

Thrombosis ESC Working Group

WG BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2010

Chairperson:

Felicita ANDREOTTI
Dept of Cardiovascular Medicine
"Gemelli" University Hospital
00168 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 3015 5415
Fax: +39 06 3055 535
felicita.andreotti@iol.it

Vice-Chairman:

Harald ARNESEN
Department of Cardiology
Ullevål University Hospital
0407 Oslo, Norway
Tel: +47 22119325
Ffax: +47 22117970
harald.arnesen@ullevaal.no
harald.arnesen@uus.no

Past-Chairman and Web Editor:

Kurt HUBER
Cardiology and Emergency Medicine
Wilhelminenhospital
1160 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 49150 2301
Fax: +43 1 49150 2309
kurt.huber@wienkav.at
kurt.huber@meduniwien.ac.at

Secretary & Treasurer:

Robert F. STOREY
Cardiovascular Research Unit
University of Sheffield
Sheffield, S10 2RX, UK
Tel: +44 114 2713964
Fax: +44 114 2711863
r.f.storey@sheffield.ac.uk

WG NUCLEUS MEMBERS

Jean-Philippe COLLET, Paris (FR)
jean-philippe.collet@psl.aphp.fr

Dietrich C.L. GULBA, Dueren (DE)
Dietrich.Gulba@krankenhaus-dueren.de

Joao MORAIS, Leiria (PT)
joaomora@hsaleira.min-saude.pt

Franz-Josef NEUMANN,
Bad Krozingen (DE)
franz-josef.neumann@herzzentrum.de

Lars H. RASMUSSEN, Aalborg (DK)
lhr@dadnet.dk

Agneta SIEGBAHN, Uppsala (SE)
agneta.siegbahn@akademiska.se

Ph. Gabriel STEG, Paris (FR)
gabriel.steg@bch.ap-hop-paris.fr

Minutes of the Nucleus Meeting of the Working Group on Thrombosis, Hotel Relais dell'Orologio, Pisa, Italy, 14 February 2009

Attendees: Felicita Andreotti (FA), Kurt Huber (KH), Robert Storey (RS), Harald Arnesen (HA), Raffaele De Caterina (RDC), Dietrich Gulba (DG), Agneta Siegbahn (AS), Joao Morais (JM), Franz-Josef Neuman (FN), Lars Rasmussen (LR), Jean-Phillipe Collet (JC), Freek Verheugt (FV)

Apologies: Gabriel Steg (GS), Steen Dalby Kristensen (SK), Keith Fox (KF), Lina Badimon (LB)

Welcome: FA welcomed members of the nucleus to the meeting. ESC has started providing funds for these meetings in the amount of Eur 10,000 per annum. Four members have been unable to attend with good reasons.

Nucleus management: FA presented the new letterhead format with the agenda for the meeting and invited members to provide comments on this. The letterhead has 'Thrombosis' prominently placed at the top. The format can be changed if necessary. A new flyer is being produced announcing the new chair and other members; the projects and initiatives have been edited, focussing on educational objectives of the nucleus. JM felt these should include more details about the awards of the WG. RDC felt the 'Guidelines' section should include mention of position papers also. Discussion about links to relevant meetings on the WG Thrombosis website was discussed and felt to be worthwhile.

Overview of ESC Working Groups: FA introduced RDC and the range of ESC WGs. RDC discussed the developments over the last 2 years and assessment of performance of the WGs: Each WG has to submit a report which is requested annually on a formal basis with specific items on the proforma that focus on particular objectives. Information on scientific activity and meetings is requested. RDC stressed the number of members does not correlate with quality, with some small groups performing very well. Scientific activity, with courses and meetings, is particularly important in the performance of WGs. Thrombosis WG is performing satisfactorily but there is room for improvement and the WG needs to be proactive and encourage turnover of personnel. Opportunities for younger members of the WG associated with faster turnover should encourage activity. It is possible to be a member of more than 1 WG. The maximum length of time in the WG nucleus will be 4 years except for those taking the post of Vice Chair and Chair. Therefore most members of the nucleus will occupy their position for only 4 years and this should focus energy on rapidly achieving objectives.

The mission of the ESC: "To reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Europe."

The European Society of Cardiology, The European Heart House - 2035, Route des Colles - Les Templiers - BP 179
06903 Sophia-Antipolis Cedex - France

Tel: +33 (0) 4 92 94 76 00 - Fax: +33 (0) 4 92 94 76 01 - ESC Web Site: www.escardio.org

WG Web Site: www.escardio.org/thrombosis

Overview of ESC Working Groups continued

There have been notable successes in the past with documents that have been widely cited and the WG should work hard to produce more such documents that can inform clinical practice in important clinical areas. Individuals in the nucleus should lead particular projects, sharing this with other members without getting too delayed by waiting for consensus meetings. The money provided to WGs for meetings has increased and the ESC hopes this will stimulate productivity.

KH discussed ways that the group might be able to do more and highlighted ongoing activities to be discussed below; KH mentioned the presence of expert groups throughout Europe such as the European Platelet Academy currently funded by Eli Lilly and Daiichi Sankyo. Could this activity be linked to the WG? RDC felt that this was a possibility if there was an independent output. RS mentioned that the EPA was transforming its status to an independent body with an educational output supported by potentially a range of companies so this could make it attractive as an associated body with the WG.

KH discussed examples of registry and research activities and how members of the WG could collaborate more in ongoing and planned activities. FN has an ongoing research study of platelet monitoring (TRIGGER) which initially has been restricted to Germany but involvement of a CRO may allow extension to other countries later this year. JM mentioned the problems of obtaining funding. KH wondered whether we could use WG funds to support such activities in order to raise the profile of the WG and asked RDC whether the ESC could provide more money to support collaborative work. RDC discussed the development of the ESC Research Foundation which might administer funding for this work in the future and there will be considerable scrutiny about the use of this funding. FA discussed the working relationship between the WG and the ESC and how this could be developed with funding of the WG being an essential ingredient. LR suggested exploring patient organisations as a potential source of funding such as Heart Network.

FV discussed how the annual ESC congress is relatively successful due to input from WGs; he stressed the importance of the WG having an impact in the ESC congress programme. AS proposed that there should be greater emphasis on basic science to encourage engagement of basic science researchers in the congress. KH said there has been a problem with acceptance of basic science proposals in the past. RDC said that it is not possible to expand the proportion of basic science within the congress so there must be intensified effort to maximise the impact of the allocated space, such as designing symposia that include basic science at the beginning followed by clinical science that will be attractive to clinicians who form the majority of attendees. There was consensus that this is a good strategy. RDC suggested more integration of thrombosis with other areas in the various symposia.

Minutes of last WG Meeting: The minutes of the last meeting in Feb 2008 were reviewed. The annual report of 2007/2008 is not yet on the website. KH said there is a significant delay before ESC approves this. FA supported the new template proposed by ESC for the report but KH had been unclear about whether this was a requirement. FA suggested KH provides LR with the minutes for converting these to the new format.

Report of Acute Cardiac Care meeting, Versailles, October 2008: HA highlighted the large contribution of the WG to this meeting, including coagulation in ACS, pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, update on antithrombotic therapy, antithrombotic therapy in NSTEMI, and clinical key points in ACS. The successful format has informed the construction of the Oslo meeting and there was consensus that such collaboration between different WGs should continue. It was highlighted that such meetings reach a wider audience than those attending the ESC congress, including emergency department physicians as well as cardiologists who have been unable to attend the ESC meeting. The WG should maintain a high profile in the area of acute cardiac care. This led to discussion about WG involvement in Heart Failure and EuroPCR which it was felt should be pursued.

Report of EuroThrombosis Science, Barcelona, December 2008: DG reported on behalf of LB. The meeting was well attended for a basic science meeting with good sessions in basic and clinical science. Young scientists had the opportunity to present their work and interact with senior researchers. The final budget and income needs to be confirmed with LB and RS has contacted LB to request this information.

Proposals for ESC 2009: A wide range of proposals, totalling 60, were received by FA and were merged where appropriate. Only 15 could be submitted according to the rules and submission was a time consuming process, requiring email addresses for the speakers etc; following further suggestions to FA a further 5 were submitted. However it then transpired that Thrombosis is a subtopic within the area of Ischaemia, competing with 2 other WGs. FA expressed frustration that consequently there were only 5 symposia allocated to Thrombosis. KH suggested that Thrombosis should be included as a subtopic within other relevant areas. Some proposals were poorly graded, particularly if they were focussed on basic science only. Titles of proposals need to be carefully selected to appeal to physicians. FA was congratulated on her work with submission of proposals.

EuroThrombosis Summit, Oslo, 8-10 Oct 2009: HA described progress which is good. The website is active: www.eurothrombosis-summit2009.no. Boehringer Ingelheim and Bayer are promising to be major sponsors with 8 other possible sponsors, awaiting confirmation, with target budget of EUR 150k. HA received further suggestions for sponsors. JC offered to help HA with communication with Prof Danchin in relation to WG Acute Cardiac Care cooperation. Thrombosis and Haemostasis will receive space for a stand. Up to 250 delegates will be

accommodated. Posters will be invited and travel awards will be provided. There should be recognition of the involvement of the WG Acute Cardiac Care.

New Members 09/2008-02/2009 and Online Membership: Yolande Millo (YM) is coordinating membership applications and provided information on new and current members. The WG has 252 current members with four new members accepted since August 2008. FA asked members of the nucleus to encourage young researchers to apply for membership. Applicants should have publications relevant to thrombosis research. There should be 1 proponent and a letter of support. One application was considered by the nucleus and accepted. There are confidentiality issues restricting the distribution of membership lists but it should be acceptable for the lists to be distributed as a confidential document to the nucleus members. Members who are not contactable by email or post will be removed from the membership list.

Attempts to place a regular newsletter on the website have been frustrated in the past but it was felt to be important to have regular communication with members. LR will include news on the ESC newsletter and KH will aim to place news on the WG website.

'Bleeding' manuscript: A position paper on bleeding in ACS is still being worked on, coordinated by GS. A number of chapters have been provided and some updates have been required during the course of writing. The target will be the European Heart Journal and it will be presented as an activity of the WG. The nucleus felt that GS should be encouraged to complete and submit this important work as rapidly as possible following final approval from the co-authors.

Finance: RS presented the current status of the WG finances. There is a current balance of EUR 106,361 in the account provided Jan 2009 though this is dated 30 Sept 2008. This includes contributions of EUR 15,000 each from AstraZeneca and The Medicines Company. EUR 25,000 was paid to Fundacio Investigacio and EUR 27,316 was credited from the EuroThrombosis Summit 2007. In addition, EUR 10,000 has been approved for funding this WG meeting. RS has emailed attendees with details of how to claim expenses for the meeting. HA has had problems with receiving reimbursement for some expenses in the past which was greeted with concern.

The ESC travel grant details have been submitted for the website but not uploaded yet. 5 ESC travel awards for EUR 1000 were agreed as well as 5 awards for EUR 1000 for EuroThrombosis.

Young Investigator awards were agreed as first prize EUR 1500, second EUR 1000, third EUR 500 (total EUR 3000).

The GREAT grant is proposed to allow researchers to spend time in another centre to develop collaboration or learn a technique and this proposal is still being finalised

but was supported in principle by the nucleus as a means of building networks. KH will liaise with GS about completing the proposal. RS proposed that there should be accountability for expenditure, with successful applicants submitting invoices for approved expenditure. Up to 6 months could be applied for at EUR 2000 per month, totalling EUR 12,000. This could be attractive for sponsorship. FA provided a draft donation letter that is suitable for use by donors.

The above awards will result in total projected expenditure of EUR 25,000 over the next year.

Fundraising was discussed further. LR suggested we need to project how much money we need to raise and what basis the funding will have. Some sponsors are already supporting the ESC and may not want to give further funds to the WG. It was felt that unrestricted funds are very difficult to acquire now. LR and RS will liaise to develop a strategy for funding and expenditure. RDC felt that it was possible to link funds to specific awards, thus associating the company name with the award, and FN volunteered to approach companies in this regard. It was recommended that the ESC is not used for financial management of meetings as this leads to restrictions and retention of a substantial proportion of the surplus.

Website: KH expressed frustration about delays in placing items on the website such as the travel award. FA has found it difficult to identify individuals who are responsible for the WG website. KH questioned why nucleus members cannot place items on the website and will discuss working arrangements when he visits the Heart House. FA attended a Webmasters meeting 2 years ago but felt this was not a practical training meeting, leaving a number of issues unresolved. FA emphasised the importance of the web site and discussed the tools available at this site. LR volunteered to assist KH with the website management.

Participation in ESC Task Forces and Guideline Reviews: RS and JC have joined the task forces for guidelines on dyslipidaemias and peripheral artery disease respectively. The dyslipidaemia task force has met and RS is leading the section on stroke, with second meeting in May in Croatia. The first meeting for the PAD guidelines is in April. KH is involved in the task force for biomarkers and the first part of a manuscript on troponin is in the late stages of preparation, the second part being on NT proBNP. Further work is planned on pro-thrombotic markers. AS is interested to volunteer in the latter activity and KH will ask the organiser of the group (TYGESEN) whether she could step in.

FV has reviewed the heart failure guidelines. 3 further reviews by the WG are planned for guidelines on noncardiac peri-operative management, pulmonary hypertension (FA) and syncope (FA). The group discussed whether the guideline on peri-operative management will be sufficient for guiding management of antithrombotic therapy and it was agreed that this will be reviewed to determine whether a position paper from the WG is necessary to complement this. RDC

explained that involvement of the WG will occur by default for future guidelines. It was agreed that involvement of members outside of the nucleus in this process is to be encouraged.

Position Papers: KH discussed current work to generate a position paper on antithrombotic therapy in atrial fibrillation patients presenting with ACS.

FA presented a proposed position paper on antithrombotic therapy in the elderly. A table of contents has been created for this. The nucleus members were keen to contribute to this.

A position paper on antiplatelet therapy in ischaemic heart disease is believed to be planned by Carlo Patrono (CP) and the nucleus members were enthusiastic about contributing to this. It was agreed to approach CP to request that he chairs this on behalf of the WG.

JM proposed a further position paper on antithrombotic therapy in pregnancy.

The group discussed potentially producing a pocket guidelines on antithrombotic therapy in cardiovascular disease with a working title 'Clinical Thrombocardiology'. It was felt this would be a lot of work but very worthwhile.

LASER Registry: This work is ongoing and there was not time to discuss this in detail.

OAC-PCI Survey: This was felt to be an interesting initiative to assess current practice and RS, JM, DG, FA, and KH were interested in participating in the steering committee for this whilst others did not wish to participate since they felt it was of limited scientific value.

The Haemostatic System, Ebeltoft, 27-30 Apr 2009: It was agreed that this meeting would be endorsed by the WG. LR will take the lead for further action in respect of this.

Other meetings noted by the nucleus but not discussed:

Coronary Reperfusion, Oberlech, 21-26 Mar 2009: 13 of the 32 faculty members are members of the WG. The WG is patronizing the meeting but has no financial responsibilities. Moreover, the travel and accommodation expenses will be taken over by the organization. The Medicines Company is planning to sponsor a part of the expenses of active participants from our WG – this, however, has not been confirmed so far. The final program will be sent to all nucleus members within the next 2-3 weeks. It will in addition be published in the WG website.

Due to increasing problems with the organization of such meetings during vacation periods, it is planned to organise the next meeting on Coronary Reperfusion and Secondary Prevention in Innsbruck/Igls between February 21 and 26, 2010. There

will still be an option to organise it in Oberlech in April 2010, but this would depend on the interest of the sponsors. A final decision will be made in September 2009.

British Cardiovascular Society, June 2009: A symposium has been organised by RS on behalf of the WG for the BCS annual meeting and UK members of the WG will chair and present for this. No sponsorship is required since those involved will be attending the meeting anyway.

Antithrombotic Therapy, EHH, 25-27 June 2009: The programme has been finalised and will be sent to all nucleus members by RDC. The final version of the programme should also be placed in the website.

Alpe Adria Cardiology, Vienna, September 17-19, 2010: This meeting has a clinical focus and usually has 150-200 participants. For many years it has provided a forum for countries involved in the Alpe Adria region plus Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany. Other participating countries are Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia. The meeting is for the first time organized by KH who has been a member of the board of the society for many years. KH would like the main focus of the meeting for the first time to be atherothrombotic disease. With the help of the working group (patronage, no financial help, co-organization of the program and active participation in the program) this would give the WG the opportunity to actively cooperate with former Eastern European countries and increase the very low number of researchers of these countries participating as members of the WG. KH would like a reply to this idea within the next few weeks since he has to present plans for the meeting at the 2009 Alpe Adria Meeting (main topics: heart failure and arrhythmias) in Dresden, in May 2009.

Frontiers in Cardiovascular Biology, Berlin, 16-19 July 2010

EuroThrombosis Science, Uppsala or Stockholm 2010: AS will be invited to coordinate this meeting.

EuroThrombosis Summit, Oporto 2011

Next meeting: Sunday 30 August, 2009, from 9:30 to 11:00, in Meeting Room 6, Zone 3, ESC congress, Barcelona

FA thanked all participants and closed the meeting.