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## The Portuguese Congress of Cardiology and the importance of Research

The 2015 Congress of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology will be held at the Algarve Congress Center, Albufeira, with the theme of “The Heart in the Changing World”.

The Congress is the most important meeting in Portuguese cardiology, bringing together cardiologists with common scientific interests. As well as presenting the most recent developments and controversies in the field, the Congress is the ideal place to debate the medical issues encountered in daily practice, and to share opinions, ideas, certainties and doubts.

The certainties and doubts come from the results of our experience, and research studies are their main expression. It is important to share our experience and to be aware of what is happening in Portugal. Experiences from various cardiology centres will be presented at the Congress, in the form of oral abstracts, posters, or imaging sessions. A total of 755 works were submitted to the Congress, six of which (on electrocardiography) were selected for presentation and discussion in Focus sessions, and 560 abstracts were accepted (73% of those submitted). Of these, 138 will be presented as oral abstracts of various types in 25 sessions during the Congress: 18 conventional sessions, each with six presentations; three sessions on “Research and State of the Art”, each with four presentations on a single topic, followed by a talk on the state of the art in that particular subject; and four sessions in which research works compete for awards (Young Investigator Awards for Basic Science and for Clinical Science, the Award for Best Oral Abstract, and the Manuel Machado Macedo Prize for cardiac surgery).

Three hundred and seventy-five works were selected for presentation as e-Posters, which will be presented simultaneously on 15 monitors and discussed with two chairpersons. Five e-Posters will be presented at each session; one session will be dedicated to the five best works in this format, one of which will be awarded the prize for Best Poster.

Of the 149 imaging abstracts submitted, 41 were selected for presentation in eight different sessions. One will be awarded the prize for Best Image.

The six award-winning research works will be announced at the Congress’s closing ceremony.

This special edition of the Portuguese Journal of Cardiology includes the works presented at the 36th Congress of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology, which will be made available in electronic form to those attending the congress.

The Congress is the result of an enormous team effort. The Scientific Committee is profoundly indebted to the 207 experts who evaluated and classified the submissions and to all the authors who contributed their time and energy so that Portuguese research can gain the increasing recognition that it deserves.

To all the members of the team who day after day have put together this meeting, my heartfelt thanks.

Dulce Brito  
Committee Chair of the 36th Portuguese Congress  
of Cardiology