Profile

The Inter-American Society of Hypertension (IASH) is a nonprofit professional organization devoted to the understanding, prevention, and control of hypertension and vascular diseases in the American population. Presently it has members from 20 different countries in the Americas as well as Europe, Australia, and Asia. The membership is composed primarily of prominent scientists and physicians, although anyone interested in the field of hypertension and vascular disease is welcome to join the Society.

The formation of the IASH was the inevitable consequence of the longstanding interaction among scientists of the Americas interested in the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of hypertension and vascular diseases. This interaction began in the late 1930s and early 1940s with the discovery of angiotensin by a remarkable group of men: Irvine Page and Oscar Helmer in the USA and Eduardo Braun-Menéndez, Juan Carlos Fasciolo, Luis F. Leloir, and Juan Munos in Argentina. The first formal scientific meeting of what was to become the IASH was held in August 1974 in Mendoza, Argentina, as a satellite of the Seventh World Congress of Cardiology. This satellite, called the “Pan American Symposium on Vasoactive Peptides and Hypertension”, was hosted by Juan Carlos Fasciolo. The second meeting was held in the USA (1976), with subsequent meetings in Mexico (1978), Chile (1981), Brazil (1983), the USA (1985), Argentina (1987), Puerto Rico (1989), and Brazil (1991). The tenth meeting is planned for San Diego, California, April 25-29, 1993. The success of the first three meetings inspired the creation of the IASH, which was duly incor...
Profile continued

The Society was incorporated in Ohio in May 1980. Its first president was F. Merlin Bumpus from the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio. The main objectives of the Society are:

To stimulate research and exchange of ideas in hypertension and vascular diseases (basic, clinical, and epidemiological) among physicians and scientists of the Americas.

To promote the detection, control, and prevention of hypertension and other cardiovascular risk factors in the peoples of the Americas.

To educate physicians, health workers, and the general public in the various aspects of the etiology, pathogenesis, prevention, early detection, and treatment of hypertension and vascular diseases.

To encourage young scientists and physicians to enter hypertension and vascular research and clinical practice.

In the last few years, the Society has evolved from being strictly a professional scientific group, devoted to understanding the etiology and pathogenesis of hypertension, to an organization also dedicated to the prevention and control of hypertension and vascular diseases in the Americas. The main challenge to the Society is to get an ever-increasing number of participants interested in helping to accomplish its objectives. Individuals willing to work for these objectives are invited to join the IASH.

Please write to
The Inter-American Society of Hypertension
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WHL News continued

in epidemiology and preventive medicine for nine years working at the Academy of Science in Berlin, the Institute of Toxicology in Zürich, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. By taking on this new responsibility he hopes to serve the international medical community engaged in the prevention and control of hypertension.

The shadow of the silent killer
Poster by Guo Shibo from China.

News from the Chinese Hypertension League

The Xingtai Municipal Cardiovascular Center, Cardiovascular Institute, and WHL Chinese Hypertension League Collaborating Center were officially inaugurated on November 14, 1992, in the city of Xingtai, Hebei Province, China, a region of high cardiovascular disease prevalence approximately 5 hours' drive southward from Beijing. Field work has already started in the Center's clinic and ward with hypertensive and coronary heart disease patients. Planning for community screening is underway. The Center will also serve as the coordinator for a nationwide clinical trial on acute stroke. Further information can be obtained from

Prof. Liu Lisheng
Chinese Hypertension League
Fu Wai Hospital
Beijing 100037, China
Successful Hypertension Summit in Paris: Closer Relations Between WHL and ISH

Detlev Ganten (Berlin), president of WHL, had invited representatives of the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) to the meeting of the WHL Executive Board held on December 18, 1992, in Paris. The relationship between the ISH and the WHL was one important issue on the agenda. The president of ISH, John Chalmers (Adelaide), and the secretary of ISH, Pavel Hamet (Montreal), had followed the invitation to attend the meeting.

The ISH is a scientific organization with a membership of individual scientists. Its main objectives are to promote and encourage the advancement of scientific knowledge in all areas of research in hypertension and cardiovascular disease. The WHL, by contrast, is a federation of national hypertension leagues, societies, and organizations, with no individual membership. Its main objective is to bring together these organizations committed to the control of hypertension in the community and to stimulate and support their activities. With its population-oriented programs the WHL thus complements the activities of the ISH. The two societies have distinct as well as overlapping objectives.

Those present at the meeting agreed that it would be in the interest of both societies to improve the coordination between them, and to strengthen the relations between the ISH and the WHL, while still maintaining them as two separate, but complementary organizations. It was agreed that there will be ex officio representation of the WHL on the ISH Scientific Council, and the ISH will delegate two members of its Scientific Council to the WHL Executive Board. During the discussions, held in a most cordial atmosphere, it was also agreed to establish the WHL as a division of the ISH. This will ensure institutionalized close cooperation between the two societies. Both the ISH and the WHL will keep their own statutes with the respective amendments. The ISH and the WHL agreed each to respect the distinct objectives and identity of the other.

Changes in the statutes of the WHL and the ISH will require approval by their respective governing bodies. The Hypertension Summit in Paris was considered by all present to be a milestone in improving cooperation in the field of hypertension.

**WHL Materials**

**WHL Poster Exhibition on Hypertension**

As an ongoing follow-up activity to the WHL Art Competition, the Editorial Office is organizing a traveling exhibition of the 46 posters on hypertension. The posters are approximately 60 x 90 cm in size. To avoid scratching, they are plastic-coated. For easy mounting, all posters have four dots of Velcro on the back. Each of the posters comes with an explanatory panel (available both in English and German). Exhibition organizers should feel free to choose a subset of posters if they do not have enough space available to exhibit them all.

The Editorial Office will organize and cover the cost of transportation from the Editorial Office to the place of exhibition. The person arranging the exhibition is responsible for sending the posters on afterwards to the next place of exhibition or back to Heidelberg.

Currently, the exhibition is to be presented at the 10th Scientific Meeting of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension, La Jolla, California.

For available dates and further information, please contact the Editorial Office.
WHL Poster Exhibition on Hypertension

- 46 posters from the Art competition
- Poster size 60x90 cm
- Subsets also available
- English translation of poster texts included
- Explanatory panel included
- Easy to mount on most surfaces
- Organizers of an exhibition pay only transportation costs
- For available dates contact the WHL Newsletter Office

Calendar

10th Scientific Meeting of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension with a Joint WHL-IASH Symposium on “Policies for the Control of Hypertension in Populations”
April 25–29, 1993
La Jolla, California
Information: Dr. M. P. Printz
University of California San Diego
Dept. of Pharmacology
La Jolla, CA 92093-0636, USA

Sixth European Meeting on Hypertension
June 4–7, 1993
Milan, Italy
Information: European Society of Hypertension Organizing Committee,
University of Milan, Via F. Sforza, 35
20122 Milan, Italy

62nd European Atherosclerosis Society Congress
September 5–9, 1993
Jerusalem, Israel
Information: European Atherosclerosis Society, P. O. Box 50006
Tel Aviv 61500, Israel

47th Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Sessions of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research
September 28 – October 1, 1993
San Francisco, California, USA
Information: AHA, Scientific and Corporate Meetings
7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, TX 75231, USA

66th Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association
November 8–11, 1993
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Information: AHA, Scientific and Corporate Meetings, 7320 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231, USA

WHL Council Conference and Technical Symposium on “Communicating in Hypertension” in conjunction with a National Meeting of the Italian League against Hypertension
December 2–4, 1993
Padua, Italy
Information: WHL Secretariat