

BRITISH CARDIAC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Administrative arrangements

We have made progress with the new committee structure. The Training and Manpower Committee that was formed last year in association with the Cardiology Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London has been enlarged and will have much to do. It comprises Sleight, Cobbe, Hall, Webb-Peploe, and Silove for the Specialist Advisory Committee, Pentecost for the College, Julian for the British Heart Foundation, Petch as the European representative, with Henderson, Dymond, and Chamberlain as other representatives of the Cardiac Society. On the subject of training, several meetings have taken place with the Manpower Committee of the College (Chamberlain representing the society) in an attempt to resolve the problem of registrar posts. We are anxious to have enough posts protected for cardiology to support the new training programme. This is agreed in principle, but arrangements may be delayed because other specialties wish to follow the same path. This is reasonable, and indeed lends strength to the cause, but the logistics have become formidable. Meanwhile the Department of Health is anxious to press ahead with the new arrangements to regulate registrar posts and reduce the numbers. You will hear more.

A Data Management Committee has been set up, to be chaired by Parker. Other members are Campbell, Hubner, Macfarlane, Nathan, Poloniecki (co-opted), Rickards, Chamberlain, K Taylor, and a paediatric cardiologist still to be nominated. This committee will have an interest in systems and in software, with the particular aim of achieving uniformity or compatibility wherever this is desirable. This is a hot potato—if you have strong views do not hesitate to make them known.

We need to be smarter with our public relations. Therefore the small publications committee has been expanded and will take on a wider role as Public Relations and Journals Committee. It will be chaired by Oldershaw, with Krikler (ex officio as editor of the *British Heart Journal*), Sleight (ex officio as editor of *Cardiovascular Research*),

Henderson, Parker, Poole-Wilson, and Chamberlain. We have appointed Joan Scott Public Relations to assist us for a year in the first instance: this will provide a measure of the value of professional help in this important area. Staff within the organisation are no strangers to the medical scene. They have worked with the society in the past and have a regular commitment to several other specialist groups and to the British Heart Foundation. Claire Marley (Claire Julian in private life) is the consultant for the organisation who will work with us.

The society's contribution to the Joint Cardiac Audit Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Cobbe, de Bono, Hubner, Keith Fox, and Wray. Other members are Joy, West (co-opted), Treasure, and Chamberlain, with Brooks (chairman), Birkhead, and Pentecost as college nominees.

The name Chamberlain appears more than most—this is an ex officio phenomenon, and is not related to any desire for more work: still less to any special skills or popularity in committees. He is confident that others will carry the burdens. This is not the end of the list of new or expanded committees. We hope soon to appoint a Technicians Liaison Committee. It will be chaired by Dymond. Lastly, we want to explore the possible role of an Ethics/Peer Review Committee. Do other areas need special attention?

Annual meeting

By the time members read this page, the die will have been cast on the question of London meetings. The Conference Centre at Wembley has now offered what we were seeking but could not previously attain—agreement to hold meetings on alternate years at Wembley. But after Torquay do we still want it? If you do not already know and you cannot wait to find out by watching this space, you will have to telephone me and I will tell you. Perhaps we should settle other contentious issues by ballot: we cannot then be considered undemocratic, at least not in all things.

Europe

The European Society of Cardiology meeting in Stockholm will be taking place very soon after this appears in print. We hope as many as can do so will attend. The society will help with expenses of at least some registrars and research fellows if they are not sponsored by a pharmaceutical company. Preference, of course, will be given to those who will be presenting papers or posters. With a European meeting in the autumn, do we need a second low cost workshop type meeting for

the society at a similar time of the year? Our affiliated groups tend to have their own meetings, and may not wish to be tied to a common venue and time. Is there really a need for more meetings to present hot data?

Henderson has asked whether it should be customary to use the initials FESC for those who have been elected to the European Fellowship. Surely we should—if indeed one is in degree, diploma, and fellowship mode. This is coming into use by our European colleagues, and will reflect our own support for the appropriate integration of European cardiology. The European Fellowship is becoming coveted, and this is the way we believe it should be. We now need some agreement both on the principles governing nominations for election to the Fellowship, and at what stage in the career structure this might be appropriate. At the present time some inconsistency between countries is emerging.

The society page

We want to air the views of members on this page. A little amicable controversy is not barred. Please be encouraged to write with news, comments, queries, and criticisms. We reserve editorial rights, but only on the ground of what we feel to be appropriate. We are not adverse to heterodox views, but remember that they will be firmly attributed to their authors, especially if we do not like them.

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NOTICES

British Cardiac Society

The Annual Meeting will take place at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow, on 30 April to 3 May 1991.

Endovascular therapies in vascular disease

The International Congress IV: Endovascular Therapies in Vascular Disease will take place in Scottsdale, Arizona on 10 to 14 February 1991. Further information from Erika Scott, International Congress IV, PO Box 10,000, Phoenix, AZ 85064, USA.