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## Scientific communications at the 2016 Portuguese Congress of Cardiology: “Feeling the Science Beat” in numbers

The Portuguese Congress of Cardiology is one of the largest scientific conferences in the country and a meeting point for all professionals working in cardiovascular medicine. The Congress - now in its 37th year - has throughout its long history been notable for its scientific quality and for the share of experiences between national centres. It is not therefore surprising that the Congress has become a reference event; it is by far the largest Portuguese conference in terms of submissions of scientific communications. This year, the strong support of the medical community has resulted in a record number, with a total of 804 submissions of different kinds. We are pleased to note the marked increase in submissions from other countries, especially Portuguese-speaking countries, mainly Brazil.

Particularly gratifying is the number of submissions of original scientific papers, itself a new record. Of the 628 papers submitted, 512 have been selected for presentation at the 2016 Congress (an acceptance rate of 81%) - 88 for oral communications and 424 for electronic posters. All works submitted have been considered for the various prizes to be awarded at the Congress, including the prize for Best Communication, the Manuel Machado Macedo Prize for cardiothoracic surgery, the Best Young Investigator prizes (for Basic Research and Clinical Research), and the Special Session “CUTEHeart” prize for cost-effectiveness evaluations of health technologies in the area of cardiovascular medicine.

The large number of submissions of imaging case studies reflects the popularity of this option. However, the reduction in the number of parallel sessions at the 2016 Congress has meant that only 18 (13%) of the 139 submissions could be selected and will be eligible for the Best Image of the Year prize.

Similarly, only eight (21%) of the 37 submissions of case reports have been selected for presentation at the two scheduled sessions and will be eligible for the Best Case Report prize. The popularity of the new mode of presentation (interactive case reports with televoting) shows it has been a success and will undoubtedly be repeated in the future.

All abstracts were reviewed by a minimum of seven experts from different specialities, in accordance with the indications of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology’s working groups and associations.

On behalf of the organising and scientific committee of the 2016 Congress, I would like to express our gratitude for the generosity of all 291 experts, each of whom showed great commitment and dedication in reviewing between 10 and 30 abstracts, and whose efforts resulted in each abstract receiving an average of 8.3 reviews.

I would also like to thank the various selection juries, who chose the candidates for the prizes from those with the highest classification in each area, as well as the final juries who, during the Congress, will have the difficult task of selecting and ranking the winners.

Congratulations to all authors for the excellent works they have submitted, demonstrating that Portuguese cardiology and the Portuguese scientific community are alive and active!

More than ever, the “pulse of science” is at the heart of the proceedings, and is the theme of the 2016 Congress.

I hope you all enjoy the Congress and wish you every success.

Nuno Bettencourt  
President of the 2016 Portuguese Congress of Cardiology