

From Carlo Patrono

When I joined the Working Group in 1992, it was small and run in a very informal way with the new Co-Chairman being selected by the incoming Chairman as a matter of personal choice. Thus, at the 1992 ESC Congress I was asked by Freek Verheugt to co-chair the Working Group during his two-year chairmanship. We had a fruitful interaction, though our input was largely limited to putting forward proposals for the next ESC Congress. I guess the reason I was asked was related to the decision made by the previous chairpersons (all clinical cardiologists or clinicians interested in vascular medicine) to alternate a clinical cardiologist with a basic scientist interested in platelets and platelet pathophysiology & pharmacology. This has become a tradition ever since.

At the time, I had left my job at Farmitalia Carlo Erba in Milan and had moved to the Chair of Pharmacology at the University of Chieti "G. d'Annunzio" School of Medicine. When my turn came of becoming chairman of the Working Group, in the summer of 1994, I decided to talk to John Martin. He was then visiting Rome on a regular basis, because of a scientific collaboration with Attilio Maseri. Thus, we met in Rome and had a drink in Piazza Navona sitting on the sunny side of the Piazza at a small enoteca. John was enthused with the idea of working as a team in reshaping the *modus vivendi* of our Working Group. Together, we decided to pursue the following agenda: 1. to increase the size of the Working Group by promoting new initiatives; 2. to establish a Nucleus of 5-6 people to manage the various activities; 3. to have a formal election by the membership of potential candidates to the Nucleus. By the time John Martin took over as chairman in 1996, the membership had grown from about 30 to over 100 members and a number of important people (for the future life of the Working Group) had been elected to become members of the Nucleus, including Des Fitzgerald, Raffaele De Caterina and Lina Badimon, who then went on to become chairpersons over the next six years.

During our tenure, John and I tried hard to convince the ESC Board to allocate more resources to the Working Groups and less to cleaning the Heart House! And things have moved in the right direction during the last 6 years or so, largely thanks to the increasingly successful involvement of John in ESC policy. On a personal note, whatever story John tells about the two of us ending up in the Emergency Room of the Karolinska Hospital in the summer of 1997, it was me who paid the hospital admission ticket in Swedish crowns (British Professors do not usually carry local currency) while John was telling the admission lady that he was a Professor of Cardiology who knew all about how he should be treated. And the rest is history...

Carlo Patrono, FESC
Chairperson 1994-1996

Reviewed October 2016