

Working Group 6

Annual Report 2000-2001

The activity of the WG on Microcirculation has increased significantly during the last year. Particular emphasis has been given to the importance of the fundamental interaction between basic scientists and clinicians. This was a major merit of our past Chairman, Prof. Axel Pries, who encouraged the European Society at different levels to involve basic scientists in educational, training and research programs. This tradition of the Working Group has also been respected particularly with regard to the new composition of the Nucleus including members coming from basic science and by exchange of research fellows between experimental and clinical labs of Nucleus members.

Strong educational efforts have included several meetings organized on behalf of the Working Group and together with other Working Groups, particularly within the Cluster:

- ▣ International Symposium Advances in Vascular Pathology, Monte-Carlo, March 4-6, 2001 (organized by Prof. S. Novo)
- ▣ V Seminario Internacional, Manejo del syndrome coronario agudo (Angina instable e infarto de miocardio), Barcelona, March 30-31, 2001 (organized by Prof. J.C. Kaski)
- ▣ Meeting of the Working Group on Microcirculation, Imola/Bologna, June 15, 2001 (organized by Prof. R. Bugiardini)
- ▣ 2nd European Meeting on Vascular Biology and Medicine, Ulm, September 27-29, 2001 (organized by Prof. R. Busse)

A major effort has been made by Nucleus members and members of the Working Group to propose scientific events for the forthcoming ESC Meeting in Stockholm 2001. A total of seven proposals have been selected for the ESC Meeting, among them one has been chosen as a main session:

- ▣ Therapeutic angiogenesis - how far from routine?
- ▣ White blood cells and vascular remodelling
- ▣ Coronary microvascular dysfunction in essential hypertension
- ▣ Ethical implications of new therapeutical cardiovascular modalities
- ▣ Is microcirculation clinically relevant?
- ▣ Functional assessment of the coronary circulation as a marker of cardiac disease - Part I
- ▣ Functional assessment of the coronary circulation as a marker of cardiac disease - Part II

One of the most original proposals coming from the Working Group on Microcirculation in the past year is the project of a registry on syndrome X, put forward by Prof. Nello Ambrosio and Prof. Juan-Carlos Kaski (coordinator of this European Registry).

Forthcoming activities include a cluster meeting in Nice in 2002 (organized by Prof. Paolo Camici on behalf of the cluster), a meeting in Lugano/Switzerland in 2002 (organized by Prof. Augusto Gallino) as well as a cluster meeting in Rome in June 2003 (organized by Prof. Filippo Crea).

Altogether the Working Group on Microcirculation has reinforced its role and presence within the European Society of Cardiology and within the activities of the cluster in order to promote research in basic science and clinical research in microcirculation.

Prof. A.F. Gallino
Chairman, Working Group on Microcirculation