

NEWSLETTER No 4. April 2013

EACTS President José Luis Pomar welcomes Euromacs

Since the use of Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) is increasing, and as the available assist devices seem to improve over time, there is a growing need for reliable multifactorial statistics which transcend the local and national level. Given the fact that the aim of Euromacs is to gather scientific information about the long-term clinical outcomes of patients who undergo treatment with MCS, the EACTS has decided to amalgamate with Euromacs. This means that Euromacs is now an EACTS Committee. I make use of this occasion to welcome the members of Euromacs.



Prof. José Luis Pomar

Founded and successfully developed by some large centers since 2009, the Euromacs organization – its members and the board – has recently adapted its statutes in accordance with the Constitution of the EACTS, thus allowing the transition to a democratic structure. The fact that Euromacs has become an EACTS Committee allows the EACTS to offer the Euromacs Registry as an additional service to its members. An important aspect of the integration of the Euromacs MCS database is its compliance with the EACTS policies with respect to the quality of clinical registries.

The expectation of the EACTS is that the gathering of data about the implantation of assist devices, as well as post-implantation clinical observations, will offer the possibility to obtain statistically significant analyses. These analyses should enable to offer information about the conditions for an optimal clinical management of patients with end stage cardiac failure. ... (continued on page 2).



EACTS President welcomes Euromacs, continued...

The expectation of the EACTS is that the gathering of data about the implantation of assist devices, as well as post-implantation clinical observations, will offer the possibility to obtain statistically significant analyses. These analyses should enable information to be offered about the conditions for the optimal clinical management of patients with end-stage cardiac failure. As the Euromacs registry contains the basic data of all devices now on the market, it may be expected that the outcomes will provide additional insights into the performance of the devices in relation to the different patient categories.

The outcomes of the analyses will enable centers to compare their results with those of all other centers, as well as to define other clinical or scientific questions to which the Euromacs database can respond.

Since some national societies have decided to organize an integrated contribution to Euromacs, the input into the Euromacs registry is increasing. The EACTS, together with all Euromacs members, is looking forward to the first overall statistics, which, like those of the other registries, will be published in an Annual Report.

I wish all those who are involved in this challenging endeavor much success.

Euromacs statute has been formally changed

During the last general members' meetings in October (EACTS) and December 2012 (EUMS), the majority of the members voted for a new statute. The main changes are:

1. Starting in 2014, the board will be elected by the Euromacs members.
2. The present five board members will resign in two shifts, per 1.01.2014 and 1.01.2015.
3. The number of extended board seats has been increased to seven.
4. Euromacs now functions as an EACTS Committee.
5. Members of the EACTS can automatically become members of Euromacs.



Prof. Hetzer signs the new statute as prepared by notary Prof. Kuhla (r)



As Euromacs has agreed with the EACTS to become an official Committee, and since the number of participating international members in Euromacs is growing, the board recognized the necessity of changing its statute. The change allows for representation of international members of different origin who are to be elected by the members of the Association. The first election will take place on April 24, during the ISHLT annual meeting (see also below).

Spanish Cardiothoracic Surgery Society to cooperate with Euromacs

From: Theo de By

During the meeting on February 22 of the VAD working group of the “Sociedad Española de Cirugía Torácica-Cardiovascular” (Spanish Cardiovascular Society, or SECTCV), the



The VAD working group of the SECTCV

members discussed the upgrade of the existing registry. For several years the SECTCV has assembled data of patients with mechanical circulatory support from all Spanish hospitals where implantations of assist devices take place. This national registry is not on line yet. As the representatives in the VAD working group expect the number of implants to grow, and since the SECTCV desires a follow-up system on a national basis,

different options were considered. Given the fact that the SECTCV has played, and will play, a coordinating role in the data collection process, a special arrangement has been developed in order to accommodate the data flow as it has been organized in Spain. With the consent of all participating cardiothoracic centers, an agreement has been drafted in which the SECTCV receives all information needed to compose reports on a national level. Prof. Dr. Angel Fernández, chairman of the SECTCV, expresses his satisfaction: “The agreement with Euromacs offers the advantages on a national, as well as on an international level. Our society expects scientific and clinical benefits of the cooperation with Euromacs.”

Euromacs in numbers

As per April 1, 2013, Euromacs has 125 individual members and 37 institutional members from 26 countries. Compared to the previous year, the numbers have increased by 50%. The registry contains data of 351 patients (April 18, 2013).



General Assembly on April 24, 2013

From: Theo de By

Based upon the renewed Euromacs statute, new board members will be elected during the general members' meeting on April 24, in Montréal. Presently the board counts 6 members. The new statute gives Euromacs the possibility to appoint 5 executive, and 7 extended board members. While the 5 executive board members will be responsible for day-to-day decisions, the executive and extended board members are jointly responsible for determining the strategy of the organisation, the approval of the budget and the annual report. As Euromacs, being an EACTS Committee is in a phase of transition, to a new structure, half of the present board members have agreed to step down per January 1, 2014, while the other half of the present board members will end their term per January 1, 2015. At the General Members' meeting in Montréal, three new board members will be elected. The Members, at the meeting in Barcelona in October 2012, have asked to expand with representatives of different nationalities. Presently, three members have announced their candidacy. The candidates come from Belgium, Italy and from Denmark; they are respectively, Prof. Bart Meyns, Prof. Luigi Martinelli, and Prof. Finn Gustafsson. All three are clinically as well as scientifically active to provide mechanical circulatory support therapy to their patients. For this reason they have a special interest to forward the objectives of the Euromacs association, to provide reliable long term outcomes, analysis and statistics with respect to the treatment of patients on mechanical circulatory support.



From left to right: Bart Meyns, Luigi Martinelli

Initiative to start VAD nurses and technicians training.

The board of Euromacs has taken the initiative to develop an education and training program for nurses and technicians. As the use of mechanical circulatory support is increasing, there will be a growing need for well trained and qualified nurses as well as technical staff. Based upon job descriptions of several MCS centers an education

program will be developed. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Merkle:



merkle@dhzb.de



Upcoming events



23rd World Congress of the WSCTS, Split, Croatia, Sept 21-23, 2013



Welcome to the
World Society of
Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons

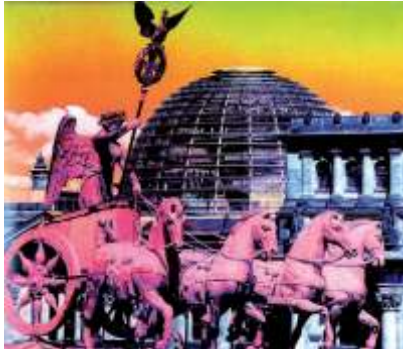
<https://www.spektar-putovanja.hr/WSCTS2012/infolinks.asp>

21st Congress of the International Society for Rotary Blood Pumps
September 26-28, 2013 - Yokohama, Japan www.isrbp2013.org

EUMS, European Mechanical Support Summit - Paris, France, December 4-7, 2013.
<https://www.congressecurity.net/form/abstract-eums-2013/>



8th Biennial Mechanical Circulatory Support symposium of the Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin, November 8-10, 2013. Information: mcs@dhzb.de, Dr. S Hübler, tel. +49 30 4593 2201



Mechanical Circulatory Support

- * In any kind of acute heart failure**
- * Towards myocardial recovery**
- * In children**
- * For permanent use**

From the press:

VAD patients' success stories:

<http://www.emoryhealthcare.org/heart-failure/patient-success-stories.html>

Hope for the youngest heart patients

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/vad-offer-hope-youngest-heart-patients/story?id=16952377#.UW5ParXvh8E>

New Aspects of Ventricular Assist Devices

<http://www.intechopen.com/books/new-aspects-of-ventricular-assist-devices>

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