

Joint program between the European section of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR-ES) and the national basic cardiovascular science societies

INTRODUCTION

The **International Society for Heart Research (ISHR)**, founded in 1968, is a worldwide research society for heart research. Our mission is to promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in the cardiovascular sciences on a world-wide basis through publications, congresses and other media.

The ISHR is particularly strong in the areas of cardiac signaling, metabolism, mitochondria, ischemia/reperfusion, myofilaments, calcium handling and force regulation. The ISHR is dedicated to basic research as long as it has a focus on the heart. It is open to physician scientists and translational research, but clinical applicability is not a defining criterion.

The ISHR is an informal organization that benefits from personal engagement of its members. Its income is generated almost entirely from membership fees and share of profits from its journal, the *Journal of Molecular & Cellular Cardiology*.

ISHR International is organized around seven sections: *Australasian, Chinese, European, Indian, Japanese, Latin American & North American sections*. The mission of the **European Section of ISHR (ISHR-ES)** is thus to promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in the cardiovascular sciences on a Europe-wide basis as part of the world-wide ISHR community.

ISHR International holds a World Congress every 3 years (e.g. San Diego 2013, Buenos Aires 2016, Beijing 2019, Berlin 2022), and the sections hold annual meetings in the other years. Conferences are generally at very attractive, often unusual venues and characterized by an academic, familiar and friendly atmosphere. The two most recent meetings of the **ISHR-ES** took place in Bordeaux (2015) and Hamburg (2017) and gathered >350 attendees each. The next ISHR-ES meeting will take place in Amsterdam, on July 16-19, 2018.

The ISHR is dedicated to encouraging young scientists at the early stages of their careers. It offers **Early Career Investigators (ECI)** the opportunities to participate in Council organization, both at the level of the sections and International. The ISHR provides poster prizes, young investigator awards and significant travel support for its conferences (40-50% of its budget). ISHR-ES also offers the prestigious ISHR/Servier Fellowship to ECIs below 35 years of age. ISHR-ES now organizes a special ECI pre-meeting symposium, on the morning before the main ISHR-ES meeting, which all ECIs are encouraged to participate in.

PROPOSED ACTION: THE ISHR-ES PRIZE

As stated above, the mission of the **ISHR-ES** is to promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in the cardiovascular sciences on a Europe-wide basis. To that aim, the ISHR-ES wishes to reach out to national basic cardiovascular science (BCVS) societies or organizations in order to increase the visibility of the ISHR-ES among their members, in particular the young scientists, and encourage them to become members of the ISHR-ES and participate in their meetings and other activities.

For each national BCVS society willing to participate in this action, the **ISHR-ES will offer a Prize** for the best poster or oral presentation presented at the annual meeting held by the national BCVS society. This Prize will be directed to basic research studies. The candidates for the ISHR-ES Prize will have to identify themselves upon registration to the national BCVS meeting. They will have to read and accept the "Procedure for Application and Selection" (see below). The ISHR-ES Prize will consist of a 300 € travel grant + free registration to attend the next ISHR-ES meeting or ISHR World congress, whatever occurs first, where the recipient will have the opportunity to present his/her work. The ISHR-ES will also advertise on its web page and newsletter about the partnership established with the national BCVS society and provide information about their meetings.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION AND SELECTION

1. The **ISHR-ES Prize** is targeted at young investigators, notably students and Fellows. Because of international differences in the definition of "Fellow", eligibility for the award is limited to those within 6 years of their terminal degree (e.g. M.D. or Ph.D.). Allowance will be made for career breaks if these are listed in the application.
2. Only ISHR members in good standing (as determined by ISHR-ES Secretary) will be eligible for the ISHR-ES Prize.
3. Applicants must be the first or last author of the abstract presented, and must be present at the meeting to be eligible.
4. Applicants must indicate their desire to compete for the ISHR-ES Prize when submitting their abstract to the meeting. Meeting organizers will maintain a list of eligible posters.
5. The winner will be offered to present his/her selected work at the next ISHR-ES meeting or ISHR World Congress, whichever applies that year. The ISHR-ES will provide the winner a 300€ travel grant plus free registration to the meeting.
6. Posters will be evaluated by a small panel of senior investigators, selected and chaired by a member of the national BCVS society meeting organizing committee, and will include members of the ISHR-ES where possible.
7. Poster or oral presentations will be judged on the basis of:
 - Excellence and significance of research
 - Clarity of visual and verbal presentation.
8. Members of the selection committee will declare any conflict of interest (or close relationship with any candidate) and the voting mechanism will be adjusted accordingly.