



Jan A. Staessen

Jan A. Staessen is Professor of Medicine at the University of Leuven and Head of Clinic at the University Hospitals Leuven. He leads the Division of Hypertension and Cardiovascular Rehabilitation, Department of Cardiovascular Diseases, University of Leuven, Belgium. In addition, Dr Staessen is Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at the Department of Epidemiology, Maastricht University, Maastricht, the Netherlands.

Dr. Staessen was the principal investigator of influential clinical trials, published in top-ranking journals, such as Systolic Hypertension in Europe Trial (Syst-Eur), the Ambulatory blood Pressure monitoring and Treatment of Hypertension trial (APTH) and the Treatment of hypertension based on Home or Office blood Pressure trial (THOP). He chaired the Data Safety and Monitoring Board of several clinical trials, including the Systolic Hypertension in China trial (Syst-China), the Randomised Olmesartan and Diabetes Microalbuminuria Prevention Study (ROADMAP) and the Hypertension in the very Elderly trial (HYVET). He was the scientific coordinator of the Ouabain and Adducin for Specific Intervention on Sodium in HyperTension trial (OASIS-HT). He organised the Newer vs. Older Antihypertensive Agents in African

Hypertensive patients (NOAAH) trial, which is currently running at 6 clinical sites in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Staessen is a member of several professional societies, including the International Society of Hypertension, the European Society of Hypertension, the European Society of Cardiology, the American Society of Hypertension, and the American Heart Association. He is past chairman of the European Hypertension Society Working Group on Blood Pressure Monitoring and is an International Fellow of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research of the American Heart Association. Dr. Staessen has been awarded the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* from the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe.

Dr Staessen's current research interests focus on the genetics, epidemiology, and treatment of cardiovascular disease, in particular hypertension. In 1998, he started the European Network on Genes in Hypertension (EPOGH). He is on the Steering Committee of the European Network of Excellence InGenious Hypercare (IGHC) and the large-scale European research projects HyperGenes (HGN) and EU-MASCARA. In IGHC, he was leader of the Joint Research Package on Renal Sodium Handling in Relation to Hypertension and Heart Failure, which involves 14 research groups. In HGN, Dr Staessen led 7 groups, contributing the population-based phenotypes to the research consortium. Dr Staessen also set up the International Database on Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in relation to Cardiovascular Outcomes (IDACO) research consortium that is studying the role of ambulatory blood pressure measurement in the stratification of cardiovascular risk. Recently, he received a European Research Council Advanced Researcher grant.

Dr. Staessen published over 690 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, his citation index (excluding own citations) is 15,140 and his H-index is 74. Dr Staessen serves on the editorial board of several top-ranking medical journals. He is an

Associate Editor of Hypertension, Hypertension Research, and Blood Pressure Monitoring. He is advisor to The Lancet.