

From the Editor

The current issue of the Journal appears concomitantly with the supplement containing the abstracts for the Third World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery. In less than a decade, this meeting has established itself as the prime event in the calendar of all those concerned with Cardiology in the Young. The conjoined congress has its roots in the separate meetings of the First World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology, held in London in 1980, and the First World Congress of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery held in Bergamo in 1988. The latter event was particularly important for our Journal, since the preliminary discussions leading to its appearance took place during this Congress. Subsequent to the meeting of the paediatric cardiologists held in Bangkok in 1989, the sensible decision was made to fuse the two congresses. Since then, hugely successful meetings have been held in Paris, in 1993, and in Hawaii in 1997. *Cardiology in the Young* has been privileged to publish the Abstract Books from both these meetings, and we are equally pleased now to be publishing the abstracts for the Toronto meeting in the supplement to this issue. The material contained within the abstracts will be presented in the form of either moderated poster or general poster presentations. Due to this innovation, the organisers have been able to accept the majority of the work submitted, so attendance at the meeting should be high. This offers the delegates the opportunity not only to meet with each other, but also to spend time with the Editors and Publishers of the Journal. We will be present in the Exhibition throughout the meeting. This is your big opportunity to share your thoughts with us. We will also be holding a meeting of our Editorial Board during the meeting. From both sources, we are looking for advice on how we can continue to improve.

In addition to the Symposium itself, and its three satellite meetings, numerous other meetings will surely take place over the five scheduled days. A particularly important meeting is arranged for the afternoon of Sunday, May 31. This will be the first open meeting of the International Nomenclature Group, convened subsequent to recent meetings of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Association for European Cardiology, and the European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgeons. The aim is

to agree a common system to encompass all the terms used in the diagnosis and management of congenital cardiac malformations. The need for uniformity stems from the almost simultaneous publication of coding systems by the combined group of American and European surgeons (<http://www.ctsnet.org/doc/3699>), and by the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology (<http://www.aepc.org/code-com.htm>). Both systems have short and long lists, each designed with a common purpose, but currently there is much confusion. At a preliminary meeting held in Frankfurt in October, 2000, it was agreed that the best immediate solution to remove contentious issues would be to cross-map the terms in the two short lists. This has now been achieved. It has also been realised, however, that many constituencies, notably the Pediatric Cardiology community of North America, had not had the opportunity to provide direct input to these lists, although several individual cardiologists were involved in the construction of the joint code of the American and European surgeons. At the meeting to be held in Toronto, it is hoped that suitable input will be provided, along with similar representations from Asia, the Antipodes, and South America. Two hours will be available for the discussions. This is ridiculously short considering the size of the task, but we have to start from somewhere. Presentations will be made by Gus Mavroudis, Martin Elliott, Rodney Franklin, and an American pediatric cardiologist yet to be determined. This is the opportunity for all interested in nomenclature and coding to declare their intentions and demonstrate their enthusiasm. We are now within touching distance of a truly International Nomenclature. It is important that no interested parties consider themselves excluded, so this should be taken as an open invitation to all our readers to attend this important meeting.

In closing this commentary, may I also take the opportunity to draw attention to the latest induction to our "Paediatric Cardiology Hall of Fame" (pp 322–328). Sadly, it is a posthumous induction. I first had the privilege of meeting Maria Victoria de la Cruz at the meeting of the Brazilian Congress of Cardiology organised by Fernando Lucchese in Porto Alegre in 1977. My colleagues and I had previously crossed swords with Maria

Victoria in the pages of the *British Heart Journal*, although we had not previously met. I was expecting a rough ride. I could not have been more surprised. Within a very short period, it became very evident that Maria Victoria was a true scientist, and that our disagreements largely stemmed from problems in language rather than problems in science. We rapidly resolved our differences, and collaborated subsequently almost until the time of her death. Roger Markwald, in his excellent encomium, mentions my remarks made during the splendid meeting organised by Maria Victoria in

Mexico City concerned with atrioventricular septal defect in the setting of a common atrioventricular junction. This was but one of the lesions where this great embryologist was able to link the basic science to the clinical condition. Her enthusiasm, drive, and energy were truly remarkable. Her legacy will be found in her writings, and the continued works of her pupils and friends. It is our privilege to enshrine her in our Hall of Fame.

Robert H. Anderson
Editor-in-Chief