

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2001 - 2002

ESC WORKING GROUP ON THROMBOSIS (#18)

Part 1: Scientific Report:

This is the second such report that I file to the ESC as Chairman of the Working Group 18 (“Thrombosis”), since when I took over the honour and the responsibility of the Chairmanship from Prof. Desmond Fitzgerald in the year 2000. Prof. Lina Badimon, who had in the meantime been appointed new Co-Chairperson, will take over the Chairmanship at the time of the ESC Congress in Berlin, August 30-September 4, 2002.

The Nucleus of the WG currently consists of the following persons:

- Raffaele De Caterina, MD, PhD, Chairman;
- Lina Badimon, PhD (Co-chairman);
- Desmond Fitzgerald, MD, Past-Chairman;
- Steen Dalby Kristensen, MD, Treasurer;
- Kurt Huber, MD; Gilles Montalescot, MD;
- Keith Fox, MD;
- Freek WA Verheugt.

The Nucleus has met the last time in Pisa on July 15, 2002. The current status of the WG activities, as summarized in the report of that meeting, is hereby reported.

1. Atherothrombosis 2003: Decisions on date, topics, sponsorship, target audience

The Chairman referred on the progresses in the organization of the second Congress of the Working Group, the date of which has been postponed, for reasons of fund-raising difficulties, from December 2002 to June 2003. Exact dates and location are:

Atherothrombosis 2003
A Meeting of the Working Group on Thrombosis
of the European Society of Cardiology
Raffaele De Caterina and Lina Badimon – Organizers
Taormina (Sicily, Italy) June 5-8, 2003

The programme will mostly focus on the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis and thrombosis as the basis for rational intervention. The meeting will be targeted to all cardiologists (>150) belonging to the Working Group, from all over Europe. The faculty will come mostly from Europe and the United States. A preliminary programme has been prepared and discussed. Strategies for fundraising have been also discussed. Dr. Fitzgerald has suggested to include a “Technical session” to address methodological issues in pharmacological research in relationship to atherothrombosis (e.g.: Proteomics, pharmacogenomics, zebra-fish technology) and agreed to prepare an outline for such a session. For organizational purposes, a local Italian agency (already contacted) and an International Agency expert in fundraising will likely be involved. Persons from the Working Group will be invited to chair the Sessions. Travel grants for young scientists will be provided if enough funds are raised. A poster session will be included.

2. Task Force on Pre-hospital Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction

Dr. Kurt Huber, on behalf of the WG, has submitted, by the June 31 deadline, a grant proposal to the ESC for the establishment of a Task Force on "Improvement of guidelines for diagnosis and therapy of ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) in the pre--hospital setting". The funds available are not many (5,000 Euros) but, if obtained, will serve the purpose of a pilot attempt at defining the needs of harmonization, improvement and implementation of already existing guidelines, as the basis for a document to be proposed to political authorities within the EU. Dr. Huber will liaise with John Martin to ensure that the importance of this Task Force is well perceived at the highest possible level within the ESC and to coordinate the efforts.

3. Fellowships and Awards

The WG will continue the initiative of the Young Investigator Award on Thrombosis, because of continued funding by Merck, but not the much more expensive initiative (around 70,000 dollars/year) of the Fellowships in Coronary Thrombosis, because of the unwillingness by Merck to continue this funding and the absence of ensuing other sponsors. Also it was felt opportune that fundraising for the year might be better concentrated to the Congress and the Course organization (see below). An attempt will be done however to recruit potential sponsors also for this initiative for the year to come, offering them a diversified array of opportunities among which to choose: The Congress, the Course, the Fellowship, the Web site... A list of Companies potentially able to support these initiatives will be circulated. Each member of the Nucleus will be asked to fill the list with names and relevant address of key contact person to invite in due time to the Social events of the Working Group in Berlin, for further action on this.

4. Scientific visibility of the WG, Berlin 2002

There will be this year an important number of 3 (three) Main Sessions proposed by the WG on Thrombosis, plus one WG Symposium, one debate and one other Symposium in the Basic Science Track Programme. A still uncomplete list of these events, to which all members of the WG are encouraged to attend, is attached here below. The list also include the

5. Meeting of the WG Nucleus and of the entire WG in Berlin 2002

and the

6. Social events in Berlin 2002

namely the Cocktail reception for the entire WG and the Nucleus Dinner.

Note: the Social events are felt to be extremely important to reinforce the links with members of the Working Group and with Partner Industries.

August 31

14.00-15.00 Nucleus Meeting WG 18/(Edler Room)

September 1

11.00-12.30 MS "Diabetes and acute coronary syndromes" Palais (Red Zone)

14.00-15.30 WG Symposium: "Microembolization from atherothrombosis ..."Brussels (Green Zone)

September 2

11.00-12.30 Young Investigator Award Session (Thrombosis)/Palais (Blue Zone)
11.00-12.30 MS "Clinical and prognostic of troponin release" Palais (Red Zone)
12.45-13.45 Business Meeting WG 18/Cairo (Blue Zone)
14.00-15.30 WG Debate "Thrombosis and Inflammation ..."/Madrid (Blue Zone)
18.00 Cocktail Reception for the entire WG (at "Le Bistro", located outside the Berlin Congress Centre, close to the main entrance. It will be signed).

September 3

11.00-12.30 MS "Atrial fibrillation and stroke: from pathophysiology to clinical practice" Palais (Red Zone)
20.00 Nucleus Social Dinner (at "le Bistro", see above)

September 4

7.00-8.00 Cluster Meeting 1: Pathology, Anatomy and Vascular Biology

Abbreviations: MS: Main Session

Note: List still incomplete due to impossibility to access the final programme as of now. "Might" also include a Symposium in the Basic Science Track proposed by the WG on PPAR-gamma

7. Nucleus Web Site

Dr. Kurt Huber informed about his efforts to improve on the Web site. The development of the Working Group website is currently in process.

8. Nucleus New Members

The current situation as of today is 152 members, with the addition of 15 new members since last year. The Nucleus recommended once more that each Nucleus member proposes at least two new members, not necessarily from his/her own country. A relative imbalance in the representation of different European countries has been highlighted, with relatively poor representation of Germany and Spain.

9. Course on Antithrombotic Therapy 2003

Dates have been set for the fifth course of the series, again organized at the European Heart House by Steen Dalby Kristensen and Raffaele De Caterina. The course will be held on October 16-18 2003. A preliminary programme has been laid down. Main changes as to previous courses will be a greater representation of the Working Group, the suggestion that each member of the faculty will indicate at least five junior colleagues from his/her country for participation in the course and the need to provide funding for these participations. In addition, the need that the entire faculty remains on site for the entire duration of the course (rather than "touch and go") has been stressed and agreed upon. Further improvement will be the production of a CD-ROM with slide presentations and pertinent literature. The Course is another important opportunity in the quest for sponsorship.

Local branches of supporting companies may support the participation of younger doctors. The importance of having a goal of at least 50 enrolled participants has been stressed.

10. The History of the Working Group on Thrombosis: initiative

Raffaele De Caterina has compiled a list with names and addresses of previous Chairmen of the WG and will try to have, at least for the past 12 years, a collection of “highlights from the Working Group Chairmen” each related to his/her own mandate. This will establish some historical track on the activities of the WG.

11. Finances

The excellent financial situation of the WG has been discussed as mostly related the extremely successful fundraising campaign of Dr. Fitzgerald. The current Working Group budget, including the handling of the funds for the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Coronary Thrombosis and the Young Investigator Award, is reported in the next part of this report.

12. Euroatheros

Most of the Nucleus Members of the WG have joined effort in the Declaration of Intent for the participation to funding within the VI Framework project in the Euroatheros proposal initiated by Dr. De Caterina and coordinated by Dr. Romeo in Italy. By October 2003 we should have more definite instructions on how to prepare a formal Grant Proposal

13. Possible liaison between ISMAA and WG on Thrombosis

There has been a request from Dr. J. Michael Hassenkam, Denmark, Chairman of ISMAA (International Self-Monitoring Association for Anticoagulation), asking for connections with the Working Group on issues regarding self-management of anticoagulation. The Nucleus decided to invite Dr. Hassenkam to join the Working Group, encouraging him at the same time to submit one or two proposals for Symposia or Debates to be endorsed by the Working Group for the ESC Congress in Vienna 2003.

14. Handing Nucleus Chairmanship to Lina Badimon: advice and commitments.

In Berlin, September 2002, the chairmanship will be handed to Dr. Lina Badimon for her two-year mandate. The Nucleus heartily wishes Dr. Badimon the best success for her mandate.

Final considerations:

These have been two important years for the WG on Thrombosis. Important initiatives, such as the Annual Course, the Congress, Task Forces, Fellowships and Awards, have been consolidated. The visibility of the WG within the yearly programme of the Congress is now considered very good. The financial situation appears solid. Communication with members has been improved through the release of Newsletters. In handling the Chairmanship to Prof. Lina Badimon, I promise to continue to ensure my contribution in my role as Past-Chairman and – more important – as Chairman of the Cluster I – Cardiovascular Biology and as a member of the Science Council, to which I have been recently elected. Wishing Lina the best success for her mandate, I want to express gratitude to the members of the Nucleus for the collaboration in the many initiatives undertaken, and the sense of true friendship developed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raffaele De Caterina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Raffaele De Caterina, MD, PhD
Chairman