



Ansprache des Präsidenten der Sektion Kardiologie in der UEMS, Prof. Dr. Reinhard Griebenow (Köln), beim Empfang des Herrn Oberbürgermeisters der Stadt Köln Jürgen Roters aus Anlass der Gründung der European Cardiology Section Foundation

(es gilt das gesprochene Wort)

My Lord Mayor,  
distinguished guests,

on behalf of Cardiology Section I would like to thank you, My Lord Mayor, for the invitation to this reception, it is a great honour and pleasure for us to be here today.

Cardiology Section is one of 38 specialty sections of UEMS and represents specialized cardiologists all over Europe by inviting delegates from the most

representative national institutions, mostly scientific societies and professional unions. It is the aim of our profession to fight the burden of cardiovascular disease and stroke, since cardiovascular disease is still responsible for most of morbidity and mortality in our societies. We do so by high quality scientific research in order to improve prevention and diagnosis and to find better treatment options for our patients. At the same time we have committed ourselves to continuously maintain and improve the standard of health care by defining standards for professional training, good clinical practice on the basis of evidence based medicine and by continuing professional development throughout our professional life. As examples for these activities I may cite the yearly scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology, meanwhile the world's largest congress in cardiology, and the activities of the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology. EBAC, the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology, started 10 years ago as an initiative of Cardiology Section and the European Society of Cardiology in order to combine legitimacy and expertise in the accreditation of continuing medical

education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) activities on the European level. Meanwhile the work of EBAC has not only been accepted as standard setting in Europe but EBAC has extended its scope by accrediting international CME/CPD events all over the world.

Another example demonstrating our believe that self-regulation of the profession is the best way to achieve the highest standards in health care is our project of a European Diploma General Cardiology. It is our hope that this Diploma will not only define what we consider as "continental" standard in cardiovascular medicine but will help national and EU regulators, respectively, to improve mobility of health care professionals. The Diploma is currently been worked out in close cooperation with ECAMSQ, scientific societies, professional unions and national as well as EU regulators.

Both activities, EBAC and the Diploma, are run under the umbrella of European Cardiology Section Foundation.

Why now a Foundation in Cologne?

Thanks to changes in German legislation it has become possible for "poor" founders as we are to start a foundation, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported us in setting it up and whom I am pleased to welcome here, too.

Furthermore, in our view a Foundation best symbolizes our conviction that education and training will be the mainstays of our profession forever. This Foundation will always be independent and governed by cardiologists only, since donations from pharmaceutical and medical-technical industry, respectively, have been excluded by our statutes.

My Lord Mayor  
distinguished guests,

in summary, this is a great moment for cardiology in Europe and we are delighted to add it to the wonderful culture and history of this European City of Cologne!

Thank you for your attention!