

The Council for Cardiology Practice

The European Society of Cardiology 'Frontline' cardiologists' council

The original idea of an organization of cardiologists in practice began in 1998 when Dr Alain Sebaoun invited leaders from cardiologists in private practice organizations of five European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain) to join together in order to create a network and organize educational tools and annual meetings. It was created by these 'founding fathers' the European College of Cardiology (ECC).

They began to contact opinion leaders around the world and created a compact disc (CD) with their interviews. The original CD language was English and it was translated and spread among members in French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

During the 1999, Barcelona ESC Congress a full agreement among the ECC Board members on the structure of the ECC was reached and a number of meetings with the ESC leaders at that time were organized. A year later the ECC addressed a letter to Professor Lars Rydén, then President of the ESC, presenting itself and describing its interests, purposes, and scopes. This initiated a period of negotiation culminating, during the ESC Congress 2001 in a proposal by Professor Maarten Simoons to the General Assembly that the College become part of the ESC. The Council for Cardiology Practice (CCP) was born. It was the first Council of the ESC and became one of the constituent bodies of the Society.

The Founding Members were from: Union Professionnelle de Cardiologues (Belgium), Collège de Cardiologues Français (France), Bundersverband Niedergelassener Kardiologen (Germany), Gruppo per l'Intervento nelle Emergenze Cardiologiche (Italy), and Grupo de Trabajo de Cardiología Extrahospitalaria (Spain). Maria J. Salvador is considered the founding mother of the Council and is permanently contributing to its functions.

The first CCP Nucleus Board members were: Chair: Maria Jesus Salvador. Vice-Chair: Alain Sebaoun, Secretary: Frank Sonntag, Treasurer: Sigmund Silber. Along with: Denis Clement, Nicky Neiman from Belgium, Jean Yves Fraboulet from France, Giuseppe Germano, Marco Rolloni from Italy, and Joaquin Aznar from Spain.

The current (2016) CCP Board is composed of Maxime Gueunon (France) chair, Riccardo Asteggiano (Italy) vice-chair, Dimitri Richter (Greece) secretary-treasurer, and past chair Gonzalo Baron Esquivas (Spain).

Member countries of the CCP are Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland.

The Statutes of the CCP were created and the rules and regulations were accepted by the ESC Board in September 2002.

Over the years, the Council has developed some successful activities and has increased its members and importance.

A questionnaire about Heart Failure in Private Practice was performed and the results have been published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2002.¹ Other on-line surveys were completed in recent years about cardiology in private practice, the ESC Syncope Guidelines and recently Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines and antithrombotic therapy management; the results of this last survey were presented as a poster at the ESC Congress in London and published.² An oncoming survey concerning TAVI has just recently been completed.

In October 2002, the E-journal of Cardiology Practice was created, a weekly journal sent by e-mail to >50 000 subscribers, containing cardiology articles, and reviews related to the field of clinical cardiology in practice.

The articles are written by leading experts in different fields of cardiology, often members of the Working Groups or Associations of the ESC, and are peer reviewed by an editorial board.

This initiative was originally supported by Servier and due to its great success, is now endorsed by the ESC.

The CCP newsletter has 7000 subscribers and contains news and information from national societies, summaries, and abstracts of ESC guidelines, and comments on recent articles from the international literature.

In recent years, the CCP board in collaboration with the ESC Education Committee and the Committee for the ESC Congress organized the Take Home Message Sessions and the Ultrasounds in Private Practice Sessions, sponsored by General Electric during the ESC Congresses. All of these initiatives achieved great success. In the 2013–2015, ESC Congresses the CCP participated in special sessions for GPs and Cardiology Practice, proposed and led symposia on different topics.



CCP Heart Failure Roundtable at ESC Congress 2015

The functions of the Council for Cardiology Practice are:

- To promote and organize activities and/or research in the field of cardiology practice.
- To gather and exchange information regarding research and related activities within the Council and with interest to members of the Council.
- To contribute to the organization and preparation of the annual ESC Congress, and to participate in and support other scientific meetings and symposia.
- To establish appropriate recommendations for the ESC regarding the field of Cardiology Practice.
- To organize Teaching Workshops on suitable topics.
- To recommend the establishment of ESC Task Forces to the Committee for Practice Guidelines and Policy Conferences and to publish appropriate guidelines and recommendations.
- To design and co-ordinate scientific research in the field of Cardiology Practice.
- To hold regular meetings of the Council.
- To organize surveys or registries and to collect data on the practice of cardiology in Europe.

The CCP also participated in national Society's Congresses (Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, and Spain).

From April 2014 to April 2015, the council was involved in the writing of seven Guidelines, in the review process of eight Guidelines, and one position paper.

Membership of the CCP is open to any cardiologist who as a minimum part of his everyday clinical employment sees patients out-of-hospital, in an office-based practice. Membership can be either through a group of practicing cardiologists of a national cardiac society or directly through the ESC, <http://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/Communities/Councils/Council-for-Cardiology-Practice/Membership/How-to-become-a-member>.

We would like to contribute to a further increase of the activity of the Council and we are thinking to new initiatives aiming to enhance the knowledge in the field of clinical cardiology, but also to create a community of that peculiar class of cardiologists that are the cardiologists in practice, the 'frontline' cardiologists, often working alone in their offices, acting as a bridge between the Hospital and the General Practitioner.



Dimitri Richter MD FESC
Secretary-Treasurer CCP
Head of Cardiology Dept.
Euroclinic, Athens
richter@otenet.gr



Riccardo Astegianno MD
Vice-President CCP



Maxime Guenoun MD
President CCP

References

References are available as supplementary material at *Supplementary material is available at European Heart Journal online, online.*