



## European Heart Rhythm Association



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Dear Members of the European Heart Rhythm Association,

EHRA is no longer a young society. Now with more than 1,970 members EHRA is an important player in the international electrophysiological community. Our major commitments are those of disseminating knowledge on diagnosis and management of cardiac arrhythmias and developing tools for professional recognition of cardiac electrophysiology. To this end, the EHRA Board and Committees have undertaken a remarkable number of initiatives in the last few months.

According to the constitution, the EHRA Board will be subject to change in June 2007. Call for applicants are now being accepted, with deadline for submission on 20 April 2007.

The EHRA Training Fellowships have been launched and applications were submitted for the 28 February 2007 deadline. The project targets young physicians who wish to gain top level training in clinical electrophysiology in Europe and aims to promote the development of academic medicine in the field of clinical electrophysiology. Two categories of EHRA Training Fellowships are offered, enabling physicians who have completed parts of their cardiology training the opportunity to gain specialised training in clinical electrophysiology outside their home country, but within Europe.

The Europace journal is improving the scientific level of the published articles, as demonstrated by the steady increase of the impact factor, now approaching 1.5. The EHRA Board welcomes Professor A.J. Camm, the new Editor-in-Chief as of 1 January 2007. Their goal is to make our journal a reference in the electrophysiological community.

The EUROPACE Congress - now established as the major educational and research meeting in arrhythmias and cardiac pacing in Europe - will take place in Lisbon on 24-27 June 2007. The programme committee chaired by Professor Karl Heinz Kuck has put together an exciting programme, featuring the presentation of latest results in research which is the motor for improving medical treatment, as well as updates in standard practices. The Advance programme can be downloaded from the EHRA website. As previously announced, the congress is organised in collaboration with Cardioslim. The EUROPACE Congress will also be the opportunity to vote for the new Board members.

The EHRA Education Committee is working in a coordinated fashion with the Accreditation Committee to develop activities and courses targeted at disseminating knowledge in cardiac electrophysiology and facilitating the preparation of the EHRA Accreditation exam. In 2007 two courses took place at the European Heart House and in Tolochenaz. Slide kits, a reference library and scientific documents are available on the website and new scientific content will continuously be added in the future. The next set of Accreditation exams will take place during the EUROPACE congress in Lisbon.

In order to strengthen the contacts with our membership the first "EHRA Summit" will take place on 2-3 April 2007 at the European Heart House. Presidents and Chairpersons of Working Groups or Societies of Electrophysiology and Arrhythmias of the ESC member countries have been invited to attend this summit, created to ensure that our organisation's concerns, activities and initiatives are shared amongst our member countries. This meeting will provide a discussion platform and opportunity to reflect on key activities, membership needs and share experiences.

I wish to conclude by expressing my gratitude to all Board members, to the chairpersons of the Committees and the Committee members and last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the dedication and the contribution of the staff supporting EHRA activities at the Heart House.

Looking forward to meeting with you at the General Assembly on Tuesday 26 June in Lisbon, I would like to express my best regards to all of you and to remind you that EHRA is a group of cardiologists with a common interest in scientific activities at the European level that is open to all Members who wish to actively participate in the enhancement of the scientific and political impact of our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Silvia G. Priori', written in a cursive style.

*Silvia.G. Priori*  
*President, European Heart Rhythm Association*