



Editorial

Introduction

The Da Vinci Society meets annually to hear and discuss papers on the airway vasculature (thought by some to be first described and illustrated by Leonardo da Vinci). Its meetings alternate between the venue of the annual American Thoracic Society in the USA, and a location outside the USA. In 2005 we met at Camogli, a beautiful Italian village on the shores of the Mediterranean close to Genova.

The Society interprets 'airway vasculature' generously, since the airway circulation affects many other airway and pulmonary functions, especially those connected to the airway mucosa. We had 29 presentations and, although we concentrated on the bronchial vasculature, we heard papers on aspects of the airways as diverse as heart failure, nasal decongestants and mucus gland secretion. Some of the papers were reviews and some described unpublished research. In total, 16 are included in this issue of Pulmonary Pharmacology and Therapeutics. The papers led to vigorous discussions, which we regret we are unable to publish.

The Camogli meeting was a great success, scientifically and socially (some of the spouses have set up a competing group, the Mona Lisa Club, but we will not detail their activities since they are decidedly unscientific). It was

wonderfully hosted by one of us [Piergiuseppe (Meeki) Agostoni]. We are grateful to our sponsors Astra Zeneca, Belco, Hospal, Innovision, Merck Pharma, Sensormedics, Merck Sharp and Dohme and Eli Lilly and to Centro Cardiologico Monzino, IRCCS. We also thank Pulm Pharmacol Therap (Editor-in-Chief, Clive Page) and their editorial staff (especially Ali Seedhouse and Kate Partner) for facilitating what we believe is an excellent production.

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