

The 8th World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound, Antalya, Turkey, May 6th-9th, 2004

The 8th World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound was recently held in Antalya, Turkey. More than 600 participants from all over the world attended the meeting. The first day of the conference was marked by the Turkish Society of Cardiology Echocardiography Working Group Meeting and the Opening Ceremony which included a poem on Echocardiography and a classical music concert. Over the subsequent three days, a comprehensive coverage of Echocardiography and vascular ultrasound was presented. Multiple sessions were dedicated to important topics including Valvular Heart Disease, Prosthetic Heart Valves, Contrast Echocardiography, Infective Endocarditis, Stress Echocardiography, Development of new techniques, Heart Failure, Coronary Heart Disease, Right Ventricular function, future perspectives in Echocardiography including 3-D echocardiography, Cardiomyopathies, Diastolic Heart Failure, Diseases of the Aorta, Atrial septal defects and PFO, Cardiac Sources of Emboli, Ventricular Hypertrophy and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Additionally, industry-sponsored satellite symposia were conducted including symposia on Cardiac Strain Rate imaging, Contrast Echocardiography and Echocardiography in Cardiac Resynchronization therapy. A large number of abstracts and posters were presented and the best abstracts were recognized in an Award Ceremony held on May 9th. Faculty from all over Turkey participated in the scientific sessions. Faculty members from 25 other countries also participated. International faculty included speakers from Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kosova, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Gala night and dinner were celebrated on Friday May 8th, 2004. The president of the International Cardiac Ultrasound Society, Dr Navin Nanda from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA and the president of the 8th World Conference Dr Mehmet Ozkan addressed the gathering. Dr. Navin Nanda was

presented an award in recognition of his contributions to the field of Echocardiography and his efforts in ensuring success of the Congress. The Conference President was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow of the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound. The Secretary of the the Congress, Dr M. Serdar Kucukoglu was also honored. Faculty had the occasion to meet with old friends and to exchange ideas with experts in the field of Echocardiography from all over the world. Food was delightful, people hospitable and polite and the Congress extremely well-organized. Entertainment at the event was superb and gave the participants a flavor of Turkey.

The weather in Antalya was gorgeous with temperatures in the 70 to 75 degree Fahrenheit range and mostly sunny. Many of the Faculty and attendees were able to make pre-conference or post-conference short trips to some of the many beautiful attractions in Turkey. The city of Antalya is located on the Mediterranean coast with its quaint marina, turquoise water and the old city made it a relaxing place to visit. There were several nearby attractions including the ancient ruins of Perge and the Roman amphitheatre of Aspendos which is still in use as an outdoor arena seating 15000 people. Further away, the most popular destinations were Istanbul, Cappadocia and the ancient city of Ephesus. Cappadocia has unique formation of rocks and has numerous caves and underground cities from the ancient times.

The Conference was the most successful and highly educational. The next World Echo Conference will be held in Marrakech, Morocco from September 15th to 17th, 2005 and it promises to be another exciting meeting in another wonderful location.

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