The Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease (D&CVD) EASD Study Group aims at promoting advancement of knowledge on all aspects of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The Study Group also focuses on bringing researchers together, establishing collaborations in this field and on organizing annual meetings to promote the scientific exchange.

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease EASD Study Group was held in Munich, Germany, 27 – 29 October 2011. The organization of the meeting was performed in conjunction with the Diabetes Research Group at the Munich Helmholtz Center, which by itself has a long-standing history of excellence in diabetes research in Germany.

The 254 participants came from 44 countries: 23 European countries, 13 Asian countries, USA, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and Africa.

The success of the meeting was highlighted by the fact, that more than 130 abstracts were submitted prior to the meeting. 16 were selected for oral presentations and 52 were selected for poster presentations. The accepted posters were grouped into five poster sessions, which were individually chaired. Each poster was presented by the first author and was discussed.

The educational structure of the meeting was characterized by a mixture of invited state-of-the-art lectures on latest topics of diabetes and CVD and oral presentations focussing on up-to-date experimental and clinical research data.

The opening symposium included a comprehensive analysis of the future of treatment of hypertension in diabetes an update on the rising prevalence of diabetes and CVD in China. This was succeeded by a symposium on the influence of genetic aspects on diabetic cardiovascular function. Data of the genome-wide association data and CVD was presented together with genetic polymorphisms related to coronary artery calcium as well as mitochondrial dysfunction.

A symposium on strategies for the reduction of the excessive mortality in diabetes included the following topics: protective strategies for colorectal cancer in diabetes, diabetic cardiac autonomic, silent diabetes and silent CAD, molecular, neuronal and metabolic imaging of the diabetic heart together with oral presentations on AGEs, Angiotensin II-induced cardiac hypertrophy and proteasome modulator 9.
The symposium was followed by oral presentations on OGTT in acute coronary syndromes, endothelium-derived heat shock protein-90 secretion and diabetic macroangiopathy, hypoglycaemia in patients with type 2 diabetes and manifest vascular disease (DiaRegis), long-term glycemic benefits of intensified multiintervention for type 2 diabetes, peripheral endothelial function in diabetes with silent coronary artery disease and pre-operative renal dysfunction and therapy type in patients with type 2 diabetes undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery.

The value of self-management and cardiac rehabilitation in diabetes was the topic of a symposium, which presented advanced strategies and behavioral aspects of self-monitoring of blood glucose. Hypoglycemia as an aggravating factor and cardiac rehabilitation was also discussed. Two oral presentations presented data on the effect of structured blood glucose monitoring on markers of cardiovascular risk - NT-proBNP and hs-CRP and the association of excessive daytime with higher HbA1c in type 2 diabetes. The effects of GLP-1-based treatment approaches beyond glucose control was addressed in oral presentations on Linagliptin, Sitagliptin and Exenatide, which presented data on cardiovascular safety, patients with acute coronary syndrome, renal insufficiency and heart failure. Invited lectures discussed potentials of GLP-1-based therapy for cardioprotection, effects on lipids and blood pressure together with effects on visceral adiposity.

Sleep-disordered breathing and cardio-metabolic disease, early insulin treatment and CVD, left ventricular dysfunction in diabetes (the DYDA Study), cardioprotection with Aspirin in diabetes and CVD outcome studies in diabetes were addressed in a symposium, which focussed on CVD outcome in diabetes.

In the poster sessions, studies on diabetes and cardiac function, rhythm and performance, GLP-1-based and other treatment strategies, vascular function in experimental settings and insulin resistance were presented.

In summary, the 4th Annual Meeting of the D & CVD EASD Study Group was characterized by highly stimulating lectures and presentations, a fruitful scientific exchange and the creation of a platform, which will act as a network meeting for future collaborations. The D & CVD EASD Study Group feels that the target of creating a reference congress for diabetes and CVD has been successfully achieved with the 4th Annual Meeting of the D & CVD EASD Study Group. Future Annual Meetings of the D & CVD EASD Study Group will be dedicated to also effectively achieve this goal.

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<th>Prof. Oliver Schnell</th>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Local Organising Committee</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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