

EDITORIAL

Anton E. Becker

A European School for Cardiovascular Pathology

Relatively few pathologists can be considered "professionals" in the field of cardiovascular diseases. The situation is exacerbated by the current explosive interest in molecular biology, which has led to an undesirable drifting apart of basic and clinical sciences in this crucial arena of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular pathologists, who by virtue of their training could act as the ideal liaison, are struggling to keep their specialist identity.

The situation in Europe is alarming. The meetings of national societies of pathology usually have little to offer on cardiovascular pathology. This is reflected in the gatherings of the European Society of Pathology, where pathology of the heart tends to receive scant attention. It is not unusual, in consequence of this, for pathologists working in the field of cardiovascular pathology to change disciplines, and, to veer towards cardiology, rather than pathology, in an attempt to establish productive working relationships and a responsive audience for their researches. The impetus of the European Society of Cardiology creating a variety of working groups has certainly stimulated research and integration of basic and clinical sciences. There is nonetheless, considerable overlap and potential rivalry among groups which share similar basic interests. Thus, how is the pathologists to divide his or her interests among the working groups on Developmental Anatomy and Pathology, Cellular Biology of the Heart, Pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Platelets, Coronary Circulation, Myocardial Function, and so on?

Because of this, a group of cardiovascular pathologists in Europe have seen the need to reconsider the European scene for cardiovascular pathology. Specifically, they sought to establish a mechanism to bring together those in Europe with a common interest in cardiovascu-

lar pathology. The proposed solution is the inauguration of a European School for Cardiovascular Pathology. Such an initiative will in no way interfere with membership of any society, be it pathological or cardiological.

The main objective of the school is to identify those with an active interest in cardiovascular pathology and to promote mutual education. The school will provide a platform for liaisons between cardiovascular pathologists and others, such as "general" pathologists, cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and basic scientists. It will promote postgraduate teaching, both in basic science and clinical correlations. It will promote and provide support in the implementation of multi-centre studies in the field of cardiovascular pathology, and will be instrumental in co-ordinating quality control studies in the diagnostic field of cardiovascular pathology. Its headquarters is located in the Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and I am its first chairperson.

The first meeting of the school will take place in Amsterdam, March 2 and 3, 1995. An announcement of this inaugural meeting can be found elsewhere in this issue.

I sign this letter on behalf of Drs. Robert H. Anderson, Michael J. Davies, Patrick J. Gallagher, C. James Kirkpatrick and Gaetano Thiene, founders of the European School for Cardiovascular Pathology.

Yours sincerely,
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Cardiovascular Pathology. A two-day meeting organised by the **European School for Cardiovascular Pathology** will be held in the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam on 2–3 March 1995. The programme will include clinico-pathological case presentations, invited lectures on topical issues in cardiovascular pathology, video presentations of normal and abnormal cardiac structure and poster sessions. The meeting should be of interest to pathologists and clinicians focusing on cardiovascular disease. Pathologists in training are especially wel-

come. There will be no registration fee. For further information and to register, please contact Professor A.E. Becker, Department of Cardiovascular Pathology, Academic Medical Centre, Meibergdreef 9, NL-1105 AZ Amsterdam-Zuidoost, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 205 66 56 46, Fax: 31 206 91 47 38. Further details can also be obtained from Dr. P.J. Gallagher, Department of Pathology, Southampton University Hospitals, Southampton SO16 6YD, UK. Tel: 07 03 79 66 64, Fax: 07 03 70 55 80.