

ESC WORKING GROUP FOR VALVULAR HEART DISEASE REPORT 2007-2008

Compiled by Manuel Antunes, Chairman, August 2008

1- Structure and Organization

1. The Working Group established a group of 5 *ex officio* emeritus Nucleus members (current and last 4 Past-Chairmen) who will maintain links with the existing Nucleus and act in an advisory capacity or to chair specific taskforces. Commencing 2008, this will include Manuel Antunes, Roger Hall, Christa Gohlke-Barwolf, Alec Vahanian and Eric Butchart.
2. The ESC has conducted a review of the membership database by both e-mail and surface mail. The resulting corrected database will be circulated amongst Nucleus members for ratification. Potential new members will be identified and invited to apply for membership.
3. The current criteria for membership was considered to be too strict. The website was altered to make membership eligible to all cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and others "with a strong interest in the field of valvular heart disease".

2- Activities in 2007-2008

1. The first and most urgent task of the Chairman and other members of the Nucleus was to organize the sessions on valve disease for the ESC Congress in Munich 2008 (see below).
2. In collaboration with the Secretary and Web-Editor, B. Prendergast, and staff at the Heart House, a restructuring of the webpage was undertaken and a search of the membership is currently underway. Other forms of improving visibility of the Working Group have been worked out.
3. A consensus document on Percutaneous Procedures for Valvular Heart Disease has been proposed by ESC / EACTS was written by a task force which include several WG Members (M Antunes, P Kappetein, P Tornos) The document has already been published in the European Heart Journal and in the European Journal of Cardio-thoracic Surgery (Eur. Heart J. Jun 2008;29:1463-70. and Eur. J. Cardiothorac. Surg., July 2008;34:1-8).
4. A Task Force is working on a new set of Guidelines on Infective Endocarditis. The final document is due before the end of the

year. Manuel Antunes, Pilar Tornos and Bernard Prendergast are members of this Task Force.

5. Bernard Prendergast is a member of the ESC Guidelines Committee on AF and is a principal reviewer of the ESC Heart Failure guidelines. He is also involved in the NICE process for preparation of new Guidelines on Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Infective Endocarditis.
6. A Nucleus meeting was held in Coimbra, Portugal, in Feb28/Mar1, and was attended by all Nucleus Members except Catherine Otto (for logistic reasons). The report on this meeting was posted in the web page. A review of the structure and of the activities of the WG was undertaken and several important decisions were taken.
7. A task force headed by C. Gohlke-Barwolf was appointed to study the subject of "Risk scores for valve surgery" and are preparing a paper to be published in the European Heart Journal.
8. A registry on "Structural heart disease in pregnancy", co-ordinated by Roger Hall, was initiated.

3- Annual Congress

At the ESC Annual Congress in Vienna, the Working Group participated in five symposia and one main session. For this Munich Congress the Working Group also has five sessions included in the Scientific Program. This included one Joint Session with the Association of Echocardiography which was included in our quota; hopefully they will have a retribution for next year. This is the number of sessions that were allowed to us by the Scientific Committee and are in the program already posted in the ESC webpage. The WG has little power to change this.

There is a sixth session on valvular disease organized by the WG of Cardiac Surgery. We also participate in a Joint Session ESC/WHF on Rheumatic Heart Disease

4- Joint Meetings with other Organizations and Societies

Members of the Working Group, including the Chairman, participated in the following meetings endorsed by the WG:

1. EuroECO 11, in Lisbon, December 2007
2. XXVIII Portuguese Congress of Cardiology, April 2008 (Alec Vahanian and Manuel Antunes)
3. Congress of the Polish Cardiac Society, in Wroclaw, September 2007, and in the Spring Meeting of PCS in Zabrze, June 2008 (Janina Stapinska) .

5- Planned Future Activities

1. An ETP Course is being organized and is scheduled for the Heart House, in Nice, 19-21 February 2008, under the title of "DIFFICULT VALVE DISEASE: FOCUS 2009. Guidelines and beyond: an interactive case-based course". The Course Directors are M Antunes, P Tornos and B lung, respectively Chairman, Vice-Chairwoman and Chairman Elect. The tentative program is attached and will be finalised in Munich
2. A joint session has been organized with the European Association of Echocardiography for EuroECHO 2008, in Lyon, December 2007
3. The registry on "Structural heart disease in pregnancy", coordinated by Roger Hall, is ongoing.

Further projects will be discussed in Munich and suggestions are welcome.

Conclusion

Pilar Tornos is taking over as Chairwoman and Bernard lung as Vice-chairman. A new Chairman-elect will be voted in Munich. As a consequence and also because of Christa Gohlke-Barwolf leaving the Nucleus, two new members will also be elected. I will become Past-chairman and hope to continue participating actively in the activities of the Group. At this stage, however, I wish to thank all the members of the Nucleus for their assistance during my 2-year chairmanship. A special word of gratitude to Christa who shared with me her wisdom and vast experience.

MANUEL J ANTUNES

Chairman

Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease