



# Research Perspectives for Diagnosis and Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation

The Second Joint Consensus Conference  
of the German Atrial Fibrillation Network (AFNET)  
and the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)  
European Heart House, Sophia Antipolis, France  
October 2008



## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

### **1. Welcome and introductory remarks 8:30**

### **2. Current treatment of AF according to guidelines**

- 08:45 What do we do when we “do nothing” – treatment of oligo- and asymptomatic AF? (Camm)
- 09:00 Current treatment of AF in registries – in line with guidelines? (Crijns)
- 09:10 Morbidity, mortality and complications in AF registries (AFNET/Euroheart). (Steinbeck)
- 09:20 Rhythm control pharmacotherapy: How do we balance effectiveness and risk? (Breithardt)
- 09:30 Rate control pharmacotherapy – do we know all we need to know? (van Gelder)
- 09:40 Surgical and catheter ablation in AF – experience after the consensus statement (Kuck)
- 09:50 Prothrombotic factors in the AF population. (Lip)
- 10:00 Is there a minimal AF duration for complication? Lessons learned from pacemaker “monitors” (Israel)
- 10:10 Genetic causes of atrial fibrillation (Kääb)
- 10:15 Comments from the panel.

### **Coffee break 10:30**

### **3. Unresolved clinical issues**

- 11:00 Can pathophysiological factors that precede AF help us to tailor therapy? (Schotten)
- 11:15 Early treatment of AF – do we start too late for successful rhythm control? (Cosio)
- 11:25 Is recurrent AF related to symptoms and complications? (Borggrefe)
- 11:35 Effect of AF on quality of life – an how to measure it (Ladwig)
- 11:45 Upstream therapy: Statins, RAAS inhibition, and steroids “for everyone”? (Blomstrom-Lundqvist)
- 11:55 Atrial fibrillation in heart failure: Bystander, risk marker, or disease-causing condition? (Hohnloser)
- 12:05 Cerebral lesions without stroke – are they relevant? (Diener)
- 12:15 Echocardiographic parameters are helpful for individualized therapy of AF (Kamp)
- 12:25 Antithrombotic therapy in AF – “new kids” on the block? (Ezekowitz)
- 12:35 New antiarrhythmic drugs – ion channel and “substrate” modifiers (Paar, Sanofi/Aventis)
- 12:45 Update on new devices to monitor AF patients. (Vardas)
- 12:55 Comments from the panel.

### **Lunch 13:20 – 14:00**

### **4. Break-out sessions**

- 14:00 Short introduction into the break-out sessions
- 14:10 Seven simultaneous sessions. The organizers envision the following topics:
  1. **Indications for and duration of anticoagulation** (e.g. CHADS<sub>2</sub>=1 patients)
  2. **Timing and duration of antiarrhythmic drug treatment** (early treatment of AF?)
  3. **Timing and extent of AF ablation procedures** (beyond PV isolation)
  4. **Relevance and intensity of ECG monitoring in clinical practice**
  5. **Relevance of risk factors for AF progression** (sleep apnea, autonomic dysfunction, LV function, underlying heart disease, diabetes, sports / training, depression)
  6. **Novel therapeutic goals** (cerebral function, LV function, quality of life)

**7. Taking the “idio” out of idiopathic AF: What causes the first episode and how can pathophysiological parameters guide treatment (genetics, focal activity, calcium handling mapping)**

**Coffee break 16:30 – 16:45**

**5. Plenary session: results of break-out sessions 16:45 – 18:30**

**Reception at European Heart House**

**Dinner**

**Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Breakfast, transfer from Hotel**

**6. Plenary introduction 8:45 – 9:00**

Short introduction into the second day of the conference, housekeeping notes, remaining issues for the break-out sessions.

**7. Break-out sessions II 9:00 – 12:30**

The break-out groups will continue their work, respond to the requests of the plenary, and prepare written statements

**Lunch 12:30 – 13:30**

**8. Plenary session 13:30 – 16:00**

The plenary will discuss the proceedings of the break-out sessions 1 - 4

**Coffee break 16:00 – 16:30**

**9. Plenary session 16:30 – 19:00**

The plenary will discuss the proceedings of the break-out sessions 5 – 7

**Transfer to Hotel**

**Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Breakfast at Hotel, fare-well to participants, transfer to airport, departure**