3. Belfast 1988

This was the first of 3 meetings held in Belfast and it occurred at a time when the city was not the safest place in the world to visit. There were 30 registered participants and they stayed at the famous Europa Hotel, once described as the most bombed hotel in the world. This was still in the era before a pharmaceutical company had taken an interest in Curosurf so the delegates paid their own airfares; and accommodation, food and social events were supported with revenue from a small trade exhibition. Eight countries were represented including the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, France, Ireland, Germany and China. The topics presented included acute responses to surfactant treatment, animal models of respiratory distress syndrome and the effects of infection on surfactant function. Tore Curstedt discussed the structure of the hydrophobic low molecular weight proteins in Curosurf and Bo Sun the surface properties of Curosurf during long term cycling. Brian McCord presented data on cerebral and pulmonary blood flow after surfactant treatment and Paul Thomas discussed the radiological changes after surfactant. Later Henry Halliday talked about the factors determining the response to surfactant and this was followed by individual experiences from Parma (Guilio Bevilacqua), Gottingen (Christian Speer), Dublin (Tom Clarke) and Stockholm (Peter Herin). In the afternoon there were discussions on proposed new trials: prophylaxis (Bengt Roberetson), early versus late treatment (Guilio Bevilacqua) and repeat doses (Christian Speer). The meeting finished with a discussion on the prospects for surfactant manufacture by a representative of the Chiesi Farmaceutici company from Parma.

Mark Reid hosted the delegates at his home for drinks and a buffet meal which was enjoyed by all.