

# **WORKING GROUP 17 ON DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY AND PATHOLOGY**

## **AIMS**

- ? To promote and organize research in the fields of cardiac embryology, anatomy, molecular biology and genetics as well as pathology of congenital and acquired heart disease.
- ? To gather and exchange information regarding research and related activities within the Working Group and with interest to members of the Working Group and other groups or individuals
- ? To contribute to the organization and preparation of the Annual ESC Congress, and to participate and support other scientific meetings and symposia
- ? To establish appropriate recommendations for the ESC regarding the aforementioned fields of its own interest
- ? To organize Teaching Workshops on suitable topics
- ? To arrange Task Forces to discuss issues of contemporary importance to the Working Group and publish appropriate guidelines and recommendations
- ? To design and coordinate scientific research in the aforementioned fields of its own interest
- ? To hold regular meetings of the Working Groups

## **Activities**

### **Biannual meeting**

The Working group was hosted by D.Franco, R Munoz-Chapuli and collaborators for a biannual Spring meeting in Mijas, Spain. This Cardiovascular Development and Pathology Meeting was attended by over 80 persons. Several successful scientific sessions were organized. Moreover three educational sessions took place with hands-on demonstrations of congenital and pathological cardiac specimen. The next meeting in 2008 will take place in Italy.

### **ESC**

The influence of the Working group in the Annual ESC conference is mainly in the educational Hands-on sessions which are very well attended over the last years. In the scientific sessions our input is limited to the Basic Science Track. Direct input with respect of session slots and its contents was for the second year not allowed by the cluster (and its chairman prof. O. Oto) in which the WG was placed, although several proposals from the WG were rated high enough. This situation has a negative influence on the visibility of the WG within the ESC, the input of the members into ESC activities and the attendance of the annual meetings. Individual members (drs Wenink and Angelini) participate in Guidelines of the ESC.

## **Membership**

The current number of members is close to 100. Uncertainty exists about some persons with respect of their address and activity. The number of new applications rises slowly each year.

### **Financial position of the WG**

The position is very stable in that it relies only upon the annual contribution of the ESC. This implies also that WG contributions to Meetings must be kept to a poor minimum. Every activity of the WG must be self-sustaining, requiring much effort of the local organizers. Only from this year on the Hands-on sessions in the Annual ESC meetings receive additional support. This is regarded as very positive for the presenters as well as for the backing and support of the WG.