



AEPC Newsletter

Annual General Meeting: 29 September to 2 October 1999

Eric D. Silove (President, Association for European Paediatric Cardiology)

On 15th June, we announced that the Annual General Meeting, which had been scheduled for May, will now take place from 29th September to 2nd October 1999. We are convinced that peace has been secured in the Balkans, that the safety of delegates to the Meeting will be secure and that flights to Sofia should keep to schedules. We are particularly grateful to Vladimir Pilosoff, who is now repeating all of his great efforts undertaken when he organised the meeting scheduled initially for May. He has arranged for the registration form to be found on the following websites: www.aepc.org and www.travel-bulgaria.com/cim. He has indicated that registration fees and hotel deposits already paid for the May Meeting will remain valid for the Meeting in September/October. After the end of the Meeting, he will arrange refunds on payments made by those who registered for the Meeting in May and who are unable to attend the reconvened Meeting in September.

Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme promises to be of a very high standard indeed. It begins on Wednesday 29th September with a combined teaching session of the Working Groups for Morphology, Genetics, Imaging and Fetal Cardiology. The theme running through that session deals with the cardiomyopathies. During the morning of 29th September, there will be a simultaneous session of the Working Group for Interventional Cardiology which will include the usual "I Blew It" Session. There will also be a "How To Do" Session. The first Business Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29th at 16:30. On Thursday 30th September, after the official opening ceremony, we look forward to the Edgar

Mannheimer Lecture, which will be given by Milan Samanek. The oral presentations of abstracts follow themes in each of the sessions, beginning with Fetal Cardiology and Genetics, Interventional Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, and a dedicated poster session. On Friday 1st October there will be a further session on Interventional Cardiology and Surgery, a session on Arrhythmia and selected interesting sessions on General Cardiology. On Saturday 2nd October, in addition to sessions on Interventional Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery and Imaging, there will be lectures and discussions concerning the recommendations of the Association regarding Paediatric Cardiac Coding and the importance of data collection in Paediatric Cardiac Surgery. David Sahn and Martin Elliott will give other State of the Art Lectures during the Meeting. The abstracts for the meeting have already been published in the Supplement to the May issue of the Journal.

Professional matters

Important developments will include the report of the Coding Committee on agreed diagnostic and surgical codes. Recommendations will be made to the Business Meeting concerning a European approach to provide guidelines for training in Paediatric Cardiology. It is considered that the acceptance of these guidelines for training throughout Europe will strengthen the recognition of Paediatric Cardiology as a Monospecialty. For the same reason, it is also important that the Association agrees guidelines for Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. Paediatric Cardiology, of course, is already recognised as a separate Specialty in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Sweden, Germany, the Republic of Ireland and the Czech Republic. The next step is to obtain recognition by the remaining countries of the European Union and then by the European Union itself.

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