European Society of Cardiology Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Drug Therapy. The chairman’s report at the general assembly 2014

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The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Working Group (WG) on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy works with all aspects of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy: From basic pharmacology over clinical trials to clinical pharmacotherapy. Over the last years, the WG has focused on: Polypharmacy, for example the heart failure patient treated with various drugs for the heart as well as for comorbidities. On sudden cardiac death, for example the treatment of arrhythmia as well as the prevention of pharmacologically induced arrhythmia. Moreover, on clinical trials science, for example on optimum planning and conduction of clinical trials, on optimum evaluation of results as well as on development of new types of trials.

The WG presently consists of ~300 members. To apply for membership go to www.escardio.org/pharmacology. Membership is free to members of national cardiology societies within ESC. Membership is granted based on shown interest in cardiovascular pharmacotherapy documented by, for example authorship on papers, oral presentations or posters dealing with aspects of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy. Members can take part in all the WG’s activities and vote for the WG board—the nucleus—consisting of 14 nucleus members.

The WG is an important contributor to ESC at most levels:

• The WG Journal: European Heart Journal—Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy. It was with great pleasure that the WG launched its new journal at the ESC Conference in Barcelona this year—a new journal in the ESC journal family published by Oxford University Press. It is the expectation and hope that the journal soon will obtain a central role in publication of papers within all aspects of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy. Editors are Stefan Agewall (editor-in-chief), Dan Atar, Keld Kjeldsen, and Basil Lewis. See the Special Promotion Issue at www.oup.com/esc14 and submit papers at www.editorialmanager.com/ehj-cvp. Four issues are planned for 2015.

• The annual WG congress—New Trends in Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy. This congress was established in 2013, repeated in 2014 and is planned for 2015 again in Rome. See last year’s program at www.escwg2014.org, follow the announcement of next year’s congress at www.escardio.org/pharmacology, submit abstracts for oral presentations and posters and participate.

• Working group involvement in ESC guidelines. The WG contributes to most ESC guidelines with expertise on cardiovascular pharmacotherapy. Thus, over the last 2 years the WG has been—or is still—involved in eight ESC guidelines. Working group position papers. The WG has written two position papers over the last years:

Moreover, a number of additional position papers are in preparation.

• Working group trials training workshops. The WG has recently developed a workshop focusing on optimum planning and conduction...
of clinical trials, on optimum evaluation of results as well as on de-
velopment of new types of trials. The initiative became possible
due to an unrestricted grant to the WG from AstraZeneca. The
workshop has hitherto taken place at congresses in Rome and in
Singapore and more are planned.

Over the time to come the WG will have to give its absolutely highest
priority to *European Heart Journal—Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy*
to ensure its rapid success. Subsequently, new projects are expected
to be launched, for example Teaching Courses and an ESC Hand-
book/Textbook on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy.