

BACKGROUND INFORMATION EUROPEAN HEART RHYTHM ASSOCIATION (EHRA)

The European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) is an association specialising in electrophysiology and was created from the merger of two former Working Groups on 'Cardiac Pacing' and 'Arrhythmias'.

EHRA Mission Statement: "To improve the quality of life of the European population by reducing the impact of cardiac arrhythmias and reduce sudden cardiac death".

Aims & Activities:

Its ambition is to serve as the leading organisation in the field of arrhythmias and electrophysiology in Europe, and to attract all physicians from Europe and beyond to foster the development of this area of expertise.

EHRA's main aim is to be an Association that serves its members in achieving this common goal.

Membership

EHRA is now been in existence for 5 years and has over 600 members and 8 committees.

As paid members (paying for membership is a new development), our members have access to exclusive benefits and privileges and are encouraged to participate more actively in the life of the Association. Some of these benefits include reduced fees to the Europace Congress, reduction in the EP Europace Journal subscription rate as well as accreditation exams.

Additionally, membership provides exclusive access to Training Fellowships Programmes, to a selection of Educational content - available both in print and electronically - and of course, voting rights for Board elections.

Through its Committees, EHRA strives to provide the best possible tools, education and information in the field of arrhythmias and electrophysiology and is proud to share these achievements:

The **National Societies Committee** assesses the needs of member countries, learns about individual structures, activities and goals, so as to communicate and collaborate on a Europe-wide level. Among their key responsibilities are to organise a Summit, bringing together working groups and national societies on electrophysiology, cardiac pacing and arrhythmias.

Alliances with other ESC associations via joint congress sessions and activities continue to flourish, as does our partnership with Cardiostim.

The unique approach to EHRA **Training Fellowships**, in which both, individuals and training centres must apply to participate in these programmes, has been successful. The financial support of 13 grants per year is made available thanks to the financial support of industry partners.

The success of both EP and CP accreditation exams led by the [Accreditation Committee](#) is now established with increasing requests to sit the exams every year, demonstrating the recognition and quality of this certification.

Thanks to the [EP Europace Journal](#) and to the [Scientific Document Committee](#), EHRA publishes a number of scientific documents, in addition to the growing number of articles we receive daily from an international audience.

The [Education and Web Committees](#) have surpassed themselves in knowledge dissemination with new initiatives on the web, including Webinars "Ask the experts" and on-line recordings of previous educational courses. The committee continues its aim to provide high quality education, with all courses being EBAC accredited.

The [Scientific Initiatives Committee](#) created in 2008, launched the first "Network of Centres" collaborating in the performance of registry initiatives and research studies. We hope that the Network will be a resource for all signatories, facilitating rapid identification of colleagues and centres prepared to help build the evidence base that supports clinical practice.

Finally, over 4 000 participants appreciated the scientific value of the EUROPACE -EHRA congress in Berlin 21-24 June 2009. The [Scientific Programme Committee](#) has now established the EUROPACE-EHRA Congress as the foremost European meeting on Cardiac Arrhythmias and Pacing. The international attendance confirms that it now reaches far beyond European borders and we hope for even greater success in June 2011 in Madrid.

Website www.escardio.org/EHRA

Email: EHRA@escardio.org