ESH WORKING GROUP on *Endothelins and Endothelial Factors*

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PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

1. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Our plan is to render the WG an active forum for cooperation and participation of all members. To this goal a questionnaire will be sent to each member with the aim of making a recollection of the major issues of interest and the methodologies currently used in his/her research group. This information will be shared to all WG members and a call for proposal of new cooperative projects will come soon. Moreover, to this aim we will develop a website within the Society website if the ESH will provide some financial and/or technical support.

2. GUIDELINES

The WG in 2005 released two seminal guidelines papers that were published in Journal of Hypertension: the first focussed on the methodologies for the assessment of endothelial function and dysfunction in the different vascular beds; the second on the feature of endothelial function and dysfunction in different diseases and conditions that are associated with increased cardiovascular risk factors. Both papers appeared to be highly appreciated by the scientific community as shown by the fact that they received an enormous number of citations. However, as time goes by, these guidelines need to be updated and therefore one of the most important future activities of the WG will be to prepare an updated position paper.

3. POSITION PAPER

A Position Paper on 'The Endothelial Function and Dysfunction' will be prepared in the next months by the members of the WG. The layout will be similar to the previous one published in Journal of Hypertension (2005; 23: 7 & JH 2005; 23: 233) in 2005 and therefore it will entail an update both on the methodological aspect and on the clinical aspects. In particular, attention will be given to novel issues, such as 'microparticles', which have emerged as a promising tool to investigate the endothelial function, and to aspects as, for example, pregnancy that were not considered in the previous paper.

4. EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

We would like that the WG may promote a comprehensive online educational program, including learning of the basic and advanced aspects of the endothelial dysfunction, dedicated to both young and expert investigators. The proposal of an in-site course will be also discussed between the WG members.
5. NEWSLETTERS

A brief summary of the Position Paper will be arranged for the publication in 'The Scientific Newsletters' of the ESH (printed or online material). Moreover, a quarterly newsletter will be sent to all ESH members to share information and favour interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers working on different research areas.

6. REGISTRIES

A registry of the investigators/laboratories working in the field of endothelial function will be instituted with the final aim to provide a framework for applications for funding at the EU level.

7. PUBLICATIONS BY WG MEMBERS

Due to the very large number of publications by the WG members, only few selected publications have been listed here below.


