

Working Groups

Working Group 23 "Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis" of the European Society of Cardiology

News April 25th 2001

1. Preparations for the 23rd ESC Congress, Stockholm, 1-5 September 2001

Members of the Working Group have contributed suggestions for some exciting symposia again this year, with a high rate of success. Below are some of the highlights.

Title	Responsible
New insights into what goes on inside the miraculous monocyte	WG 23
New role of endothelial activation in atherogenesis	Newby
DNA array systems on molecular genetics	WG 23
Cardiovascular risk-benefit of hormone replacement therapy	WG18/23
Lipid-lowering - have we reached the end of the line?	Newby + Int. Ath. Soc.
Inflammatory mechanisms in plaque instability - from basic concepts to new therapies	Newby + EVBA
Mending a broken heart: origin and manipulation of cardiovascular cell phenotype	WG17/23
Nuclear hormone receptor-directed therapy - an emerging concept for cardiovascular disease	Cluster 1 ie WG17/18/23
COX-2 expression and inhibition in cardiovascular disease	WG18/23
White blood cells and vascular remodelling	Weissberg
Two decades of (nearly) fruitless restenosis research: why did we fail?	Karsch
Gene therapy - a choice of powerful new tools	WG 23
Prevention of vein graft failure	Karsch
Advances in the development of new antithrombotic agents	WG 18
Imaging the vulnerable plaque	WG23/18
What matters in ischaemic heart disease: genes or environment	Eur. Ath. Soc.

The greater collaboration with the European Vascular Biology Association foreseen at the Business Meeting had to be postponed because of their commitment to the Ulm meeting (see next item). Nevertheless, the congress promises to have the best programme of basic vascular biology and atherosclerosis research in its history. I hope as many of you as possible will attend and encourage your colleagues and fellows also.

2. 2nd European Meeting on Vascular Biology in Medicine, Ulm, Sept. 27-29, 2001

Note: Abstract deadline extended to May 20th!

I think you will all agree that Rudi Busse and his colleagues have put together an excellent programme, the details of which are included with this mailing. The abstract deadline has been extended to May 20th to allow members of the WG to contribute.

3. Changes in Personnel on the Nucleus!

Prof. Peter Weissberg has asked for personal reasons to step down as Chairman of WG23 at the Stockholm Congress. Prof. Seppo Ylä-Herttuala has therefore agreed to take over one year sooner than expected. Nominations from within the nucleus ([click here to view changes](#)) for the new Co-chair should be sent to Prof. Weissberg before the end of July 2001. Nominees must have agreed to stand! If there is more than one nomination a postal ballot will be conducted before the next Business Meeting.

Since the Business Meeting (see below) Dr Johannes Waltenberger from Ulm was nominated as Treasurer and universally approved by the Nucleus. Dr Lale Tokgozoglul from Ankara was proposed and joined the Nucleus and we look forward to her input in the under-represented area in our WG of genetics of atherosclerosis. Proposals for new Nucleus members to join after Stockholm should also be sent by the end

of July to Prof. Weissberg.

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Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the working Group on the Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Sunday 27th August 2000.

Chairman. Professor Andrew C Newby, Bristol, UK.
In-coming chairman: Professor Peter Weissberg, Cambridge, UK.

1. Proposals to increase basic science exposure and the ESC annual conference.

It has been noted from previous years that a number of the ESC basic science sessions were poorly attended. It was proposed that the WG would organise a satellite session on basic cardiovascular science at the meeting in Stockholm aimed at encouraging basic scientists to attend the satellite and thus the ESC. The meeting next year is to be co-organised by Göran Hansson and Andrew Newby and would be based around 2-3 hot topics in cardiovascular basic science. The exact topics were not finalised at the meeting but would be following consultation with Peter Weissberg. It was also agreed that the format of the meeting should include opportunities for young investigators to present their work, either in poster or platform presentation formats.

2. Session Proposals for Stockholm.

As in previous years the process for proposals for sessions at the next meeting would involve submission through the current chairman, Peter Weissberg by the 15th Sept 2000. It was agreed that the WG needed to continue to propose many high quality sessions to continue the success of the WG sessions at the ESC.

3. Elections to the committee.

- ▣ Peter Weissberg appointed Cathy Shanahan (lecturer, Cambridge, UK) as his secretary for his 2-year reign. Vote passed.
- ▣ Seppo Yla-Hertualla was proposed as co-chairman to Peter Weissberg and will assume chairpersonship in 2 years time. Vote passed.
- ▣ The position of treasurer was discussed. It has evolved that the Treasurer becomes co-chair in 2 years and then to chair. Recently the post has alternated between cardiologist and basic scientist. However, the WG did not agree that we had to strictly adhere to this policy in the future. However, the WG acknowledged that it needed to maintain a healthy balance between basic scientists and clinical cardiologists.
- ▣ Proposals for nucleus members were to be put to Peter Weissberg by 30th September. If too many applicants were involved, a postal ballot would be held.