

## ***NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH, S.C.S.T.***



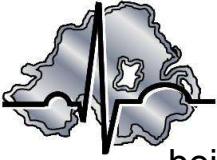
### *9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardiac Physiology Meeting Irish Cardiac Society 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Radisson Hotel, Galway*

I would like to begin by thanking the Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (NI) for their sponsorship, which gave me the opportunity to attend the Irish Cardiac Society meeting. This years meeting was held in the Radisson hotel in Galway and was well attended by colleagues representing both sides of the border. The programme covered a wide variety of topics within cardiology which catered for both junior and senior staff. As well as the usual presentations, oral/posters presentations and trade stands, the meeting introduced a new section entitled 'Hot Topics' – more about this later.

The President of the Irish Cardiac Society, Dr Higginson, officially opened the meeting. The first session began with a presentation on how vital the ECG is in determining the location of accessory pathways. I found this talk very interesting as it showed how the 'basic' ECG can provide essential information regarding the location of accessory pathways and should therefore not be underestimated. Early information ultimately benefits both the patient and the healthcare team involved by highlighting any additional risks which may be associated with ablation.

The second presentation of the session considered new concepts in the management of AF. As we all know, AF is the most common arrhythmia and it was interesting to learn of new pharmaceutical products under development and new invasive procedures currently being researched. The speaker also highlighted the importance of monitoring patients with AF especially those who are asymptomatic.

The second session focused on invasive cardiology, in particular percutaneous aortic valve replacement and percutaneous repair of paravalvular regurgitation. I found this session both very interesting and educational as currently in the Ulster Hospital we only perform non-invasive investigations. It was amazing to see the new steps



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being taken in invasive cardiology and what the future holds with developing technology.

To end this session a brief presentation was given to highlight the need for a pacemaker / ICD registry in Ireland. Currently a trial of the new system is underway in one hospital, which if proves successful will be introduced to other implanting centres across the country. This registry aims to share patient information with other centres including those which only provide follow-up appointments. This therefore enables staff around the country to provide the best up-to-date care with access to all relevant information.

Following lunch, the third session focused on echocardiography and its role within the assessment of diastolic dysfunction and in cardiac surgery. It was good to see the importance of echocardiography both prior to and after surgery and the additional information it provides which other investigations such as MRI and CT may miss.

It was decided this year to end the meeting with a section called 'Hot Topics'. This section comprised of four short presentations which highlighted current issues experienced within cardiology departments such as; How accurate is our equipment?; Are all requested investigations appropriate?; Pacemaker programming – thinking outside the box and finally, the recent recall of the Sprint Fidelis pacing wires.

Overall, I found the meeting very interesting and beneficial. It was a great opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues and to discuss cases and current issues within cardiology. It was also interesting to see the new steps being taken within cardiology and what the future holds for cardiac physiologists.

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