

INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN WILLIAMS

President, International Society of Hypertension



A professional society is only as strong as its members. This is particularly important for the ISH because of our global reach and the importance of a global perspective on strategies to detect, treat and control blood pressure. It has long been clear to me that the membership of the ISH has been unevenly distributed. This is far from optimal, indeed, unacceptable, as we want the ISH to represent and learn from the rich diversity of all parts of the world. Some of the barriers to ISH membership have undoubtedly been financial and it is wrong that those unable to pay, for whatever reason, have been invisible in our structure. Not anymore. I wanted that to change and for the ISH to grow to become the biggest and most representative hypertension society in the world. Without that, it is not truly international and it is not a representative Society.

To achieve this we have had to make some significant changes. First, I had to appoint a Chair of our membership committee to develop the necessary changes. I was delighted to appoint one of our ISH members, Débora Colombari from Brazil, to the Chair, and it has been an inspired choice. She has done a magnificent job, along with colleagues on her membership committee, in refashioning our membership structure and she provides details about the changes in this issue of Hypertension News. Second, we have appointed a new company, Canica from Argentina, to work with the ISH to develop a new, modern and secure membership portal as part of an enhanced online presence for ISH. This is still in its early stages of development but has huge potential and will grow into a state of the art platform where our members will be able to get all the information they need about hypertension, including our new ISH Academy which will provide educational and training on hypertension. Third, we needed to remove obstacles to ISH membership and we have created a number of new categories. The headline is that many of these categories are

now free to join. This addresses a key principle, notably that finance should not be a barrier to ISH membership.

There is now no reason why anybody with an interest in hypertension shouldn't join and benefit from being a member of the ISH. This includes patients or members of the public with hypertension, or with an interest in hypertension, who can now join our ISH family for free, wherever they are in the world. Of course, we retain a full professional membership category for health care professionals and researchers, which comes with additional benefits such as the opportunity to play a role in the future leadership and governance of the ISH. We have also reduced the fees for those eligible for full membership and those in Research4Life designated countries can join as full members for free. Full membership is also free for bone fide trainees, wherever they are in the world. This is a major change, designed to expand and better democratise the ISH and make it truly representative across the world. Check it out and join now, it is proving to be very popular. We also want all medical and scientific societies and associations, including patient associations and industry partners, with an interest in hypertension, to make their members, aware of the opportunity to join the ISH, for free.

I am hoping that our expanding membership will also take note of the wonderful opportunity to visit Cartagena in Colombia in September this year, and join our ISH scientific congress. The scientific programme is looking really strong and the venue is spectacular. I know there are many congresses around the world that colleagues may have the opportunity to attend but opportunities like this do not come around very often and this really is a special opportunity to visit a beautiful and vibrant city and experience a completely different culture, whilst enjoying the company of friends and colleagues from around the world. We hope

to see a lot of our younger members of ISH as well, enjoying the congress and everything else this vibrant city and region has to offer. Don't waste this chance and don't miss it. Whilst talking about the ISH congress, I really want to pay tribute to the extraordinary dedication and hard work the local team is undertaking to make this congress a reality, but a special mention and thanks goes the Dagnovar Aristizabal and Cesar Romero who have worked tirelessly on all aspects of this congress, especially over the past year. I am also encouraged by the enthusiasm of our sponsors for this event and we really appreciate their support.

One of the highlights of the ISH biennial scientific meeting is the ISH awards and lectures session, during which we celebrate the outstanding scientific achievements of inspiring leaders in hypertension and the rising stars who we hope will sustain the ISH and its ethos for years to come. The opportunity to nominate colleagues for these awards is now open to Members and I encourage you to [visit our website](#), look at the award categories available and make a nomination.

There are eight awards in total. With the exception of two awards, award nominations can only be accepted for ISH Members. The deadline to send in nominations is 31st May 2024.

Finally, in the past few weeks we completed our process for the election of the President-elect of the ISH. Soon we will also be opening the nomination process for new members of the ISH Council. Only members of the current ISH Council are eligible to be elected President of the ISH. Professor George Stergiou from Athens in Greece was duly elected as the next President of the ISH and will succeed me as President when my term as President comes to an end at the end of the ISH congress in Cartagena in September. George is our current ISH Secretary and I have worked closely with him over the past two years in particular. I congratulate George, the ISH will be in very capable and experienced hands and I know he shares my passion to continue the progress we have made in positioning the ISH as a more representative global society for those with an interest in hypertension.

Bryan Williams - president@ish-world.com



**International
Society of
Hypertension**

2024 CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

**Award Nomination
Deadline: 31st May 2024**

Nominations should be sent to:

Professor George Stergiou
Chair, ISH Awards Committee
c/o THE ISH SECRETARIAT
Email: secretariat@ish-world.com

The International Society of Hypertension (ISH) is pleased to call for nominations for the following awards. These will be presented on the occasion of the 30th Scientific Meeting of the ISH, which will be held in Cartagena, Colombia from 19th to 22nd September 2024 (www.ish2024.org).

We would like to call for nominations for the following awards:

- ISH Franz Volhard Award and Lectureship for Outstanding Research
- ISH Robert Tigerstedt Lifetime Achievement Award
- ISH Developing World Award
- ISH Paul Korner Award supported by the High Blood Pressure Research Foundation of Australia
- ISH Distinguished Fellow Award
- ISH Honorary Fellow Award
- ISH Outstanding Woman in Hypertension Research Awards