

REPORT 2006-2007

WORKING GROUP FOR VALVULAR HEART DISEASE Compiled by Manuel Antunes, Chairman, August 2007.

1- Structure and Organization

During last year's meeting in Barcelona, new members of the Nucleus of the Working Group were elected. I took over as Chairman from Roger Hall. Pilar Tornos succeeded me as Vice-Chairman and Bernard Lung is the Chairman-elect. Raphael Rosenhek became the Treasurer and Bernard Prendergast the Secretary and Web-Editor. Janina Stepinska, Jens Kaden and Pieter Kappetein were elected as members of the Nucleus. The complete composition of the Nucleus can be seen in this webpage of the Working Group.

2- Activities in 2006-2007

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 Vienna 2007.
2. In collaboration with the Secretary and Web-Editor, B. Prendergast, a restructuring of the webpage was undertaken and a search of the membership is currently underway. It is being done with the assistance of Miss Celine Serio in the Heart House, Nice, who has been extremely motivating and helpful. Other forms of improving visibility of the Working Group have been worked out.
3. The Guidelines on the Management of Valvular Heart Disease were published earlier this year. Eric Butchart, Roger Hall, Bernard Lung and Pilar Tornos were members of the Taskforce and Manuel Antunes, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Bernard Prendergast, Raphael Rosenhek and Catherine Otto were Document Reviewers.
4. A Task Force has been appointed and is working on a new set of Guidelines on Infective Endocarditis. Manuel Antunes and Bernard Prendergast were invited and accepted to be members of this Task Force.
5. The book on "Valvular Heart Disease - A Guide to Patient Management after Surgery", resulting from the Task Force which has studied the same subject and produced the Recommendations published in 2005 was published at the end of the year. Eric Butchart, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Manuel Antunes and Roger Hall were the Editors and other members of the Nucleus were among the authors
6. In an initiative by two nucleus members (Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf and Jens Kaden), a WG on VHD is currently being established in the German Society of Cardiology. This follows on a recommendation of such initiatives made by the Nucleus, in order to expand its activities and goals to the national societies.

3- Annual Congresses

At the ESC Annual Congress in Barcelona, the Working Group participated in five symposia and one main session. For the Vienna Congress the Working Group also has five sessions included in the Scientific Program (there is a sixth session on valvular disease organized by the WG of Cardiac Surgery). 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.

4- Joint Meeting with other Organizations and Societies

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

1. EuroECO 10, in Florence, December 2006
2. XXVIII Portuguese Congress of Cardiology, April 2007 (Alec Vahanian, Pilar Tornos and Manuel Antunes)
3. Spring Meeting of the Polish Society of Cardiology, Krakow, June 2007 (Manuel Antunes and Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf). Janina Stepinska was in the Organizing Committee

4. 9th International Symposium on Modern Concepts in Endocarditis and Cardiovascular Infections, Heidelberg, Germany, June 2007 (Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Bernard Prendergast and Janina Stepinska)
5. Annual Congress of the Polish Society of Cardiology in Gdansk September. 2006 (Janina Stepinska, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Alec Vahanian)
6. ESC Educational Course on the Management of asymptomatic patients with valvular heart disease in Sophia Antipolis , July 2007 (Pilar Tornos, Bernard lung, Bernard Prendergast, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf, Roger Hall, Alec Vahanian)
7. Annual Congress of the French Society of Cardiology, Paris January 2007 (Bernard lung, Alec Vahanian, Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf)
8. International Congress on Heart Failure by the ESC Heart Failure Association in Hamburg, June.2007 (Christa Gohlke-Baerwolf)

5- Planned Future Activities

1. A joint session has been organized with the European Association of Echocardiography for EuroECHO 2007, in Lisbon, December 2007
2. Plans are underway for the organization of a joint meeting with the University of Lisbon
3. A meeting on Valvular Heart Surgery in Developing Countries is being discussed for organization in spring 2008
4. A discussion group will be proposed at the next meeting for studying the New Technologies in the Treatment of Valvular Heart Disease
5. A registry on heart disease in pregnancy, co-ordinated by Roger Hall, has been under consideration
6. Workshop on Future Trends in Antithrombotic Management for prosthetic valve patients (both mechanical and bioprosthetic), in collaboration with the WG on Thrombosis (Raffaele De Caterina)
7. Development of a consensus document on Percutaneous Procedures for Valvular Heart Disease has been proposed by ESC / EACTS (Alec Vahanian and Otavio Alfieri)

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

.
MANUEL J ANTUNES
Chairman
Working Group on Valvular Heart Disease