WHL NEWSLETTER

News from the World Hypertension League (WHL).
An organisation in official relations with the World Health Organization

No. 20, December 1991

WHL News

Council Conference 1991
From September 26 to October 1, 1991, the World Hypertension League held its annual Council Conference and associated meetings in Barcelona, Spain. The series of conferences and workshops began with a symposium of the Spanish Hypertension Society, followed by a WHL workshop on “The Economics of Hypertension Control” (see last page). At the Council Conference, the WHL welcomed as new members to the Council the following organizations: the Czech and Slovak Committee of Hypertension, the Chilean Society of Hypertension and the Venezuela Foundation against Hypertension and Ischaemic Heart Disease.

Some changes in the WHL statutes were also agreed upon, to allow the admission of associate members. These are organizations which, though not covering a whole country, by their educational or health promotional activities contribute to the control of hypertension in populations. At the Council Conference the WHL admitted the Council for High Blood Pressure Research of the AHA, the Slovene Hypertension Society, the American Society of Hypertension, the Argentinean Heart Foundation, the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP) and the Nurses Hypertension Association (NHA) as new associate members.

On September 30, principal investigators of the Hypertension Management Audit Project met to discuss preliminary results and the forthcoming report, which will be published by the European office of WHO. Then, a slightly revised protocol for the continuation of this important project was discussed and adopted. It is still possible for more scientists to join the Hypertension Management Audit Project. Further details and copies of the new protocol can be requested from the Newsletter office or the WHL secretariat.

On October 1, representatives of the WHL and the Spanish Society of Hypertension participated in a seminar at the Ministry of Health of the Government of Catalonia on the Strategies for the Control of Arterial Hypertension.

At the Council Conference, the members of the WHL also discussed future meetings and events. On April 7, 1992, the International Award Ceremony of the Art Competition will take place in conjunction with World Health Day in Geneva, Switzerland. The German Hypertension League has invited the WHL to co-sponsor a satellite meeting in connection with the 4th National Blood Pressure Conference on May 7, 1992, in Berlin.

The WHL will also co-sponsor the International Heart Health Conference entitled “Bridging the Gap – Science and Policy in Action”, scheduled for May 24–28, 1992, in Victoria, B. C., Canada. The deadline for submission of abstracts for this conference is January 1, 1992, and further

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information can be requested from the address listed in the calendar section of this Newsletter. A joint session WHL/Canadian Coalition is also envisaged.

For further information on the topics discussed at the 1991 Council Conference in Barcelona, please contact the Newsletter office or the WHL secretariat in Geneva.

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International Nurses Hypertension Association
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Slovene Hypertension Society
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WHL Workshop

Economics of Hypertension Control

The WHL recently organized a two-day workshop on the economics of hypertension control to provide an occasion for scientists in this field to discuss current issues. Because of the prevalences of high blood pressure in most populations of the world, treatment of this health disorder has considerable economic implications in terms of costs and benefits; in Spain, for example, 3.2% of all health expenditures goes to hypertension. Many countries have also experienced a steep increase in health care spendings. Generally, drug costs amount to 70–80% of total expenditure for treating hypertension; a total evaluation of expenses is difficult, however, as the cost of unwanted side effects is not clearly defined. The economic models presented are also very sensitive to slight changes in the estimated quality of life. In terms of overall benefits, some of the more expensive drugs might be more cost effective if they prove to have fewer side effects and thus lead to an improved quality of life. A further problem area in economic analysis involves the fact that small changes in the rate of discounting will lead to widely varying estimates of the benefits and costs of the treatment of hypertension. Examples from several countries have shown that hypertension education programmes are relatively inexpensive and can lead to large benefits in the prevention of stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

The papers presented at the workshop will be published in the near future.

Calendar

4th International Symposium “Hypertension in the Community”
March 8–12, 1992, Jerusalem
Information: Kenes Tours
P.O.B. 5006
Tel Aviv, Israel 61500
FAX: +972-3-655674

WHL Satellite Symposium to the 4th German National High Blood Pressure Conference
May 7, 1992, Berlin
Information: WHL Newsletter Office

4th German National High Blood Pressure Conference
May 8–9, 1992, Berlin
Information: German League against Hypertension
Berliner Straße 46
6900 Heidelberg, Germany

XIVth World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research
May 10–14, 1992, Kobe, Japan
Information: M. Nagano, M. D.
Jikei University, School of Medicine
Aoto 6-41-2, Katsushika-ku
Tokyo 125, Japan

Interamerican Congress of Cardiology
May 23–27, 1992, Orlando, Florida
Information: Registrar
875 Kings Highway, Suite 200
West Deptford, NJ 08096, USA

International Heart Health Conference: Bridging the Gap
May 24–28, 1992, Victoria, B. C., Canada
Information: Conference Secretariat
Venue West Ltd., 645-375 Water St.
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 5C6

14th Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension
June 14–19, 1992, Madrid, Spain
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