



International Society of Hypertension

RESEARCH SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Report by Professor John Hall
Chair, ISH Research Foundation

July 2009



www.ish-world.com

A primary objective of the ISH, according to its constitution, is “to protect and promote the health of the public, in particular by encouraging the advancement of scientific research and knowledge and of its application in all aspects of hypertension and associated cardiovascular diseases and to disseminate the useful results of such research”.

This objective has previously been achieved mainly by indirect means, including biennial scientific meetings and various workshops. Although the ISH provides awards for outstanding researchers and travel grants for young investigators, it has not previously funded research or researchers directly.

Tony Heagerty, President of ISH, requested the Executive Council to consider additional ways that the ISH might achieve its research mission and better serve its members. After sending a questionnaire to several scientific societies and reviewing their ongoing research programs and after considerable discussion, Council members felt that ISH might have the greatest impact, considering its limited resources, by developing a program to train the next generation of researchers in low income, developing countries. The **ISH Research Scholar Fellowship Award** was therefore initiated and designed to train new investigators who will return to their home countries and train additional investigators.

Another important goal of this program is to help new investigators from low income countries develop and maintain productive research collaborations with sponsors/mentors from institutions that already have well developed hypertension research programs.

The **ISH Research Scholar Fellowship Award** provides new investigators from developing countries with up to **two years** of mentored research as part of a collaboration between the Scholar from a low income country and a Sponsor at an established research institution. The goal is to prepare the Scholars to pursue productive research careers and ongoing collaborations with scientists from established institutions.

Because resources available in many developing countries are not sufficient to sustain cutting edge basic research programs, the Council felt that ISH funds might be best spent in training young investigators to conduct clinical, epidemiology/ population science, or outcomes research.

This type of research can often be implemented without expensive equipment or extensive laboratory facilities and may be well suited to investigate risk factors for hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases in the unique populations of low income countries. Also, outcomes research that seeks to understand the end results of particular health care practices and interventions is needed for developing countries and will be supported by this program.

Eligibility for the Awards:

A detailed description of the Research Scholar Fellowship Award is provided at the ISH web site (www.ish-world.com).

- Scholar applicants must be from **low income countries** (please see ISH website for a list of eligible countries)
- Scholar applicants must have received a doctoral degree within the past 10 years
- The Sponsor must be a member of the ISH and have demonstrated expertise and a high level of productivity in clinical research, epidemiology/ population science research, or outcomes research and appropriate resources to fulfill the objectives of the training program
- The Sponsor’s institution should have a well established record of research that is appropriate for the part of the world from which the prospective Scholar hails and, preferably, conducted in that part of the world

Financial Support:

- The ISH will provide **up to US \$30,000** for one year of support of the Scholar's salary and expenses under supervision by the Sponsor at the Sponsor's institution.

Applications that propose sharing the Scholar's salary and expenses between the Sponsor's institution and ISH Research Foundation are strongly encouraged.

- The award may be renewed for one additional year for a maximum of 2 years support, contingent upon a satisfactory progress report for the first year and a suitable plan for the second year of training.

The second year of training may be conducted either at the Sponsor's institution or at the Scholar's home institution if justified by the training plan and if collaboration between the Scholar and Sponsor continues.

Successful applicants will not be permitted to reapply for the Research Scholar Fellowship after their two-year award.

The first deadline for applications will be **1st November 2009**. Please go to www.ish-world.com to download the application forms which must be submitted jointly by the Scholar and the Sponsor.

Future Plans:

The ISH is starting small with this fellowship program, but plans to expand it considerably as partnerships are formed with other groups interested in hypertension research and as additional support is obtained.

Training new investigators from low income countries in hypertension research will fill a need and we anticipate that the ISH Research Scholar Fellowship Award could have a long-term, positive impact on these countries.

Deadline for Applications: 1st November 2009

Please visit www.ish-world.com for application forms

International Society of Hypertension Secretariat

Hampton Medical Conferences Ltd, 113-119 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1NJ, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8979 8300 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8979 6700

Email: secretariat@ish-world.com Website: www.ish-world.com