FAREWELL FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

ALTA SCHUTTE

Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales,
Sydney, Australia

ISH President 2018-2020

DOI: 10.30824/2010-4

Dear Members,

If anyone mentions the word “unprecedented” again... I would rather have it said that this ISH President and the Council set the precedent to continue to achieve great things despite the obvious obstacle we all have gotten to know so well.

At the ISH Meeting in Beijing, September 2018, I took over the reins from Neil Poulter. Together with an exceptionally capable Council and Executive Committee I proclaimed to undertake several objectives as part of my Presidency. Several of these objectives were strongly influenced by my background in working in South Africa for the past two decades.

Looking back, I am proud on what we were able to achieve, and trust that we took the International Society of Hypertension forward a few steps aligned with our mission to reduce the global burden of raised blood pressure.

To develop the 2020 ISH Global Hypertension Practice Guidelines. [Released online](#) in May 2020 (and not at the planned main ISH event: Joint ESH-ISH Meeting in Glasgow May 2020), the guidelines were very well received – particularly due to our deliberate focus on providing guidelines suitable to low resource settings (essential standards of care) and high resource settings (optimal standards). These free publications in [Hypertension](#) and [The Journal of Hypertension](#) are amongst the highest for the journals according to their [Altmetric](#) scores. I remain grateful towards the whole dedicated Guidelines Committee, and Thomas Unger who chaired it so diplomatically.

To broaden the ISH footprint by including new categories of membership: Health Professional Affiliates and [Fellows of the ISH](#). Although these developments were concluded, the Health Professional Affiliate membership of nurses, pharmacists and community health workers needs to be properly expanded to maximise its full potential. The Society, under the leadership of Richard Wainford and Dylan Burger, is also soon to launch the new ISHF, Fellows of the Society - a symbol of excellence.

To promote global certification courses for hypertension: The ISH joined forces with others, such as:

- ⊙ Resolve to Save Lives and the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#);
- ⊙ the [Omron Academy](#), and
- ⊙ the Public Health Foundation of India (Dorairaj Prabhakaran)
- ⊙ the American Heart Association (developments ongoing)

With many of these already offering free online courses on hypertension management available to people across the globe.

Apart from these objectives Council Members worked tirelessly to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Society. With input from all Council members a powerful one-pager was developed, clearly specifying our vision to be leading the drive towards the global elimination of raised blood pressure and its complications (thanks to Richard Wainford in assisting to formulate the strategic plan), updating the ISH Constitution

(led by Thomas Unger and Maciej Tomaszewski), developing ISH policies on endorsing material (Claudio Borghi), or communicating events very effectively through our different media streams (Dylan Burger). We were able to continue with many regional activities, including May Measurement Month 2019 (Neil Poulter), New Investigator and Mentorship activities (Ruan Kruger, Francine Marques), and drastically expanding the Women in Hypertension Research Committee and Network (Muscha Steckelings).

Some Council members worked many extra hours behind the scenes, sorting out contracts, finances, and budgets, especially as the Society transitioned in 2019 to a new service provider. Special thanks to Markus Schlaich for being solid in his support. Fadi Charchar has also supported this transition and continues to lead the bids for the 2024 ISH Meeting.

It has been an honour to work with all ISH Members, including Council Members, the ISH Executive, and also Lars Lindholm and the supportive Editorial team of *Hypertension News*. Also the many partners around the world, the Glasgow Meeting organizing committee, World Hypertension League, European Society of Hypertension, American Heart Association, the many national societies, and last but not least, thank you to our Secretariat office hosted by In Conference. Your continued support during challenging times certainly made my life a lot easier.

Thank you for your unwavering support throughout the past two years (and yes, also through 'unprecedented times' with COVID-19). All activities continued one way or the other!

Until we meet again, whether in Glasgow, Kyoto, or elsewhere.

With my very best wishes,

Alta Schutte, ISH President 2018-2020

Alta Schutte - a.schutte@unsw.edu.au

The poster features a circular image of a city skyline at night with a large play button overlay. A green speech bubble next to the image says "the global hypertension hub". To the right, the text reads "JOINT MEETING ESH-ISH 2021 ON-AIR" in large blue and green letters. Below this, it says "April 11-14, 2021" and "www.hypertension2021.org". At the bottom, there are logos for the European Society of Hypertension (ESH), International Society of Hypertension (ISH), and BIHS. A green bar at the very bottom contains social media handles for Twitter and Facebook, and the hashtag #hypertension2021.

the global hypertension hub

JOINT MEETING
ESH-ISH
2021 **ON-AIR**

April 11-14, 2021
www.hypertension2021.org

ESH European Society of Hypertension

ISH International Society of Hypertension

BIHS

@ESH_Annual / @ESHypertension / @ISHBP / @BIHSoc_Events

@ESHAnnualMeetings / @ISHBP / @bihsocvents

#hypertension2021