

Annual report 2005-2006 ESC WG 23: Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis

Chairman: Gerard Pasterkamp

Vice chairman: Lale Tokgozoglu

The objective of the Working Group of pathogenesis of atherosclerosis is to advance understanding of initiation and progression of atherosclerotic disease. In addition, new treatments for atherosclerosis and atherosclerosis related diseases are investigated.

Activities, initiatives:

1- At the Barcelona meeting 2005 we discussed the visibility of the WG 23.

In the year following the ESC meeting in Munchen 2004 we successfully recruited new members. The WG23 increased from 120 to about 199 within this year. In 2005-2006 the number of members has increased to 225. In Barcelona we decided that we will continue with increasing the visibility of the activities of WG23 and invite more researchers to become a member of the WG23. Also this year we will actively approach abstract presenters in the field of atherogenesis. At the meeting in Barcelona data were presented reflecting number of WG members in relation to Nationality. For each country it was quite obvious that the number of members is low and not reflecting a significant percentage of researchers actively involved in the research field. Therefore, the chairman announced an initiative that invited speakers who are not members of the WG will be asked to accept a membership and stimulate the WG activities within their research groups.

2- The number of symposia encompassing vascular research was increased during the Barcelona meeting compared with the two previous meetings in Munich and Stockholm. In 2005 sessions had been mailed to the Basic science council that evaluated and merged proposals for the meeting in 2006. Considering the scores it may be concluded that this approach is successful. For the ESC meeting in 2006, 25 proposals for atherosclerosis related sessions had been submitted of which 8 were accepted. Seven originated from the basic science council. The sessions were well attended.

3- The WG23 agreed to support a meeting on translational medicine in Zeist, 21-22 November 2006 in the Netherlands with the topic "innate immunity in inflammatory diseases". Most attention was paid to atherosclerosis.

4- At present the WG23 is the only working group that will have a new chairman elected in 2007. All other WGs had their chairman elected this year. During the Barcelona meeting we discussed the extension of the chairmanship for one year so that the next election will be at the same meeting as for all other working groups (2008). Chairman of WG 23 is Gerard Pasterkamp and vice chairman is Lale Tokgozoglu.

5- Current nucleus members are: Johannes Waltenberger (1999), Seppo Yla-Herttuala (1998), Andrew Baker (1999), Keith Channon (1999), Cathy Shanahan (2000), Olle Wiklund (2002), Rob Krams (2003), Gerard Pasterkamp (2001), Lale Tokgozoglu (2000), Prof. M. Naruszewicz (2006)

Gerard Pasterkamp
Chairman WG 23