



## NEWS ITEMS

# World Heart Federation regional reports

### Six month activity of the African heart network

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of *Go Red For Women* in Africa for the first time, with Nigeria and South Africa leading the field. It is hoped that many other African countries will follow and introduce the programme next year. This programme will give Foundations & Societies a wonderful opportunity of close collaboration.

With regard to smoking, most Foundations were involved in programmes around the evils of smoking and participated in World No Tobacco Day. Ghana, Nigeria & South Africa have probably led the field with South Africa making presentations to the South African Government on issues of the new Tobacco Act.

A number of African countries have been involved in CVD risk factor screening. In Cameroon we started working with Spengler and we are very pleased to report that initiative was led by the Heart Foundation of Cameroon. This partnership is growing throughout Africa. In South Africa we do shopping centre screening in addition to which we have developed a business which sells CVD screening to businesses in South Africa.

A highlight of the year was the PASCAR meeting in Kenya, where we, as foundations, were able to network with many people of Africa. The AHN held its AGM at this conference, where Molly resigned and Dr. Habib was elected to our Board. Twelve countries attended the meeting – the most ever and we are proud to advise that we have one new member country and four applications in the pipeline. Our next AGM will take place in Maputo in November 2008.

We are very pleased to report that we are collaborating with PASCAR and the WHF in the field of RHD & RF.

World Heart Day took throughout Africa.

Robert de Souza

### Asian Pacific society of cardiology college of the Asian Pacific society of cardiology

The Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (APSC) represents the member cardiology societies in the Asia Pacific region. The College of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (CAPSC) represents individual cardiologists in the Asia Pacific region and provides a vital avenue for their individual participation.

Meetings of the Executive Council of the APSC and Key Outcomes.

Executive Council meetings were held in December 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan, in March 2007 in Kobe, Japan, and are scheduled for September 2007 in Vienna and December 2007 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The General Assembly of the APSC will be held during our biennial congress (Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology), during which there will be the turnover of the presidency of the APSC and new Vice Presidents will take office. The host for the 18th APCC will be selected after presentations by APSC member societies bidding to host the Congress.

Key outcomes from the Exco meetings include numerous operational and administrative issues aimed at establishing new processes and ratifying standard operating practices to provide standardization, transparency, accountability, and continu-

ity. This included new processes for establishing the eleven scientific committees of the APSC to ensure active committees and for electing vice presidents to the APSC.

A new logo for the APSC was designed and ratified, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the APSC.

The Presidents Council, comprised of current and past presidents, to provide continuity in leadership, was created by the Exco.

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was created by the Exco, to provide clear leadership of the eleven Scientific Committees of the APSC and oversee and coordinate their activities and oversee the scientific content of all scientific meetings/congresses of the APSC. The SAB will work closely with the College of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology.

College of Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (CAPSC).

The CAPSC has been established as a legal entity in Singapore. The website address is [www.capsc.net](http://www.capsc.net). The officers of the CAPSC are Chancellor Michael Lim (Singapore), Vice Chancellor Anil Kumar (India), Secretary General Cheng-wen Chiang (Taiwan), and Treasurer Akira Matsumori (Japan).

The Trustees of the CAPSC are Michael Lim (Singapore), Anil Kumar (India), Cheng-wen Chiang (Taiwan), and Akira Matsumori (Japan). Their installation ceremony was held in December 2006 and was hosted by the Taiwan Society of Cardiology during their annual meeting. Dr. Feridoun Noohi (Iran), Dr. Sim Kui Hian (Malaysia), and Dr. Dayi Hu (China) will be installed as Trustees in December 2007 during the 16th APCC.

The CAPSC through its trustees and officers is working to identify training institutions, training fellowships, create scientific expert committees (some jointly with other societies), develop joint scientific symposia, and determine an appropriate journal of the CAPSC.

Applications for Fellows are now being received and the first convocation of Fellows will be held in December 2007 during the 16th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology.

The Cardiac CT Expert Committee of the CAPSC is being established. The ESC has been invited to participate in this expert committee and to nominate members. The first certification course is being developed and will be held in Singapore.

#### Scientific Meetings of the APSC

December 13–16, 2007: 15th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology to be held in Taipei, Taiwan,

hosted by the Taiwan Society of Cardiology, in conjunction with their annual scientific meeting. Numerous joint symposia with other cardiology societies, including the American College of Cardiology and the European Society of Cardiology, are scheduled. The APCC–WHF Joint Symposia will focus on tobacco prevention strategies; the WHF is providing the air fare for the four WHF speakers and the APCC is providing all local accommodations.

January 31–February 3, 2008: 4th Asian Pacific Congress of Heart Failure to be held in Melbourne, Australia.

May 20–23, 2009: 17th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology, Kyoto, Japan, hosted by the Japanese Circulation Society.

#### Scientific Education

The Task Force on Continuing Education of the APSC, chaired by the Japanese Circulation Society, sponsored a joint symposium with two different APSC member societies at their annual national meetings. One was with the Philippine Heart Association and the other the Indonesian Heart Association.

Other joint symposia held were the Iranian Heart Association–APSC Joint Symposium at the annual meeting of the IHA. The Great Wall/ICC–APSC Joint Symposium will be held again in October 2007 in Beijing. A joint symposium on interventional cardiology with the Iranian Heart Association (IHA) and the American College of Cardiology is being planned for November 2008 at the annual meeting of the IHA.

Ongoing joint symposia with the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, and the European Society of Cardiology, at both their annual meetings and the biennial congress of the APSC, have been organized and will be annual events. The ESC–APSC Joint Symposium on heart failure was held in September 2007 during the ESC Congress.

#### Joint Initiatives

The APSC Exco is pursuing a number of initiatives with other cardiology societies. These include a collaborative effort with the American College of Cardiology to provide a 6-month trial of its *Cardiosource Plus*, and developing joint scientific expert panels with the European Society of Cardiology.

#### Touch Briefings

The APSC contributed an article to the coming issue of *Asian Cardiovascular Disease* that is being published by Touch Briefings and Dr. Akira Matsumori, chairperson of the APSC's Scientific Advisory Board is serving on the Advisory Board for this publication. The article titled "Accuracy, Safety

and Application of Coronary CT angiography – A Perspective in 2007” was authored by Michael Lim.

Michael Lim, M.D., President, APSC, December 2005–December 2007



## European heart network activities in 2007

### Publications

- Annual Report 2006 (July 2007).
- Review of ‘front of pack’ nutrition schemes (February 2007).

Publications of interest (since last report)

- Policy options to prevent child obesity – Stakeholder consultations carried out in the context of the project on *Children, obesity and associated avoidable chronic diseases* (October 2006).
- Stress and Cardiovascular Disease (August 2006).

### Meetings/Conferences

- *Workshop on a GLOBALINK for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Avoidable Chronic Diseases* – 23 February 2007, Brussels, Belgium in cooperation with the National Heart Forum, UK.
- *Prevention for Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity – A Key to Healthy Living* – 25–27 February 2007, Badenweiler, Germany, German Presidency conference attended by Marleen Kestens.
- *Healthcare 2007: Diagnosing our future* – 19–20 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium, organised by the *European Voice*; Director of EHN participated in a panel discussion.
- *The role of fruits and vegetables in the fight against obesity* – 17–19 April 2007, Brussels Belgium, Marleen Kestens participated.
- *Consensus seminar on tobacco and nicotine product regulation* – 3–4 May 2007, Leuven, Belgium, co-organised and co-sponsored by EHN.

- *Round table on food, agriculture and health* – 5 June 2007, Brussels, Belgium, organised by EP inter-group, Director of EHN participated.
- *The art of a healthy heart* – 25 June 2007, Brussels, Belgium, special exhibition organised by Novartis, Director of EHN spoke as did MEP Georgs Andrejevs.
- *The 3rd annual obesity Europe conference* – 26–27 June 2007, Brussels, Belgium, Director of EHN participated in a panel discussion on health and nutrition claims.
- *Young at Heart: cardiovascular health – a matter of an early start* – 2 September 2007, Vienna, Austria, joint EHN/ESC session at the ESC congress, Director of EHN co-chaired.
- *DG Sanco Away Day* – 21 September 2007, Helecline, Belgium, EHN and Belgian Heart League organised session on heart health for DG Sanco staff.
- *Expert hearing on school fruit scheme* – 24 September 2007, Brussels, Belgium, organised by Directorate General for Agriculture (DG Agri), Director of EHN spoke under the category of health stakeholder.
- *Towards an EU Strategy on Nutrition and Physical Activity* – 1 October 2007, Brussels, Belgium, organised by CHES/Royal College of Physicians with representatives from a select number of European organisations discussing the Commission White Paper on nutrition and physical activity with the Director General of DG SANCO.
- *10 Years Gastein – shaping the future of health* – 3–6 October 2007, Bad Hof Gastein, Austria, Director of EHN participated in a panel discussion on applying economic arguments to health policy in Europe; Commission poster exhibition included a poster on the EHN project on children and obesity considered as one of the more significant EC co-funded projects in 2004–2006.

### Annual workshop

The 2007 Annual Workshop of the EHN took place from 23–25 May 2007 in Elsinore, Denmark. It was hosted by the Danish Heart Foundation. Fifty-three delegates from 25 member organisations from 21 countries as well as guests from the WHF attended the Workshop.

The 2007 Workshop focused on five subject areas: mass media campaigns, healthy futures, the use of web sites in heart foundations, Europe’s major health burdens and fundraising.

## Projects

### EuroHeart

Since 1 April 2007, EHN jointly with the ESC and member organisations of the two organisations in 20 European countries started a 3-year project part-funded by the European Commission.

The specific objectives of the EuroHeart project are to

1. **Mobilise broad support for cardiovascular health promotion and cardiovascular disease prevention with a view to achieving stronger cross sector cooperation.** The mechanism whereby this will be carried out is through the launch of a European Heart Health Charter. The aim of the Charter is to substantially reduce the burden of CVD in the European Union and the WHO European Region and to reduce inequalities/inequities in the disease burden within and between countries. Timeline: April–September 2007.
2. **Map and analyze national plans, policies and measures impacting on cardiovascular health promotion and cardiovascular disease prevention.** This objective aims to obtain comprehensive comparable information on policies and actions impacting on cardiovascular health (CVH) promotion and CVD prevention in 16 EU countries. It will provide a model for national plans. It will also identify gaps in policies and actions across Europe and improve awareness of the importance of considering heart health in a wide range of policies. A table listing policies that impact on behavioural aspects of CVH/CVD will be drawn and filled in with an analysis of which policies are adopted and implemented in the participating countries. Equally, a table listing measures including emergency services, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), implementation of guidelines will be drawn up and filled in with information from the participating countries. Timeline: October 2007–September 2009.
3. **Investigate issues concerning CVD in women.** The project will collate information on research specifically on women, enrolment of women in clinical trials, awareness-raising campaigns targeting women and educational programmes targeting health professionals. It aims at improving the awareness, diagnosis and treatment of CVD in women. It will also provide recommendations

for awareness campaigns targeting women and for educational programmes for health professionals. Timeline: October 2008–March 2010.

4. **Improve prevention practices at primary care level** by developing local-language versions of the web-based interactive CVD risk assessment tool, HeartScore. Timeline: February 2008–March 2010.
5. **Implement and adapt European guidelines on CVD prevention to national situations.** The adaptation/translation of the guidelines to the national situations will facilitate the use of the guidelines by the medical community in each country. This will lead to increased knowledge on preventive measures and risk factor identification and will reduce the gap between objectives outlined in the European guidelines for CVD prevention and the day to day situation in clinical practice. Moreover, the adaptation/translation of the guidelines to the national situations will allow networking and development of national alliances among sister organisations (e.g. equivalent to the Joint Prevention Committee at European level). Timeline: December 2007–May 2009.

The total budget is almost 2.89 million euros of which the Commission contribution amounts to 1.5 million euros, or 53.66%.

### European heart health charter

The Charter was developed jointly by the EHN, the ESC, the European Commission and the WHO European Region. Fourteen Europe-wide health organisations and professional societies have signed up to it. The European launch took place on 12th June in the European Parliament in Brussels in the presence of Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou. Since the European launch, launches are taking place throughout Europe often with national health ministers signing up to it.

### MEP Heart Group

The Heart Group is intended to provide MEPs with an interest in cardiovascular health an opportunity to generate dialogue, outreach and activities at EU and Member State level. It is made up of MEPs who have an interest in addressing CVD in the EU and who are interested in contributing to initiatives which aim to reduce the burden of this disease. Several members have a medical background and/or are members of the European Parliament Health

Working Group but membership is not restricted to these categories.

The Heart Group is Co-Chaired by Dr. Georgs Andrejevs MEP and Dr. Adamos Adamou MEP working in close cooperation with the European Heart Network (EHN).

On 2nd October 2007, the MEP Heart Group held its inaugural meeting in the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels. It was attended by 14 MEPs or their assistants, as well as representatives of eight national heart foundations and five signatories and supporters of the European Heart Health Charter.

### HELP

EHN Director is member of the Advisory Board of the EU-funded pan-European anti-smoking campaign HELP. In 2007, she has attended one meeting on 5th July and will attend the second meeting on 7th December.

### Advocacy and Lobbying

#### Diet and nutrition

EHN works especially on simplified front of pack labelling calling for EU harmonised legislation making it mandatory and using the 'traffic light' scheme developed and tested in the UK. EHN continues to lobby for rules severely restricting advertising of HFF foods to children. In the context of the Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, led by the European Commission, the UK FSA initiative on using nutrient profiling to determine which products cannot be advertised on broadcast media to children under 16 will be presented to regulatory authorities throughout the EU's 27 Member States. EHN is also actively advocating for EU co-financing through the Common Agriculture Policy of school fruit and vegetable schemes to be made available across the EU Member States.

EHN is about to finalise its response to the European Commission's White Paper on *A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues* which will be debated in the European Parliament later this autumn.

#### Tobacco

As part of the review of the 2001 tobacco products directive the question of 'liberalising' snus (a Swedish moist snuff product) is occupying the tobacco control community as well as the European Commission and the European

Parliament. In conjunction with the Leuven consensus seminar on tobacco and nicotine product regulation (see above), EHN adopted a statement.

Regarding smokefree legislation, EHN submitted a response to the European Commission's Green Paper in May 2007 calling for total bans to be adopted by Member States at national level and lobbied the European Parliament for its report to reflect EHN's positions.

In June 2007, EHN responded to a European Commission's consultation on excise duties on tobacco.

Future tobacco control measures to be debated at EU level are graphical (pictorial) warnings and generic packaging.

For further information and to obtain copies of EHN papers, please contact:

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### InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF)

1. **CARMELA Study.** Main paper for the study was accepted for publication and will appear in the American Journal of Medicine in Jan. 2008. Seven articles have been written for publication in a journal supplement on hypertension, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, tobacco, lipids, IMT, and adherence to treatment. The Mario Negri Institute of Milan, Italy, has conducted all statistical work.
2. **Prevention and Control.** IAHF sponsored a special issue focus on policy change for CVD prevention.
3. **Rio Conference on Tobacco Control, Sept 5–7 '07.** IAHF, jointly with the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), sponsored the First SRNT Latin American Congress and the Second Iberoamerican Conference on Tobacco Control to strengthen the science for tobacco control in the age of the FCTC. Registrations surpassed expectations with 330 registrants. As a result of this confer-

ence, the Latin American and Caribbean Women and Tobacco Network was established as a joined effort of the International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT) and IAHF. Also, jointly with WHF, young people prepared a Declaration on Latin American Youth for a Life Free of Tobacco. Conference attendees included economists, lawyers, agronomists, journalists, women's advocates, youth advocates, business and government leaders in addition to health professionals.

4. **Media relations.** The 4th Journalism Contest on Tobacco Control awards were presented during the Opening Ceremony at the Rio Conference. First prize went to Valeria Román from Clarín, the main newspaper in Argentina. Awards were also given to journalists from Chile and Brazil. The organizing team had major award winning journalists from the region.
5. **Tobacco Control Research and Advocacy.** The IAHF jointly with the International Development Research Center (IDRC), identified five strategic research lines in tobacco control that fit with advocacy needs in our region. These are: smokefree environments, tobacco and poverty, economics and smuggling, tobacco industry strategies and crop substitution. A partnership with IDRC has developed to ensure high quality, effective, policy-relevant research in Latin America and the Caribbean. An on-going research database is in the works.
6. **Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC).** The 6th Caribbean Conference on ECC took place Oct 5–7 '07 in Antigua. An initiative on Preventing Sudden Death in Sports has begun with work in Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. LAC ECC experts are supporting the development of ILCOR (International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation) 2010 ECC guidelines. Continue to publish the ResuciMail newsletter 3–4 times per year. See [www.interamericanheart.org/?mod=cr](http://www.interamericanheart.org/?mod=cr) Plans are underway for a regional conference in ECC to take place in Aug '08 in Sao Paulo, Brazil with Dr. Sergio Timerman as president.
7. **IAHF Subregional activities.**
  - **Mexico.** A three-year *Community Intervention for Health* (CIH) initiative will begin in Nov '07 in an intervention and control communities in the City of Mexico. This program includes policy interventions in diet, physical activity and tobacco, in worksites, schools, healthcare and the community as a whole. IAHF funded a second FCTC Implementation Report from Civil Society in Mexico and a press conference to present its findings. A 2-day advocacy workshop took place in Cuernavaca, Mexico, jointly with the National Institute of Public Health in August '07. IAHF organized a 2-day strategic planning session with civil society Oct 12–13 '07 to identify strategies to promote strong tobacco control legislation at the federal and city level. Another press conference on Oct 16 focused on weaknesses in smokefree legislation.
  - **Argentina.** With IAHF support, two Bloomberg grants were obtained for Argentina, both to promote the enactment, implementation and enforcement of smokefree legislation. Both projects are underway. IAHF conducted several press conferences on this subject and provided awards to cities that declared themselves 100% smokefree. Gender-based tobacco policy analysis study is underway.
  - **Caribbean.** The IAHF facilitated Caribbean network on tobacco control has been advocating for strong tobacco packaging warning labels. The Port-of-Spain Declaration to stop the Epidemic of Chronic Diseases, signed by prime ministers from CARICOM countries in Trinidad on Sept 15 '07, has led to closer collaboration with PAHO to ensure implementation of policy-focus interventions in these countries.
  - **Andean.** Jointly with the Andean Regional Health Organization (ORAS), we have conducted a tobacco control workshop in Aug '07 in Lima and another one is planned for Quito in Nov '07.
8. **Other.** In Chile we continue a campaign for risk factor awareness, focused mainly on professional education. IAHF and PAHO distributed their first joined press release for WHD 07. There have been further improvements to the IAHF website.

Submitted by Prof. T Hassell



## InterAmerican society of cardiology

### I. Academic activities

#### COURSES

(a) **“Twin Centers” Fellowship program**

As known, this program for Latin American cardiologists (one per country per year) and aimed at promoting short stays in diverse Centers of Excellence for continuing education and maintaining competence levels, has been extended from one to two weeks. The following institutions have ratified their collaboration:

- National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez”, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Heart Institute INCOR (Sao Paulo, Brazil).
- Cleveland Clinic (Cleveland, Ohio, USA).
- Methodist Hospital (Houston, TX, USA).

During the administration of Dr. Martinez del Rio, a donation of US\$ 20,000.00 was allotted by Boston Scientific, which covers the traveling expenses of the fellows. The institutions collaborate with lodging expenses. To this date, the following cardiologists have registered for this benefit:

Name	Country	Date	Institution	Service
Omar F Candia C	Bolivia	August 5–18, 07	INCICH – Mexico	Electrocardiology
Marco Salazar F	Ecuador	Sept 29–Oct 21, 07	Cleveland Clinic – USA	Cardiovascular Surgery
William Tarifa V	Bolivia	Nov 3–18, 07	Cleveland Clinic – USA	Electrocardiology
José G. Ercilla	Peru	Nov 4–16, 07	INCICH – Mexico	Cardiopulmonary
Marianela Rivas	Venezuela	Nov 23–Dec 13, 07	INCICH – Mexico	Pediatric Echocardiography
Carlos Herrera D	Guatemala	June 2008	INCOR – Brazil	Pediatric Echocardiography

(b) **Fellowship of the Interamerican Society of Cardiology sponsored by sanofi-aventis** for Mexican cardiologists of the National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez”. This fellowship is aimed at giving the fellows the opportunity to share at a full-time scale, the daily work with experts in one of the following cardiology areas: Electrocardiology

and Arrhythmias, Echocardiography, Interventionist Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine, Imaging, Pediatric Cardiology, Clinical Cardiology of the Adult, Emergencies and Coronary Unit, Cardiovascular Surgery, Post-surgical Intensive Therapy. To this date, 24 fellows have rotated in these services and administrative work is being done to renew this Fellowship next year.

It is wished that these programs be developed in other countries.

(c) **SOINCA** has promoted and received unconditioned support from all South American Societies aimed at programming a Symposium of the Interamerican Society at all National Congresses of Cardiology. These have been held already in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in Paraguay, Uruguay, and Ecuador. It will be held in December 2007 in Chile. For 2008, coordination has been undertaken with the Societies of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia for the World Congress of Cardiology to be held in Argentina and Venezuela in August. We have undertaken these same steps with the countries of Central America.

### II. Activities of the councils

**Electrocardiology Council.** Coordinator Dr. Manlio Márquez. This Council has been performing modular courses on Cardiac Electrical Stimulation sponsored by Medtronic in the facilities of the National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez”. Courses were held in October 2006, February, May and October 2007.

**Objective:** To up-date the Health Care Professional in the selection, basic programming and follow-up of the instruments used for electrical therapies. In 2008, two courses will be held, in April and September.

**Echocardiography Council.** Coordinator Dr. Jorge Lowenstein.

This council has been many activities performed by ECHOIASC during 2007 and the main projects for 2008.

**Cardiomyopathies (Chagas) Council.** Coordinator Dr. Jorge Mitelman, who has been working also with many activities during 2007.

**WEB page.** We inform you that after some months of difficulties with the hosting of SOINCA's web page, this has been re-activated; since September 2007. Coordinating efforts are being made to gather and exchange information arising from Mexico and Peru. Venezuela and Argentina have also offered their support. Through this web page, all activities of SOINCA are promoted and serve to provide information to all the members of the Affiliated Societies.

We requested again from all the Affiliated Societies information on the local activities to advertise them in our WEB page, as it is indispensable to keep constantly in touch with SOINCA.

The iterative request of SOINCA for the personal e-mails of the members of each local society is only aimed at being able to establish academic communication with them.

### III. International activities and representations

I have been invited to represent SOINCA at the following meetings and congresses:

- **SOLACI** – Argentina in July 2007.
- **WHF.** I attended the meeting of the Organizing Committee of the WHF World Congress, held during the Congress of the Argentinean Society of Cardiology in August 2007. Regarding the World Congress – Argentina 2008: Talks have been held with the Organizing Committee and, in particular, with Dr. Horacio Faella with the objective of having an adequate and equitable representation of the SOINCA Member Societies in that event. Dr. Daniel Piñeiro, as SOINCA's Vice-President for the South American region, was commissioned to hold the coordination meetings with the Organizing Committee. A meeting was held with Dr. Horacio Faella and the Organizing Committee of the World Congress of Cardiology; Dr. Alfonso Buendía and Dr. Daniel Piñeiro were also present.

- **WHF:** I have been invited to the Meeting of the Executive Council of the World Heart Federation, to be held November 12–14, 2007.
- **AHA-2007, Orlando, FL:** I have been invited to coordinate the Joint Session in Spanish of the AHA/SSC/IASC in November 2007.
- **ACC:** During the Argentinean Congress of Cardiology held in August 2007, two meetings were held with ACC's President, Dr. James D. Dove, Ms. Sharyn Teen, International Affairs Director of ACC, Dr. Jack Lewin, in charge of legal affairs, and Mr. George P. George, Director of Financial Affairs. SOINCA was represented by Drs. Oscar Alvarado, Alfonso Buendía, and Daniel Piñeiro. The following conclusions were reached: ACC will provide, without cost, 100 subscriptions to the Cardiosource Plus journal and this will be done through the National Societies. We asked whether it was possible to grant us a certain number of cost-free registrations for the ACC Meeting. A visit to the ACC headquarters by the Executive Council of SOINCA is pending to be programmed. It is still pending to finish the necessary steps to attain a tax-free status in the USA. ACC has again offered to search and identify other potential Excellence Centers in the USA for the Twin Centers program. ACC has offered to give support to send Faculty members to the National Congresses of the Member Societies.
- **Argentinean Congress of Cardiology:** At the Congress in Buenos Aires, SOINCA, represented by Drs. Oscar Alvarado and Daniel Piñeiro, agreed that ASC will invite all Presidents of the South American Societies to their Congress, assuming the travel and lodging expenses.
- **Venezuelan Congress of Cardiology, August 2007:** The Venezuelan Society of Cardiology, in coordination with the Council of Pulmonary Hypertension, will host an event on Pulmonary Hypertension in the city of Barquisimeto in April 2008. The Venezuelan Society of Cardiology, in coordination with the Council of Epidemiology is organizing an event to be held during the first semester of 2008; the date has not yet been finalised. During the Congress of the Venezuelan Society of Cardiology, SOINCA represented by Dr. Oscar Alvarado, in a formal meeting agreed that they will invite all the Presidents of the South American Societies and of SOINCA to their congress, assuming the travel and lodging expenses. Dr. Bartolomé Finizola, in representation of the Venezuelan Society of Cardiology, has offered to support one Society, whichever is proposed by



the General Assembly, in terms of administration matters, web page, organization of events, etc.

I have been invited to the Venezuelan Congress of Cardiology, August 2008.

- **Spanish Society of Cardiology (SSC):** I was invited to represent SOINCA at the Spanish Congress of Cardiology, in Madrid, September 2007. (Owing to previously acquired commitments I was unable to attend.)
- **CIMETEC-2007:** Meeting held in Málaga, Spain, September 13–15, by the Ibero-American Consortium for Education in Sciences and Technology-ISTEC. An activity I could not attend and Dr. Alfonso Buendia attended to represent SOINCA.
- **Equatorian Congress of Cardiology:** October 2007.
- **Chilean Congress of Cardiology:** This Congress will be held in December 2007 (I will not be able to attend. Dr. Daniel Piñeiro will represent me).
- The **Brazilian Society of Cardiology** has offered to cover the travel and lodging expenses of the Presidents of the South American Societies and of SOINCA to attend their Congress.

#### IV. Relations with industry

- General Electric promised to support the ECHOIASC with US\$ 20,000.00 which will be deposited in the SOINCA account at Frost National Bank of San Antonio TX. This amount will be returned in full to the ECHOIASC Council to cover their commitments. It is still pending to be received.

#### V. Foundations

Lic. Luis Morales, Coordinator. The Constitutive Chart project has been revised, but it still needs to be actualized before being submitted to the Public Notary.

Dr. Oscar Alvarado  
President

#### PASCAR report

8th PASCAR CONGRESS:

All Africa, Heart, Stroke and Diabetes Conference

The Pan African Society of Cardiology, PASCAR, held its 8th Congress in collaboration with the Kenyan Cardiac Society, and in partnership with the WHF, from the 13th to 16th May, 2007, at the

Grand Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The multi-disciplinary meeting titled "1st All Africa Conference on Heart Disease, Stroke and Diabetes", focused attention on the emergent cardiovascular disease epidemic in Africa with particular emphasis on prevention and control and on diseases of relevance to Africans such as rheumatic fever/rheumatic heart disease, stroke, heart failure, hypertension, diabetes and HIV/AIDS and the heart. The level of patronage far exceeded the expectations of the Congress organizers with participants coming from all regions of Africa, both Francophone and Anglophone, and from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The meeting was very well organized; the Plenary, Scientific and the Poster sessions covering a wide spectrum of very interesting topics were all well attended throughout the meeting.

PASCAR General Meeting

The Society took opportunity of the All Africa Heart Stroke and Diabetes Conference to hold its general meeting in Nairobi on 16th May, 2007. Major decisions taken at the meeting were the establishment of taskforces for Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease, Training, Echocardiography and Heart Failure. The Society continued with efforts at revising its constitution to make the document relevant. There was proposal to hold a training programme on Valvular and Rheumatic Heart Disease in collaboration with the Rheumatic Fever and Clinical Cardiology Councils of the WHF which we will like to take up with the Scientific Advisory Board. The meeting asked the current officers of PASCAR to continue in office until the next congress in 2009 when elections will be conducted to elect new officers.

A Journal for PASCAR

PASCAR has adopted the Cardiovascular Journal of South Africa as its official journal. Consequently the Journal has had its name changed to Cardiovascular Journal of Africa.

A.S.A.P RF/RHD Initiative

On 12th May, 2007, a Workshop/Symposium was held in collaboration with and sponsorship from the World Heart Federation. The meeting received delegates from several African countries including Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya.

Collaboration with other African Societies

PASCAR continued to work in collaboration with the African Heart Network and the International Forum for Hypertension (IFHA). Both organizations held their meetings in Nairobi alongside the PASCAR Congress in Nairobi.

Building Capacity

PASCAR sees limited capacity for promotive and curative care and leadership training as major challenges that require to be urgently addressed in order to improve the cardiovascular health of sub-Saharan Africa. We would be looking to our international partners such as the WHF for support in meeting these challenges. The surgical members of PASCAR are soon to establish an initiative to have a continental training programme to facilitate the training of cardiac surgeons for the Continent. The physicians are also working on a similar initiative. We are also encouraging our young residents to take advantage of the twinning programme of the WHF.

### Report of the European society of cardiology on European Union relations

The year 2007 was a very important one for the ESC since the EUROPEAN HEART HEALTH CHARTER was launched on 12th June 2007 in Brussels, in the European Parliament, in the presence of EU Health Commissioner Kyprianou, MEP Georgs Andrejevs and WHO Deputy Regional Director Dr Menabde. The Charter has been produced by the ESC and the EHN in close collaboration with the European Commission and World Health Organization Europe (WHO). It was co-signed up by a large number of European umbrella organisations (14) and their national constituencies.

### Background

The launch of the European Heart Health Charter under the EU German Presidency is the outcome of a long process initiated by Prof. John Martin and the ESC EU Relations Committee. Indeed, several EU Presidencies have singled Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) out as their priorities. The Spanish Presidency in 2002 included a Presidency note on promoting cardiovascular health in the Health Council conclusions. In 2006, a large conference organised by the ESC and the European Heart Network (EHN), with a special focus on women and CVD, was held in Brussels under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency.

The Charter is based on the 2004 European Council conclusions on Heart Health (Irish Presidency) on the need for unified actions to prevent the epidemic of CVD in Europe. These conclusions were in June 2005 followed by the Luxembourg Declaration on the necessity to promote their implementation and to involve all potential

stakeholders in developing national plans for Heart Health.

### Objectives

The European Heart Health Charter aims "to reduce substantially the burden of CVD in the EU and WHO European Region and to reduce inequities and inequalities in disease burden within and between countries". It sets out to define minimum requirements for a Heart Healthy environment and proposes practical tools for implementation. It should be looked at as a moral agreement between signatories to work in the field of cardiovascular prevention in all possible respects. A large number of NGO's and other scientific organizations have adhered to it at the national level and many more are requesting to join.

### Implementation

The national response has been extremely enthusiastic, with 21 countries translating the Charter into their own language and 16 countries to date having adopted (or are in the process of doing so) the Charter at national level. It finally involves 31 partners from either the ESC and/or the EHN constituency across 21 European countries.

The specific Work Packages are as follows:

- WP1, WP2, WP3: management WP for European Commission Executive Agency.
- WP4: National implementation Heart Health Charter.
- WP5: Mapping & scanning heart health policies across Europe (led by EHN).
- WP6: Identifying gender discrepancies and proposing solutions to fill the gaps (led by EHN).
- WP7: Dissemination of Heart Score, translation & promotion (led by ESC).
- WP8: Adoption & dissemination of new European CVD Prevention Guidelines at national level (led by ESC).

Best practices and initiatives are shared during meetings as well as through the website ([www.heartcharter.eu](http://www.heartcharter.eu)).

A second milestone was achieved on July 12, 2007 when the Parliament voted in favour of a resolution on CVD calling upon the EU Commission and the member states to act. Specifically, members are encouraged to develop and strengthen their risk factor surveillance systems and to adopt or review national public health strategies. Action items are mentioned such as:

- to assess burden on national healthcare systems,
- to define strategy for early CVD risk management,
- to implement health promotion plan.

This text will help us to achieve the objective of Council Recommendations.

### Next steps

These include collaboration with future EU presidencies in order to achieve our goal of translating the need for CVD prevention in European law. Currently, efforts are focused on achieving this endeavour during the upcoming Swedish EU presidency (2nd half 2009).

Throughout the process, partnership with the various stakeholders under the joint initiative of ESC and EHN, has been an essential element of success.

W. Wijns, Chair EU Relations ESC

## Report of the Asian Pacific heart network 1st January 2007–30th September 2007

### Main Features

1. Teleconferences have been a success. They have been held regularly every 3 months, 5 in all, and the last on 17/9/07. Although many members could not participate, important decisions could be made especially regarding the Taipei Conference, in December 2007.
2. The Newsletter is appearing regularly with 4 issues so far. Bayer has ceased to underwrite the cost from July 2007. No reply has been received from another party with whom negotiations are on.
3. The secretariat and ED are functioning satisfactorily. Attempts to reach out to Foundations have met with mixed success. Cooperation between Society and Foundation has not made much headway. This should be taken up at the next Board meeting in London in November. There is no joint session planned for Taipei as expected.
4. The AGM for the APHN has been fixed for December 13, 2007. Prior to this there will be a workshop chaired by Ms. Elinor Wilson. Proposed topics are GoRed for women. Fundraising and Volunteer Management. The meeting will be funded by the WHF/APHN for staff members. An invitation has been sent to all the Foundations to send suitable candidates. There will be a dinner after the AGM hosted by Brand Support.
5. Outstanding issues [3]
  - Subscription's*: This issue has been solved with WHF deciding to invoice the membership dues. However, only US dollars 3532/– have been collected so far. In 2005 it was \$ 4268 and in 2006 \$ 2290. The following seven countries have paid [including arrears] Australia, Bangladesh, India, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore.
  - Zoning*: This issue has been shelved for the present. A dialogue with the APSC is required for this.
  - Fund raising*: Although the Hanafiah committee made recommendation in this regard, no firm action has been taken. The matter will be further discussed at the Workshop in Taipei in December 2007.

Dr. S. Padmavati