Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honor and pleasure to host the XXIV World Congress of the International Society of Heart Research on 12–15 June 2022 in Berlin. The preparation for the congress is going well, and registration will open soon. As the president of the world congress, I proudly invite you to Berlin, one of the most vibrant cities in Europe.

The scientific program committee is putting together an exciting program, and we promise you four days of cutting edge science and interactions. The congress will
take place within the heart of the city, allowing efficient use of spare time for visiting Berlin. You are cordially invited to join and share in the excitement and success of the 2022 World Congress in Berlin.

Abstract Topics
- New mechanisms of cardioprotection and injury
- New insights into cardiac dysfunction
- Ion channel mechanisms, arrhythmias, electrophysiology and Ca2+ signaling
- Signaling in cardiac disease and therapy
- Emerging concepts for cardiac regulation – beyond the genome
- Regenerative and re-engineering approaches for heart disease
- Cardiac metabolism

Program Highlights & Plenary Speakers
- Outstanding Investigator Award – Benjamin L. Prosser (Philadelphia, PA/US)
- Keith Reimer Distinguished Lecture – Barbara Casadei (Oxford, UK)
- Research Achievement Award – E. Douglas Lewandowski (Columbus, OH/US)
- Peter Harris Distinguished Scientist Award – Rodolphe Fischmeister (Châtenay-Malabry Cedex, FR)
- Janice Pfeffer Distinguished Lecture – Lea Delbridge (Melbourne, AUS)
- President’s Distinguished Lecture – Manuel Mayr (London, UK)
- Richard J. Bing Young Investigators Award

Important Dates & Deadlines
- November, 2021: Preliminary program
- November, 2021: Start online registration and abstract submission
- 1 February, 2022: Oral abstract submission deadline
- 1 April 2022: Poster abstract submission deadline
- 1 April 2022: Early bird registration deadline

Congress Venue
The XXIV ISHR World Congress takes place in the Mercure Hotel MOA, that is located in the city center of Berlin. It is only 2 underground stops from Berlin Zoo and 3 stops from the Kurfürstendamm shopping mile, one of the highlights in Berlin. The hotel is situated in a historic building, which was originally a bread factory. Many international restaurants, cafes and stores can be found nearby. Today’s 4-star design hotel features a modern style with a light-flooded and green atrium, where the industrial exhibition and networking area will be located during the congress.
Berlin Sightseeing Highlights

Berlin Television Tower
The Berlin TV Tower was inaugurated on 3 October 1969 in East Germany and has become one of the most known symbols of the city. Located at Alexanderplatz, the 368 meter high tower is the highest building in Europe open to the general public.

Brandenburg Gate
The Brandenburg Gate was built in 1791. It is one of the most iconic sights in Berlin and the only surviving historical city gate.

Museum Island
A unique ensemble of buildings on Spreeinsel (Spree Island) in the heart of Berlin. The Museum Island consists of five different museums (Bode-Museum, Pergamonmuseum, Altes Museum, Neues Museum and Alte Nationalgalerie) and hosts a vast art collection.

Reichstag Building
The Reichstag building is a historic building in Berlin which houses the Bundestag, the lower house of Germany’s parliament.

Sanssouci Palace
The wonderful Prussian palace is located in Potsdam, which was constructed from 1745 to 1747 as the summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. Castle and garden are UNESCO cultural heritage since 1990.
A good movie series has a dramatic beginning, takes time to deeply develop its characters, keeps you engaged over time and closes with a good ending. Unfortunately, many series fall short with regard to the latter as if the directors do not really know how to finish. It seems that the Corona World Series suffers a similar fate. No doubt, the start almost two years ago was dramatic, the pandemic continued with drama, developed its facettes and actors to an unprecedented depth and kept us all firmly engaged, but now it doesn’t seem to reach an end. “Covid-19, third and last season”? - not sure! In my own environment and personal feelings, Covid-19 has lost its immediate threat. Almost everybody I know is fully vaccinated, death rates have decreased and appear to remain low despite increasing incidences. Live meetings have started up again. Denmark and the UK are back to (almost) normal and nothing really serious appears to be happening. And the US again opened their borders for international visitors.

However, this is the view from countries which were in the comfortable position to offer vaccination to their entire population. If one looks at the John’s Hopkins website, it is clear that the worldwide incidence is still enormously high (4 million/week) and death rates staggering (60,000 people per week). Realistic estimates predict the true death rates to be 3-fold higher. And in the US, 13,000 people still die per week; this is the same as 10 months ago and not much less than at the peak in 01/21 where up to 25,000 people died per week. No doubt, we are in the third wave. The good news is that those vaccinated are largely protected from severe disease and death, but the privilege of a general vaccination offer is restricted to a minority of (rich) countries and, very disappointing, it is not accepted by a very significant fraction of the population in Western countries. On a worldwide scale, 32% of the population are fully vaccinated, but the numbers range from below 1% in many African countries to 100% (e.g. Bahrain). Most Western countries reach 50-80%.

Why not more? At the beginning of the crisis, I was happily surprised by the role of science - the apparent trust in scientific evidence and the space in-depth scientific discussion of details was offered in public media and appreciated by a majority of the audience. Our politicians listened to scientists and were led by their advice. The development of highly effective vaccines at an unprecedented speed was a testimony to the strength of science. Isn’t that wonderful? I think it is, but apparently, a relevant fraction of the population isn’t convinced and we have failed to reach them. Even worse, a small group gets more and more extreme in negating the evidence, constructing conspiracy theories and threatening the “mainstream” media, politicians and scientists. It is interesting to see how different countries deal with this situation and how different the success rates are. I personally believe that some degree of societal pressure is necessary to relieve the majority from the Corona restrictions, but I am happy not to be in a political position making these decisions.

But ISHR can decide our own rules. I do not see the need anymore for strict travel and meeting restrictions for people vaccinated or recovered from Covid-19. Therefore, I very much welcome the return to normality in ISHR. The North American Section was the first to have a very successful in-person meeting in Denver (early September) and, as far as I heard, everything went smoothly. Let’s hope that the other Sections can follow.

There is other good news from ISHR. In July, we had elections of our new officers and it is with great pleasure that I can congratulate Asa Gustafsson, NAM, for having been elected as President-elect, Jolanda van der Velden, EUR, as new Secretary General, Livia Hool, AUS, as new Treasurer and Rong Tian, NAM, as the continuing Editor-in-Chief of our journal, the JMCC. We are happy and proud to have such an outstanding group of individuals dedicated to ISHR. It was a tough election and I would also like to sincerely thank the other candidates who stood for the election and wish that all of them continue to engage. We elected John Elrod (NAM), Ana-Marie

(continued on page 15)
2018 ISHR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AWARD WINNERS

Steven Houser, PhD
Winner of the 2018 ISHR Keith Reimer Distinguished Lecture Award
“Cardiac Repair After Ischemic Injury”
(Dec, 2018: Tokyo, Japan)

Dr. Houser is Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, Senior Associate Dean of Research, the Vera J. Goodfriend Endowed Chair of Cardiovascular Research and Director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at Temple University. His research group has helped define many fundamental features of the normal cardiac myocyte as well as identified defective molecular and cellular processes that produce abnormal cardiac myocyte function in cardiovascular disease. He has a long association with the American Heart Association and is Past President of AHA (2017-2018).

Ajay Shah, MD, FMedSci
Winner of the 2018 ISHR Janice Pfeffer Distinguished Lecture Award
“A Radical Adventure – Unexpected Roles of Nox Proteins”
(Sept 2018: Santiago, Chile)

Dr. Shah is James Black Professor of Medicine and Head of the School of Cardiovascular Medicine and Sciences at King’s College London, and Director of the King’s BHF Centre of Research Excellence. He remains a practicing clinical cardiologist. His group contributed to the discovery and characterization of NOX enzymes in the heart and endothelial cells, their roles in cardiac hypertrophy, endothelial dysfunction and heart failure, and their involvement in signal transduction.

Jeffery Molkentin, PhD
Winner of the 2018 ISHR President’s Distinguished Lecture Award
“Mechanism whereby cell therapy benefits the heart post MI injury”
(May, 2018: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada)

Dr. Molkentin is director of Molecular Cardiovascular Biology for Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, co-director of their Heart Institute and Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati. His research focusses on characterizing the molecular mechanisms that underlie cell death, the intracellular signaling pathways that control cellular growth, differentiation, and replication in cardiac and skeletal muscle, the novel protein factors secreted from the heart, the cardiac fibroblast and how it functions during disease, the cellular mechanisms underlying cardiac repair, and the basic mechanisms of intracellular calcium handling in cardiac and skeletal muscle.
REPORT ON THE 36TH
EUROPEAN SECTION ISHR
ANNUAL MEETING

(29 JUNE – 1 JULY 2021, ONLINE)

The 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR) European Section, originally scheduled to take place in Torino (Italy) in 2020, was held online from June 29th to July 1st, 2021. The meeting was opened with the warm welcome from the ISHR-ES President, Lucie Carrier, followed by local organizers Prof. Emilio Hirsch and Prof. Alessandra Ghigo (University of Torino). A heartfelt thanks from the ISHR-ES community goes to Alessandra and Emilio who did an amazing job by attracting over 330 participants to this virtual meeting, and for providing an excellent platform to discuss groundbreaking science, engage and network.

The scientific program, the organization and technical execution of this online meeting were excellent and the conference was rewardingly well-attended. The conference included 24 sessions, with a wide range of topics that provided an excellent opportunity for researchers at any career stage to participate, interact and gain visibility.

The 2020 Ketty Schwartz Award was given to Dr. Ursula Ravens (Senior Professor in the Institute for Experimental Medicine at University of Freiburg, Germany), for her longstanding work on ion channels and electrical activity in cardiac pathophysiology. The President’s Distinguished Lecture was given this year by Dr. Evangelia (Litsa) Kranias (The Hanna Professor, Distinguished University Research Professor and Director of Cardiovascular Biology in the Department of Pharmacology & Systems Physiology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA), who discussed the role of calcium cycling in cardiac contractility and cell survival with a special emphasis on how mutations in calcium cycling genes and dysregulation of calcium homeostasis may predispose to arrhythmias and heart failure. The Keynote Lecture was given by Prof. Luigi Naldini (Full Professor of Histology and Director of the San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy, Milan, Italy), who provided an overview of tools and strategies being employed for gene therapy, and discussed new developments, perspectives and challenges for safe and effective gene therapy. The plaques for the 2020 Distinguished Leader Award (to Prof. Fabio Di Lisa) and Medals of Merit (to Prof. Metin Avkiran and Prof. Emilio Hirsch) will be presented during the ceremony set to take place at the 2022 ISHR World Congress in Berlin.

In 2019, the ISHR International established a Mid-Career Investigator (MCI) Committee that pledged to promote interests of the MCIs. ISHR European Section promptly accepted the Committee’s request to also promote MCIs visibility at the European Section meetings and this year we had the first symposium dedicated exclusively to the MCIs. This session was chaired by Dr. Davor Pavlovic (University of Birmingham) and Dr. Tania Zaglia (University of Padova) and included four outstanding presentations given by Dr. Sebastiano Sciarretta (University of Rome La Sapienza), Dr. Monika Gladka (University Medical Center Amsterdam), Dr. Cristina Molina (University Medical Center Hamburg – Eppendorf), and Dr. Olivia Johnstone (University of Manchester).

The European section of the ISHR has a strong focus on facilitating Early Career Investigator (ECI) career development. This year’s ECI Symposium took place before the start of the main meeting. An ECI committee composed of Lise Román Moltzau (Norway), Delphine Mika (France), Bernadin Ndongson Dongmo (Norway), Angela Della Sala (Italy), Julie Pires da Silva (USA) and Matteo Sorge (Italy), selected 10 young members of the ISHR community that were invited to give a 15-min talk. The ECI Symposium was well attended by the junior, as well as senior, members of the ISHR.

As a proud supporter of the ECIs, the ISHR European Section also provides for
the Young Investigator Award (YIA) and other prize opportunities. The YIA plenary session was chaired by Dr. Lucie Carrier (Germany) and Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister (France). The Evaluating Committee, composed by Dr. Christoph Maack (Germany), Dr. Lise Román Moltzau (Norway), Dr. Sean Davidson (United Kingdom) and Dr. Zoltan Papp (Hungary), selected 5 finalists to present their work during this session. This year’s most competitive projects were presented by Nicolò Mangraviti (University of Maastricht, Netherlands), Anne-Sophie Colombe (Université Paris-Saclay, France), Edoardo Schneider (King's College London, UK), Mathieu Panel (INSERM, France) and Julie Pires da Silva (University of Colorado, USA).

The YIA was awarded to Dr. Nicolò Mangraviti (Maastricht University) for his presentation "LncRNA “Bigheart” controls a transcriptional program that auto-amplificate calcineurin-NFAT signalling in cardiac hypertrophy". The first runner-up was Dr. Anne-Sophie Colombe (Université Paris-Saclay) and the second runner-up was Dr. Edoardo Schneider (King's College, London).

Despite being virtual, the poster sessions stimulated fruitful discussions. The ISHR-ES council members carefully evaluated over 100 poster presentations and selected the best ones. The Best Poster prizes were awarded to Lolita Dokshokova (Verona), Anissa Belhade (Chatenay-Malabry), Christoph Manthey (Hamburg), Niels Pietsch (Hamburg), Alice Marino (Brussels), Francesca Bortolotti (Trieste), Rima Kamel (Chatenay-Malabry), Eilidh MacDonald (Glasgow), Janice Raabe (Hamburg), Edgar Nollet (Hamburg), Thomas Iskratsch (London), and Agnieska Gorska (Heidelberg).

During the closing ceremony, Jonathan Lambert (University of Padova, Italy), the recipient of the Servier fellowship in 2019, presented the achievements and the development of his project entitled “Investigating the metabolically dependent proteomic interactome of OPAL by generating an OPAL-TurboID fusion protein”. There were also several important announcements regarding the composition of the ISHR European Section council. Dr. Lucie Carrier has served as the President of the European section of the Society since 2018 and during this meeting she handed over the reins of the society to the incoming President, Dr. Mauro Giacca. We thank Lucie for her strong leadership and dedication and we are very happy to still have her on board as the Past-President. We also welcome Mauro as our new President! The council also announced the new President-elect: Dr. Christoph Maack. Congratulations Christoph! Finally, Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister terminated his tenure as a council member. Rodolphe served on the council for nine years, initially as a council member, then as the President-elect, President and, finally, in the role of Past-President for the last 3 years. I take the liberty of speaking for all ISHR members when I say that we are immensely
grateful to Rodolphe for his dedication and for all the tremendous things the society has achieved thanks to him. Personally, it has been an honor and a privilege to learn from Rodolphe. We are left with Rodolphe's legacy, and we will count on his wisdom in the years to come. Congratulations and a warm welcome Dr. Gregoire Vandecasteele (INSERM, Université Paris-Saclay, France), who was elected by the ISHR members earlier this year and will take Rodolphe’s place in the council.

We are all very keen to start meeting in-person again and are very much looking forward to the ISHR World Congress from 12-15 of June 2022 in Berlin, Germany!

Written by Dr. Nina Kaludercic
National Research Council of Italy, Padua, Italy

Photos/screenshots from the 2021 ISHR European Section meeting courtesy of Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister and Dr. Zoltan Papp
**JMCC EDITORS’ UPDATE**

Throughout 2021, JMCC has continued to launch new initiatives aimed to expand the reach of the research that we publish.

**Special Issues**

Our editorial team has worked to develop special issues of wide interest to our readership. Our first two special issues have been completed: **Unsolved Mysteries and Controversies of Mitochondria in the Heart**, compiled by Guest Editors Shey-Shing Sheu and Wang Wang; and **Cardiac Epigenetics: Driving signals to the cardiac epigenome in development and disease**, edited by Emma Robinson, Manuel Rosa-Garrido, Chukwuemeka George Anene-Nzelu, and Roger Foo.

Five more Special Issues are currently completing production: **Cutting Edge Technology in Cardiovascular Research; Computational Models of Cardiovascular Regulatory Mechanisms; An Engineer’s Guide To Unlocking The Secrets Of The Cardiac Microenvironment; Frontier in Vascular Research - the View from Chinese Scientists;** and **Cardio-Oncology: Novel Molecular Mechanisms and Innovative Approaches.**

All papers published in our special issues are available at [https://tinyurl.com/JMCCspecial](https://tinyurl.com/JMCCspecial).

**Scientist in the Spotlight Podcast**

JMCC is excited to offer a new way to learn the story behind the scientists who publish in the journal. Our newly-launched podcast, **Scientist in the Spotlight**, presents interviews with authors, talking about their own scientific careers. Hosted by JMCC editors, the podcast aims to highlight the scientific journey of our “Editor’s Choice” authors, as well as other leaders in the field of cardiovascular research.

Available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Pandora. Or listen online at: [https://jmccardiology.podbean.com/](https://jmccardiology.podbean.com/).

**Call for Papers**

We have launched a new Call for Papers from now through March 2022. These papers will be handled by a small task force of editors who are leaders in their field. If you to research in these areas, submitting papers to JMCC is a great way to put your work in front of some of the top scientists in the field. The topics and dates for submission are:

**September 2021 – March 2022**

Topics:

1. Sarcomere protein mutations
2. Ion homeostasis/calcium channels/arrhythmias

You can see the full description of each topic on the following page.

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**ISHR-JMCC Webinar Series 2021**

The ISHR-JMCC Webinar Series has continued throughout 2021, with monthly webinars featuring our Editor’s Choice selections, discussion of our special issues, and other research published in JMCC. In addition to the monthly live presentation, there are now over 70 recorded webinars available on our youtube channel. Watch them at [https://tinyurl.com/JMCCwebinar](https://tinyurl.com/JMCCwebinar).

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**2022 ISHR Award Winners**

- **Peter Harris Distinguished Scientist Award**
  Rodolphe Fischmeister, INSERM

- **Research Achievement Award**
  Douglas Lewandowski, OSUMC

- **Outstanding Investigator Award**
  Benjamin Prosser, Univ of Pennsylvania

- **Keith Reimer Distinguished Lecture**
  Barbara Casadei, Univ of Oxford

- **Janice Pfeffer Distinguished Lecture**
  Lea Delbridge, Univ of Melbourne

- **President’s Distinguished Lecture**
  Manuel Mayr, King’s College London
CALL FOR PAPERS ON TOPICS OF INTEREST

JMCC is seeking submissions on the following topics of special interest in 2021-22. Full-length original research, methods/how-to, short communication and letter to the editor will be considered. Manuscripts designated under these topics will be reviewed by a dedicated editorial task force with expedited schedule. The accepted manuscripts may be considered for presentation in an ISHR-JMCC webinar and will be published with highlights as part of the series. Visit www.jmcc-online.com for author guidelines and to submit your paper.

**Submission Window:**
September 2021 – March 2022

1. **Sarcomere protein mutations**
   
   Mutations in genes encoding proteins of the sarcomeres represent a frequent cause of cardiomyopathies with different clinical phenotypes. Clinical heterogeneity is large even in individuals carrying the same sarcomere gene mutation. Knowledge on mutation-mediated cardiac dysfunction and structural remodeling of the heart is needed to develop personalized treatment strategies. Studies on mutation-mediated effects may range from cellular studies to mouse models which represent major cardiac characteristics of human pathology, and *in silico* analyses of mutation-mediated effects.
   
   Specific topics of interest include:
   
   • Mutation-specific effects on cardiac dysfunction and remodeling
   • Metabolic perturbations induced by sarcomere mutations
   • iPSC-derived models to study effects of sarcomere mutations
   • Mutation-specific drug responsiveness
   • Role of post-translational sarcomere protein modifications

2. **Ion homeostasis/Calcium channels/Arrhythmias**

   Cardiac excitability and excitation-contraction coupling are finely controlled by a combination of depolarizing and repolarizing currents. Fine regulation and dysregulation of a host of inward and outward ion currents and in calcium-handling proteins are thought to play a major role in numerous clinically relevant cardiac arrhythmias. Increased knowledge in these areas are crucial to advance our mechanistic understanding and develop novel treatment strategies. Articles related to these topics will be welcome for this Hot Topic section.

   Specific topics of interest include:
   
   • Mutation or post-translational alteration of RyR2 involved in arrhythmias
   • Ultrastructural disorganization-dependent intracellular calcium alteration in pathophysiology
   • Transcriptional regulation of ion channel genes and cardiac remodeling
   • Novel methodologies to study cardiac ion channels
   • hiPSC-CM as models for ion-channel related cardiac diseases and advancement toward precision medicine
Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, CVMW2020 was forced to reschedule and move to a fully virtual format. The unified theme of CVMW2020 was defined as “International Joint Conference on Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases”. CVMW2020 consisted of a joint symposium and two joint special lectures. For the joint special lectures, Dr. Hideyuki Nakashima (Sapporo City University) gave a cutting-edge presentation entitled "Possibility of AI application toward Societal Design" and Dr. Seishi Ogawa (Kyoto University) gave a state-of-the-art talk entitled "Cancer mutations in normal and non-cancer tissues". In the joint symposium, Dr. Koichiro Kuwahara (Shinsyu University) delivered a lecture entitled “Novel players in Ca\(^{2+}\)-dependent signaling pathway”. He elegantly demonstrated that activation of the G\(\alpha_\text{O}\) mediated CaMKII-NRSF transcriptional circuit promotes heart failure by impairing Ca\(^{2+}\) homeostasis.

The 37th ISHR-JPN had 3 symposia, a Young Investigator Award (YIA), a Featured Research Session (FRS) and 3 oral sessions. Symposium 1, entitled “Metabolic remodeling in failing heart,” was organized by Dr. Satoaki Matoba (Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine) and Dr. Osamu Yamaguchi (Ehime University). Dr. Danielle Murashige (University of Pennsylvania) presented her recent work on comprehensive quantification of fuel use by the healthy and failing heart. Dr. Atsushi Hoshino (Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine) gave a talk on mitochondrial biogenesis and mitophagy-mediated mitochondrial degradation. Dr. Wataru Kimura (Riken Center) lectured on the metabolic regulation of cardiomyocyte turnover. Dr. Hidetaka Kioka (Osaka University) demonstrated the role of OXPHOS as a therapeutic target for heart failure. Dr. Jin Endo (Keio University) lectured on the involvement of lipid metabolites in heart disease.

Symposium 2, entitled “Inflammation and cellular senescence,” was designed by Dr. Motoaki Sano (Keio University) and Dr. Ichiro Manabe (Chiba University). Dr. Yohko Yoshida (Niigata University) lectured on the involvement of brown adipose tissue dysfunction in the pathologies of heart failure. Dr. Yukiteru Nakayama (Tokyo University) demonstrated that...
heart failure induces systemic vulnerability via alteration of hematopoietic stem cells. Dr. Atsushi Anzai (Keio University) presented his recent work on the role of stromal-inflammatory cell crosstalk in post-infarction cardiac repair. Dr. Shirakawa Kohsuke (Keio University) lectured on the residual inflammatory risk of cardiovascular disease.

Symposium 3, entitled “Discuss together with ISHR-U45 young scientists,” was planned by Dr. Hidetaka Kioka (Osaka University), Dr. Takahiro Horie (Kyoto University), Dr. Yuuki Shimizu (Nagoya University) and ISHR-JPN members under 45 years old to encourage young researchers to join ISHR. Nine presenters gave exciting talks on various topics including metabolic adaptation and cardiac regeneration, glutamine metabolism in heart failure, mitochondrial quality and cardiac fragility, changes in fatty acid composition by Elovl6, brown adipose tissue and heart failure, development of iPS cell-derived cardiomyocyte, imaging of vessel development, cardiac autoimmunity, and skeletal muscle abnormalities in heart failure.

The YIA competition was chaired by Dr. Toyoaki Murohara (Nagoya University) and Dr. Masaki Ieda (University of Tsukuba). Four YIA finalists were chosen from 7 applicants, and Dr. Yuta Okabe (University of Tsukuba) won first prize for his provocative research entitled “A novel inherited life-threatening arrhythmia model established by screening randomly mutagenized mice”. The FRS had 5 presentations, and 3 oral sessions had a total of 14 presentations. Among the FRS and oral sessions, 4 best presentation awards were chosen as follows; FRS: “Clonal hematopoiesis with JAK2V617F promotes pulmonary hypertension through ALK1” Yusuke Kimishima (Fukushima Medical University), Oral 1: “Protects Against Autoreactive CD4+ T-cell Expansion and Inflammation in Autoimmune Myocarditis in Mice” Siqi Li (University of Tsukuba), Oral 2: “Soft Matrix Rigidity Improves Direct Cardiac Reprogramming via Inhibition of Rho/ROCK, Actomyosin, and YAP/TAZ Pathway and Silencing Fibroblast Signature” Taketaro Sadahiro (University of Tsukuba), and Oral 3: “Endothelial Cells Senescence Aggravate Hypoxia-induced Pulmonary Hypertension through Notch-mediated Interaction with Pulmonary Artery Smooth Muscle Cells” Risa Ramadhiani (Kobe University).

Despite difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the 37th annual meeting of ISHR-JPN was a great success. We sincerely appreciate all of the participants and staff who supported this fruitful meeting and look forward to the 38th ISHR-JPN organized by Prof. Masafumi Yano (Yamaguchi University) on December 10-11, 2021.

Written by
Ryuji Toh
Secretary General of the 37th Annual Meeting of the ISHR-Japanese Section

Ken-ichi Hirata
President of the 37th Annual Meeting of the ISHR-Japanese Section

Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe, Japan
The 2022 ECI World Congress Committee was organized to further two paramount goals:

1. To increase involvement of and opportunities for ECIs in all sections of ISHR, and
2. To promote unity and comradery amongst ECIs in diverse ISHR sections.

These goals and ECI investment have been met with overwhelming support from the ISHR Council and the emphasis is now on the ECIs to pro-actively engage in order to maximize the benefit and support for career development. As such, we are working diligently to coordinate an exemplary program with a local organizing committee in Berlin that comprises Drs. Burkert Pieske, Djawid Hasemi, Frank Heinzl, and Diana Bachran. The ECI events will include: 2 ECI symposia comprising both short and rapid-fire talks, a career development panel discussion, an ECI luncheon with senior investigators, and, of course, an ECI social event.

Furthermore, we will be announcing our 2022 ECI Travel Bursary Program to support the extended stay in a local ISHR European section host lab for an ECIs in order to enhance their research profile and interests. Notable dates and program descriptions will be announced in the coming weeks!

If you are interested in contributing to these events and learning about more opportunities for involvement, please reach out any of your section representatives above.

Looking forward to an exciting and collegial ISHR World Congress in Berlin!

Erik Blackwood
Chair, ISHR ECI Committee
In keeping with the ISHR mission to support and encourage the next generation of cardiovascular scientists, the ISHR formed an international committee to represent the interests and activities of the ISHR Mid-Career Investigators (MCIs - 8-15 years post terminal degree and those who have not yet reached the rank of Full Professor). The Committee is composed of 2 MCI members from each section:

**Australasian Section:**
Jim Bell (La Trobe University) – Chair, Berlin Organizing Committee
Jeff Erickson (University of Otago)

**Chinese Section:**
Xue-Yan Jiang (Guangzhou Medical University)
Han Xiao (Peking University)

**European Section:**
Davor Pavlovic (University of Birmingham) – Chair, MCI Committee
Nina Kaludercic (National Research Council of Italy) – Co-Chair, Berlin Organizing Committee

**Indian Section:**
Uma Nahar Saikia (PGIMER)
Sivasubramanianarah Ramakrishnan (AIIMS)

**Japanese Section:**
Kenji Onoue (Nara Medical University)
Mikito Takefuji (Nagoya University)

**Latin American Section:**
Alesandro Orlowski (CONICET) - Co-Chair, Berlin Organizing Committee
Marcela Sorelli (Federal University)

**North American Section:**
Sarah Franklin
Rajasekaran Namakkal-Soorappan

This Committee organized MCI activities at the 2019 ISHR World Congress in Beijing, including a panel discussion and social networking event ([HN&V 25:1, p6](https://doi.org/10.1093/hnv/25.1.6)). The Committee is currently in the planning stage of putting together a networking/career development/social event to be held during the ISHR World Congress in Berlin, Germany (June 12-15, 2022).

Watch the ISHR International webpage ([https://ishrworld.org/group/MCI](https://ishrworld.org/group/MCI)), MCI Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/2312750082315181/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2312750082315181/)), and LinkedIn page ([https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12210329/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12210329/)) for further information and updates.

Join us in Berlin!
Gomez (EUR), Masaki Ieda (JPN), Rebecca Ritchie (AUS) and Bin Zhou (CHN) as at-large Council members - a big congratulations to them! I am very much looking forward to working together. Many thanks to Tish Murphy and the other members of the Nominating Committee for their wise choices and hard work, and everybody else for the nominations and election.

In 2020, the Corona crisis forced us to cancel 2021 ISHR award elections, but here too we are back on track for our 2022 awards. I would like to congratulate Benjamin Prosser (NAM) for having been selected for the Outstanding Investigator Award, Douglas Lewandowski (NAM) for the Research Achievement Award and Rodolphe Fischmeister (EUR) for the Peter Harris Award. I also congratulate Barbara Casadei (EUR), who was selected as the Keith Reimer lecturer, Lea Delbridge (AUS), who was selected to give the Janice Pfeffer lecture, and Manuel Mayr (EUR), who was selected as the President’s Distinguished lecturer. A big thanks to Yoshihiko Saito and Leslie for organising the elections and all nominators. I am very much looking forward to the lectures during our World Congress in Berlin, June 2022.

We have 33 new outstanding 2022 Fellows of the ISHR. The record number of nominations and the outstanding quality of the new FISHRs show that ISHR continues to be a highly attractive and lively scientific community. Congrats to all new FISHRs and a big thanks to David Eisner and the other members of the Credential Committee as well as the nominators for their hard work and wise choices.

And even if most of us know, nothing would work at ISHR without the incredible work and dedication of Leslie Lobaugh, who is the memory of ISHR and the one who keeps everything running smoothly. We are all deeply thankful to you, Leslie!

The preparations for the ISHR World Congress in Berlin, June 12-15, 2022, are well underway. Our Secretary General, Lea Delbridge, the Scientific Programme Committee, as well as the Early and Mid Career Investigator Committees, have assembled an excellent programme and the invitations are about to be sent out. Please stay tuned.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in Berlin next year!

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**Calendar**

*Note that meeting dates may have changed because of COVID-19 considerations*

- **December 10-11, 2021.** XXXVIII Annual Meeting of the Japanese Section. Kurume, Japan  
  Inquiries: Masafumi Yano yanoma@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp

- **June 12-15, 2022.** XXIV ISHR World Congress. Berlin, Germany.  
  Website: [https://www.ishr3033berlin.de](https://www.ishr3033berlin.de)
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