

Southampton  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2007

Dear Junior Members,

As Junior Members of the AEPC, we now number over 100, and, as the fastest growing segment of the membership, we have an increasingly important voice within the organisation. As I see it, Junior membership has three main purposes:

1. To foster networking amongst European fellows: Many of us work in centres in which there are only a few trainees, or indeed only one trainee. This makes it very helpful to meet other trainees and get to know how other people tackle the same challenges that face us all during our training.
2. Education: We've chosen a rapidly changing specialty, and if you feel like me, then you'll often be daunted by the amount there is to learn, even just to attain a basic working knowledge of our field. The AEPC courses offer a fantastic way to set the foundation in sub-specialty areas, and are also very good value for money.
3. To have fun: This is one of my priorities! I think most JMs appreciate the social side of the AEPC's activities.

#### ***AEPC Annual Meeting, Warsaw***

I was pleased to have the chance to meet lots of JMs in Warsaw at the 42<sup>nd</sup> AEPC Annual General Meeting last month. The teaching day on Grown-Up Congenital Heart disease was very well attended on the first day by junior and less-junior members. Dr Shakeel Quereshi gave us a thoughtful talk regarding the future of paediatric cardiology at our Junior Members' lunchtime meeting, and although unfortunately there wasn't adequate time for discussion, this talk obviously stimulated a lot of private debate.

JMs enjoyed a night out at the Tygmont jazz club, with most of us moving on when the AEPC bar tab ran out to the infamous Club Seventy to boogie into the small hours. There was an intrepid band of diehards who discovered the latino influence in downtown Warsaw following the Gala Dinner at the Royal Palace; who says Belgian boys can't dance?!



#### ***Basic Teaching Courses***

Plans are underway to continue the excellent Basic Teaching Courses that have been set in motion over the last few years. Courses in echocardiography, morphology and dysrhythmia are already up and running, and there are plans for courses in cardiac catheterisation (including hands-on teaching in a simulation laboratory), genetics/basic science and cardiac intensive care. The teaching day at the start of the AEPC meeting next May will be on intensive care. Please check out the website ([www.aepc.org/aepc/nid/Meetings](http://www.aepc.org/aepc/nid/Meetings)) for details of these courses. In the past, all the courses have been booked up early on, so make sure you book as soon as you can to reserve a place. These courses are very well subsidised by the AEPC council, including the social activities, and we try very hard to make sure that there is also cheap accommodation available.

### ***AEPC Annual Meeting 2008***

The annual meeting next year in May will be in Venice, with a morphology teaching course for two days immediately before it in Padua. Start thinking about your abstracts now, as the deadline for submission comes up very early (midwinter)! I look forward to having more JMs than ever before attending the meeting, and will make sure that there is a full programme for us.

### ***Your help is needed***

The number of JMs involved in the AEPC in countries throughout Europe is now reaching the stage where it is difficult to get to know all of you. I would really like to have one JM in each country who could be in the position to contact other paediatric cardiology trainees, who are not AEPC JMs, to let them know what is going on, and pass on to them information regarding courses and meetings which might be useful to them. If you feel you would like to get involved in this way, then I would love to hear from you. Bart Straver (Netherlands) and Ruth Heying and Sohrab Fratz (Germany) have already volunteered for this, but there are a lot more countries that need to be represented.

I also would value your feedback and suggestions regarding what you would like to see the AEPC do for you in terms of teaching courses, activities at meetings, and anything else you would like to suggest. Please do not hesitate to phone, write or e-mail me if you have something you would like to discuss.

And finally, many thanks to Heynric Grotenhuis, who has stepped down after working very hard for the last four years as Junior Members' Councillor.

Best wishes,

Tara Bharucha  
Junior Members' Councillor, AEPC

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