

limited, but a forthcoming course at the Royal College of Physicians may be helpful. Future courses to supplement this with practical experience are planned by the British Nuclear Cardiology Group.

The course is entitled "Clinical Nuclear Medicine in Relation to Cardiology and Thoracic Medicine" and will run from Wednesday 12 May to Friday 14 May 1993 at the Royal College of Physicians of London. Topics include myocardial perfusion imaging, radionuclide ventriculography, and newer techniques such as positron emission tomography. The emphasis will be on the clinical applications of nuclear techniques although technical aspects will also be covered. Registration fees are £180 for three days or £75 per day. For further details contact the Conference Office, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LE. tel 071 935 1174.

Healthwise-Heartline

Members of the Society will want to know about this helpline that is being advertised to the general public through leaflets in general practitioners' surgeries. It is directed at victims of symptomatic coronary disease and to those who may be at increased risk of the disease. Advice has been provided since 2 February by Professor Jim Shepherd and his staff at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Lines are open for anyone in the United Kingdom from midday to 5 pm each weekday (on 0800 858585 Freephone for talking about coronary disease; and on 0891 858585 at 48p per minute or 36p at cheap rate for those who want advice leaflets). The cost of providing the service is being met by an educational grant from industry. Professor Shepherd mentions that the advice is targeted primarily at the general public, but he believes that the medical profession may also benefit from access to the helpline. He would value any comments and involvement from members of the profession.

News from Europe

Philip Poole-Wilson writes: "The working groups of the European Society for Cardiology are very active. Several are putting forward guidelines for investigation, management, and treatment of cardiac conditions. At present the board is considering guidelines on percutaneous balloon valvuloplasty for valvular stenosis, on prevention of thromboembolic events in valvular heart

disease, and on exercise testing. These documents may have implications for cardiology in Britain. A task force is being set up on the measurement of clinical aspects of heart rate variability by the working groups on computers in cardiology and on arrhythmias. The working groups on arrhythmias and cardiac pacing are setting up a European Registry for Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (EURID). Further information on any of these matters should be obtained from the chairmen of the working groups whose names and addresses can be obtained from the pink pages at the back of the *European Heart Journal*."

Other European cardiac societies

There was fair British representation at the Troisièmes Journées Européennes de la Société Française de Cardiologie held in Paris from 14 to 16 January. Our French colleagues make considerable efforts to ensure that their January meeting—one of several they hold throughout the year—has an international character. Their hospitality is both warm and generous. Simultaneous translation is provided in the main hall, and English is accepted as the second language in the smaller simultaneous sessions. We were impressed, however, that several British delegates chose to deliver their presentations in French—a gesture that was warmly appreciated. The slides were of superb quality. Some members of the French society had slides in English but spoke in French—a compromise that makes simultaneous translation almost redundant. Others had slides in both languages which was also very helpful. But we learnt a lesson that all should take note of, because the habit is universal: the excessive use of abbreviations on slides makes for difficulty in any presentation but causes complete incomprehension with a multilingual audience. Let us resolve to avoid most abbreviations at international meetings. Members may wish to look out for next year's notices for abstract dates—they can be assured of an enjoyable visit to one of Europe's most beautiful cities. The address of the Société Française de Cardiologie is 15 Rue de Madrid, F-75008 Paris. Meanwhile our contacts with other European societies continues to increase. In April the British Cardiac Society is likely to be voted a (corporate) member of the German Cardiac Society, and we look forward to visiting Mannheim for a meeting which will consider the proposal. We are not sure that our

constitution allows us to reciprocate this very welcome initiative. If it does, could the German Cardiac Society—at least in theory—become president of the British Cardiac Society and vice versa? Perhaps we should not dwell on such implausible possibilities until discussions over the Maastricht Treaty are complete . . .

News of colleagues

An Advisory Committee has recommended the appointment of David Roberts (senior registrar at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham) to be consultant cardiologist at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool from 1 April. There were seven applicants for this new post. No nominations were made by two other recent appointment committees, one in England and one in Scotland. This is an increasingly common failure, reflecting presumably a paucity of applicants who are believed to be suitable. Members of the Society may have seen that the British Heart Foundation is inviting applications from deans of medical schools and other postgraduate institutions to nominate candidates for clinical scientist fellowships. The award will be offered to a young clinician who has demonstrated an interest in, and a potential for, clinical research. The fellowship is for a period of up to seven years, with the first three years spent away from the sponsoring department. Candidates must be United Kingdom citizens or must have been resident for a minimum of three years. Full details can be obtained from Valerie Mason, Research Funds Manager at the British Heart Foundation.

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NOTICE

The 1993 Annual Meeting of the British Cardiac Society will take place at the Wembley Conference Centre from 18 to 21 May.