Welcome to EUROECHO 10 in Prague!

We are delighted to return, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of EUROECHO, the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Working Group on Echocardiography (WGE) of the ESC, and the first three years of our European Association of Echocardiography (EAE).

At EUROECHO 1 in Prague in December 1997, our guest of honour was Professor Inge Edler from the University of Lund in Sweden, who with his colleague Hellmuth Hertz started clinical echocardiography in 1953. This year we will celebrate during the Opening Ceremony, with a concert from the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, and during 2 special sessions on Thursday – a DICE session of clinical cases presented by past Chairmen of the WGE and Presidents of the EAE, and a symposium on the Future of Cardiac Imaging.

Once again a record number of abstracts was submitted; there will be 10 highly focussed moderated poster sessions, as well as the Young Investigator Award, 11 oral abstract sessions, and 5 general poster sessions. Please support these sessions and the development of our subspecialty.

The two special themes at EUROECHO 10 will each be covered in 4 sessions – Heart Valve Disease (on Thursday) and the Right Heart and Pulmonary Circulation (on Friday). Mini-themes will review echocardiographic diagnosis in endocrine disease, advances in ultrasound engineering and diagnosis (arranged with European colleagues from IEEE in a new collaboration with the engineering community), and multimodality imaging (with colleagues from the European Society of Cardiac Radiology). Another new feature will be a Congenital Heart Disease track throughout the meeting, organised with the European Association for Paediatric Cardiology. We thank the Working Groups on Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance and Nuclear Cardiology of the ESC for once again contributing many speakers. We welcome for the first time joint sessions with the Working Group on Computers in Cardiology, the Japanese Society of Echocardiography, the Echocardiography Council of the Inter-American Society of Cardiology, and the Canadian Society of Echocardiography. We are pleased to renew our close links with the other Associations and many Working Groups in the ESC, and with the American Society of Echocardiography. The Edler lecture will be given by Professor Otto Smiseth from Oslo, and the EUROECHO lecture by Professor Harry Rakowski from Toronto. The conference starts with 6 original teaching courses, and this year EUROECHO attracts 20 CME credits from EBAC.

It is difficult to select highlights within this programme which has so much to offer. We hope that you will enjoy the meeting and appreciate the choice of excellent sessions, and that you will also have time to enjoy the beautiful city of Prague. We especially thank the chairmen of the Czech Working Group on Echocardiography, Hana Skalicka, Eva Mandysova, and Petr Fridl, for their support and welcome.

Dr ALAN G FRASER
President of the EAE

Dr PETROS NIHOYANNOPoulos
President Elect of the EAE