

From the Editor and Publisher

Possibly the most important and topical piece of information contained in this issue of the Journal is the news that the Annual Meeting of the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology will take place after all, and will still be held in Sofia. As we explained in the July issue, the initial meeting, scheduled for May, was postponed because of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. As is indicated by the President of the Association writing in this issue, the meeting has now been re-scheduled for the end of September. Hopefully all those who were scheduled to attend the initial meeting will find it possible to be present for the new dates. Certainly the organisers are hoping that all those whose submissions were initially accepted for presentation, and which appeared in abstract form in the Supplement to the May issue, will be in Sofia so as to make the re-scheduled meeting a huge success. Vladimir Pilosoff and his team had gone to great lengths to organise a first-class meeting. They now deserve everyone's support. Details of the rearranged schedule are given in the 'Newsletter' on page 541.

In his Newsletter, the President refers to two other matters of great importance. The first is the matter of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. This is now statutory in many countries, and it is required that evidence be provided that specialists keep themselves up to date and demonstrate their continuing competence. It is surely the case that this type of revalidation will soon become mandatory in all countries. We have long recognised the importance of this type of education, and for that reason we have published one article devoted to a review topic in each issue of the Journal. Most of these have been commissioned directly by the Executive Editor, and several have been constructed by himself and his colleagues. Others have been submitted directly and undergone the process of peer-review. We would like to encourage all our readers who consider they have something to offer in this arena to submit their own offerings in the field of Continuing Education. Having extended our schedule of publication to every other month, we have room for more articles, providing of course that they are judged to be of interest, and to meet our usual standards for publication. In many ways,

it is better if our needs in Continuing Education can be met through material which is submitted for peer-review. Most documentation concerning the achievement of standards in continuing education and development, however, comes from attendance at meetings. The Annual meeting of the European Association is one such valuable forum, and several others are advertised in our pages or in our calendar. Again, should any of our readers be aware of meetings which we seem to be ignoring, we hope they will bring them to our attention. The Executive Editor, in fact, has just returned from an excellent meeting that bridges the gap between Postgraduate and Continuing Education. This was the third 6-day Symposium on Morphology and Imaging organised in Korea on behalf of the World Heart Federation. The first two meetings had been held in the United States, and were arranged to try to ensure a continued interest in morphology and embryology along with their clinical connotations. The meeting held at the Samsung Global Management Institute about 50 miles from Seoul, and attended by over 45 enthusiasts from all over the World, was staffed largely by members of the Editorial Board of *Cardiology in the Young*, along with a dedicated faculty from Korea itself (Fig. 1). The arrangements were truly spectacular, and the response from the attendees was equally enthusiastic. There is clearly a continuing need for symposiums of this kind. In fact, an American version of the meeting will be held at Duke University in the fall, while at least three 3-day symposiums had previously been organised in Korea. The next International meeting is scheduled for September, 2001, and will be organised by Milan Samanek in Prague. At that time, it is hoped that interested persons will attend once more from all round the world, with hopefully a full complement from Eastern Europe. Milan will need to work remarkably hard to match the standards set by our hosts in Korea, ably led by Heung-Jae Lee and Jeong-Wook Seo. He needs everyone's support, particularly to obtain the sponsorship needed to organise such a meeting without placing an intolerable financial burden on those who attend.

The final topic of importance is the results of the labours of the Coding Committee of the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology.



Figure 1.

The local and international faculty for the six-day symposium photographed on the steps of the Samsung Global Management Institute, Yongin, Korea in June, 1999.

Franco Stocker gave details of these activities in the 'Newsletter' in the May issue (Vol 9 (3): 342–343). Obviously it was not possible for people to meet Franco in Sofia during May, as he had urged in the Newsletter. The opportunity still remains, nonetheless, for interested parties to share in the discussions which will be held in the re-scheduled meeting. In the meantime, the committee itself has not been idle. We have been honing still further the 'Short Code' in response to those who wrote directly to the Chairman, while the Code itself has been subjected to increasing scrutiny by the members of the Committee. We are now preparing this short version, with a

commentary, for publication in the November issue of the Journal. As Franco commented in his May Newsletter, anyone still wishing to contribute is urged to write directly to him. In closing, we should add that, thus far, we have heard nothing in response to our column which appeared in May concerning the potential vicissitudes of copyright and publishing (Vol 9 (3): 237–238). Maybe that in itself tells us something!

*Robert H. Anderson
Geoffrey L. Nuttall*