



# International Society of Hypertension INTERNATIONAL FORUM



[www.ish-world.com](http://www.ish-world.com)

Report by  
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One of the goals of any international society is to represent the interests of its constituents around the world. The International Society of Hypertension (ISH) has a unique responsibility in this regard, which is achieved in large part through the **ISH International Forum**.

The International Forum of the ISH embodies and nurtures the global nature of the ISH and was first established in 1992. Today the International Forum is chaired by ex-ISH President John Chalmers with Stephen Harrap and Rhian Touyz as Forum Officers.

There are now nearly 80 Affiliated Societies of the ISH Forum, from every continent in the world. The official recognition as an Affiliated Society of the ISH entitles societies to display a special ISH Affiliated Society logo, symbolic of the close relationship that exists.

Recently Affiliated Societies responded to a questionnaire designed to provide a snapshot of their nature and activities. In total 42 societies generously responded and provided an interesting panorama of blood pressure societies around the world.

For example, the societies range from memberships of less than 50 to more than 400. Most societies conduct annual scientific meetings and regular educational workshops, many more than twice per year. Although over half of the societies give official advice to Government, less than one fifth receive sponsorship from Government. More than half the societies provide support for both original research by their members and for their attendance at international conferences. The vast majority (95%) wanted to be more closely aligned with the ISH.



In order to strengthen the links with the Affiliated Societies, the ISH Forum engages in frequent contact with the presidents of national societies. On a regular basis Affiliated Societies receive copies of the ISH Newsletter and the President's Report which they are encouraged to distribute among their members. Communication between the ISH and its Affiliated Societies takes a more personal nature at the ISH Forum Meeting as part of the biennial conferences.

The ISH Forum is also pleased to feature a special section of the ISH website to highlight the Affiliated Societies and provide contact details of each to encourage more communication (see image right, [www.ish-world.com/default.aspx?AffiliatedSocieties](http://www.ish-world.com/default.aspx?AffiliatedSocieties)).

The activities of the ISH International Forum are important and the ISH and Affiliated Societies will enjoy mutual support that will augment the reputation of the ISH as a truly representative body of international blood pressure research, epidemiology and treatment.

The screenshot shows the 'Affiliated Societies' page on the ISH website. The main content area is titled 'Africa & The Middle East' and includes a map of the region with a red arrow pointing to Algeria. A dropdown menu for 'Country' is set to 'All'. The right sidebar features a 'Corporate Members' section with logos for Novartis and Omron, and a 'Members Area' section with a link to 'Go to the Members Area'.

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