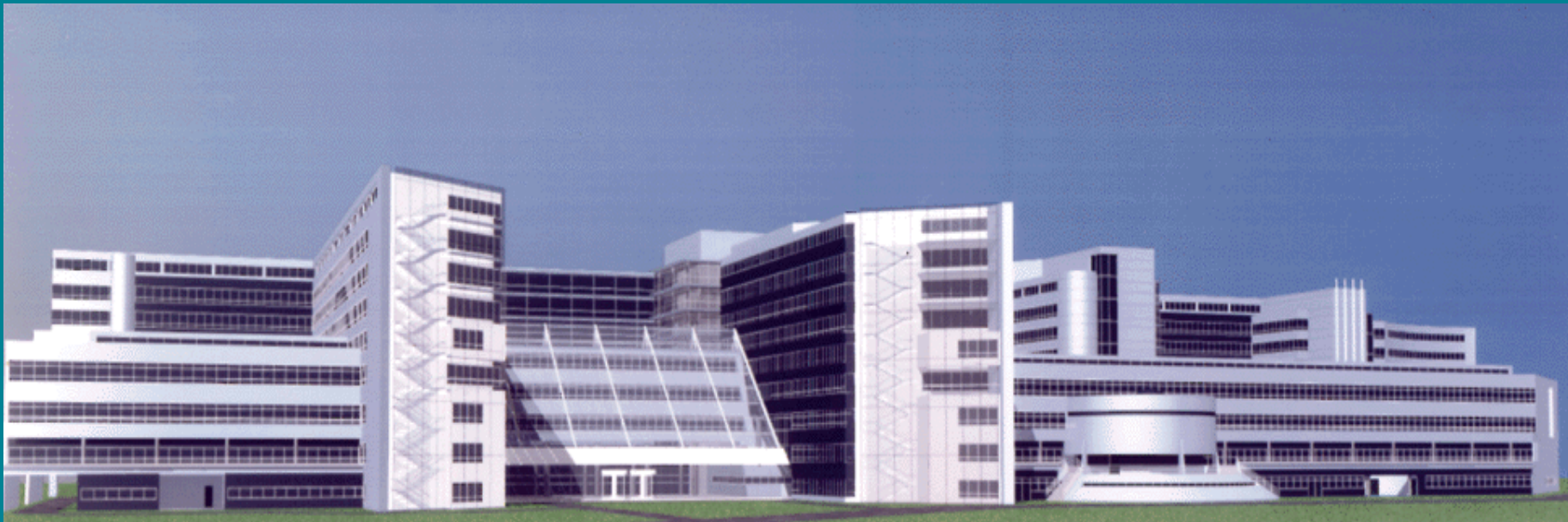


# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE

Jean -Yves LE HEUZEY  
Georges Pompidou Hospital,  
René Descartes University, Paris 5



H E G P



**EHRA summit 2 – 3 April 2007**



# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (I)

- Organization of a national diploma, since 2006 (DIU, diplôme interuniversitaire) :

« **Interuniversity diploma of arrhythmology and stimulation** »

- Previously : 2 different diplomas



(new diploma organised when the 2 working groups, arrhythmology and stimulation, of the french society of cardiology, merged in 2006)

# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (II)

- **Diploma of stimulation** : organized for more than 10 years, about 150 applicants each year (50% out of France), duration 2 years, rate of success about 70%
- **Diploma of arrhythmology** : organized since 2002, about 50 applicants each year (30% out of France), duration 2 years, rate of success about 80%

# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (III)

- **Interuniversity diploma** : each university is independent, the corrections of the examination are made in each university
- But : **the courses are the same** for all candidates, given in Paris, by about 50 different lecturers in the new format, coming from all the country and **the questions of the examination are the same** for all the applicants with an examination organized at the same time in the different universities, at the end of the second year in this new format
- Applicants can register in one of the universities organizing the diploma, i.e. about 15 in all the country



# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (IV)

- **Organization of the new national diploma :**  
first year 2006, second year 2007  
courses during one full week in 2006 (arrhythmology)  
and one full week in 2007 (stimulation)  
40 hours of course each year
- **Responsibles :** J. Clementy (stimulation), J.Y. Le Heuzey  
( arrhythmology)
- **About 250 applicants** (40% out of France : Tunisia,  
Marocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Belgium)

# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (V)

- **The first examination will be organized in next June** : duration 3 hours, 2 « course questions » (one for arrhythmology, one for stimulation), 8 « quizz » questions, with one or two EKGs for each quizz (4 for arrhythmology, 4 for stimulation)
- **Validation of practical experience** by each « maitre de stage », (i.e. head of electrophysiology laboratory)

# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (VI)

- **Training possible** in  $\approx$  80 centers, 40 from university hospitals, 30 from private hospitals and some in general hospitals
- « **Accreditation** » of the centers by the universities necessary to receive applicants
- Devices implanted in France in 2006 : 60634 pacemakers (including 2403 CRT - P) and 6584 defibrillators (including 1967 CRT – D)
- Number of pacing centers in France  $\approx$  500, number of centers performing stimulation+defibrillation+ablation  $\approx$  80



# ... so what ?

Number of  
patients  
**600,000**

Number of  
cardiologists  
**5,000**

Centers  
performing  
AF ablation  
**20**

Maximum\*  
number of  
patients/year  
**15,600**

**2.6% !**

Courtesy C. de Chillou

\* 3 patients /day per  
center = 12h/day





# ACCREDITATION IN FRANCE (VII)

- **The diploma is not compulsory** for practice of ablation, stimulation or defibrillation

... but only **some centers are authorized** in France for implantation of defibrillators and resynchronisation pacemakers (about 80)

- The authorizations are **given in each region** by the « Agence régionale d'hospitalisation » (about 15 in France, branches of the ministry of health), after submission by each group of an application for authorization, in which it is asked if the members of the group have obtained the diploma, but it is not compulsory

# CONCLUSIONS

**1- Well established diploma** merging arrhythmology and stimulation, merging university, public and private centers in France under the auspices of French Society of Cardiology

**2- Difficulties in administrative management** due to the fact that the diploma is an interuniversity diploma, with an independence of each university and no central administration

**3- Difficulties to find enough centers** able to train the applicants to specialized procedures, mainly ablation, especially AF ablation

