



SHORT COMMUNICATION

# Letter from President Valentin Fuster and CEO Janet Voûte of the World Heart Federation

*World Heart Federation, Switzerland*

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This issue of the World Heart Federation's journal, *Prevention and Control*, is appropriately timed for distribution at the World Congress of Cardiology 2006 in Barcelona. This congress marks the beginning of a new era in the World Heart Federation's development. As of 2006, we will be holding World Congresses of Cardiology every two years, primarily in countries with developing economies.

Meeting every two years is of critical importance to our mission of prevention and control of heart disease and stroke in low- and middle-income countries. These congresses enable us to unite our membership, and to share the science of patient care as well as progress and new initiatives in population health. Our member societies of cardiology and heart foundations from 100 countries need every opportunity to build relationships, share perspectives and experiences.

In order to meet the needs both of the community of cardiovascular physicians and of public health professionals, we structure a wide range of sessions. Many sessions are focused on the latest science of patient care, while others delve into successful health promotion programs such as World Heart Day and Go Red for Women, or advocacy initiatives in the areas of healthy nutrition, physical activity and tobacco control. Shar-

ing the insights from some of the World Heart Federation demonstration projects in Grenada, China, Colombia and the Pacific Islands for example, enriches our understanding of the need for creative collaborative efforts. In Grenada, it is hoped that patient care will be improved at the same time as community organizations are mobilized to improve diets and increase physical activity in the population. In Colombia, our joint children's program with Sesame Workshop requires partnership with the media, government ministries and health professionals. The Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease program requires medical professionals to manage the secondary prevention program but also community involvement to increase awareness. We believe that collaborative models are the key to our future success. Patients must have access to care and access to treatments, while communities must be mobilized to invest in better health. This is why the tagline for all of our World Congresses of Cardiology is "from patients to populations". That is also why the name of this journal is "Prevention and Control".

We look forward to seeing you in 2008 in Buenos Aires and in 2010 in Beijing and to counting you among the subscribers to *Prevention and Control*.

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