

Presenting Highlights from Two Exceptional Meetings on Pulmonary Hypertension



Two exceptional meetings this year offered rare opportunities for clinicians involved with pulmonary arterial hypertension to evaluate the progress made in treating this disease. In each case, attendees not only reviewed the progress of recent clinical trials but also looked ahead toward what we can expect in the coming years.

Most of this issue is devoted to highlights from the Third World Symposium on Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, held from June 23 to 25 in Venice, Italy. This group has been the prime mover in developing criteria for the classification and diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension, and the meeting this year once again demonstrated why the various task forces assembled contribute so much to our understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease and recent advances in diagnosis and treatment.

I want to express my appreciation for the contributions to this issue of *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension* from members of the task force committees who provided summaries from their respective sessions and to Nazzareno Galiè, MD, for enabling us to put together this information. The reports from the physicians convey essential information and highlight key issues discussed. They will give you a sense of the excitement we all shared in Venice as we worked toward a consensus on many topics. As assessment and treatment strategies branch in many directions, it is critical for working groups like this to consolidate our knowledge base and seek a consensus that serves as the basis for new guidelines.

The other meeting of major importance was held earlier under the auspices of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland. The report and interview with the meeting's chairman, John H. Newman, MD, ranges far and wide over a broad spectrum of topics that will put you on the cutting edge of developments in our field, including priorities for future research.

Victor Tapson, MD
Editor-in-Chief

Profiles in Pulmonary Hypertension

Cardiologist Nazzareno Galiè: A Guiding Light for Worldwide Consensus on Pulmonary Hypertension



Nazzareno Galiè, MD

If anyone is keeping track of the number of scientific publications on pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), pulmonary embolism, chronic heart failure, and heart transplantation authored or coauthored by Nazzareno Galiè, MD, the total has reached more than 280. But that impressive figure is only one measure of the stature of Dr Galiè as a world-class investigator in this field. Dr

Galiè's influence extends far beyond the borders of his native Italy where he is Head of the Pulmonary Hypertension Center at the University of Bologna.

Evidence of his influence on state-of-the art knowledge in PAH is apparent in this issue as he analyzed highlights

from the Third World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension held in Venice from June 23 to 25. As one of the organizers of this symposium, Dr Galiè helped bring together cardiologists and pulmonologists from leading research centers around the world to address topics of central importance to clinicians involved with the disease.

Aside from postdoctoral training in London and at the University of Arkansas, Dr Galiè has spent his entire career at the Institute of Cardiology, University of Bologna, where he is looked to as one of the guiding lights for European research in PAH. This is the program that kindled his interest in PAH soon after he wrote his doctoral thesis on the topic. As his interest in this field grew, he became more interested in PAH because it lacked a cure and other clinicians began sending more patients with PAH to Bologna for treatment. The University of Bologna's program earned a reputation as one of the centers of excellence for the treatment of PAH.

By the late 1990s, his center became one of the pivotal locations in Europe for investigations on new drugs being developed for PAH, including treprostinil, bosentan, beraprost, and iloprost. More recently, Dr Galiè's group has been involved in an international study on the effects of sildenafil in PAH, results of which are expected early in 2004. Working with colleagues in Europe and the United States, Dr Galiè has served on numerous committees to evaluate the effects of the new agents, and in particular he has led the first double-blind, placebo-controlled study on the effect of the endothelin receptor antagonist bosentan

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