

Minutes for the Fetal Cardiology Working Group Business Meeting in Warsaw 2007

1. Minutes from the last business meeting in Basel 2006.

The minutes were approved without comments.

2. Composition of council

There had to be three replacements of council members this year: Chairman, Secretary and one councillor (Helena Gardiner). Four members had received at least 5 proposals from members from at least 2 countries: Annabelle Azancot, France, for councillor, Alain Fraise, France, for councillor, Helena Gardiner, UK, for secretary and Mats Mellander, Sweden, for chairman. A proposal of the council to appoint Mats Mellander as chairman and Helena Gardiner as secretary and to arrange for a ballot between Annabelle and Alain was approved by the members present at the meeting.

Gerald Tulzer was thanked for his excellent efforts and contributions during his period as secretary and then chairman of the FCWG.

Previous composition of the council

Chairman: Gerald Tulzer	(2003 - 2007)
Secretary: Mats Mellander	(2002 - 2007)
Treasurer: Renate Oberhoffer	(2003 - 2008)
Councillor: Helena Gardiner	(2004 - 2007)
Councillor: Vlasta Fesslova	(2005 - 2008)

New composition of the council

Chairman: Mats Mellander	(2007 - 2011)
Secretary: Helena Gardiner	(2007 - 2012)
Treasurer: Renate Oberhoffer	(2003 - 2008)
Councillor: Vlasta Fesslova	(2005 - 2008)
Councillor: To be announced after ballot	(2007 - 2010)

3. Report of the treasurer.

Renate Oberhoffer reported that the balance was 4099.20 CHF on May 1st 2007. The balance one year earlier was 8120.65 CHF. Since then there was bank charges (150.00

CHF) and expenses covering work by Kirsten Heiss on the proposed new web page and speakers for Basel (total 3871.45 CHF).

4. Status of retrospective collection of cases of isolated fetal complete heart block.

Håkan Eliasson reported that twenty-five centres responded positively to a letter of invitation which was sent out in November 2006, to members of the FWG, reporting a total number of 140 fetuses. To date, information from 15 centres (102 patients) have been sent in. Data are still not complete and do not allow a detailed interpretation. Forty-five percent of the pregnant women were treated with steroids. The decision to institute such treatment seemed to be more dependent on local policy than on fetal status. Data collection will go on until mid autumn 2007, after which a group of main contributors to the study will be invited to start analysing data and to write the final report in the form of a scientific paper

5. European training recommendations - opinion of the AEPC council on our draft.

Gerald Tulzer, being a member of the AEPC council, informed us that after reviewing the training recommendations of the fetal & intensive care working groups and comparing them to the already accepted recommendations of MRI and Echo, it became evident, that there are large differences in the structure, number of levels and requirements, which sometimes do not fit the already published training recommendations for general pediatric cardiologists. Therefore the AEPC council decided that the training recommendations should be more uniform in structure and must fit the general training requirement. A group within the AEPC council has been formed which will provide the respective working groups with a basic structure, so that their recommendations can be adapted accordingly.

6. Fetal cardiology database, updated version.

Rodney Franklin presented an updated version of the fetal cardiology database. It was decided that after some further modifications reducing the number of similar diagnostic alternatives the database should be published on the web page for any member to use.

7. Multicentre study of fetal left and right heart outflow obstruction.

The proposed protocol was discussed again and it was decided that the council should produce a much shortened version to be published on the web page and an invitation should then be sent to all members to participate in this prospective study. Centers participating should enter cases on the form and e-mail each case to Helena Gardiner.

8. Alternatives for FCWG web page.

Mats Mellander reported about the problems we have had with setting up a FCWG web page (linked to the main AEPC web page) using the Joomla! Content Management System, as supported by Kirsten Heiss in Munich. Although the potential using this system is great, we did not succeed in achieving simple functionality and the necessary support was difficult to get when needed. The proposal of the council therefore was to stay with the AEPC main web page for the coming year and then re-evaluate. This was approved by the members present.

9. Upcoming meetings

Gerald Tulzer announced the next Lech meeting which will be March 30 – April 4, 2008.

Further information is available at <http://web.mac.com/g.tulzer>

Helena Gardiner announced the next London “Hands-on” fetal echo course will be October 24/25th, 2007. Further information is available from Dr Yen Ho’s department at

morphology@rbht.co.uk

Vlasta Fesslova is organising a meeting before the ISUOG meeting in Florence, September 9th, 2007 . “Recent advances in Perinatal Cardiology” Further information is available from romeo@mcaevents.org

Annabelle Azancot gave details of her Fetal Cardiology meeting in Paris on 16/17th

November, 2007. Further information can be obtained from denise.leduc@rdb.aphp.fr

10. Other business

Proposals for a fetal session at the next AEPC meeting in Venice in 2008 should be submitted to our new secretary Helena Gardiner before the end of October 2007

(helena.gardiner@imperial.ac.uk)

Mats Mellander

Secretary FCWG/AEPC