



European Association of Echocardiography



A NNUAL REPORT 2004

The year 2003 has been an extraordinary year for European Echocardiography. It was the year of the launching of the European Association of Echocardiography (EAE) – a registered branch of ESC, which occurred formally during our last Euroecho meeting in Barcelona, in December. This represents an important step forward in the structure, organisation and development of echocardiography in Europe, following an important internal reorganisation of ESC itself.

Membership

EAE represents the largest group within the ESC with close to 2,000 members at the end of 2003. The creation of the new EAE implied, however, some changes in the structure of the former WG. One of the changes was in the running body that is now a Board, instead of a nucleus. Due to the number of activities currently under way and with the future in mind, it was decided to expand the composition of the Board by three more new positions. The other important change following the evolution to Association regards membership. It was decided to create a membership fee, starting in 2004. This will create a larger sense of belonging as a member and will encourage people to participate in the activities of EAE as well as help to face some of the additional costs that running our structure represents.

Financial Status

On 31 July 2004, EAE had a total of € 227,016.97 in its account. Our income this year came mostly from Euroecho 7 profit.

Euroecho 7 – Barcelona, 3-6 December 2003

This meeting attracted a total of 2,161 participants compared to 1,627 at Euroecho 6 in Munich in 2002. This makes Euroecho 7 the best attended echo meeting to date.

Euroecho 8 – Athens, 1-4 December 2004

Euroecho is currently the main echo meeting in Europe and is becoming one of the most attended meetings around the world. We will continue to improve and expand it so it will be our cornerstone for education, teaching, scientific presentations, technological developments in the field of ultrasound in Cardiovascular Medicine.

The programme of Euroecho 8 has been shaped to respect the main goals that the WG considers as priorities: education; teaching as well as up-date in recent scientific and technological developments in the field of cardiovascular ultrasound. Two special themes have been selected by the WG for this year: Arrhythmology, including Resynchronisation Therapy (together the European Heart Rhythm Association - EHRA and the Working Group on Heart Failure) and Vascular Disease (together with the WGs on Peripheral Circulation and Hypertension). In addition, a series of Teaching Courses will be held in parallel prior to the Opening Ceremony.

The next Euroecho meetings will be held in Florence, Italy (Euroecho 9, 2005) and Prague, Czech Republic (Euroecho 10, 2006).

Courses 2003-2004

During the year, two courses were organised by members of the Association; one on Transesophageal Echocardiography in Florence and one in Vienna, which was the first teaching course organised by EAE for preparation to accreditation. Both were well attended and successful. The EAE cosponsored several meetings, including the Contrast Echo meeting that was held in London in July and the Romanian meeting of Echocardiography in Bucharest in May.

The European Journal of Echocardiography (EJE)

The link between Euroecho and EJE was fundamental for the initial steps of the journal, with a link from the Journal to Euroecho and with all paying registrants receiving the journal for one year.

ESC Annual Congress – Vienna, 30 August-3 September 2003

The Association had seven WG sessions at the Vienna meeting; three Focus sessions and four other sessions held jointly with other Working Groups.

Accreditation on Echocardiography in Europe

This represents the major new development of the WG during the current leadership.

We undertook the task of developing an accreditation system on echocardiography in Europe with the goal of improving and guaranteeing the quality of European echocardiography. This will be a purely voluntary procedure and it will be done within the framework of the ESC. An Accreditation Committee on Echocardiography was created, which includes representatives from many national groups/societies. It was also decided to pursue not only accreditation in adult echocardiography, but also on transesophageal echocardiography.

In Barcelona we successfully held the first official exam and started the whole process of accreditation. This year we will run the exam twice: in Munich during the ESC Annual Congress and in Athens during Euroecho.

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