

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY
Working Group 6
Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation
Annual Scientific Report 2003-2004

The former Working Group on “Microcirculation” has been rearranged and renamed and is now entitled Working Group on “Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation”.

Within this process of *restructuration* the objectives of the Working group have been adapted:

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

- to advance an integrative understanding of the physiology and pathophysiology of coronary vessels and terminal vascular beds
- to support classical microcirculation research as well as investigations of the coronary vascular biology in health and disease
- to address prevention and to improve diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease

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.

In light of the new ESC structure of *Associations* the Working Group on Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation is currently exploring (together with other interested Working Groups) the possibilities to join forces in creating another Association, e.g. centered on ischemic heart disease.

The newly created *Council for Basic Cardiovascular Research* within the ESC has been endorsed by different Working groups including ours. Axel Pries, as a delegate of our WG, has been elected as a member of the Nucleus of the Council.

Sessions organised at the ESC annual congress:

The WG has planned and conducted a couple of different sessions at the ESC meeting in Munich 2004, including the follows.

Microvascular disease: pathophysiology and clinical implications	Chairperson(s) : A.F. Gallino (Bellinzona, CH), S. Haunsö (Copenhagen Ö, DK)
New biomarkers for acute coronary syndromes	Chairperson(s) : L.C. Wallentin (Uppsala, SE), F. Crea (Rome, IT)

Activities run outside the ESC Annual Congress

Strong educational efforts have included meetings organized under the auspices of the WG. In particular, a very successful meeting of the newly joined Working Groups of Microcirculation and Coronary Pathophysiology was held in Siena from June 27 till June 30, 2004 under the title Myocardial Revascularization. This international symposium organized by the former chairman of the Working Group, Prof. Filippo Crea, and Prof. Mario Marzilli was designed for a multi-disciplinary audience. It brought together physicians involved in cardiovascular medicine and infectious and immune diseases to discuss recent advances in the role of inflammation and infection in coronary artery diseases. At the meeting, microvascular dysfunction and coronary atherothrombosis, post-ischemic recovery, microvascular mechanisms regulating coronary function, microcirculation effects of diabetes and hypertension, inflammatory mechanisms, biological revascularization approaches and the role of stem cells were discussed in depth.

Chairmanship and nucleus composition

The outgoing Chairman, Filippo Crea (Rome, Italy), handed over chairmanship of the Working Group for the following two years to the new Chairman, Michael Weis (Munich, Germany) in September 2004. Mario Marzilli (Sienna, Italy) was elected as the new vice-Chairman.

Raffaele Bugiardini (Bologna), Juan Carlos Kaski (London), Volker Schächinger (Frankfurt), and Hans Hölschermann (Gießen) were elected as new members of the nucleus.

Raffaele Bugiardini (Bologna) was elected for the position of Treasurer of the Nucleus of the Working Group and Peter Hansen (Denmark) was elected as the new Scientific Secretary.

New Members

The membership of the WG is constantly acceding and currently involves 193 members.

Publications:

The paper “Alloimmunity and nonimmunologic risk factors in cardiac allograft vasculopathy” has been published on behalf of our Working Group in the European Heart Journal 2003;24:1180-1188.

Michael Weis

Chairman, WG 6 on “Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation”