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To
Presidents of National Societies of Hypertension

Dear President,

The European Society of Hypertension (ESH) has the commitment to establish a stable and organised European platform for scientific exchange in hypertension aiming to improve not only the quality of research but also to increase knowledge of hypertension and vascular risk all over Europe. Advances in the knowledge of hypertension and vascular care as well as improvements in prevention and clinical care, contribute to reduce hypertension-associated morbidity and mortality across Europe.

Over the last few years, ESH has been expanding in memberships and activities including organisation of congresses, endorsement of congresses and other meetings, and organisation of a number of educational activities, including summer schools and advanced courses. Involvement of the National Hypertension Societies in Europe has always been the main purpose for the ESH Scientific Council.

The relationship between ESH and the National Societies has developed very well over the years and is expected to develop further. In this regard a recent document, posted in the web-site, summarizes the joint activities which are now running (Annual Summer and Winter Schools, Specialist programme, Travelling Master Courses, Research fellowships) and outlines ways to strengthen the relationships (Forum for National Societies, participation in ESH Meetings and Activities).

A further step is to establish more formal links that can then be reinforced. In this regard a formal programme of AFFILIATION of National Societies from European countries to the ESH is proposed.

In parallel, some Hypertension Societies and Organizations from outside Europe have established professional relationships with the ESH asking for advice and help on the development of programmes and teaching activities. A further development will be to establish a formal programme of ASSOCIATION.

A preliminary draft of both AFFILIATION and ASSOCIATION documents follows below.



Josep Redon, President



Peter Nilsson, Secretary

AFFILIATION DOCUMENT

Definition of ESH Affiliation

ESH Affiliation is an official recognition to the National Societies of the European Region which would like to be part of and participate in the regular activities of the ESH. It is the purpose of the affiliation to promote the interests of science through definite and formal cooperation with all scientific societies.

Rationale of the ESH Affiliation

- To be officially recognized as part of ESH
- To ensure continuity and unity in the purpose and aims with the ESH
- To have access to the resources, network, and training programmes of ESH
- To facilitate working relationships in the pursuit of the ESH goals
- To define the basic protocols of the affiliates' working relationship with ESH, the latter being the umbrella organization
- To promote mutual encouragement, stimulation, and perspective in research and clinical care of hypertension and hypertension-related vascular risk

Benefits for the National Societies and members

- Annual Meetings of the National Societies which fulfil the criteria of the ESH, even national activities, can be given the endorsement of the ESH.
- National Societies can use the ESH logo in their documents
- Representative persons from the affiliated can actively participate in the Annual Meeting of the ESH
- One representative of the affiliated Societies will be selected and incorporate to the Council

Which Societies can apply for ESH Affiliation

- National Hypertension Societies of the European Region including middle and east-European countries registered in their own country.
- National Societies of CV risk, which included the word hypertension in its name, of the European Region including middle and east-European countries registered in their own country.

ESH Affiliation Requirements

- Letter of Application for ESH Affiliation addressed to the ESH secretary and signed by the current President with the agreement of the National Board.
- Copy of Constitution and By-laws
- List of Officers and Members
- List of Programmes and Activities

Procedures for Affiliation

- Submission of the required documents to the Secretary of the ESH.
- The Officer reviews the completeness of documents and forwards the application to the ESH Council.

- The Board of ESH Council reviews and evaluates the application. The Board may require additional information to the applying party as they deem necessary. If no additional requirements are necessary, the Board will communicate to the National Society the decision that should await confirmation by the General Assembly.
- The preliminary approval by the Board will receive formal approval in the annual General Assembly

Withdrawal

- Affiliation can be resolved by the decision of the National Society or the ESH Scientific Council

ASSOCIATION DOCUMENT

Definition of ESH Association

ESH Association is an official recognition given by the ESH to the National Societies from outside Europe, their Federations or Alliances or other International Organizations devoted to hypertension-related vascular risk which would like to participate in the regular activities of the ESH.

Rationale of the ESH Association

- To be officially recognized as associated to ESH
- To ensure continuity and unity in the purpose and aims with the ESH
- To facilitate working relationships in the pursuit of the ESH goals
- To promote mutual encouragement, stimulation, and perspective in research, clinical care and education on hypertension and hypertension-related vascular risk

Benefits for the Societies and Members

- Annual Meetings of the National Societies which fulfil the criteria of the ESH, even for national and regional activities, can be given the endorsement of the ESH
- National Societies can use the ESH logo with the inscription of “associated to ESH” in their documents
- Members of the Organizations can be involved in the Official activities, Programmes (Specialists, Network of Excellence) and Meetings of the ESH
- Master Courses for teaching and training people can be developed

Which Societies can apply for ESH Association

- National Hypertension Societies from outside Europe registered in their own country.
- National Vascular risk Societies, which included the word hypertension in its name, from outside Europe registered in their own country.
- Federations or Alliances of National Hypertension Societies or National Vascular Risk Societies, or other recognized International Organizations devoted to hypertension-related vascular risk from outside Europe.

ESH Association Requirements

- Letter of Application for ESH Association addressed to the ESH Secretary and signed by the current President with the agreement of the National Board.
- Copy of Constitution and By-laws
- List of Officers and Members
- List of Programmes and Activities

Procedures for ESH Association

- Submission of the required documents to the Secretary of the ESH.
- The Officer reviews the completeness of documents and forwards the application to the ESH Council.
- The Scientific Council of the ESH reviews and evaluates the application. The Board may require additional information to the applying party as they deem necessary. If no additional requirements are necessary, the Scientific Council communicates to the National Society from outside Europe, Federation, Alliance or recognized International Organization the decision that should await confirmation in the General Assembly.
- The preliminary approval by the Scientific Council will receive formal approval in the annual General Assembly

Withdrawal

- Association can be resolved by decision of any of the counterparts