

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION, INC. (ASH)
POSITION PAPERS FOR THE HYPERTENSION SPECIALIST**

ASH HYPERTENSION WRITING GROUP

The American Society of Hypertension, Inc. (ASH) recognizes that hypertension guidelines are an urgent and critical undertaking to address practice needs of physicians and other health care professionals treating hypertensive patients. Further, given its role and vision, one of the key, essential roles of the Society is to develop and maintain current hypertension guidelines for health care providers.

In order to fulfill this important role the Society will engage in the following activities:

- *To partner with the National Heart Lung Blood Institute (NHLBI) in the revision and drafting of any proposed revised hypertension guidelines.*

As Dr. Elizabeth Nabel informed the Society, “NHLBI intends to focus on “an integrated guideline... (as) the hub of our approach, detailed recommendations for each of the individual risk factors will also be developed....the key elements of hypertension diagnosis and management will be addressed in the core of the integrated guidelines, while additional details will be included in a closely linked JNC portion of the document.”

To embark on the process of developing recommendations for Hypertension Specialists through development and publication of a series of ASH Position Papers. Drs. Henry R. Black, MD, Joseph L. Izzo, Jr., MD, Thomas D. Giles, MD(Chair), Barry J. Materson, MD, and Michael A. Weber, MD serve as members of the ASH Hypertension Writing Group charged with the oversight and management of the entire initiative.

- ***The ASH Position Papers will each cover a different topic which will be useful for physicians treating patients with hypertension, including but not limited to those physicians designated as Specialists in Clinical Hypertension.*** Together, these papers will systematically cover many of the issues and topics that a traditional, single “guidelines” paper would not cover in depth, i.e. hypertension classification, hemodynamic phenotypes, general treatment algorithms, resistant hypertension, hypertension urgencies, complicated hypertension cases, home monitoring versus ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, low sodium diet, hypertension coding, and the economics of hypertension drugs.

Each Position Paper will be approximately four (4) pages in length. The goal is to publish one (1) paper every three (3) to four (4) months, with the overall objective of publishing 12 papers over the next three (3) years. Therefore, one (1) Position Paper will be published every quarter over the next approximately three (3) years. When all 12 Position Papers have been

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION, INC. (ASH)
POSITION PAPERS FOR THE HYPERTENSION SPECIALIST**

published, they may be grouped into one volume and published again in a variety of formats, or made available online to ASH Members via the ASH Website.

Each Position Paper will be subject to an external review and an internal vigorous review, prior to publication as an official ASH Position Paper:

- *External Review by:*
 1. *External Review Committee—consisting of eight (8) – nine (9) Member appointed by the ASH Hypertension Writing Group for each Position Paper*
 2. *JASH and JCH manuscript review process*
- *Internal Review by:*
 1. *Members of the ASH Hypertension Writing Group*
 2. *Advisory Committee*

Each Position Paper will be published on the ASH Website, in both of the Society journals, as well as other hypertension and/or cardiovascular journals, after review and approval by the authors of the respective Writing Group, the ASH Hypertension Writing Group and a final review by the ASH Board of Directors. These Position Papers may also be distributed to a wide audience through online options currently under review.

The ASH Hypertension Writing Group will be responsible for the following activities for each Position Paper:

- (a) determination of Position Paper topic*
- (b) appointment of Writing Group contributing members*
- (c) appointment of review committee*
- (d) approval and oversight of work plan, budget and timeline*
- (e) oversight of approval and publication process*

Individual Writing Groups for each ASH Position Paper may need editorial assistance in terms of editing, literature searches, and reference documentation. As necessary, these services will be outsourced.

As of September 1, 2008 the first two (2) ASH Position Papers will have been completed and published:

When and How to Use Self (Home) and Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring

Thomas G. Pickering, MD, DPhil and William B. White, MD

Journal of the American Society of Hypertension (JASH) 2(3) 119 – 124.

(May/June 2008)

Managing Editor: Barry J. Materson, MD, MBA

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION, INC. (ASH)
POSITION PAPERS FOR THE HYPERTENSION SPECIALIST**

*Diabetes and the Metabolic Syndrome: Authors: George L. Bakris, MD, James R. Sowers, MD and Pantelis A. Sarafidis, MD, PhD. Managing Editor: Henry R. Black, MD – Paper to be published in September 2008 Issue of the Journal of Clinical Hypertension. To be published in the September 2008 of the **Journal of Clinical Hypertension (JCH)**.*