

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

Working Group 6

Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation

Annual Scientific Report 2008-2009

Objectives:

The Working Group "Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation" promotes clinical and basic cardiovascular research in microcirculation and coronary pathophysiology, and it welcomes scientists from

various disciplines who share a common interest in this field. The aims of the Working Group are (1) to advance an integrative understanding of the physiology and pathophysiology of coronary vessels

(2) to support investigations of the coronary vascular biology in health and disease

(3) to address prevention and to improve diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease, by preparing and coordinating registry and trial studies.

The Working Group disseminates reliable information related to these fields through its annual conference,

by preparing sessions for the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology, and by publishing

review articles.

Sessions organized at the ESC annual congress:

The WG has planned and conducted several different sessions at the ESC meeting in Barcelona 2009,

including the follows.

Syndrome X: in patients with acute coronary syndrome

Endothelial function from bench to bedside

Assessing coronary microvascular dysfunction: clinical relevance

Activities run outside and inside the ESC Annual Congress

Strong educational efforts have included meetings organized under the auspices of the WG. In particular, a

very successful annual WG-meeting "was held in Rome December 12 to 14, 2009 . This meeting brought together basic and clinical scientists in cardiovascular medicine to discuss recent advances of the role of coronary atherothrombosis in acute coronary syndrome.

New Members

The membership of the WG is constantly acceding and currently involves 157members.

Current and future projects

The WG has introduced (and funded) the new Young Investigator Award on "Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation", which will be allocated for the first time at the annual ESC meeting in Barcelona 2006. The WG has also funded the International Registry of Acute Coronary Syndromes registry study in Transitional Countries (ISACS-CT) is both a retrospective (over a one year period) and prospective (over a three year period) study which was designed in order to obtain data of patients with acute coronary syndromes in countries with economy in transition, and herewith control and optimize internationally guideline recommended therapies in these countries. There are a total of 132 Collaborating Centers in 11 transitional countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Poland, Russian Federation, Romania, Serbia/Montenegro,

Ukraine) and a total of 40 centers in 5 industrialized countries (Italy, Finland United Kingdom , United States) that serve as control . The Registry is designed with 4 aims, (1) documentation of the characteristics of all patients presenting to the enrolled centers with STEMI or NSTEMI (2) documentation of in-hospital outcome, and outcome rates at 6 month and 1 year, (3) documentation of interventional cardiac procedures and related complications (4) documentation of therapeutic regimens and investigation conformity of treatment with already established guidelines. The registry encourages optimal individualization of evidence based therapies, and the international patient body ensures good representation of multiple practice patterns.

Publications:

Members of the WG were involved in writing and reviewing of the article” A review of methods for assessment of coronary microvascular disease in both clinical and experimental settings. Cardiovasc Res. 2008;80:165-74. Large numbers of publications were published by members of our WG.

Financial situation:

The financial situation is improving as we received some extra funding for our activities. A reliable balance could be done in the next annual report as the ESC rules are changing.

Raffaele Bugiardini

Chairman, WG 6 on “Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation”