

Long-Range Plan
International Society for Heart Research—North American Section
September 2004

Mission

The ISHR-North American Section is committed to understanding the basis of cardiovascular function and disease at the most fundamental levels and translating research discoveries into development of new therapeutic approaches to disease, new understanding of the risks for disease, and new strategies for the prevention of disease.

Vision

The ISHR-North American Section will attain pre-eminence as a society focused on basic research as the primary means for understanding the mechanisms of cardiovascular function and disease. To do this, the ISHR-NA will promote excellence and achievement in cardiovascular research, the application of research results in clinical settings, and training and development of new generations of cardiovascular scientists. Specific strategies will focus on *(i)* invigorating the annual meeting by featuring both traditional and emerging areas of research excellence, *(ii)* developing new forums for presentation of research results by both beginning and established investigators, and *(iii)* by developing cooperative, synergistic relationships with the ISHR-International and other sections of the ISHR.

Values

The ISHR-NA Section:

- emphasizes excellence, ethical practices and professionalism in pursuing all aspects of its Mission.
- works to understand the molecular, cellular and systems basis of cardiovascular disease.
- encourages interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to the studies of cardiovascular disease, therapeutics, disease risk assessment, and prevention of disease.
- fosters open communication and collegiality in scientific discourse and discussions, and in this regard, provides effective forums for dissemination of knowledge and presentation of opposing viewpoints.
- actively supports and encourages cardiovascular scientists in training and at subsequent career stages.
- works collaboratively with the ISHR-International and other sections of the ISHR to achieve its Mission and Vision.

Goals and Objectives

Annual Meetings of ISHR-NA section

The ISHR will strive to increase the impact and effectiveness of its annual meetings as its primary outreach activity, with a view to increasing annual attendance to 1,000 within 5 years.

Goal 1: Provide greater budgetary support to meeting organizers, which is contingent on improving the financial position of the ISHR-NA. The specific goal is to increase support to meeting organizers from the present maximum of \$35,000 to a maximum of \$75,000, which will facilitate planning and also relieve the organizers of substantial financial risk.

Goal 2: Establish a meetings oversight committee to ensure that core research areas are covered in the formal program and that emerging areas receive appropriate emphasis.

Goal 3: Provide organizers with a meeting planning handbook (already in draft) to guide planning, to suggest a typical timeline for accomplishing specific tasks, to indicate appropriate levels of programmed social activities, and to provide guidelines for registration fees and for financial support of speakers.

Goal 4: Provide meeting organizers with professional staff support (an ISHR-NA employee) to assist in planning the annual meetings, securing a meeting venue, and ensuring that appropriate services are in place.

Goal 4: To ensure continuity and appropriate time lines for planning, the President or President-Elect will approach potential meeting organizers to explore their interest in hosting future meetings, with the goal of formalizing such commitments 4 to 5 years in advance.

Goal 5: Develop incentives to increase meeting attendance.

Strategy 1: Provide greater opportunities for oral presentation of results.

Strategy 2: Provide free registration to 1 trainee who accompanies a paying member.

Strategy 3: Establish scientific subgroups which would meet on Day 1 of the meeting.

Membership

The ISHR will work to increase its membership to be more broadly representative of investigators contributing to cardiovascular research.

Goal 1: Establish a Membership Committee to develop a plan for increasing both number and participation of ISHR-NA members.

Strategy 1: Develop a marketing plan, including revamping of the Society website.

Strategy 2: Develop and publicize a list of benefits of membership.

Strategy 3: Publicize and promote research focus areas.

Strategy 4: Present prestigious awards to recognize research excellence and achievement.

Goal 2: Ensure that the Annual Meeting of the ISHR-NA consistently covers the core interest areas of the membership, as well as including symposia and workshops featuring new areas of research and technology of potential interest to members. Core areas include:

- Basic Cardiac/Myocardial Biology
- Cardiac Hypertrophy
- Heart Failure
- Inherited/Acquired Cardiomyopathies
- Biology of Ischemia and Cardioprotection
- Inherited/Acquired Arrhythmias
- Myocardial Regeneration

Goal 3: Ensure that Council is broadly representative of the scientific interests of the ISHR-NA, and that Council terms are staggered so that one-third of Council is replaced every two years, i.e., at frequent intervals to potentially allow election of members with new research interests.

Finances

The ISHR-NA will work to improve its financial position to increase the effectiveness and impact of its annual meetings, its support of research scientists at early career stages, and its efforts to publicize the activities of the Society and its members.

Goal 1: Appoint a Development Committee to raise both private and federal funds to support annual meetings, to fund prestigious lectureships, and to fund travel of trainees who participate in meetings.

Goal 2: Develop strategies such as increased dues to improve cash flow to the Society in order to fund a professional meeting organizer and to increase financial support of the annual meeting.

Goal 3: Investigate and if appropriate purchase meeting liability insurance to protect the Society against unanticipated meeting cancellations or failures.