



# European Association of Echocardiography



## A ANNUAL REPORT 2005

The European Association of Echocardiography continues to grow with enthusiastic support from the national societies of echocardiography. We look forward to a more efficient management with the establishment in July 2005 of our own office in the European Heart House.

Euroecho 8 in Athens in December 2004 was our largest and most successful conference yet with attendance of over 2,250. The financial success of the meeting has enabled us to embark on more programmes to fulfil our objectives "to promote excellence in clinical diagnosis, research, technical development, and education in cardiovascular ultrasound in Europe".

Euroecho 9 in Florence in December 2005 promises even greater success since a record number of abstracts was submitted.

The EAE is planning an extramural programme with teaching courses in Eastern Europe and North Africa in 2006, and we are developing our website to include clinical cases.

The accreditation programme in transthoracic echocardiography is well established, and this year we started a similar scheme for transesophageal echocardiography in collaboration with the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiology.

Accreditation in echocardiography in congenital heart disease will start in 2006, in cooperation with the European Association of Paediatric Cardiology, and guidelines for laboratory standards are in preparation.

Joint membership of the EAE with national subspecialty associations is being introduced, and in response to requests from outside the ESC we are establishing an international affiliate membership for some international echocardiographic societies.

Close links with our professional counterparts worldwide, including North America, India, and Japan have been established.

The European Journal of Echocardiography is developing under the editorship of Professor Jos Roelandt. Six issues annually are distributed to 1,600 people, with a profit that is shared between the publisher and the EAE.

New guidelines initiatives and collaborative research projects are being developed as a major objective for the next year. In all activity areas this is in collaboration with colleagues in the other imaging Working Groups in the ESC and closer links in future can be expected.

*Prof. Alan Fraser*  
*President, European Association of Echocardiography*