



European Association of Echocardiography



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Considerable effort and achievement for the EAE this past year has allowed us to consolidate our existing programmes and support new initiatives.

Euroecho 9 in Florence in December was our most successful meeting to date, with 2,900 participants from 82 countries and a record number of submitted abstracts (about 1,100) and industry participation. Euroecho 10 will be held in Prague in December and will include special events to celebrate the tenth anniversary.

We have agreed a policy for the development of diagnostic imaging in cardiology, jointly with imaging Working Groups within the ESC and after discussions with the cardiac radiologists in Europe. The recommendations for joint services and combined training programmes provide the basis for further collaboration; the next initiative will be to establish systems for multimodality imaging guidelines with diagnostic tests, judged by their impact on clinical outcomes. We have also established close links with the American and Japanese Societies of Echocardiography.

The accreditation continues with good participation, offered to individuals based on examination and practical experience, in Adult Transthoracic Echocardiography, in Transoesophageal Echocardiography (with the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologists), and Echocardiography in Congenital Heart Disease (with the European Association for Paediatric Cardiology) in 2006. EAE recommendations for optimal standards in echocardiographic laboratories will be published later this year. We have initiated extramural educational programmes, with courses on echocardiography for candidates preparing for accreditation, and courses on advanced echocardiography – this recently in Sofia this March, attracted 350 participants and excellent feedback. We have developed a clinical case portal on our web site, and are planning new E-learning initiatives. The European Journal of Echocardiography has an expanding circulation, and increased electronic access.

We have completed a survey of Working Groups and Echocardiographic Societies within the ESC, and promote frequent exchange and interaction with all National Societies, to enlarge the circle of colleagues contributing to all our activities.

Alan Fraser
President, European Association of Echocardiography