



Newsletter from the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology

Latest news from the Association

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I AM USING THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO bring you, as readers of the *Journal*, up to date with several happenings concerning our Association, mostly to do with past and future meetings.

This year's Annual meeting was held in Porto, Portugal, from May 15th to 18th. From 6 different continents and 55 different countries, we were joined by 575 participants, who not only partook of the meeting itself, but additionally visited the beautiful historical town and its wonderful surroundings.

The scientific meeting, held in the newly constructed, very pleasant and efficient conference center, provided a rewarding overview of ongoing developments and research in all fields of Paediatric Cardiology. For the first time, we included symposiums organised by the different Working Groups, and held in parallel. The sessions were judged to be of very best quality, and enjoyed full auditoriums.

Professor Adriana Gittenberger de Groot delivered an outstanding Mannheim lecture, while Professor Marie-Christin Segayhe gave us a remarkable State of the Art lecture. These contributions will be published in a later issue of the *Journal*. We also included two symposiums sponsored by Industry, concerned with Interventional Paediatric Cardiology. These, too, were well attended.

The large number of poster presentations, grouped together in the area of the Exhibition, stimulated interesting discussions. A multidisciplinary committee selected the best poster in the area of each of the eight Working Groups, and rewarded the author with a prize. On behalf of the Council of the Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors, speakers, chairmen and assisting personnel for their efforts during this splendid symposium.

The situation is not quite so clear-cut for our future meetings. The political situation in the Near East continues to trouble Council, such that we have discussed taking the difficult decision to postpone the Annual meeting planned for Istanbul in 2003.

Our proposal was accepted, with regret, by the annual assembly in Porto. We thank our members in Turkey for their understanding and their collaboration. The Association will come back to Istanbul as soon as the situation has stabilised and become peaceful again.

In the light of this change, Professor Jaap Ottenkamp, from Amsterdam and Leiden, has accepted the very difficult task of trying to replace the meeting planned for Istanbul by one to be held in Amsterdam. If this can be arranged, it will occur during the final week of May, 2003. Council is extremely grateful to our Dutch colleagues for agreeing to undertake this difficult task. We recognise the tremendous efforts which will be required to achieve success. Detailed information on the feasibility of the change will not be available until the end of August. Should it prove possible to rearrange the meeting in Amsterdam, we look towards the understanding and the collaboration of all readers of the journal, along with the members of the Association, so as to make the meeting a huge success.

The situation for 2004, in contrast, is stable and planning is well in hand. The meeting will take place during the third week of May in Munich. Professor John Hess will be the local chairman. Further information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available.

The next immediate date for note, however, is the Annual Meeting of the European Society of Cardiology, which will be held in Berlin from August 31st to September 4th of this year. As has now become customary, our Association will play an integral part in the organisation of the meeting, both with scientific presentations and also with a booth in the exhibition area. Particularly interesting sessions have been prepared in collaboration by the Working Groups concerned with Adults with Congenital Heart Disease.

The Council invites you all to come to Berlin, and also reminds you to take note of the Annual Meeting for 2003, which will be held in Vienna from the 30th of August to the 3rd of September. May I also take

advantage of this Newsletter to update you with regard to the members of Council of the Association? As approved in Porto, the members of the new council are:

- Otto Daniëls, the Netherlands, President 2001–2004
- Ingrid Oberhänsli-Weiss, Switzerland, Secretary-general 2000–2005
- Shakeel Qureshi, United Kingdom, Scientific Secretary 2002–2007
- Christian Rey, France, Treasurer 1998–2003
- Grazyna Brzezinska, Poland, Councillor 2000–2003
- Mats Mellander, Sweden, Councillor 2001–2004
- Klaus Schmidt, Germany, Councillor 2002–2005
- Andras Szatmari, Hungary, Councillor 2002–2005
- Jaap Ottenkamp, the Netherlands, Local Chairman 2002–2003
- Marc Gewillig, ex-officio officer from Belgium

Finally, as you will discover from the Supplement which you will be receiving, the Coding Committee,

and especially Rodney Franklin, have been very active. The European Paediatric Cardiac Code has been upgraded, completed and corrected, and a link has been established between the long and the short lists. As already explained, you will find the new version published in the supplement of this journal. Accompanying special articles in the journal itself will explain the details, summarise the evolution of the various systems for coding, and guide you through the listings. Also important is that the cross-mapping of our short list with that of the surgeons has been achieved, and the cross-map is also published in the Supplement. Thus far, however, it is only possible to map in the direction from our short list to the surgical list, and not yet in the other direction. We await that mapping, and the mapping of the long lists, with enthusiasm.

By the time you read my news, it is my hope that you will have enjoyed a very pleasant and relaxing summer. I now wish you a very good new start into the New Academic Year!!