Activity Report

ESC COUNCIL ON BASIC CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE
FISCAL YEAR 2020
Dear colleagues and all of you interested in basic and translational cardiovascular science,

The period 2019 – 2020 has been a very special one; unlike any other one since the foundation of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science, many years ago.

In 2019, our activities have prospered. The offers of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science continued to grow and received high recognition in the field. We managed to bring together a growing number of young and active basic scientists, both at the Basic Science Summer School 2019 and at the unique ESC Congress, in Paris, in late summer 2019. A record number of travel grants were awarded to active presenters travelling from all over the world to meet their peers in person and to discuss the latest scientific results and developments.

In 2020, all our activities had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. First of all, the Frontiers of Cardiovascular Biomedicine (FCVB) 2020 congress in Budapest had to be postponed only a few weeks before its opening. Fortunately, we managed to preserve all efforts, preparations and grants by shifting the whole congress into April 2021. I do hope to see you all at FCVB 2021 in Budapest next April.

Likewise, the annual ESC Congress 2021 in Amsterdam had to be transferred to a digital experience. The ongoing pandemic makes it impossible to have a global convention with personal exchange and interactions. Instead the Congress Programme Committee has worked hard to generate an online programme. Not all of our contributions to the programme as put together in the Basic Science Prescope can be maintained. Nevertheless, we hope that we will be able to reconvene in 2021, intensify our scientific exchange and continue our efforts to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

Stay healthy and well!

Johannes Waltenberger
Highlights from 2019-2020

- **Individual direct membership** introduced in 2020

- Held **Basic Science Summer School** aimed at early stage researchers in basic and translational science.

- €73,000 invested in **grants and awards**.

- Organised the **Basic Science Precope**, helping to build the basic science scientific programme at ESC Congress 2019

- Organised the **Basic Science Poster Reception** during ESC Congress 2019
Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science Nucleus
2018-2020

Johannes Waltenberger
Chairperson

Christian Weber
Chairperson-Elect

Jeremy Pearson
Past Chairperson

Johann Wojta
Secretary

Imo Hoefer
Treasurer
Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science Board 2018-2020

The Board of the Council is composed of representatives from the ESC Working Groups and from non-ESC sister organisations concerned with basic science.

➢ Gemma Vilahur Working Group on Thrombosis
➢ Joost Slujiter Working Group on Cellular Biology of the Heart
➢ Thomas Thum Working Group on Myocardial Function
➢ Dirk Duncker Working Group on Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation
➢ Yehuda Adler Working Group on Myocardial and Pericardial Diseases
➢ Robert Kelly Working Group on Development, Anatomy and Pathology
➢ Christian Torp-Pedersen Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy
➢ Blanca Rodriguez Working Group E-Cardiology
➢ Dobrev Dobromir Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology
➢ Paul Evans Working Group on Atherosclerosis and Vascular Biology
➢ Steven Chamuleau Working Group Cardiovascular Regenerative and Reparative Medicine
➢ Akos Koller European Society for Microcirculation
➢ Jozef Dulak European Vascular Biology Organisation
➢ Sean Davidson International Society of Heart Research - European Section
➢ Rhian Touyz European Council for Cardiovascular Research
➢ Lale Tokgozoglu European Atherosclerosis Society
➢ Cristina Basso Association for European Cardiovascular Pathology
➢ Peter Ferdinandy Summer School Chairperson
➢ Stephane Heymans Ex-officio: HFA liaison Heart Failure Association
➢ Tomasz Guzik Ex-officio: Editor in Chief of Cardiovascular Research
➢ Joseph Wu Ex-officio: AHA liaison American Heart Association (AHA)
➢ Albano Meli Ex-officio: SoT representative Scientists of Tomorrow (SoT)
Membership

In early 2020 the Council launched its direct individual membership scheme. The Council also brings together basic science organisations in Europe and ESC Working Groups.

The Scientists of Tomorrow (SoT) is a group of young, proactive, basic and clinical researchers, who work closely with the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science. This community reached 900 members by March 2020 via the LinkedIn platform where basic scientists from all around the world are able to discuss major issues and discoveries. The SoTs contributed to the organisation of the Basic Science Summer School in June 2019.

Scientists of Tomorrow Nucleus

*Left to right*
Rui Adao, Monika Gladka, Mahmoud Abdellatif, Albano Meli, Constanze Schmidt, Sveva Bollini
Congress

Basic Science continued to be delivered at ESC Congress in a dedicated village. In 2019, the Council collected 60 proposals for ESC Congress 2020 that it refined for submission as part of its pre-scope process.

During ESC Congress 2019, the Council held its annual Basic Science Poster Reception, an informal event where young basic scientists can meet with poster authors and recipients of the Council’s grants and awards, as well as basic science colleagues from around the globe.

58 travel grants were awarded by the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science for abstract presenters to attend ESC Congress 2019.
Research

During 2019-2020, the Council awarded:

➢ Five First Contact Initiative Grants to allow young scientists to establish contact with hosting institutions with the aim of obtaining a fellowship or research affiliate position.
➢ One Basic Research Fellowship to enable a researcher to spend one year in a European research laboratory.
➢ Two Outstanding Achievement Awards to recognise investigators of exceptional merit.
Education

Basic Science Summer School

In June 2019, the Council held its biennial Summer School, which aims to educate and inspire a new generation of leaders in cardiovascular basic and translational research. There were 67 participants and 29 faculties from 23 different countries.

Cardiovascular Research

Cardiovascular Research (CVR) is the ESC’s international journal for basic and translational research, (IF 7.014).

The Cardiovascular Research editorial team and the Scientists of Tomorrow continue to collaborate to produce Cardiovascular Research Onlife, an online platform linking Cardiovascular Research with the wider scientific community.

In 2019-2020 published articles included:

- Cardiovascular benefits of intermittent fasting
- Scientists on the Spot: Putting a halt to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Scientists on the Spot: Moving forward from myocardial injury
- ‘Veni, Vidi, Vici’: how to arm your troops in the battlefield of cardiac repair