24th ESC Congress Berlin August 31st to September 4th 2002

Dear Colleagues,

The annual ESC meeting in Berlin will be an even more attractive than usual event for both clinicians and basic scientists involved in Atherosclerosis Research. As usual we were highly successful in proposing topics for the prearranged symposia and thanks is due to the members of the Nucleus and other working group members who made suggestions. Some of these have been incorporated into a specially focused Basic Science Track, details of which are given in the next paragraph. I would like to encourage you especially to bring along your junior colleagues to this meeting as it will provide an intensive experience as well as an overview of more general areas if they wish to attend other sessions.

Basic Science Track

The quality of basic science prearranged sessions at the ESC congresses has been rising progressively. However, the attendance by basic scientists has not increased in proportion, certainly not to the levels at the American Heart Association. Advertising widely to basic scientists well before the abstract deadline, production of integrated programmes that occupy the whole congress and giving basic scientists greater 'ownership' of the selection process could dramatically alter this situation.

The Basic Science Track at the Berlin ESC congress is an initiative designed to achieve these objectives. Together with Committee Members of the ISHR European Section, European Atherosclerosis Society and European Vascular Biology Association 10 related sessions have been organized on "Plasticity and remodelling in the heart and blood vessels". **There will also be two specially selected abstract sessions staged in the same room and each of the abstract presenters will receive a travel grant to cover the full cost of attendance.**

Some of the world's leading experts will address topics that fall into the following areas: The Molecular and Cellular Basis of Myocardial Remodelling, Stem Cell Research, Endothelial Cell Mediators and Signaling, Pathogenesis and Treatment of Unstable Atherosclerosis and Reverse Cholesterol Transport. For more details see the table. About equal numbers of sessions were suggested by Working Groups of the ESC and by members of the basic science societies. While the Basic Science Track will provide a dramatic new focus, at least as many other basic science sessions will also take place, ensuring that there is still something of high quality for all cardiovascular researchers at this ESC congress (see further below).

Session title	Organisers
1. Cell to cell contacts in cardiovascular remodelling	E Dejana (Milan) SJ George (Bristol)
2. Cellular basis of myocardial remodelling	C Ceconi (Brescia) JJ Mercadier (Paris)
3. Myocardial and vascular interstitial matrix in congestive heart failure; does it matter?	M Komajda (Paris)
4. Stem cells in vascular biology; pathophysiological role and therapeutic potential	S Dimmeler (Frankfurt) VM van Hinsbergh (Leiden)
5. Novel approaches to modulate unstable atheroma	R DeCaterina (Pisa) N Marx (Ulm)

Session title	Organisers
6. Inflammation and atherosclerotic plaque rupture	A Tedgui (Paris) G Hansson (Stockholm)
7. Regulation of high density lipoprotein and reverse cholesterol transport	B Nordestgaard (Herlev) E Hurt-Camejo (Gothenburg)
8. Signalling pathways in left ventricular remodelling	C Ceconi (Brescia) JJ Mercadier (Paris)
9. Signal transduction as a key to understand vascular function	S Yla-Herttuala (Kuopio) J Pearson (London)
10. Endothelium-derived relaxant factors; controversies and concensus	TF Lüscher (Zürich) R Busse (Frankfurt)

I am looking forward to seeing you in Berlin.

Seppo Ylä-Herttuala, MD, PhD, FESC
Chairman
Working Group of the Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis
(WG 23)

Other Vascular Biology sessions

Session title	Organiser
1. Vascular gene therapy – croughing tiger or hidden dragon?	C Ceconi (Brescia)
2. Smooth muscle cell proliferation; an old enemy finally vanquished?	AC Newby (Bristol)
3. DNA microarrays of atherosclerotic tissues - identity of new target genes	S Yla-Herttuala (Kuopio)
4. Thrombosis and inflammation in acute coronary syndromes – which comes first?	R DeCaterina (Pisa)
5. Microembolisation during atherothrombosis; basic mechanisms and pathological significance	R DeCaterina (Pisa)

Other Myocardial Biology sessions

Session title	Organiser
1. New insights into counter-regulatory signalling mechanisms in myocardium	D Garcia-Dorado (Barcelona)
2. Cardiac heterogeneity: strategy for survival	G Heusch (Essen)
3. Myocardial death in coronary heart failure	P Barton (Harefield)
4. Potential of stem cells for differentiation into cardiac myocytes	H Eppenberger (Zürich)
5. Adenosine and the heart; new insights from molecular biology	AC Newby (Bristol)
6. Electrical remodelling during ventricular pacing	K Sipido (Leuven)
7. Downregulation of delayed potassium channels in heart failure	K Sipido (Leuven)
8. New insights into reperfusion injury	G Ambrosio (Perugia)
9. Alpha-adrenergic coronary vasoconstriction in man	G Heusch (Essen)