

The ESC Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease

Minutes of Nucleus Meeting

Bussaco - Coimbra, Portugal 29 Feb/1 Mar 2008

Present:

Manuel Antunes (Chairman)
Pilar Tornos (Vice-Chairman)
Bernard Lung (Charman-Elect)
Bernard Prendergast (Secretary/Web Editor)
Raphael Rosenhek (Treasurer)
Jens Kaden
Pieter Kappetein
Janina Stepinska
Roger Hall
Christa Gohlke-Barwolf

Apologies:

Catherine Otto

PURPOSE

The ESC has provided funding for an annual business meeting separate from the busy schedule of the ESC annual congress to permit planning, reorganisation and administration of all Working Groups. This document is a summary of resolutions arising from an abbreviated two-day meeting of the Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease held in Coimbra, Portugal, on February 29th/March 1st 2008.

ORGANISATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Nucleus Membership

- Manuel Antunes and Christa Gohlke-Barwolf will stand down from the Nucleus following the ESC congress in Munich.
- Replacement Nucleus members will be nominated by the existing general membership and, if necessary, selected after a ballot amongst the existing Nucleus.

- The next Chairman-elect (to commence in 2012) will be selected by the Nominating Committee: Manuel Antunes (Chairman), Roger Hall (Past Chairman), Pilar Tornos, Bernard lung and elected by the Nucleus members in September 2008.
- The Working Group will establish a group of 5 *ex officio* emeritus Nucleus members (last 5 Past-Chairmen) who will maintain links with the existing Nucleus and act in an advisory capacity or to chair specific taskforces. Initially, this will include Manuel Antunes, Roger Hall, Christa Gohlke-Barwolf, Alec Vahanian and Eric Butchart.

General Membership

- The ESC is conducting a review of the membership database by both e-mail and surface mail. The resulting corrected database will be available in late March 2008 and this will facilitate communication with members.
- Once available, the membership list will be circulated amongst Nucleus members for ratification. New members (at least 5 from each Nucleus member) will be identified and invited to apply for membership.
- The current criteria for membership were agreed to be too strict. The website will be altered to make membership eligible to all cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and others “with a strong interest in the field of valvular heart disease”.
- Applications will be welcomed via the website with an accompanying supporting letter and CV.
- Working Group membership will be encouraged via the ESC website and the ESC specialist journals using the following advertisement:

VALVE SPECIALISTS FOR VALVE PATIENTS

The ESC working group on valvular heart disease supports:

- The training of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons in the specialist field of valvular heart disease
- The implementation of guidelines and effective treatment
- The investigations and promotion of new therapies and techniques

Join now at www.escardio.org

- The benefits of membership will also be made more attractive by a number of measures:
 - Four-monthly newsletter
 - Links to guidelines and key papers via the website
 - Interactive suggestions board on the website
 - Involvement in preparing the ESC congress scientific programme
 - Customised programmes for the valve content of the ESC congress programme to be sent by e-mail only

Website development

- The website requires a comprehensive update which will be undertaken by Bernard Prendergast in conjunction with Celine Serio.
- There is a need to improve interaction with the membership, highlight activities of the Working Group and Nucleus members and provide an educational resource
- Best practices of other working groups (including newsletters, questions pages, guideline links etc.) will be adopted in due course.
- Specific deficits are as follows:
 - Several Nucleus members have yet to provide complete personal profiles. They have agreed to do it directly (contact C Serio)
 - There is no information on forthcoming meetings.
 - Annual reports for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 are missing

- Publications are not up to date and should incorporate
 - ✓ The ESC guidelines for management of valve disease 2007
 - ✓ The ESC guidelines for management of infective endocarditis 2004 (update 2008)
 - ✓ The ESC guidelines for management of patients after valve surgery 2006
 - ✓ Eric Butchart's textbook on management of patients after valve surgery
 - ✓ Forthcoming ESC position statement on percutaneous valve technology
 - ✓ EuroHeart Survey publications x6 – Bernard Lung to provide
 - ✓ Links to other key publications (eg. ACC/AHA guidelines on valve disease and infective endocarditis, Upcoming guidelines for assessment of valve stenosis) – Christa Gohlke-Barwolf to provide

PROPOSED ETP MEETING NOVEMBER 2008

- The facilities of the European Heart House have been provisionally booked for November 6th-8th
- There is a potential clash with the AHA which starts on November 7th – Manuel will seek an alternative set of dates two weeks later
- The meeting will address the practical, day to day problems encountered in the management of patients with valvular heart disease using the successful case-based format of the ESC FOCUS sessions.
- The programme will be applicable to practicing cardiologists and cardiac surgeons and will address difficult areas of valvular heart disease which are not easily covered by published guidelines.
- The meeting will be publicised via the website, mailshots to existing members and European national societies, and an advertising slide to be used at the opening of each Working Group session at the Munich Congress.
- The skeleton programme and session organisers are provided below. Each session will last approximately 1.45 hours and include 3 topics, each with an illustrative case.
- The cases will be supported by discussion of the guidelines and evidence in each area and conclude with expert panel discussion and audience interaction.

DIFFICULT VALVE DISEASE: FOCUS 2008

Guidelines and beyond: an interactive case-based course

November 6th-8th

Valvular heart disease in pregnancy (Antunes)
Heart failure in valvular heart disease (Tornos)
Valvular heart disease and coronary artery disease (Stepinska)
Difficult endocarditis (Hall)
Anticoagulation and thrombosis (Gohlke-Barwolf)
Valve disease in the elderly (Kappetein)
The asymptomatic patient (Karden)
Problems after valve replacement (Lung)

Contact person for arrangements: Claire Bramley (cbramley@escardio.org)

- Each session organiser will provide a suggested case-based proposal as soon as possible to Manuel who will submit the final programme to the ESC within one month.
- Once complete, we may develop a web-based repository of cases to facilitate preparation of the meeting.
- Sponsorship will be sought from valve manufacturers to support delegate attendance and Nucleus members will pursue national contacts. At least 60 delegates are required to make the meeting viable.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Meetings

- Six sessions have been accepted for the ESC 2008 Congress in Munich
- The Working Group has been invited to participate in a joint session with the EAE and another with the American Society of Echocardiography at EuroEcho 2008

- We hope to improve our links with European National Societies and, given the increased awareness of percutaneous aortic valve replacement, with EuroPCR. This is strongly supported by the Board of the ESC and there will be a link in the WG page to related national WGs.
- Nucleus members will publicise the Working Group when making personal contributions to these and other meetings.
- A link with the International Society for Valvular Heart Disease has been suggested – Manuel Antunes will pursue this.

Euroheart Survey: Structural Heart Disease in Pregnancy (Roger Hall)

- The database is established: 60 cases have been entered with a final target of 1000.
- Co-operation of national societies has been poor and Roger Hall seeks increased involvement of Nucleus members and their colleagues and the appointment of a network of national co-ordinators.

ESC FOCUS sessions

- Roger Hall invites suggestions from Nucleus members for valve-related topics to include as FOCUS sessions within the ESC congress programme.

Risk scores for valve surgery

- Conventional risk scores for cardiac surgery are poorly applicable to patients with valve disease and fail to address the specific risk factors for surgical and percutaneous aortic valve replacement.
- The Working Group, therefore, proposes the development of a new scoring system to improve the selection of patients for valve surgery and developing catheter-based technologies.
- In the first instance, the Working Group will prepare a discussion/opinion paper to highlight these issues to a wider audience. The first draft will be prepared by Christa-Gohlke-Barwolf, Raphael Rosenhek, Jens Karden and Menno van Gameren (a PhD student

working with Pieter Kappetein, who will be invited to join the Working Group).

- The target for preparation of the first draft will be June 2008 and all Nucleus members will contribute and co-author the final version which will be submitted for publication in The European Heart Journal.
- This topic will also be featured as a main plenary session at the ESC congress in 2009.
- In the longer term there may be scope to develop a large prospective European database examining the outcome patients with valve disease, both those undergoing surgery and those in whom surgery was declined with the ultimate goal of developing a lesion-specific surgical risk score.