WHL·NEWSLETTER

News from the World Hypertension League (WHL).
A division of the International Society of Hypertension, and in official relations with the World Health Organization.

No. 100, April 2005

Editorial

WHL Newsletter – the 100th edition

In October 1988, the first WHL Newsletter (see picture 1) was sent out to its worldwide audience. The Newsletter started out with a circulation of 2,000 copies, which steadily increased to its present number of 14,000 printed copies (figure 1). Together with its Chinese and Portuguese translations, the newsletter reaches health care professionals, opinion leaders and national institutions in over 130 countries all over the world.

WHL News

The 8th Annual Symposium of the Pakistan Hypertension League was held on December 4–5, 2004 in Karachi, Pakistan. The theme of the symposium was "Hypertension - The Uncontrolled Epidemic". The Pakistan Hypertension League is known for its efforts at increasing public and professional awareness regarding hypertension control.

Over 600 delegates registered for this meeting and 28 papers were presented, nearly half of which were from original research.

A one-day pre-symposium Workshop for Family Physicians on "Hypertension for Family Physicians" was also held and attended by 55 leading Family Physicians. The Workshop was conducted by the Faculties of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Aga Khan University Hospital, in collaboration with the College of Family Medicine.

We congratulate the Pakistan Hypertension League for bringing together and stimulating organizations in their region who are committed to the control of hypertension.

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Since its beginning, the WHL Newsletter serves three main goals. First, it serves as a communication forum for the WHL member organizations, spreading news from the member leagues such as activity reports, national data on hypertension, upcoming meetings and conferences, as well as people news, e.g., newly elected presidents.

Second, up-to-date reports on relevant topics related to hypertension research, epidemiology and public health are featured, written from renowned experts in the field.

Third, the WHL newsletter is the mouthpiece of the WHL board, allowing its officials to communicate the activities of the WHL to its members, e.g., invitations to the WHL council conferences, information about WHL workshops, or announcement of the International Art Competition.

The WHL Newsletter is a product of close collaboration between the Newsletter editors and the WHL board and its president. The jointly established conceptual framework and the content-wise formulation were and are the basis of the successful continuation of the WHL Newsletter.

Therefore, our thanks have to go to all previous WHL presidents and secretary generals (see pictures on the next page), who devoted their efforts to continuously achieve a high quality Newsletter.

Additionally, we are grateful to Erika Pisch who has served as editorial assistant since 1991, giving irreplaceable support in the production of each WHL Newsletter.

A Newsletter project of this magnitude, organized by a non-profit organization, is only possible with generous financial support from outside the organization. Therefore, gratitude goes to the initial sponsor of the WHL Newsletter, Les Laboratoires Servier and to its current sponsor (since 1997) OMRON Healthcare. Without this financial support, the WHL would not be able to continuously provide its Newsletter - the core communication module of its activities.

Finally, we wish to thank all scientists and public health workers who have contributed to the Newsletter by writing articles about their research or about current topics in hypertension prevention and control.
Editorial continued

The origins of this successful activity – a historical review

The publication of the first WHL Newsletter and its continuous editions resulted from activities initiated in the 1970’s, when the concept of a population oriented approach to hypertension control was suggested by the WHO and the U.S. National High Blood Pressure Education Program. The starting point of these considerations was the perceived lack of practical application of the enormous research progresses made in clinical hypertension research.

Already established in 1964, the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) illustrated the benefit of such an international organization in promoting research and catalyzing exchange of research information. In order to similarly promote the necessary prevention oriented research and application of public health activities, the idea of an European League was proposed in 1975 by the famous hypertension researchers Franz Gross (Germany), Cesare Bartorelli (Italy) and Tom Strasser (WHO).

Their ideas fell onto fertile grounds and finally resulted in the formation of the World Hypertension League in 1984. For further details about the WHL History, please refer to our website at http://www.worldhypertensionleague.org.

As stated in the minutes of the founding conference, “A periodical newsletter… should be the best medium for circulating information among the member leagues and societies”. As the WHL steadily began to increase in members, the Newsletter project was further advanced. It finally came to life with its first edition in 1988 (see picture 1 on the first page).

Dr. Rolf Badenhoop was the first editor, acting from 1988 to 1990, followed by Dr. Reinhard Baildon who served until 1992. He was followed by Dr. Joerg Poetzsche, who continued the editorial work between 1993 and 1999. He is now serving as communications advisor to the WHL board.

Since the year 2000, Dr. Anja Kroke has been serving as the acting WHL Newsletter editor. The WHL Newsletter Office continues to be located in Berlin, Germany.

Dr. Anja Kroke

Report from WHL Members

Activities of the Hypertension Committee of National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh

The following lists the ongoing and planned activities of the Bangladesh Heart Association in 2005:

- Development of clinical practice guidelines for the control of hypertension.
- Dissemination of information to the 26 affiliated bodies of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh (NHFB), representing 26 districts of Bangladesh.
- Observance of World Hypertension Day (May 14th, 2005). Planned activities for that day are:
  - (iv) Scientific Meeting
  - (iv) General seminar
  - (iv) Walkathon
  - (iv) Poster and leaflets
  - (vi) Art competition
  - (v) Discussions about hypertension on Television and Radio.

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Activities of the Hypertension Committee continued

- Networking with other organizations working on hypertension control.
- Dissemination of information to districts without affiliated body of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh (NHFB) through Civil surgeons or medical colleges.

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Impressum
The objectives of the WHL are to promote the detection, control and prevention of arterial hypertension in populations. The World Hypertension League (WHL) is a federation of leagues, societies and other national bodies devoted to this goal. Individual membership is not possible. The WHL is a division of the International Society of Hypertension (ISH), and is in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO).

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Calendar

4th Asian-Pacific Congress of Hypertension
June 1-4, 2005
Seoul, Korea
Information: Secretariat of APCH 2005
INSESSION Convention Services, Inc.
3rd Fl., 672-35 Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu
Seoul 135-915, Korea
Fax: (+82) 2-521-8683
E-mail: jennifer@insession.co.kr
Website: http://www.apchseoul.org

Satellite Symposium “Prevention in Hypertension” of the 15th Congress of the European Society of Hypertension
June 11, 2005
Krakow, Poland
Information: Symposium Secretariat
Fax: (+48) 58-320-9459
E-mail: szymon.zgoda@viamedica.pl

N. Korotkov International Memorial Meeting
September 15-17, 2005
St. Petersburg, Russia
Information: Research Institute of Cardiology
Prospect Parchomenko 15
194156 St. Petersburg, Russia
E-mail: konradi@niic.ru
Website: http://www.niic.ru

59th Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Sessions of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research
September 21-24, 2005
Washington, DC, USA
Information: Anita Lara, AHA
7272 Greenville Av., Dallas, TX 75231, USA
E-mail: scientificconferences@heart.org

4th International Symposium on Obesity and Hypertension (ISOH’05)
October 27-29, 2005
Berlin, Germany
Information: CTW Congress Organization
Goßlerstr. 30, 12161 Berlin
Fax: (+49) 30-8507 9826
E-mail: mail@ctw-congress.de
Website: http://www.isoh.de