

Announcement

Formation of the Working Group on Blood Pressure Monitoring of the European Society of Hypertension

Background: Just a decade ago a group of physicians and researchers with an interest in blood pressure measurement, and particularly in the measurement of blood pressure during daily activity, perceived a need for consensus on a number of issues, most especially those relating to ambulatory blood pressure measurement. This *ad hoc* group held the First International Consensus Meeting in Berlin in 1990 and this was followed by meetings every two years in Dublin, New Orleans, Leuven and Paris, with the published proceedings providing the rationale for the clinical application of ambulatory techniques. The most remarkable feature of this group was that it managed to bring interested scientists together every two years to debate developments in ambulatory measurement without having a formal organisational structure. However, such have been the advances in the development of blood pressure measurement in general that the group has recognised the need to formalise its structure, and the first step in this process was taken on 15th June 1997 at the Eighth European Meeting on Hypertension in Milan where the group was approved as an official working party of the European Society of Hypertension with the designation – the Working Group on Blood Pressure Monitoring. The Group now proposes to form affiliations with the International Society of Hypertension and the American Society of Hypertension. The Group held its first scientific meeting in Monza on 2nd February 1998, the proceedings of which will be published shortly in the journal *Blood Pressure Monitoring*.

Objectives: The broad objective of the Working Group shall be to advance knowledge relating to all aspects of blood pressure measurement with a view to advancing the technology available for hypertension research and to improve the clinical management of hypertension. The Working Group shall fulfil this objective in a number of ways which will include:

- Production of guidelines for the clinical application of ambulatory and self-measurement of blood pressure.
- Establishment of internationally recognised technical and clinical validation protocols for blood pressure measuring devices.
- Organisation of meetings for communications and discussions, by lectures, and by any other means.
- Involvement of the manufacturing and engineering industries, the standards institutions, the nursing profession and other groups as may seem appropriate in future deliberations on the techniques of measurement. Towards this end, the Working Group shall co-opt members from these varied disciplines, as Advisory Members of the Working Group when this is considered appropriate.
- To influence grant-awarding bodies and the pharmaceutical industry to incorporate ambulatory blood pressure measurement in outcome studies.

Nucleus of the Working Group: The Group will be administered by a Nucleus which shall consist of no more than 18 members in addition to the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. The present Nucleus is composed as follows:

Chairman

Eoin O'Brien, Blood Pressure Unit, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9, IRELAND. Fax: +353 1 2803 688; email: eobrien@iol.ie

Secretary/Treasurer

Bernard Waeber, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Division D'Hypertension, Departement de Medecine Interne, 1011 Lausanne, SWITZERLAND. Fax: +41 21 314 0761

Members

Denis L. Clement, Afdeling Hart-en Vaatziekten, Univrsitair Ziekenhuis, De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, BELGIUM. Fax: +32 9 240 34; email: Denis.Clement@rug.ac.be

Andrew Coats, Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NP, UK. Fax: +44 171 351 8634; email: a.coats@ic.uk

Yutaka Imai, The Second Department of Internal Medicine, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Seiry-Cho, Aoba-Ku, Sendai 980, JAPAN. Fax: +81 22 274 5332

Jean-Michel Mallion, Médecine Interne et Cardiologie, Chef de Service, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Grenoble, B.P. 217-38043 Grenoble Cedex, FRANCE. Fax: +33 476 76 55 59

Giuseppe Mancina, Università Degli Studi di Milano, Cattedra di Medicina Interna, Ospedale San Gerardo Dei Tintori, Via Donizetti, 106, 20052 Monza, ITALY. Fax: +39 39 32 22 74; email: mancina.g@imiucca.csi.unimi.it

Paul Padfield, Department of Medicine, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU, UK. Fax: +44 131 537 1012

Gianfranco Parati, Istituto Scientifico, Ospedale San Luca, 20149 Milan, Via Spagnoletto 3, ITALY. Fax: +39 2 58 21 67 12; email: gparati@imiucca.csi.unimi.it

Thomas G. Pickering, Hypertension Center, The New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center, 525 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10021, USA. Fax: +1 212 746 8451; email: tpicker@mail.med.cornell.edu

Jan Staessen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Hypertensie en Cardiovasculaire Revalidatie Eenheid, Inwendige Geneeskunde-Cardiologie, U.Z. Gasthuisberg, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven, BELGIUM. Fax: +32 15 423439; email: Jan.Staessen@med.kuleuven.ac.be

Gert van Montfrans, TNO Biomedical Instrumentation, Academic Medical Center - Suite K2-228, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS. Fax: +31 20 6 97 6 424; email: g.vanmontfrans@amc.uva.nl

William B. White, Section of Hypertension and Clinical Pharmacology, The University of Connecticut Health Center, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, Connecticut 06030-3940, USA. Fax: +1 860 679 1250; email: wwwhite@nsol.uhc.edu

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