

## *From the Editor and Publisher*

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The major item involving those concerned with Cardiology in the Young in our part of the globe has been the unfortunate, but necessary, decision to postpone the Annual Scientific meeting of the Association for European Cardiology. This meeting has proved another tragic casualty of the ongoing conflict in the Balkans. This is neither the time, nor the place, to debate the merits and demerits of the military action involving Kosovo and Serbia, but the unfortunate strike of a misguided missile on the outskirts of Sofia clearly spelt a death knell for the meeting planned for May 19 through 22. The council of the Association has still not finalised the potential alternatives for this meeting. It is considering the possibility of postponing the meeting until the Autumn, and continuing to hold the event in Sofia, but there is no certainty that the conflict will have been resolved at that time. An alternative is to hold at least the Business part of the meeting within the congress of the European Society of Cardiology, scheduled for Barcelona from 29 August through 1 September, but this has not been confirmed.

The postponement has several consequences for "Cardiology in the Young", which are minor compared to the multiple problems it is obviously causing for the Council of the European Association, and in particular for Vladimir Pilosoff and his home team in Bulgaria. We start, therefore, by extending our sympathies to Vladimir, since the potential loss of the meeting will be a crushing blow after all the hard work invested by him and his colleagues to ensure its success. For ourselves, we have obvious problems with the supplement of the meeting. This has already been printed, bound, and distributed as a supplement with the May issue of the Journal. The supplement contains the abstracts of the presentations and posters which should have been given in Sofia. As such, the work is representative of material judged suitable for presentation, so it is right and proper, in our opinion, that it should still appear in print. It is our hope, and that of all involved, that the abstracts

will still prove to be summaries of material which will be presented in the fall. Should this not prove possible, they will act as an indelible memory of the meeting which did not take place. The second major problem is that it has not been possible, in the light of all the uncertainty, for the President and Secretary of the Association to prepare their customary Newsletter. We hope that the September issue will contain news of all the arrangements for the Autumn, as well as the consequences of the postponement on the business affairs of the Association.

Despite the problems in Europe, the Journal itself continues to grow and develop. Thus, the current issue continues to display our now anticipated broad sweep of articles, brief reports, and regular contributions such as Continuing Medical Education and Clinico-pathological correlations. Perhaps the high spot deserving emphasis is the newest inductee in our "Hall of Fame". For the first time, we have inducted a living giant. As Anton Becker writes in his warm and heartfelt tribute, if anyone deserves induction in the Hall, it is Jesse Edwards. We have noted in a previous "News and Comment" how it was Bill Robert's interview with Dr Edwards which stimulated our concept of opening the "Hall of Fame" (see Volume 1998;8, pages 281–282). It is only right and proper, therefore, that Dr Edwards join Drs Taussig and Rowe in its portals. It is our expectation that, in the months to come, many other living giants will similarly be honoured. It is also right and proper that these people, who have done so much to develop and stimulate our fields of interest, have the chance to note our appreciation of their efforts. It is certainly the case that the writings of Dr Edwards, of which but a snapshot is included in our own bibliography (see page 416), continue to inform all those who investigate and treat infants, children and adults with congenitally malformed hearts.

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