

Annual report 2008 of the Swiss Society of Cardiology's Working Group on "Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions"

Membership of the Committee: Marcia E. Leventhal (President), Nicolas Masson (Vice-President), Wibke Reigber (Treasurer), Christine Mathis (Board Members Representing Interest Groups), Brigitte Eggimann (Board Members Representing Interest Groups)

Activities of the Working Group

The Working Group on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions (WG-CNAP) continues to evolve and establish itself as an active working group of the Swiss Society of Cardiology and as the Swiss National Society of Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions.

2008 has been noteworthy for the following major landmarks:

- Completion of the Working Group Statutes in accordance with the SGK Statutes
- Establishment of two Speciality Groups or Interest Groups
- Support for two continuing education programmes for cardiovascular nurses and allied professionals
- Increase in membership
- Improvement in networking amongst members both within Switzerland and internationally
- Agreement to co-sponsor the 2010 Spring Meeting of the European Society of Cardiology's Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions

Statutes

The Working Group statutes will be voted on and approved during the annual assembly at Lausanne in June 2009. In addition, the statutes for the two Interest Groups have been adapted and will be submitted to their respective memberships for approval by the end of 2009.

Interest Groups

Interest Groups are subgroups or specialty groups of both the Working Group on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions and their respective Speciality Working Groups. Two new groups have been incorporated this year:

1. The Interest Group for Rhythmology and Electrophysiology (IG-AR) was officially launched in 2008 with the election of the Board, definition of its goals and framing of its statutes, creation of its website and logo, opening of its bank account accompanied by initial contacts with sponsors for financial support, and active participation in Swiss Rhythm 2008 with three special workshops. The Board met four times, the Board and the Board of the Working Group on Pacemakers and Electrophysiology held four joint meetings, and the General Assembly was held during Swiss Rhythm 2008. Currently the IG-AR has 24 members.

President: Christine Mathis; Vice President and Webmaster: Dragan Skocibusic; Treasurer: Barbara Schwab; Secretary: Lea Toikari; Board Members: ■■■

2. The Interest Group for Heart Failure Nurses (IG-HIB) was officially reorganised in November 2008 with a provisional board to prepare the Interest Group goals and statutes. The goals and statutes will be presented to the members during the annual meeting in autumn 2009, when the permanent Board will be elected. The IG-HIB held a day-long workshop in November 2008 with presentations relating to care of the heart failure patient. The Board has met once so far. With the recent reorganisation of the Interest Group, a new call for members has been made and former members have been asked to rejoin both the WG and the IG. The IG-HIB currently has 33 members.

President: Brigitte Eggimann; Vice-President: Katrin Vogt; Treasurer: ■■■; Secretary: Veronika Schindler-Rufer; Past President and Representative to Working Group on Heart Failure: Marcia Leventhal; Board Members: Kaija Leena Minkinen,



Marcia E. Leventhal, President of the Working Group.

Lilian Volken, Benitta Blatter, Lydia Eisenmann.

Continuing education programmes

The Inselspital Cardiology Department staged a one-day continuing education programme for nurses and allied professionals entitled "Practical Cardiology for Nurses" in June 2008, and Zurich University Hospital Cardiology Department presented a half-day continuing education programme on "Adults Living with Congenital Heart Disease" in September 2008. In addition, members were notified of workshops, congresses and continuing education in neighbouring countries.

Spring Meeting 2010, Geneva

The Working Group, as the Swiss National Society of Cardiovascular Nurs-

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ing and Allied Professions, has been invited by the ESC Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions to co-host the annual Spring Meeting to be held March 13–14 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. It is a great honour and privilege for our National Society to participate as hosts of this prestigious meeting. Many of our Swiss Members will be invited to present their research and clinical practice projects, and will also have an opportunity to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. We have members on the Scientific Committee as well as the Organising Committee, and we are planning for major participation by Swiss nurses and technicians. The meeting will be translated into German, French and Italian. The first notice will be prepared by the Spring Meeting at Dublin in April 2009, and will be distributed throughout our membership and Swiss hospitals.

Membership

Membership has continued to grow to its present level of 120 members with approximately equal representation of both cardiovascular nurses and interventional technicians.

Board

The Board membership was completed this year with the addition of the two representatives from the Interest Groups: Christine Mathis (IG-AR) and Brigitte Eggimann (IG-HIB). The Board met twice in 2008 and conducts most of its communication via email. The prime challenge confronting the Board is the difficulty of maintaining a stable membership. With regret we must report the death of our most respected member, Corina Perini, in September 2008. She was a valued member of the Board, the Working Group and the Interest Group

for Heart Failure Nurses, and her vision and goals will continue to guide the Group. Christine Tschannan and Denis Hemme resigned from the Board for professional reasons. A call for new Board members has been issued and new members will be elected during the annual meeting in June 2009.

Challenges and goals for the upcoming year

Ensure the stability of the Board; obtain sponsorship for the development of the Working Group; reach out to all CV Nurses and Allied Professionals working in Switzerland; establishment of the website; participation in the SSC Annual Congress with nurses invited to present their research during the scientific sessions, including submission of abstracts to the SSC Congress.

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