

MEETING REPORT

ESC WORKING GROUP DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY AND PATHOLOGY NUCLEUS MEETING

Alberobello (Bari, Italy), 11-12 March 2008

The ESC WG Developmental Anatomy and Pathology nucleus meeting was held over two main sessions on Tuesday 12th afternoon and Wednesday 13th morning, respectively. It was attended by seven nucleus members (Gilda Caruso, chairman; Diego Franco; vice-chairman; Annalisa Angelini; Thomas Brand; Robert Kelly; Jorg Manner; Elzsbietta Czarnowska), since teaching duties and/or previous commitments unabled the three other WG nucleus members (Robert Poelmann; Past-Chairman; Arnold Wenink, Treasurer; Deborah Henderson) to attend it.

During the first session, our WG Chairman Gilda Caruso gave updates regarding the recent ESC activities held at the ESC Heart House during the Spring Summit. Among the most relevant topics highlighted therein, the WG nucleus members were informed regarding the commitment of the ESC Board to create an ESC Research Foundation. WG nucleus members were then invited to provide suggestions to enhance our WG participation of this ESC initiative.

Secondly, several topics regarding our WG contribution and role to the ESC were also commented and debated:

- a) It was proposed and positively voted that Gilda Caruso, Annalisa Angelini and Diego Franco will serve as voting delegates on the ESC election process to be held in Munich 2008.
- b) Action was undertaken to provide updated WG member list to the ESC WG department. We went through our previous list and upon WG nucleus member consensus, several not active and without updated corresponding address were proposed to be deleted. These proposals will be soon sent to Celine Serio at the ESC for further processing.
- c) It was emphasised the possibility to proposed educational activities from our WG. Several initiatives were proposed and we will soon proceed to draft them more appropriately in due time.
- d) Within the ESC WG nucleus meeting several decisions were also undertaken regarding the upcoming WG bi-annual meeting in 2008 as well as the following meetings. In this respect, a selection committee for the ESC Council of Basic Cardiovascular Sciences travel awards was selected (Marina Campione, Elzsbietta Czarnowska and Diego Franco) and Prague was presented as candidate (David Sedmera) city to hold our next ESC WG meeting in 2011.
- e) The WG nucleus members were also informed about the current ESC policy of new WG nucleus members. We thoroughly

discussed about this topic and came with the proposal of sending to the ESC Working Group Department a list of the participants of the upcoming WG bi-annual meeting, inviting then by email to directly apply to the on-line WG membership. WG nucleus members will be provided with updated info regarding the WG activities.

- f) Finally, we underwent into the WG nucleus composition for the next coming years, initiating the process of advertising the vacant positions and the corresponding nominations. On-line voting process will be soon implemented as part of the new ESC policy on this matters.

On the second day, Robert Kelly, as WG nucleus member and representative of our WG to the ESC Council of Basic Cardiovascular Sciences informed us about the recent developments and initiatives recently discussed at the European Heart House on the ESC CBCS meeting.

Among the most important issue discussed recently was the initiative of the ESC CBCS to held a transversal cardiovascular scientific meeting on basic sciences in 2010. Several cities and dates have been proposed and consensus from the WG nucleus members was obtained to support Berlin, October 2010 as our best choice. In this context, ideas for upcoming sessions were asked, highlighting our commitment to provide a hands-on cardiovascular anatomy and development session at the future ESC CBCS meeting. Furthermore, session proposals will be soon asked to the WG nucleus members.

Robert also informed us about the requirement of the ESC CBCS to provided symposia proposals for the next year ESC annual meeting in Barcelona (2010). Deadline will be soon provided. Within this context, we thoroughly discussed to role and success of the WG proposal submission over the last few years and some recommendation and general WG policies were obtained.

Finally, he informed us about the initiative of the ESC CBCS to held a Summer School in Cardiovascular Development. Inputs for the WG group members were asked and so relevant ideas were generated.

After a short coffee-break (see picture), the session went on and Diego Franco, as vice-chairman and WG web editor informed us about the new ESC initiatives such as the ESC WG advertisement policy on the ESC journals and the ESC WG highlights. Several suggestions were done and some of them will be undertaken.

Furthermore, educational programmes to enhance our contribution to the ESC were discussed. It was proposed and positively taken, to generate a series of short scientific reviews to enhance our WG web page quality. Diego Franco will take care of progressive invitations of working nucleus members to provide such reports and soon thereafter WG member and external researcher will be also invited. Secondly, it was proposed and well taken to provide a series of anatomical and pathological illustrations to provide educational tools on our WG web page. Similarly, these initiatives will be pursued.

Finally, it was thoroughly discussed again in this educational context to provide suggestions for putative educational courses at the European Heart House.

To end the meeting, several suggestions/requests were provided by other ESC WG nucleus members. Annalisa Angelini asked to initiate a call for anatomical/pathological experts to provide their willingness to carry out our highly successful anatomical and pathological heart demonstration at the ESC annual meeting. Diego Franco offered to contact two distinct laboratories to provide their expertise on the field and Elzbieta Czarsnowska will aimed to do the same in Poland. Furthermore, a general call will be electronically sent to all our WG member soon, as requested.

In essence, we think that the ESC Board initiative to provide financial resources to gather the WG nucleus members has been highly profitable and a great success. We certainly consider that it will enhance our input to the Society and thus, we aimed to gather again in 2009.

Gilda Caruso, Chairman
Diego Franco, Vice-chairman and Web editor
ESC WG Developmental Anatomy and Pathology