

Working Groups

Annual Report 2000-2001

The 2000-2001 annual report will focus on the 6 current core areas of WGE activities: Membership; Financial Status; Euroecho 4 and 5; ETP courses; The European Journal of Echocardiography; the ESC Annual Congress.

Current WGE Nucleus Membership (as of 31st.August 2001)

Chairman	Prof G Sutherland (Leuven)	
Chairman Elect	Dr F Pinto (Lisbon)	
Secretary	Dr P Nihoyannopoulos (London)	
Treasurer	Prof A Cohen (Paris)	
Chairman - Educational Sub Committee	Dr F Flachskampf (Erlangen)	
Member - Educational Sub Committee	Dr M Campana (Gussago), Dr M Pepi (Milan)	
Chairman - Research and Scientific Sub Committee	Dr G Athanassopoulos (Athens)	
Member - Research and Scientific Sub Committee	Dr J Zamorano (Madrid), Dr H von Bibra (Stockholm)	

WGE Membership

The WGE membership was 1045 at the end of the year 2000. This represented an increase of 177 since December 1999. During 2001 the membership has further increased by 276 to 1321 (as at 09/08/01).

Financial Status WGE

On 31/07/01 WGE had a total of 71,182.65 Euros in its account. This was comprised of 71,487.75 in investments and 7,182.65 in the current account. This is compared to a total of 77,000 Euros on 31st October 2000. However, the current total given above does not take into account the profit from Euroecho 4 which amounted to 63,819 Euros which has yet to be paid into the WGE account. With this amount included the current surplus is 135,001.65 Euros.

Euroecho 4 -Lisbon 7-10 Dec 2000

The Euroecho 4 meeting was held in Lisbon. There were a total of 1244 registered participants, 36% more than attended Euroecho 3 in Vienna. Representatives from a record of 66 countries converged to what is now established as the most important annual Echocardiography meeting in Europe. Portugal, Italy and the United Kingdom were the three top countries in terms of abstract submission. This represented a significant change from the previous year. Those 3 countries were followed by Sweden, the Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Spain, Poland and Belgium in numbers of abstracts submitted.

The Edler Lecture, entitled "Transoesophageal Echocardiography in Perspective", was given by Professor Peter Hanrath (Aachen, Germany).

The Euroecho Lecture, entitled "The Future of Cardiac Imaging", was given by Professor Alessandro Distanto (Pisa, Italy).

Joint Scientific Sessions were also held with the Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Working Group; the Working Group on Left Ventricular Function and The American Society of Echocardiography.

An important innovation of EuroEcho 4 was the introduction of a parallel Basic Clinical Teaching Course in

Echocardiography during the Scientific Sessions. Although some 50 participants were planned for the actual participation was some 150 delegates This clearly indicated a need for more basic clinical teaching courses on Echocardiography to be established within Europe.

Euroecho 5 - Nice December 5-8 December 2001.

This will commence with a Joint Meeting with the French Society of Echocardiography which will precede the official start of the Euroecho meeting. Euroecho 5 will commence on Wednesday December 4th at 4.30 pm with the Opening Ceremony followed by the "Edler Lecture" to be given by Prof B Diebold (Paris). The opening ceremony will include a tribute to Dr Inge Edler who died earlier this year. The Euroecho Lecture, to be held on the 7 December will be given by Dr J Tajik (Rochester).

Joint Scientific Sessions will also be held with the Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Working Group as well as the Working Groups of Left Ventricular function and Myocardial & Pericardial disease. There will also be a further Joint ESC/ASE session to further our cooperation with the American Society of Echocardiography. A second Clinical Teaching Course in Echocardiography will be run in parallel with the Scientific Sessions. The Course will be organized by the Educational Sub Committee.

ETP Courses 2000-01

During the year, two ETP courses were organized by WGE; one on Contrast Echocardiography, (held at the Heart House) and a second Teaching Course held in Varna, Bulgaria. Both were well attended and successful.

The European Journal of Echocardiography

The first full volume of the new Journal of the Working Group on Echocardiography (published by Elsevier) was available in March 2000. Initially, 4 issues were planned per year. During the first year the number of subscribers increased to 471. However, the number of papers submitted has increased significantly during the last few months and the need for a change to a bi-monthly publication is currently under discussion with the publishers. There will be a further significant increase in those receiving the journal during 2002 as full registration to Euroecho will automatically include an EJE subscription. To submit papers please write to:

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ESC - Stockholm - Sept 2001:

WGE has 8 WG sessions at the Stockholm meeting; 3 Focus sessions and 4 other sessions held jointly with other Working Groups (in which WGE is not the main organizer). This represents a significant fall in the number of sessions compared to previous years despite a significant increase in WG Membership.

Dr Petros Nihoyannopoulos is completing his term of 4 years as the Honorary Secretary of the WGE and he is standing down from this post next year. The position of a new Honorary Secretary will therefore be up for election in August 2001. These elections will take place during the Open Meeting of the Working Group during the ESC meeting in Stockholm.