

We are delighted to announce to all our members, that the first interview for 2023 is of Prof Victoria Delgado, new EACVI President-Elect. We hope you enjoy reading her vision to be a leader! Please also see below the interview of the first recipient of the EACVI Women Education & Training Grants Programme for education, Dr Joy Oshun from Nigeria.

It's a great pleasure to share with all of you, that Dr Alessia Gimelli received Mentor Escalator Award for 2022 for highly, qualified women in medicine by Women As One organization. This award gives the visibility to many talented women physicians who build the face of women leaders in medicine.

Lastly, we will have a new brainstorming meeting on Thursday 27 April at 18:00 CEST so please mark your calendar and save the date. We look forward to seeing you online!

The new EACVI 2023 Congress will be held onsite and in person from 10th to 12th May in Barcelona , Spain and will be the flagship congress on cardiovascular imaging, bringing together beginners and experts of all CVI techniques: echocardiography, cardiovascular magnetic resonance, nuclear cardiology and cardiac computed tomography. Don't miss it, save the date and make your registration now! Let's meet in Barcelona!

Thanks for reading and we look forward to an exciting EACVI Women Task Force year with more activities and achievements!

Highlight of the month by Krasimira Hristova

Interview – Women Leaders in Cardiovascular Imaging



Victoria Delgado

Dr Victoria Delgado is a board-certified cardiologist with specific expertise in multimodality imaging, Head of the department of Cardiovascular Imaging, University Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona Spain and President Elect for EACVI

For the past 13 years, she has been actively performing research in the field of cardiac mechanics and underlying pathophysiological mechanisms of heart failure in various cardiac diseases, particularly in valvular heart disease and coronary artery disease.

Victoria has been board member of the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (councillor and chair of scientific documents), task force member of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Guidelines, member of the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines committee and Congress Programme Committee. Furthermore, she is an associate editor of Circulation and Journal of American Society of Echocardiography. She is EACVI President-Elect 2022-2024.

- **Could you tell us more about your professional journey?**

I studied Medicine at the University of Barcelona and did the training in Cardiology at Hospital Clinic in Barcelona. When I finished the training, I remained as fellow of imaging with a project on multimodality imaging assessment of left ventricular remodelling after myocardial infarction for 1 year but then I was offered the opportunity to join the team of Prof. Jeroen J Bax at the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), initially for 1 year, then for 2 years and after 3 years I was appointed as staff member of the department of Cardiology of the LUMC where I remained in total 15 years. During this journey I have had the opportunity to learn from great mentors and network with excellent researchers and investigators around the world. Two years ago, I moved to Hospital University Germans Trias i Pujol in Badalona as head of the cardiovascular imaging department, opportunity that allowed me to further develop my career and be closer to my family.

- **You are the first woman elected for President of EACVI. Share with us, about your feelings and your idea to develop the future EACVI. What do you think about this – is it as “a time to change the game “and involve more women in cardiology or is it just a “coincidence”?**

Being elected for President of EACVI is a big responsibility and honour, regardless of the sex. However, I understand the question because, I will be the first woman president of EACVI, which is a change from previous years. I hope I can become a good example for many other women to apply for leadership positions. I do not think much on coincidences but on the hard work, integrity and honesty, sharing your knowledge, strengths and limitations with other colleagues to bring the Association to the level the members feel represented.

- **What were your top 5 take home messages from EACVI best of Imaging 2022?**

1. EACVI is the association of cardiovascular multimodality imaging leader in the field.
2. EACVI concentrates all the expertise in cardiovascular imaging to improve patients' clinical outcomes.
3. EACVI is in great shape fostering new initiatives that lead the field of multimodality imaging.
4. EACVI is well aligned with the mission of ESC (to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease) by promoting the use of the most appropriate imaging technique for each clinical question
5. EACVI is a young community with a brilliant future.

- **How do you spend your free / personal time? What is your hobby?**

I like walking very much and look to what surrounds me to find the unexpected. Photography is also a hobby that I like very much.

- **What is your favourite research topic?**

There are many research topics that I like. But perhaps I have special devotion to valvular heart disease which needs a multidisciplinary evaluation to optimize the outcomes of patients.

- **Have you encountered a challenging time at work where you felt that as a woman you have been harassed or bullied?**

No and if there have existed, I think I fought them without thinking much and probably did not last enough time to give them any relevance.

- **What is the most important advice to a woman who wants to do cardiology nowadays?**

I think Cardiology is a great medical speciality with a wide range of subspecialisations that will allow everyone to find the spot/place to pursue their careers. Whatever is the speciality a woman chose, she needs to think right, be honest, be respectful to other colleagues and strive for excellence.

- **What was the last book you read**

La mano de Fatima (Ildefonso Falcones)

- **What was the last movie you watched?**

About fate (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qifq_7wpPT8)

- **Who inspired you to follow cardiology and imaging?**

To follow cardiology? I do not know. I liked it very much and it was the longest training in medical specialities. Imaging: Marta Sitges.

- **How important is to have a mentor?**

To have a good mentor is very important and I have been fortunate to have several mentors that have pushed me to go for excellence in research, in cardiology, in cardiovascular imaging and as human being: Xavier Bosch, Marta Sitges, Jeroen J Bax, Gilbert Habib and Jose Luis Pomar.

- **If a woman from across the world reads this interview, how can she have more opportunities?**

I will be happy to put in contact with the right person any woman who would like advice on cardiology

- **In your opinion what is to be done to attract more young women to work in cardiology?**

Currently the number of women training in cardiology is increasing. Perhaps we should make an effort to include more women in other subspecialities where men are still majority such as for example electrophysiology and interventions. Having women experts in this field and open new opportunities for more women will be the way to go.

- **What is most memorable moment from last year for you? What you want to have more in the upcoming New year?**

Reconnecting in person with many friends at the ESC congress. For the upcoming year I would like to keep seeing more women in leadership positions

Thank you very much Dear Victoria!



Interview – first recipient of the EACVI Women Education & Training Grants Programme

Dr Joy Oshun, Nigeria

- **Could you introduce yourself to us?**

I am a Cardiology Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and a registered health practitioner with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and the General Medical Council, UK. I have worked in various capacities as a physician and Cardiologist at several private health care institutions in Nigeria and I am currently a Consultant Cardiologist at Iwosan Lagoon Hospital groups, a multi-centred, tertiary health care facility in Lagos, Nigeria.

I am a member of the Nigerian Cardiac Society, European Heart Failure Association and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging of the ESC. Voluntary teaching of young health care practitioners is one of my passions. I am also an advocate of improving the health, wellbeing and career development of women. When I am not working, you find me relaxing to music, gardening, and visual arts.

- **What is your professional journey?**

My strong desire to become a Cardiologist after completing my internship in Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) led to an adventurous Clinical observership at the Manchester Heart Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary, UK in 2006, which is where I developed a healthy fascination with cardiovascular imaging and an appreciation of the usefulness of these investigative modalities in patient care.

During my Internal Medicine and Cardiology Residency training at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) in Nigeria, I paid particular attention when it came to bedside interactions with patients, which led to receiving an award; the “Dr Elegbeleye Prize” for Best candidate in Part One FMCP Clinical Examination in the Faculty of Internal Medicine of the National postgraduate medical college of Nigeria, in May 2009.

In August 2010 during my postgraduate training, I availed myself of the opportunity to proceed on an impactful 9-month Supernumerary Senior Registrar position at the: Cardiology Division of the Tygerberg Academic Hospital of Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa. Apart from gaining exposure to interventional Cardiology, this period enhanced my theoretical knowledge of cardiac ultrasound and uncovered my flare in performing and interpreting echocardiography.

I then returned to Lagos Nigeria where I gained my Cardiology fellowship with the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in 2012. My research on left atrial volume and diastolic dysfunction in Nigerian hypertensives was presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress, Barcelona in 2014. Interestingly, left atrial strain and function re-emerged as a trending topic in 2022. Without a doubt, I intend to carry out more research in this regard and hopefully will be able to apply soon to be acquired modern imaging techniques for a more robust study.

- **Could you describe the situation in Nigeria with regards to cardiology care?**

Areas that could improve the current situation of Cardiology care in Nigeria include, the provision of educational institutions equipped with advanced technical capabilities that will

bridge the training gaps in non-invasive and interventional Cardiology, infrastructural developments and modernization of health care facilities and improving accessibility and affordability of specialized cardiology care for both rural and urban communities. Furthermore, emphasis on increasing medical research in the most populous black-African nation would be beneficial to patient care in the global village that the world has become.

- **What was your motivation to apply for this grant? How will this grant help you fulfil your professional targets?**

I am purpose driven and constantly seeking to improve and update my professional growth especially in advanced cardiovascular imaging and guideline directed management of both non-complex and complex Cardiology cases. This training opportunity will enable me achieve my goal of bringing a better standard of cardiovascular care to every single patient encounter and will be integral in the role I intend to play in transfer of knowledge and skills to my community including standardizing the approach to performing, interpreting and reporting diagnostic cardiovascular imaging modalities, highlighting the usefulness of these advanced technologies including artificial intelligence in achieving first-class patient care, encouraging research work and becoming a voice emphasizing the need to adopt a professional and guideline directed culture in the daily practice of Cardiology in Nigeria.

As a Nigerian woman, wife and mother, achieving this educational training award aligns with my desire to see more attention being focused on increasing the accessibility to professional educational training for the African woman.

- **What is your wish for 2023?**

I believe 2023 is going to be an exciting year of knowledge and skill enhancement with access to state-of-the-art facilities, under the tutelage of accomplished professionals in excellent locations.

My wish is to gain advanced professional skills in echocardiography and multimodality cardiovascular imaging which will in turn contribute to impacting the advancement of the practice of Cardiovascular medicine in my personal capacity, my local community and in Nigeria as a whole. I am very thankful to the women in cardiovascular imaging task force of the EACVI for availing me of this prestigious opportunity.

Education and career development

Grants

1. **EACVI Research Grants**

The best way to boost your career!

Application period is 31 March to 30 September.

More information available at: [EACVI Research Grants](#)

2. **EACVI Training Grants**

The best opportunity for specialised training in the field of non-invasive cardiovascular imaging!

Application period is 31 March to 30 September.

More information available at: [EACVI Training Grants](#)

3. **EACVI Women Education & Training Grants**

The best opportunity for specialised training in the field of non-invasive cardiovascular

imaging for women from low and low-middle incomes countries!

Application period is 1 May to 30 September.

More information available at: [EACVI Women Education & Training Grants Programme](#)

Upcoming courses & educational programmes

1. [EACVI HIT Summer School](#) 16-17 June 2023, Zadar, Croatia
2. [EACVI Teaching Course on CMR in Congenital and Paediatric Heart Disease](#) 6-8 September 2023, London, United Kingdom
3. [EACVI Teaching Course on Transoesophageal 2D&3D Echocardiography](#) 27-29 October 2023, Prague, Czech Republic
4. [EACVI EchoLisbon](#) 30 November - 2 December 2023, Lisbon, Portugal

More information available at: [EACVI Organised Courses](#)

Upcoming exams & certification

1. 22 June 2023 [EACVI \(TTE\) Spring Online Certification Exam - Transthoracic Echocardiography](#) (Registration is open until 7 June)
2. 23 June 2023 [EACVI/EACTAIC \(TOE\) Spring Online Certification Exam - Transesophageal Echocardiography](#) (Registration is open until 8 June)
3. 26 June 2023 [EACVI Online Certification Exam - Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance \(CMR\)](#) (Registration is open until 9 June)

For more information, please visit: [EACVI Certification & Accreditation](#)

Suggested manuscripts on Women in cardiology & cardiovascular diseases

- 1) **Radiation protection for healthcare professionals working in catheterisation laboratories during pregnancy: a statement of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) in collaboration with the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), the ESC Regulatory Affairs Committee and Women as One**
<https://eurointervention.pconline.com/article/radiation-protection-for-healthcare-professionals-working-in-catheterisation-laboratories-during-pregnancy-a-statement-of-the-european-association-of-percutaneous-cardiovascular-interventions-eapci-in-collaboration-with-the-european-heart-rhythm-association-ehra-the-european-association-of-cardiovascular-imaging-eacvi-the-esc-regulatory-affairs-committee-and-women-as-one>
- 2) **Understudied, Under-Recognized, Underdiagnosed, and Undertreated: Sex-Based Disparities in Cardiovascular Medicine (Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions):**
<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCINTERVENTIONS.121.011714>

- 3) **Normative values of the aortic valve area and Doppler measurements using two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography: results from the Multicentre World Alliance of Societies of Echocardiography Study:**
<https://academic.oup.com/ehjcmimaging/article/24/4/415/6798870>
- 4) **Sex- and age-specific normal values for automated quantitative pixel-wise myocardial perfusion cardiovascular magnetic resonance:**
<https://academic.oup.com/ehjcmimaging/article/24/4/426/6862891>
- 5) **Multimodality imaging in thoracic aortic diseases: a clinical consensus statement from the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging and the European Society of Cardiology working group on aorta and peripheral vascular diseases:**
<https://academic.oup.com/ehjcmimaging/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ehjci/jead024/7070979?searchresult=1>
- 6) **Coronary Arterial Function and Disease in Women With No Obstructive Coronary Arteries (Circulation Research):** <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.121.319892>
- 7) **Sex Differences and Similarities in Valvular Heart Disease (Circulation Research):**
<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.121.319914>

Be part of our professional community!

[EACVI Task Force - Women in Cardiovascular Imaging](#)