



# Annual Report 2005

**Exhibit  
2**  
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EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY OF  
CARDIOLOGY®

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President  
and  
Chief  
Executives'  
Report  
to  
Members

# President and Chief Executives' Report to Members

The new Board, appointed in September 2004, continues to work on the strategic objectives set up in 2003, and has initiated the discussion on the new strategic vision.

The structure of the Constituent Bodies of the ESC continues to evolve. Four Associations are now active. In addition to the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) and the European Association of Echocardiography (EAE), two new associations were officially launched at the ESC Congress in Munich in August 2004. The European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (EACPR) was formed out of the merger of the two Working Groups: WG on Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology and WG on Epidemiology and Prevention. The Heart Failure Association of the ESC evolved from the now dissolved ESC Working Group on Heart Failure. All associations enjoy a rapid growth and substantially contribute to the development of respective subspecialties in Europe.

The Councils of the ESC are designed to provide horizontal integration of diverse activities within the ESC and reach out to sister organisations to achieve Europe-wide cooperation on key issues. Creation of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science enhanced the role of science within the Society and enabled effective interaction with other European professional organisations of this kind.

In March the ESC launched an important initiative, "Women at Heart". This initiative is aimed at medical professionals, to highlight the growing burden and under-appreciation of heart disease in women, and promote improved handling of women at risk of cardiovascular disease in clinical practice. Women are also under-represented in clinical trials. There is thus much to be done to increase the understanding of women's CVD and to improve the quality of treatment of women with CVD across Europe. This year "Women at Heart" includes three main components – a successful Policy Conference on cardiovascular disease in women took place at the Heart House in June 2005; a horizontal analysis of data collected within the Euro Heart Survey programme will be carried out, and women's heart health has been chosen as the leading topic of the Annual Congress at Stockholm.

## Congresses

Last year's congress in Munich was extremely successful, both in terms of the number of participants and the scientific level of the event. Many features that contributed to this success, such as the FOCUS sessions, basic science track, as well as the Hotline

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and Clinical Update sessions will be continued this year. The layout and presentation format of the electronic posters will be improved, to meet the expectations of both the presenters and the participants. New features this year will include Science Hotline, where for the first time the most recent data on basic and clinical science will be presented, and also Meet-the-Expert sessions, addressing practical issues related to the management of important clinical problems. All sessions on cardiovascular health in women will be highlighted in the programme.

An all-time record number of abstracts was submitted this year from all over the world, which has led us to increase the number of oral and poster presentations.

The subspecialty congresses also continue to attract more delegates each year, both in absolute numbers and geographic representation. Heart Failure, Euroecho and Europace congresses have all been very successful, recording excellent levels of participation. Also the meetings organised by the Working Groups attract the attention of many cardiologists. We believe that the interest in these events will grow, as the cardiology community becomes more specialised in the future.

### Journals

European Heart Journal and Cardiovascular Research, the two official ESC journals, continue to be successful. The impact factor of the European Heart Journal reached 6.247 this year, the highest value ever. The family of subspecialty journals, including the European Journal of Heart Failure, Europace, European Journal of Echocardiography, European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, is now well established on the market, and covers a wide range of topics related to cardiovascular medicine.

### Guidelines

Production of practice guidelines continues to be one of the core activities of the ESC. A set of core guidelines covering most relevant areas in clinical practice, was established. The core guidelines will be updated on a regular basis.

Five new documents have been published since the last Annual Congress. A wide variety of topics was covered, including syncope, primary pulmonary hypertension, acute and chronic heart failure, and percutaneous coronary interventions. All guidelines are developed in close collaboration with all ESC constituent bodies, and a majority of National Societies endorse the ESC guidelines. Translations into several different languages, prepared by the National Societies, are now available. Each guideline is accompanied by a pocket version and also comes in the PDA format,

increasingly serving as a useful tool, improving patient care in everyday clinical practice.

### Euro Heart Survey

The programme has been simplified and refined. The second surveys on acute coronary syndromes and on heart failure are in progress. The survey on percutaneous coronary interventions was launched in May, generating a lot of attention in different countries, which should ensure adequate representation of all geographic areas. Several other surveys are in the pipeline. Unified sets of data, produced for the European Union by the ESC experts within the CARDS programme (Cardiology Audit and Data Standards) are implemented in all surveys, in order to make possible data comparison between different countries. In the new surveys, all participating centres will get feedback on their own performance as compared to other centres. This approach, we hope, will represent an added value to the contributors.

### Continuing Medical Education

The ESC has produced several educational products over the last year, including CDs, DVDs, and a new book on cardiovascular imaging.

The Educational Web Site of the Society, [www.ESCed.org](http://www.ESCed.org), offers a number of case-based modules for training and self-assessment. This site is free to all users.

A most important project which will be completed by the ESC this year is the development of the ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine. This textbook will be based largely on the Core Curriculum and will be a useful addition to every cardiologist's library. The textbook is being written mostly by European cardiologists for a wide audience, and will provide the most up-to-date review for identifying and managing cardiovascular diseases. The textbook will be available both in printed and electronic format in November 2005.

The number of educational courses has been reduced, and the emphasis was placed on the update meetings, covering the entire spectrum of cardiology. The first meeting of this kind was organised jointly with the Erasmus University earlier this year.

All educational products and events are accredited by the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC) for CME activity, and an increasing number of requests for EBAC accreditation are received for meetings from around the world.

Accreditation of individuals in different cardiac subspecialties has been initiated by the European Board for Specialty in Cardiology (EBSC), in close collaboration with

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