

**The ESC Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease**  
**Minutes of Nucleus Meeting/General Assembly**  
**Vienna September 2007**

**Present:**

Manuel Antunes (Chairman)  
Pilar Tornos (Vice-Chairman)  
Bernard Lung (Chairman-Elect)  
Bernard Prendergast (Secretary/Web Editor)  
Raphael Rosenhek (Treasurer)  
Jens Kaden  
Catherine Otto  
Janina Stepinska  
Roger Hall  
Christa Gohlke-Barwolf  
Celine Serio (ESC WG Co-ordinator)

**Apologies:**

Peter Kappetein

**Welcome to new members**

Dr Jens Kaden and Dr Janina Stepinska were welcomed as new members of the nucleus. Dr Peter Kappetein, a further recruit to the nucleus, was unable to attend due to speaking commitments, but subsequently attended the nucleus dinner and general assembly. His contributions from a surgical perspective are eagerly awaited.

A special welcome was also extended to Celine Serio, Working Group Co-ordinator from the Heart House in Nice. Since her appointment approximately one year ago, Celine has made great efforts to improve the visibility and awareness of each of the working groups, particularly via redesign of the website and her involvement has been greatly appreciated.

### **Nucleus membership**

The nucleus currently has 11 members. Christa Gohlke-Barwolf has indicated her intention to stand down in 2008 and a successor will be required.

Proposals to Manuel Antunes are welcome. **ALL**

### **Involvement and recruitment of members**

Review of the membership database demonstrates that the vast majority of members are disengaged from the working group with little or no involvement. Indeed, contact details for many are missing or inaccurate. It is proposed that the database is updated by postal contact allowing members to state their wish to remain or withdraw from membership and provide update contact details (including e-mail addresses). Thereafter, a recruitment drive for new active members is proposed in the New Year. **BDP**

### **Website development**

The website is to be comprehensively overhauled by Bernard Prendergast in conjunction with Celine Serio. Best practices of other working groups (including newsletters, questions pages, guideline links etc.) will be adopted in due course. The intention is to highlight activities of the working group and nucleus members, provide an educational resource and improve communication with the membership. **BDP, CS**

### **Treasurer's report**

The working group remains in credit with no major outgoing expenses this year. A sum of 10,000 Euros is available to support a nucleus meeting separate from the ESC Congress (see below).

### **Collaboration with other working groups**

Links with other working groups are vital (particularly echocardiography and cardiothoracic surgery) and our association with the European Echo group has weakened of late, for reasons that are unclear. Manuel will endeavour to ensure improved liaison and visibility with particular respect to the Euroecho meeting in late 2008. **MA**

### **National valve working groups**

Links with national societies remain strong, particularly in Portugal, Poland, Germany and France. A Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease has been recently established in Germany.

### **Educational activity**

A number of meetings are anticipated in 2007/2008 – see Chairman's report for further details.

### **Guidelines activity**

The Guidelines on Management of Valvular Heart Disease have been published in the European Heart Journal and on-line to wide acclaim. The Guidelines on Infective Endocarditis are being updated under the lead of Gilbert Habib and the working group is represented by Manuel Antunes, Pilar Tornos and Bernard Prendergast. Publication is anticipated in late 2008. In addition, European Guidelines for the assessment of valve stenosis are being prepared by the European Society of Echocardiography and Bernard lung and Catherine Otto are representing the working group

### **Further research activity**

#### *Registry on pregnancy and heart disease*

After much preparatory work by Roger Hall in conjunction with the EuroHeart Survey Office and the Working Group on adult congenital heart disease, this project is set to commence with funding from the ESC. National co-ordinators are to be appointed in each country with a US arm co-ordinated by Catherine Otto and the registry will be publicised via the website. It is hoped to enrol a total of 1000 patients and input from all nucleus members to maximise participation is encouraged. **ALL**

#### *Specific Euroscore for valvular heart surgery*

This proposal will be further developed by Janina Stepinska. **JS**

## **Statement on percutaneous valve intervention and technology development**

A multidisciplinary group had met in Vienna, the working group being represented by Manuel, Peter Kappetein and (indirectly) Alec Vahanian. Further meetings are anticipated with publication of a position statement in April 2008.

## **Nucleus meeting Spring 2008**

It is generally agreed that the annual gathering within the hectic schedule of the ESC Congress is insufficient to develop a flourishing working group programme. A 2 day meeting of the nucleus, funded by the ESC, is therefore proposed in Spring 2008. Objectives will be to review strategy, improve visibility and links with the membership and determine plans for future projects. The possibility of involving an invited expert was also suggested. Manuel has offered to host this meeting in Portugal and further details will be forthcoming in due course. **MA**

## **Proposals for sessions: ESC 2008 – Munich**

5 of the 18 sessions proposed by the nucleus for the programme in Vienna have been accepted and the programme contains 14 valve-related sessions in total. A major increase in available sessions seems unlikely due to overall pressure on the Congress programme but extension to 6 or 7 may be possible with effort and persuasion. Manuel will coordinate this year's submission in late September and 1-2 worked up sessions are requested from each nucleus member to supplement those rejected last year. This activity may be switched in future years to the Spring nucleus meeting. **MA/ALL**