

## Fetal Cardiology Working Group Business Meeting, Venice 2008

Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 08.00-09.00 in Sala Mosaici II:

Attendance: 35 members of the FWG were present at the meeting.

The change to the speakers in the afternoon session was noted and Vlasta Fesslova thanked for stepping in at short notice to give one of our talks. The council expressed their thanks to her.

1. Minutes from the last business meeting in Warsaw 2007 were passed as correct. There were no matters arising not on the agenda
2. Composition of council  
The results of the ballot for the new treasurer were presented: 16 votes were received and Joanna Dangel was elected.

### New composition of the council

i. Chairman:	Mats Mellander	(2007 - 2011)
ii. Secretary:	Helena Gardiner	(2007 - 2012)
iii. Treasurer:	Joanna Dangel	(2008 - 2013)
iv. Councillor:	Alain Fraisse	(2007 - 2010)
v. Councillor:	Renate Oberhoffer	(2008 - 2011)

There was a discussion about mechanisms of proposing and voting for new council members. It was felt that all posts should be notified by email to the group and a ballot organised if there is more than one proposal.

**AP:** Council will explore the possibility of email voting for new members as postal voting may be a contributing factor for the poor response.

Although it was believed the duration of council posts on the various WGs has been set by the AEPC it is not uniform. Discussion centred on uniformity of tenure and whether the longer terms of 5 years held by the treasurer and secretary should be continued.

**AP:** As there was no consensus from the floor it was decided to discuss this further with the FWG chairs who will meet before the next AEPC meeting and create uniform guidelines.

While the WGs tried to encourage members to apply for council posts from a variety of countries, it was noted that there was reluctance from several to propose new council members. In other WGs, council members have had to stay in post for several years after their term has expired because there were no individuals willing to stand for election.

**AP:** Email one known individual from each country to check all members' emails are correct and encourage wider participation in FWG activities

3. Report from the Treasurer  
*Renate Oberhoffer*  
The financial state of the group was good with a balance of 8,314.55 Euros

Support has been given to Håkan Eliasson to travel to contributing centres to the AVB study as part of the verification of cases. (see below)

#### 4. Status of Retrospective Collection of Cases of Isolated Fetal Complete Heart Block

The current analysis of AVB cases will be presented in the meeting this afternoon. There was considerable discussion in the absence of the research fellow Håkan Eliasson. Concerns were expressed from several centres that he had not discussed the prospect of visiting them and they had hoped he would be present for discussion of the project. Council reported that the initial intention had been for site visits to most, if not all, contributing centres. Sven Erik Sonesson expressed concern that site visits were not possible for all units and pressure of funding locally meant he wanted to complete registration of cases and start analysis. He will discuss this with Håkan

**AP:** Council proposed that Håkan email all centres and offer site visits where feasible. Council will discuss a suitable method to randomise a limited number of visits.

#### 5. European Training Recommendations – new version and update on progress

The guidelines for training in fetal cardiology have been approved by the AEPC council and are available on the website.

Some concern was expressed about the proposed training numbers in the document because only larger centres would be able to train fetal cardiologists.

**AP:** Council will email all members to request workload details so we can draw up a list of training centres in each country and be in a position to advise members of centres with suitable training volumes in their area.

Members discussed various aspects of the training programme, particularly fetal biometry, some felt was unnecessary.

**AP:** Members were advised that the guidelines will be updated in two years and proposals for revision will be sought and discussed.

There was general agreement that a mechanism of accreditation be introduced for training in fetal cardiology. Various aspects of the process were discussed, particularly the difficulty in assessing the practical aspects of training.

**AP:** the possibility of holding assessments at the AEPC meetings will be explored.

#### 6. Fetal Cardiology Database, updated version *Rodney Franklin*

Dr Franklin could not be present but had met with Mats Mellander previously in the year and sent a shortened database that had been circulated to the FWG.

**AP:** The database is with the webmasters and will be available on the website soon. It is hoped it could act as a template for those who do not have a database in their units.

#### 7. Multicentre study of Fetal Left and Right Heart Outflow Obstruction - presentation of revised spreadsheet and request for retrospective submissions.

The rationale behind the study was explained. It was intended to collect retrospective and prospective cases of critical aortic and pulmonary stenosis or atresia and cases with intact inter-atrial septum (including TGA that may be considered for emergency postnatal septostomy) over the 10 year period from 2000 to 2009. This dataset would allow assessment of the natural history alongside outcome of contemporaneous cases undergoing fetal intervention. All contributors to the study would have authorship.

**AP:** the current word document of suggested fields has been circulated and suggestions for alterations will be accepted for the next month. A database will be created from the revised document and posted on the website for all to use.

#### 8. Alternatives for FCWG Web Page

The current webpage is working better than in previous years, although uploading data can be slow.

**AP:** the FWG will continue to suggest improvements to the AEPC council

#### 9. Upcoming meetings

Members mentioned courses they are running in fetal cardiology in the next 12 months

- 1 Vlasta Fesslova: Italy – (in Italian)
- 2 Fetal echocardiography hands-on course suitable for beginners, obstetricians, technicians. Organisers: Dr Helena Gardiner and Dr Yen Ho  
Royal Brompton Hospital, Imperial College, London, 23-24 October 2008  
Email: [academicvents.nhli@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:academicvents.nhli@imperial.ac.uk)  
Or directly to Yen Ho at [Morphology@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:Morphology@rbht.nhs.uk)
- 3 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July Munich 2008 . Advanced course Fetal Echo ,Organiser Renate Oberhoffer, German Heart Centre Munich, [Oberhoffer@dhm.mhn.de](mailto:Oberhoffer@dhm.mhn.de)
- 4 Fetal Doppler Workshop, Oberlech Austria Organisers Gerald Tulzer and Wolfgang Artz, March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There was a proposal that Professor Adrianna Gittenburg de Groot be approached to speak at the next AEPC meeting (Innsbruck) as she will be retiring and it would be a fitting educational update.

The proposal to run a cheap course for juniors was discussed again and several people offered to look into this.

**AP:** the council looks forward to accepting costed proposals from interested parties.

#### 10. Update your FWG data entry:

**AP:** members were requested to ensure their email addresses were up to date as it is the only method of communication between members of the group.

#### 11. Other business: no other business was discussed

Helena Gardiner  
Secretary FCWG/AEPC