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Dear colleague

I have great pleasure in bringing you the latest issue of Heart News and Views. I would like to highlight three articles of particular interest. The first is a description by Roberto Bolli (International President) of the current portfolio of Awards made by the International ISHR. The broad range of this expanded portfolio (an initiative driven energetically by Dr Bolli to whom we are all grateful) permits the Society to honour distinguished cardiovascular scientists and leaders in a number of ways. Crucially, these honours can be awarded to members in any of the seven Sections and they underscore the fact that we all belong to a truly international Society.

The second article of interest in Heart News and Views is an overview of the new editorial team of the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*. The new Editor-in-Chief is David Eisner, previously a long-serving member of the European Section council. In his article, Dr Eisner introduces the new panel of associate editors and indicates recent initiatives that will contribute to the further development of the Society's "yellow journal" as one of the leading serial publications in cardiovascular science.

The third article of particular interest is a report by Derek Hausenloy of research undertaken during his tenure of the 2006 ISHR-Servier Research Fellowship. The Fellowship, which is a unique award of the European Section generously supported by Servier is awarded annually. We have been fortunate over several years to have attracted applications of the highest quality. Applications for the 2008 award have now been received and a panel of judges will convene shortly to assess the applications. The recipient will be announced at the upcoming annual meeting in Athens.

XXVIII EUROPEAN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING, ATHENS, 28-31 MAY 2008

We are now in the final run-up to the next annual meeting. The scientific programme together with further details of the venue, registration, accommodation and the social programme are now available at the official congress website: www.ishr-greece2008.gr. Dr Dennis Cokkinos and colleagues have worked tirelessly to compile a very full programme comprising 26 thematic symposia and more than 270 free communications in oral and poster sessions. If you have not registered, I encourage you to check the programme: the annual meeting is the high point of our Section's activities and there really will be something for everyone in Athens! I look forward to seeing many of you in the last week of May.

With best wishes

Gary F Baxter PhD
Secretary, ISHR European Section