enthused by these latest developments. I wish you all a productive 2019, and am looking forward to getting in touch with many of you during the coming months. And lastly, please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas or suggestions (secretariat@ish-world.com).

With my very best wishes,



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THE SECRETARY'S VOICE

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Thomas Unger ISH Secretary

Last September, while still in Beijing at the ISH Biennial Meeting, Alta Schutte, the new President of ISH, asked me to become Secretary of the Society. I was not really craving for a new occupation but after the task of organizing the Beijing meeting was fulfilled, I considered this a new challenge and agreed not really knowing what it meant. Now, after half a year or so, I know better: It's quite a job, keeping you busy almost every day - including weekends. And I have learned to appreciate the tremendous efforts of my predecessor, Maciej Tomaszewski, as Secretary of the Society. Sure enough, when things are dark it only gets worse: right after the ISH Beijing 2018 congress, ISH lost its "secretariat", Helen Horsfield. She was extremely helpful in writing all the protocols, strategically reminding everybody of his or her duties within the Society, keeping track with the officers and members, especially the young investigators, being accessible whenever needed, in short: keeping the Society going. It took some time for Conference Collective, the Secretariat of ISH, to replace Helen. But since most things in life have two sides, the good one is that one learns again to do things by oneself without relying too much on others. So it happened to me.



Immediately after taking up office, I was confronted with two major tasks:

- ▶ Amendment of the ISH constitution
- ▶ Preparing ISH Hypertension Guidelines

The constitution of the Society was created years ago, during Lars Lindholm's presidency, from initial by-laws. It is now outdated in some respects. These relate mainly to the use of electronics in the voting procedures and a lack of clarity concerning the diverse rights and obligations of the different bodies of governance. Maciej Tomaszewski and Helen Horsfield had already begun to work on the amendments, I took over with Maciej's help. In recent weeks the Council has accepted the changes, which, after critical review by an attorney, will then be sent out to the members of the society for approval.

An even more challenging task is the creation of the new ISH Hypertension Guidelines. One may ask why ISH should come up with its own Hypertension Guidelines when there are abundant regional or national Guidelines