



## Editorial

## Updating Guidelines Published by the European Society of Vascular Surgery

In this issue of the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, (EJVES) John Kakisis et al. present a re-appraisal of the 2009 European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS) Guidelines on the management of patients with carotid disease.<sup>1</sup> The rationale was that the ESVS Recommendations on the role of carotid artery stenting (CAS) were markedly different to the American Heart Association (AHA) and 14-Society Guidelines<sup>2,3</sup> published in 2011, raising the important question as to whether the ESVS Guidelines required updating. However, having performed a systematic review of the contemporary literature, Kakisis concluded that the 2009 ESVS Guidelines “*not only remain valid but have been further strengthened by the latest available clinical data*”. At first sight, this is at variance with the AHA and 14-Society Guidelines, but anyone who reads the 2009 ESVS Guidelines will see that caveats were included that did support the use of CAS in selected patients.

2011 was a challenging year for anyone wishing to be appraised of the latest evidence regarding the management of patients with carotid disease. This was because no fewer than eight Guidelines were published around the world.<sup>2–9</sup> Each was based on interpretation of the same data, but there was no consistency in the final recommendations and some (e.g. the Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) Guidelines<sup>4</sup>) were at total variance with the AHA and 14-Society Guidelines. Given this lack of consensus, it is inevitable that Interventionists (and some Surgeons) will disagree with Kakisis’ opinion that the ESVS Guidelines remain as relevant in 2012 as they did in 2009.

However, the authors raise a valid point about the importance of updating Guidelines. The ESVS has usually published a new set of Guidelines each year and it was inevitable that some would become vulnerable to the challenge that they were ‘historical’ or ‘outdated’. The ESVS Council and the EJVES Editorial Board recognized this and introduced a system for not only preparing new Guidelines, but for updating older ones in a timely manner.

The EJVES Editors proposed that an Associate Editor be appointed to be responsible for working with the Chairman leading the preparation of new or updated Guidelines. This was approved by the ESVS Council and we are pleased to announce that Philippe Kohl has agreed to take on this role. He has already started to work closely with Vincent Riambau (Chairman of the 2012 Guidelines on Thoracic Aortic disease) and Jurg Schmidli who will lead on the preparation of guidelines on Vascular Access for 2013. Finally, and in order to address the points raised by Kakisis et al., Philippe Kohl will also be working with the incoming President of the ESVS (Professor George Hamilton) who will Chair the Group responsible for reviewing and updating the 2009 Carotid Guidelines.

## Conflict of Interest/Funding

None.

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