

FROM THE EDITOR

ISH Kyoto 2022 - We are coming soon!

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Editor



Dear ISH member,

There are 1,600 Buddhist temples, 400 Shinto shrines, 200 listed gardens in Kyoto, and about 20 per cent of Japan's national treasures, including 20 World Heritage Sites. To this, you can add many universities capable of fostering Nobel laureates. Kyoto served as Japan's capital for eleven centuries and has been spared earthquakes and bombings, but not urbanisation (population about 1.5 million). To me, it is indeed an exceptional city well worth visiting, where the 29th scientific meeting of the International Society of Hypertension will take place on 12 -16 October 2022. I am convinced that many of you have already planned to attend this meeting, but if you haven't, I strongly recommend you to do so and to set aside funds to cover the travel costs. It may also be a good idea to check the need of a visa to enter Japan and, if a visa is needed, start the process of getting one, which may take some time.

On page 33 of this Newsletter, Professor Hiroshi Itoh from The Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo, who is the President of the 2022 ISH meeting, gives us an update on the planning of the meeting which will be held under the banner "The Wisdom of Conquering Hypertension". The number of delegates at this face-to-face meeting is estimated to be 4,500 and there will be travel grants for 300 young scientists.

The number of patients with Covid-19 in Japan has decreased steeply this autumn, and the latest (10 December 2021) two-week figure from Johns Hopkins for the cumulative incidence per 100,000 population was a low 1.2 in Japan compared with 288 in Sweden, 972 in the UK, 881 in France, and 469 in the US. Moreover, in Japan, about 78 per cent of the population (all age groups included) have already been fully vaccinated (i.e. have received two jabs). These are difficult times, however, and the rules for entering Japan may change rapidly, as we have seen recently. The best and latest information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html), which I recommend you look at when you make your plans.

This issue of Hypertension News has a focus on basic science, and rightly so since more than half of our ISH members are basic scientists. On page 24, you will find an outstanding and elegant "Institute Focus" from the University of Mississippi Medical Centre (UMMC) written by John Hall, which I strongly recommend you to read. The UMMC was established in 1955 to "educate tomorrow's health care professionals by conducting health sciences research and by providing cutting-edge patient care".

The "Learning the Ropes" section in this issue (pages 9-23), is entitled "RAAS: Measuring its Components and New Therapeutic Strategies". The renin-angiotensin-aldosterone System (RAAS) has inspired cardiovascular research since the discovery of renin by Tigerstedt and Bergmann in 1898. However, despite huge progress in our knowledge of the RAAS and its manipulation on a molecular and clinical level, it appears that with each step of advancement new questions arise and new therapeutic options are unveiled. A good example of this is the discovery of the ACE2-angiotensin (1-7) branch of the RAS or the angiotensin AT2 receptor whose tissue-protecting actions may become therapeutic tools in the future. In this Newsletter, there are four papers on RAAS measurement methodology and novel therapeutic perspectives, written by prominent experts in the field and elegantly introduced by Thomas Unger, who also edited this section.

We would normally have provided our readers with an update on the distribution numbers for the October issue of the Newsletter. This is not possible, however, since we will not have the three-month data until early February 2022. Instead, we have revisited our four publications published in 2021 (96 articles, including the December issue) to see how well our texts represent the ISH membership. As you can see on page 37, we had a fairly good global representation, with all continents represented. Moreover, there was also a reasonable split between male and female authors as well as between senior and early-career researchers. There were, however, more contributions from high-income countries than from low- and middle-income countries.

Therefore, in the next issue, we plan to introduce a new section entitled "African Voices", with papers written by scientists from different parts of Africa, introduced by Lebo Gafane-Matemane.

Finally, sincere thanks to the deputy editor Dylan Burger and the lovely Hypertension News team. We plan the

publication of the next issue of the Newsletter (Opus 69) for March 2022.

Enjoy a good read!

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Update from the Executive Committee

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It has only been 2 months since my last update from the executive, but that does not mean that I am short on information for our members. First and foremost, the ISH report to the UK Charity Commission for the 2020 calendar year was filed and is now available [here](#). The report summarizes our annual returns and key activities/initiatives.

Many readers will also be aware that the 2021 edition of May Measurement Month has now come to a close. As a reminder, "May" Measurement Month was extended until November for the 2021 campaign. This was to allow for screening at the safest times in line with local public health recommendations. All data has now been submitted and we look forward to the result of the 2021 campaign as well as an update on the soon to launch 2022 campaign from Professor Neil Poulter and the MMM team in the near future.

There has also been significant activity on the research and education front with several key opinion/position papers now in development. Most immediately, several ISH members, led by Prof Alta Schutte, have been working on a global review of the epidemiology of hypertension that highlights regional-specific challenges and seeks to identify strategies to improve hypertension awareness and control. This work is expected to be submitted in early 2022. In addition, professors George Stergiou and Nadia Khan from the Research and Education Committee are overseeing a number of ISH position papers in development and we hope to have an update on progress in the new year. Finally, ISH President

Maciej Tomaszewski, Dr. Erika Jones, and myself recently contributed to a statement from the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health titled "[Preventing the next pandemic: The case for investing in circulatory health](#)". This statement served as the foundation for lobbying efforts at the recent WHO World Health Assembly. Going forward the ISH is presently working to establish status as a "non-state actor" which would give the ISH a platform to more effectively advocate for hypertension in global health policy. If you are interested in details on these and other ISH activities be sure to check out the President's blog" which can be found [here](#).

As 2021 comes to a close I think that it is worth taking a moment to appreciate all that the ISH has accomplished in the past year. One year ago the New Blood campaign had just concluded and 70 new leaders from more than 40 different countries had just joined ISH committees. The impact of this injection of talent, energy, and fresh perspectives has been felt throughout the society. New initiatives abound: notably the #ISHLive series from the New Investigators, Workshops organized by the Mentorship and Training Committee, and the many partnered seminars from the Women in Hypertension Research Committee. The Regional Advisory Groups have also been reinvigorated and new partnerships are emerging such as our involvement in the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health. As chair of the Communications Committee I have been particularly pleased with our new website, the growth of the monthly E-bulletin, and the launch of the Café ISH video series. These are just a handful of significant advances that ISH has made in the