



## BRITISH NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2003

Dear Colleague

The first half of the year has been a busy and at times challenging period for our society. BNCS has been actively engaged in a number of different activities in almost all of which, I am pleased to say, it has made good progress.

### **A) Meetings**

Those of you who came to Glasgow for the BCS annual scientific conference, will agree with me that the BNCS symposium on "Imaging the failing heart" was a great success. Dr D. Dutka gave an overview on the role of imaging in general, whilst Drs P. Nihoyannopoulos, A Kelion and R. Coulden spoke on the benefits and limitations of echocardiography, nuclear cardiology and cardiac MRI respectively. The presentations were of outstanding quality and the audience enjoyed them thoroughly.

Our next meeting is in December and as you can see from the enclosed programme, the format will be different than previous years. Trying to achieve a delicate balance between "technical" and "clinical" topics, we will have among other things and for the first time, two sessions which will run in parallel; one focusing on new developments and another one technically oriented, covering aspects of training for non-medical staff and an update on the current legislation. Because of time constraints, there will only be six oral presentations with prizes for the best three. Those of you, who wish to submit an abstract, please do so but do not leave it later than 3 October 2003. As for the guest speaker, we are very pleased indeed to have Professor Udo Sechtem from Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus University Hospital who will speak on the future of cardiac imaging giving particular emphasis in nuclear cardiology.

### **B) Other developments**

#### **1) NICE appraisal**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence has recently produced the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) on Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy for the diagnosis and management of coronary artery disease. In the lengthy and challenging appraisal process, your society has been a pivotal consultee and the president together with Professor Richard Underwood have been co-ordinating the views and positions of BNCS, BCS, BNMS, RCP and RCR.

#### **2) Guidelines and HEART supplement**

The guidelines for tomographic myocardial perfusion imaging will be published in HEART in October and there will also be a publication of the same document by

Nuclear Medicine Communications. Undoubtedly, this will be a very useful reference for the European procedure guidelines which are currently under construction as a joint project of the ESC and EANM. Progress has also been made in the nuclear cardiology supplement to HEART but we are moving slower than we were initially planning. We believe however, that the journal will be in your hands, at the latest by Spring 2004.

### **3) BNCS survey into Nuclear Cardiology Practice in UK - 2001**

Our next president, Andrew Kelion has analysed the data on the provision of nuclear cardiology services in the UK. A part of this project is included in a review article written with Dr Shelley Rahman and it will be published in the HEART supplement.

### **4) BCS Peer review scheme**

Professor Richard Underwood represents our society in the Professional Standards and Peer Review Group of BCS chaired by Dr David Hackett. BNCS has an active collaboration with the group and soon will setup a committee to define appropriate professional and clinical standards for individual workloads and to agree the workforce requirements for Nuclear Cardiology. The committee will prepare a document collating evidence and recommendations which will be presented in the Cardiac Workforce Committee meeting of BCS at 2pm on Friday 3 October 2003. This document will be incorporated into a BCS paper which will be submitted to the Department of Health by April 2004.

### **5) Training and certification of competence**

The draft of a common training curriculum for doctors who, irrespective of their background, wish to practice nuclear cardiology is almost completed and discussions have taken place for a similar initiative for nursing and technical staff. The December meeting will give us the opportunity to explore these issues further but in our view, if harmonization of practice and maintenance of high professional standards are our goals, then a certification of competence is essential. The newly formed European Council of Nuclear Cardiology is also in the process of a similar initiative but BNCS is one step ahead already-as it was with the guidelines-and this is a good opportunity which the society should grasp and become an international leader.

**6)Web-site.** The website [www.BNCS.org.uk](http://www.BNCS.org.uk) has been updated to include new features and the comments of those who have visited it are very positive. In addition to that, we wish to develop a web site where all Nuclear Cardiology UK practitioners can register coronary events such as myocardial infarction and death, if these are related to the stress test. This could develop into a national register and if our model succeeds we could extend it internationally.

Your views on the above issues will be greatly appreciated. Of course, if there is anything else that you wish to discuss or propose, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the other members of the council. We will be very pleased to receive your comments or suggestions.

Enjoy the summer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Constantinos Anagnostopoulos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Constantinos Anagnostopoulos**