

Annual report 2004-2005 ESC WG 23: Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis

Chairman: Gerard Pasterkamp

Vice chairman: Lale Tokgozoglu

The objective of the Working Group of pathogenesis of atherosclerosis is to advance understanding of initiation and progression of atherosclerotic disease. In addition, new treatments for atherosclerosis and atherosclerosis related diseases are investigated.

Activities, initiatives:

1- In the Munich meeting 2004 (chair prof Dr Waltenberger) we discussed the visibility of the WG 23. We agreed that we should attempt to increase the size of the WG and thereby broaden the critical mass.

In the year following the ESC meeting in Munchen we successfully recruited new members. The WG23 increased from 120 to about 210 within this year. The active participation of more than 40 members and the lively discussions during the ESC meeting in Stockholm 2005 nicely reflected the new spirit and new drive within the Working Group. In Stockholm we decided that we will continue with increasing the visibility of the activities of WG23 and invite more researchers to become a member of the WG23.

2- It was noted that the number of symposia encompassing vascular research was low during the Munich and Stockholm meetings. It was emphasized that this is due to the relative low number of applications suggesting sessions related with the field of atherosclerotic disease. In 2005 sessions will be mailed to the Basic science council that will evaluate and merge proposals for the meeting in 2006. Considering the preliminary scores it may be concluded that this approach is successful and it is expected that vascular biology will be represented in a significant number of symposia in Barcelona 2006.

3- The WG23 actively contributed to the successful relaunch of the European Meeting on Vascular Biology and Medicine. Together with a number of sister societies and Working groups, WG23 put together a scientific program of excellence (chair J Waltenberger). Between September 28 and 30, 2005, more than 420 participants came to the 3rd European Meeting on Vascular Biology and Medicine, held in Hamburg, Germany.

4- After the Stockholm meeting Johannes Waltenberger stepped down as chairman. New chairman of WG 23 is Gerard Pasterkamp and vice chairman is Lale Tokgozoglu.

5- Current nucleus members are: Johannes Waltenberger (1999), Seppo Yla-Herttuala (1998), Andrew Baker (1999), Keith Channon (1999), Cathy Shanahan (2000), Olle Wiklund (2002), Rob Krams (2003), Gerard Pasterkamp (2001). Lale Tokgozoglu (2000).

Gerard Pasterkamp
Chairman WG 23