

From Freek W. A. Verheugt



In 1980, when the European Congress of Cardiology was held in Paris (I think this was the 8<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cardiology), I presented my first scientific abstract *Intracoronary platelet releases in patients with and without coronary artery disease*, co-authored by Patrick Serruys. At the time I did not know the presence of any Working Group of the European Society. I was still in training for cardiology in Rotterdam. In 1984, when the 9<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cardiology was held in Dusseldorf, I returned to Amsterdam after a year of clinical research in platelet scintigraphy and ventricular thrombosis (University Medical Center Denver, Colorado -USA).

My boss in Amsterdam advised me to join one of the Working Groups of the European Society of Cardiology. In 1988 the European Congress of Cardiology became a yearly occasion. There, I visited for the first time of my life the Business Meeting of the Working Group on Thrombosis and Platelets chaired by Mireille Brochier. Paul Hugenholtz, the godfather of the European Society of Cardiology and my former boss in Rotterdam, strongly advised me to join the Working Group, “since they were too many internists and too few cardiologists”. Also the visibility of the Working Group during the European Congresses of Cardiology was not very impressive either. Ever since, I joined the Business Meetings of our Working Group and put forward proposals for symposia. Mireille Brochier with her charisma was a great chairperson of our Working Group. She made the Working Group more attractive for cardiologists, and her successor Colin Prentice did the same. By then, the Working Group consisted of only 30 to 40 members. When I took over office, we tried to expand the membership, which in fact succeeded during the chairmanship of De Caterina. Ever since the Working Group is involved in the European Training Program and in the Atherothrombosis symposia. Both are successful initiatives and the visibility of the Working Group at the European Congresses has been dramatically improved.

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