

2020

# Activity Report

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ESC COUNCIL ON CARDIOVASCULAR GENOMICS  
FISCAL YEAR 2020

# Chairperson's Introduction



**Prof. Perry Elliott, FESC**

*Chairperson of the Council on  
Cardiovascular Genomics  
2019-2022*

The year 2020 will be forever burned into our memories as a period of unprecedented challenge to our societies and our personal philosophies on life's essential values. The Covid-19 pandemic is not over, but the initial shock to our healthcare systems has passed. And so, while we should remain vigilant against complacency and continue to support the mission to discover effective treatments and vaccines, we must also regroup, learn lessons and build the post-Covid future for our specialty.

The *Council on Cardiovascular Genomics* was conceived as the ESC's response to the emergence of genomic science as a central pillar of personalised medicine. Our understanding of genetic susceptibility to disease increases year on year and the era of genetic therapies has truly begun with numerous trials targeting genetic mechanisms of disease. Indeed, we may be the first generation that can dare to hope for the emergence of curative rather than palliative interventions for some of the deadliest cardiovascular diseases. While the hiatus of the past few months has delayed some of our activities, we remain committed to our core mission and will be working with the Council and its membership to accelerate our programmes on education, training and promotion of science over coming months.

Stay safe and continue to dream about a brighter future.

## Highlights from 2019-2020

→ Creation of the Council on Cardiovascular Genomics.

→ Awarded **travel grants** to FCVB Congress

→ **Joint sessions** organised with EHRA and HFA

→ Two **Scientific Documents** defined for development

# Council on Cardiovascular Genomics Nucleus 2019-2022



**Perry Elliott**  
*Chairperson*



**Heribert Schunkert**  
*Chairperson-Elect*



**Cornelia van Duijn**  
*Treasurer/Secretary*



**Stefan Kaab**  
*Communications  
Officer*



**Yigal Pinto**  
*Nucleus Member*



**Pim van der Harst**  
*Liaison Officer*



**Eloisa Arbustini**  
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**Lucie Carrier**  
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**Bart Loeys**  
*Nucleus Member*



**Elijah Behr**  
*Extraordinary Nucleus  
Member representing  
EHRA*



**Thomas Thum**  
*Extraordinary Nucleus  
Member representing  
HFA*



**Maryam Kavousi**  
*Extraordinary  
Nucleus Member  
representing EAPC*



**Kristina Hermann  
Haugaa**  
*Extraordinary Nucleus  
Member representing  
EACVI*

## Council on Cardiovascular Genomics Board 2019-2022

The Council on Cardiovascular Genomics Board includes representatives from related ESC Constituent Bodies and European societies:

- ESC Working Group on Aorta and Peripheral Diseases - Guillaume Jondeau
- ESC Working Group on Atherosclerosis & Vascular Biology – Paul Evans
- ESC Working Group on Myocardial & Pericardial Diseases - Antonis Pantazis
- ESC Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science – Johannes Waltenberger
  
- Association for European Paediatric Cardiology (AEPC) - Juan Kaski
- European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) – Bart Loeys

# Membership

The creation of the Council on Cardiovascular Genomics was officially approved at the ESC General Assembly in September 2019. The Council is a multi-stakeholder body with a mission to encourage research, education and the sharing of genomic knowledge.

By March 2019, the Council had attracted almost 300 members from multiple disciplines.

The Council reaches out to members via its quarterly e-bulletin.

**ESC**  
Council  
Cardiovascular Genomics

**Bulletin**

27 February 2020

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to read the first bulletin of the [ESC Council for Cardiovascular Genomics](#).

Genetic diseases of the heart and blood vessels are major contributors to human morbidity and mortality and for many years the ESC has led the way in promoting genomic science and medicine. However, the pace of growth in genomic knowledge and the need for greater genomic literacy amongst healthcare professionals means that new strategies need to be employed to ensure that patients with genetically determined cardiovascular diseases benefit from advances in diagnosis and therapy.

[Keep reading](#)

**Professor Perry Elliott, FESC**  
Chairperson 2019-2021

**FREE membership**

**ESC Council on Cardiovascular Genomics**

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## Congresses

Since its creation in September 2019, the Council has actively sought to develop joint sessions at EHRA 2020 Congress and FCVB 2020 Congress. Unfortunately, these congresses could not take place as planned but the Council is looking to develop additional joint sessions for 2020-2021.

The Council has offered eight travel grants to members under 40 years old presenting an abstract to attend Frontiers in CardioVascular Biomedicine (FCVB) Congress. These grants will be transferred to FCVB 2021 due to the postponement of the congress.

## Advocacy

The Council has invited representatives from the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology (AEPC) and the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) as non-voting Board members.

The Council is developing joint initiatives with these external societies for delivery during 2020-2021.

## Education

### Scientific Documents

The Council has defined two scientific documents for development during 2020-2021. The first on *“Multidisciplinary Approach to the Interpretation and Actionability of Genetic Variants in Cardiomyopathies”* which has been approved for development by the ESC Committee for Practice Guidelines and is planned for completion by the end of 2020.