**Fellowship – African Hypertension Specialist (FAHS)**

**Rationale:**

-ISH in collaboration with IFHA and African local hypertension societies is organizing teaching seminars (now for the 3rd time- totalizing more than 100 persons trained), but no clear follow up and outcome evaluation tool were set up.

-No clear pathways for young African investigators in the field of hypertension and no encouragement measures; hence Africa is less competitive on worldwide market in area of research in hypertension.

-Obviously the Quality of publication from Africa can be improved, and local training enhanced by a training of trainers system.

-Reliable data about hypertension patterns in Africa are lacking in many places, and research still in essence; based mainly on epidemiological research.

**Objectives:**

* To build up a critical mass of experts in hypertension research, control and prevention in Africa
* To build up a core team of an African network mentors in the field of hypertension research, control and prevention in Africa, in collaboration with external universities, institutions, and personalities
* To enhance publications quality from Africa in the field of hypertension in Africa

**Benefits**

* FAHS are experts available for conception, implementation, mentoring and coordinating research, control and prevention activities of IFHA and its partners in Africa.
* FAHS will be submitted to other partners institutions for worldwide accreditation
* FAHS will be at front list of recommended eligible persons once they submit research projects for funding (in IFHA or partners)

**Eligibility**

-To be IFHA member with active membership the time of application submission

-To have a certificate of – African Hypertension Training Seminar (as organized by ISH & IFHA)

-To have completed the 1 months training in Africa or other accredited hypertension/cardiology center.

To still be discussed on AFHA board and Partners. This training can be replaced by 2 days intensive practices following ISH Teaching seminar;

Existing candidate centers:

- Douala – Cameroon, Congo Brazza, Kinshasa –DRC, Durban South Africa

- Eligibility criteria to host the training is to accept a free accommodation of participants

Main activity id to receive in usual consultation patients (at least 15) with hypertension and to draft a management plan, approved by a supervisor – This can be replaced by dissertation of management of 30 clinical cases in Hypertension - mainly given by French Internship program.

-To have published at least one paper in peer-reviewed journal during last 5 years

**Application submission:**

-People meeting the eligibility criteria will submit their application an online tool available at http://www.ifha-online.com or sending an electronic copy of the application to IFHA secretariat using ONLY e-mail address [sg@ifha-online.org](mailto:sg@ifha-online.org)

- Application includes:

* A full flagged curriculum vitae
* A copy of all recent publications (last 5 years) in the field of hypertension in Africa
* A filled dedicated form (can be obtained from the web)
* 3 recommendation letters from a known hypertension specialist.

**Decision for selection**

* People meeting the eligibility criteria will be selected by the dedicated commission, mandated by IFHA general assembly, based on competitiveness. Each application will be scored out of 20 as follow:
  + 10 marks dedicated for publications : each paper marking 2 points
  + 5 marks for background training (2 for MD or equiv – 1 for Mmed or Msc or equiv – 2 for PhD)
  + 2 marks from previous field research activity (One mark for every research project, even if not published)
  + 3 marks from recommendations

**Periodicity**

* 15 persons will be selected, 5 years period occurrence basis.

**IFHA Promotion & Media Center**

**Opportunity for worldwide partners, achievements and long term vision**

**Rationale:**

- IFHA and African local hypertension societies is organizing bi-annual conference, now for the 3rd time- totalizing more than 45original research presentations, but most of them never published in peer-review journals;

-Until then, temporally websites created were to support and to advertise the conference, no sustainable and permanent website.

-Partners were few, since IFHA was not visible on worldwide market and IFHA was then less competitive compared to other organizations.

-Funding were lacking and every conference were initially funded by the board members (mainly executive president) in term to be reimbursed later on; what was not very often possible, because promises of funds were not given.

-Mandatory it’s high time to set up a promotion measures making IFHA visible in worldwide scientific media sources and a sustainable way to keep partners and raising funds, not only for organizing conferences but also to support other activities.

-Reliable data about hypertension patterns in Africa are lacking in many places, but rich data exist, hence it’s high time to put in press all existing data, or at least to indicate where to find them.

**Objectives:**

* To build up a promotion measures making IFHA visible in worldwide scientific media sources through a sustained and permanent professional website
* To put in press all existing data, or at least to indicate where to find reliable data about hypertension patterns in Africa
* To attract partners and to raise fund for supporting IFHA activities and to create a sustainable way of raising funds, not only for organizing conferences but also to support other IFHA activities.
* To build up pathways for advertising IFHA and partners activities and updates
* To create a virtual network inside physical IFHA & partners network linking worldwide stakeholders involved in hypertension research, control and prevention in Africa.

**Preliminary achievement**

* Version 1.0 of the website launched on 25 july 2009
* Version 2.0 of the website launched on 25 September 2009

⏭ Supported by ISH Grant (Low and Middle income country committee – Professor Robert Fagard)

-Webdesign

-Webhosting

-Domain name

⏭ Implemented by Mr Steven Van Canneyt (Team Leader) of Department of Informatics of Gent University – Belgium, under a university contract arranged by Professor Luc Van Bortel

⏭ Benefit: **85% saved** on ordinary financial budget – Time :

Ordinary total cost: 25000$ US (Approx 19 000 €)

Current cost: Work load (1800 € + 250 € taxes = 2050 €) + Domain name and hosting (370€ settled + 280 € to be paid = 650 €) ========🡺 Total of 2700€

⏭ Mid-time evaluation:

* + So far received more than 2000 visitors from 67 countries world wide
  + So far some payments (conference registrations or IFHA membership)have been done through online tool
  + Abstract submission online tool tested with this conference

**Next steps**

* + To complete some web pages (Journal/Newsletter, partners, etc)
  + Website referencement
  + Enhance eShop tool
  + Promotion in Google using Google ads
  + Attract advertisements form our partners
  + 36 months period – evaluation