

Perspectives from The European Society of Cardiology Congress 2014

The European Society of Cardiology Congress took place in Barcelona between August 30 and September 3 with an attendance of 30000 delegates. The sessions were planned in nine different topics and were placed in nine villages according to the topic like the previous years. According to the database of European Society of Cardiology, more than 400 delegates from Turkey attended. There was a record number of abstract submissions this year. There were 11,444 submitted abstracts and only 4597 were accepted. From Turkey, 411 abstracts were submitted. Of these, 73 were accepted. Compared to last year, the submission rate was higher since last year only 145 abstracts were submitted and 59 of them accepted. The number of abstracts that were accepted did not increase parallel to the increased submission this year. However the increase in submission rates can still be considered a positive development considering the low acceptance rates this year. In 2014, there were overall 1583 abstract reviewers and 22 of them were from Turkey. This number had increased from last year when there were 13 reviewers from Turkey. In the Scientific Program, ten speakers from Turkey were either chairing or speaking in a session. This number unfortunately did not increase compared to last year.

Turkish Society of Cardiology members constitute 4% of the European Society of Cardiology members. Overall there are 56 member countries. Of these countries, Turkey comes eighth when we rank according to the number of members. However, when we look at the members of the of working groups or associations of the European Society of Cardiology, these numbers are not reflected proportionately. Only 905 members of the Turkish Society of Cardiology are active members in these bodies of the ESC.

When we look at the administrative and leadership part of the ESC and constituent bodies, the representation of Turkey is also suboptimal. This year Prof. Dr. Çetin Erol has been elected

to the Board of the European Society of Cardiology. This is a huge success and opportunity for Turkey. In addition, Prof. Dr. Bülent Görenek, Prof. Dr. Lale Tokgözoğlu, Prof. Dr. Cemil İzgi, Prof. Dr. Serap Erdine, Prof. Dr. Murat Uğurlucan and Prof. Dr. Öztekin Oto are serving at the different Boards of the Associations or Working Groups of the European Society of Cardiology.

These numbers show us that Turkey has not reached its potential either scientifically or administratively in the European Society of Cardiology and is not where it deserves to be. We need to be more proactive and work harder to increase this representation in the upcoming years. We should aim to produce higher quality Science, be more active in our fields of interest and be more involved in ESC activities. It is the mission and responsibility of The Turkish Society of Cardiology and its working groups to encourage, educate and support young Cardiologists, provide them with opportunities for education and research. We should not only do our best for this mission but also be role models for the next generation.



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