

Working Groups

ANNUAL REPORT 1999 – 2000

The Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology had another successful year. Activities of the WG can be summarized as follows:

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

Beyond the objectives of the Society, Working Group 5 has some specific end-points. Among these, one of the most important is that of improving the quality of cardiac imaging by promoting the dialogue with other techniques such as echocardiography and magnetic resonance. Our Working group enthusiastically supported the formation of the Science Council, and one of our former Chairmen is now the Chairperson of our cluster.

On the same line, during the last year Working Group 5 continued to cooperate with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and with the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) in order to optimize nuclear cardiology in Europe and to provide optimal quality standards. Finally, Working Group 5 continued to encourage research and to take part in the organization of the annual scientific meeting of the Society.

SESSIONS ORGANIZED AT THE ESC CONGRESS 2000

In occasion of the ESC Congress 2000, Working Group 5 has organized two main sessions:

- ▶ Risk assessment in infarcted patients by nuclear cardiology;
- ▶ Optimal use of cardiac imaging in asymptomatic patients.

Furthermore, Working Group 5 will participate with a computer demo based on cardiac SPECT to the special session organized by Working Group Computers in Cardiology. During this 90 minutes session, the state of the art and the major advantages but also limitations of perfusion scintigraphy will be presented using a set of twin computers, the first a work station and the second dedicated to slide presentation. Additional joint sessions have been organized with WGs Echocardiography and Magnetic Resonance.

ACTIVITIES RUN OUTSIDE THE ESC ANNUAL CONGRESS

WG Nuclear Cardiology winter retreat

This year Working Group 5 organized its annual meeting in Kitzbuehel, Austria, at the end of March. The Nucleus and several invited scientists discussed the following main topics:

"Image fusion", the difficult task in clinical cardiology

- ▶ G-SPECT: too good to be true ?
- ▶ Monitoring of therapy in CAD

Cardiac innervation and denervation: from basics to clinics

- ▶ Interplay between baseline function and coronary stenosis in the
- ▶ Precipitation of ischemia: an unresolved dilemma.

Continuing the tradition of our annual meetings, the 10-slide rule continued to be applied in order to limit presentation time and favor discussion. All the presentations have been collected in a dedicated CD.

Educational and Training Program Nuclear Cardiology 2000

This ETP held at the European Heart House in October 1999 continued a very successful series of ETPs on nuclear imaging. This ETP has been based on tutorials on the state of the art of wall motion/perfusion imaging as well as on the new available techniques such as Gated SPECT. Small workshops around computer workstations allowed different groups of participants to discuss cardiac imaging in a clinical case-oriented setting.

Fifth International Congress on Nuclear Cardiology

The Fifth International Congress on Nuclear Cardiology (ICNC5) will be held in Vienna from May 2 to 5, 2001. The congress is a major focus for international academic activity in the field covering basic research, clinical research, and clinical practice. It will be of value not only to nuclear cardiologists and nuclear physicians already in the field, but also to cardiology and nuclear medicine trainees, many of whom now require nuclear cardiology experience as an obligatory part of specialist training. The Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology is organising this meeting in collaboration with the ASNC and the cardiovascular committee of the EANM.

Travel Grants

In occasion of ICNC5, our Working Group will award up to five grants of 1000 EUR each to assist attendance at the meeting for those who are unable to gain sponsorship from their departments or from other sources. Grants will be assigned on review articles of less than 2.000 words scored by 3 referees. Applicants will be offered the opportunity to submit their article to a suitable journal to consider publication, with advice if necessary on appropriate amendments.

NATO Advanced Research Workshop

Thanks to a scientific grant of the NATO series "Science for Peace", all members of WGs linked to cardiac imaging have been invited to participate to this advanced research workshop entitled "Understanding Cardiac Imaging Techniques: From Basic Pathology To Image Fusion" that will be held in Pisa, Italy, on December 1 – 3, 2000. This course, listed in the ECCE program of the ESC, will represent an express link to cardiac imaging not only for cardiologists but also for different specialists involved in imaging techniques.

Cardiovascular Council EANM – WG Nuclear Cardiology partnership

During the last year our working group continued the cooperation with the EANM in the field of nuclear cardiology. In particular, several EANM speakers were invited in occasion of the Barcelona congress to present their experience in working group sessions. Furthermore, several nucleus members participated to the 1999 EANM congress discussing common points of interest in defining the European strategy of nuclear imaging. Finally, our working group proposed a seminar to be held in occasion of the 2000 EANM congress in Paris and participated to the organization of 2nd Teaching Course in Nuclear Cardiology (Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 2000) entitled "A 2000 Update of Basic Aspects and Clinical Utility of Nuclear Cardiology".

Journal

A new educational journal entitled "New Advances in Nuclear Cardiology" has been produced under the joint auspices of the Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology and the EANM Cardiovascular Committee. This journal appears quarterly and contains leading clinical articles on the role of nuclear cardiology techniques in clinical cardiology, more technically oriented articles aimed at nuclear physicians and others directly involved in nuclear cardiology, case reports, and reviews of recent research literature.

Newsletter

Juergen vom Dahl (Aachen, D), Chairman elect of Working Group 5 and Claudio Marcassa (Veruno, I) for the Cardiovascular Council EANM continued their cooperation in editing the Working Group newsletter. Thanks to the support of our sponsors and to the EHH staff, the newsletter is mailed every six months to all working group and EANM members and is also distributed at the ESC stand in occasion of the ESC annual congress. In the future, an additional effort will be made to include the entire cluster in the mailing list.

Sponsorship

During last year, several meetings have been organized under the auspices of Working Group 5:

- ▣ Euro Cardiac Magnetic Resonance 2000 (Amsterdam, June 2000)
- ▣ Nuclear Cardiology Today: 2000 and BEYOND (Cesena, June 2000)
- ▣ International educational courses on cardiac heart failure at the CNR Institute of Clinical Physiology, Pisa, Italy (second half of 1999).

MEMBERSHIP WG NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

As of July 2000, the official list of Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology included 361 members. During the last year, several new members were accepted by the Nucleus. Industry Mailing List continued to be updated and contains contact persons that the Nucleus has inside the major radiopharmaceutical and nuclear medicine Companies. As the members' list, this parallel list is available at our ESC website.

REGISTRIES, SURVEYS

Our working group accepted to participate to the ESC project Euro Heart Survey in relation to noninvasive cardiac imaging techniques. To this purpose, our network and that of the EANM will be able to map the availability of nuclear imaging across Europe.

STUDY GROUPS

- ▣ EC guidelines on education and training in radiation protection for medical exposures.
Experts of Working Group 5 revised the EC guidelines on radiation protection suggesting specific rules for medical exposure during nuclear cardiology studies. The revised version has been finished in November 1999.
- ▣ Vth framework of the EU.
Many scientists belonging to our Working Group proposed or participated as main investigators to the Vth framework with study protocols based on prognostic impact of tissue viability, on image fusion and on imaging techniques in patients with coronary artery disease characterized by noninvasive techniques. Independently of the acceptance by the EU, these protocols contributed to connecting investigators inside and outside our working group and in defining the basis for a more structured participation to the VIth framework in 2003.

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Chairman Working Group Nuclear Cardiology

Pisa, July 2000