

# EHRA

EUROPEAN HEART RHYTHM ASSOCIATION



## 2014 Activity Report

Committees Highlights Education Relations Science

[www.escardio.org/EHRA](http://www.escardio.org/EHRA)





**The EHRA mission: *"To improve the quality of life of the European population by reducing the impact of cardiac arrhythmias and reduce sudden cardiac death"***

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2014 Activity Report of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). This has been a successful year for the EHRA with many positive achievements, the majority of which are covered in the following pages. We are a thriving community and this is reflected in the vision, energy, and commitment of everyone who has made contributions to our vital work in 2014. You can all be very proud of yourselves and, on behalf of the Board and patients everywhere, I thank you. In this short introduction, I have space to mention only a small number of the projects we have undertaken. To appreciate the complete range of activities we cover, and the outcomes, I strongly encourage you all to read the report in full.

It is, perhaps, appropriate to begin with the successful CARDIOSTIM - EHRA EUROPACE in Nice. This was the first congress arising from our collaboration with Cardiotim, and it was pleasing to see more than 5 000 participants engaging fully with a highly praised scientific programme. EHRA membership continues to grow, and I am delighted to report that we ended 2014 with a very impressive total of almost 1 800 members.

As ever, Education remains at the core of our agenda, and 2014 has seen many new and continuing initiatives. These include further development of CP and EP examinations for both physicians and allied professionals, and many training courses held at Heart House and external locations including, for the first time, St Petersburg. Webinars have continued to grow in popularity, and the Education Committee has responded by increasing the numbers and range of topics.

The EP Europace Journal has consolidated its place as one of the world's top scientific publications in its field with an improved Impact Factor and a reputation for high quality content. EHRA members have been very busy in 2014 writing and reviewing scientific papers covering the complete span of our area of interest, many of which have been published in EP Europace, in other titles within the European Heart Journal family, and in other prestigious publications. Our important work on the White Book continues, as does our commitment to the ICD for Life project in Romania, Georgia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We have extended the Proctor Programme as promised last year. This initiative supports physicians from eastern Europe to travel to established CP and EP centres-of-excellence to undertake short-term training. You can also read more fully in the report of our vital work in the field of registries and surveys. Amongst these, ELECTRa is worthy of special note. This multi-centre registry of consecutive patients undergoing TLE procedures has now recruited over 3 000 patients.

As well as providing an excellent overview of the extent of our work and our progress, this report also looks ahead to strategic priorities for the coming year. During 2015, the EHRA Board wants to focus on a number of important projects that build on the foundations laid down in previous years. These include:

- Supporting the joint ESC/EHRA initiative that encourages the implementation of AF Guidelines in selected countries
- Finalising the advanced course in cardiac arrhythmia in Maastricht in cooperation with the ESC Academy in Brussels
- Promoting the first edition of the EHRA Inventors Award Innovation Committee led by Professor Frits Prinzen
- Launching new versions of the website for patients covering Atrial Fibrillation in Spanish and Italian
- Providing a framework for improved collaboration on arrhythmia-related aspects with the ESC WG on GUCH

In addition, we should all look forward to the EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan. This meeting also hosts the congress of the ESC Working Group on Cellular Electrophysiology and includes sessions organised by the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology. EHRA members wanting to attend will benefit from registration discounts, member-only sessions, and other special offers.

I would like to finish with two points. Firstly, as EHRA President, I have now become a full voting member of the ESC Board along with my counterparts from the other ESC Associations. I see this as an endorsement of the Association structure and an indication of the quality of the work we do towards our mission and that of the ESC itself. And secondly, I would like to acknowledge the excellent and dedicated support we receive from the Heart House staff and our industry partners. Without their efforts, much of what we achieve would not be possible. My thanks to all of them.

**Professor Karl-Heinz Kuck,**  
President of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), 2013-2015



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As part of the 24/7 connected world, EHRA recognises that it needs to improve the effectiveness of its communications to members and other stakeholders. Initiatives are underway to exploit social media, open new interactive channels, and increase the amount of scientific and education materials that are available in local languages. To meet demand, the new initiatives include:

### DEVELOPING A MOBILE APP

for smartphone and tablets allowing members to download EHRA Key Messages in English, Spanish, and Japanese



### CREATING ONLINE COMMUNITIES

using the LinkedIn platform for the Young EP and EHRA Innovation communities

### CATERING TO THE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES

of the ESC countries

### ORGANISING A TRAINING COURSE

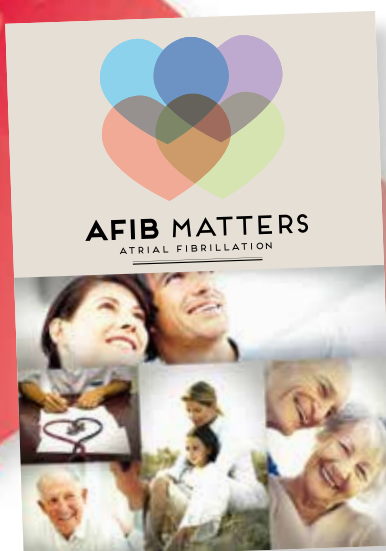


in Russian

### and CONDUCTING A WEBINAR



in Portuguese



### EHRA WEBSITE

The Website & Communications Committee is constantly analysing key metrics from the EHRA website in respect of

visitor numbers, profiles, and information accessed that will be used to prioritise development effort during 2015. The EHRA online quarterly newsletter has proved highly popular amongst the membership, and boasts the **highest readership rate** amongst all newsletters produced within the ESC family. The Committee has also recognised the importance of providing reliable information direct to Atrial Fibrillation patients and their families. It therefore launched the [www.afibmatters.org](http://www.afibmatters.org) website, an online platform which explains the background to AF, its diagnosis and treatment, and provides advice on living with the condition. The website is currently available in English, German, and French versions.

## 2015 Key Initiative

To launch the Spanish and Italian versions of the AFIB website for Patients during EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan and continue to enhance the existing English, German and French websites.





EP Europace is the official journal of the European Heart Rhythm Association, the ESC Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology, and the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology. It is ranked as the 4th best electrophysiology journal in the world and has earned an impressive **IMPACT FACTOR OF 3.050 in 2013!**

Published monthly, EP Europace aims to provide a high quality avenue of communication covering the fields of arrhythmias, pacing, and cellular electrophysiology. Published articles address basic and clinical research, consensus statements, position papers, and reviews, and are submitted by both European and International authors.

The Editor-in-Chief is Professor A.J. Camm, FESC.

**“Ranked as world’s  
4<sup>th</sup> best electrophysiology journal”**



## Membership and Benefits



Membership of the EHRA is open to specialist cardiologists with expertise in arrhythmias and electrophysiology, to general cardiologists, to basic scientists, and to members of allied professions.

### The wide range of attractive benefits includes:

- **NEW!** Exclusive access to scientific sessions during EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015
- Discounts on EHRA education programmes including:
  - Special rate on registration fee for EHRA courses
  - Free access to all online webinars
  - Reduced fees on EHRA booklets
  - 10% off all cardiology publications from Oxford University Press (OUP)
- Exclusive access to EHRA Training Fellowships and a selection of online EHRA educational content (including access to the ESC eLearning Platform)
- Discounts on attending the annual congress EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM
- Reduced subscription fee for the EP Europace Journal
- Voting rights
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Automatic ESC membership and benefits
  - Free ESC Pocket Guidelines at the ESC Annual Congress
  - Discounts on ESC educational products
  - Reduced subscription fees for the ESC Journal family, including EHJ itself
  - Priority information on all ESC congresses
  - Priority information on ESC educational programmes
  - Personalised ESC Membership Card<sup>1</sup>

Note<sup>1</sup> - Applicable for members of some National Cardiac Societies only



### Fee structure

- **Basic:** all the benefits listed above
- **Online:** all the benefits listed above, plus access to the online version of the 2015 EP Europace Journal
- **Full:** all the benefits listed above, plus access to the online and paper versions of the 2015 EP Europace Journal

### EHRA membership rates and options

2015	Basic membership (per year)	Online Membership <sup>3</sup> (per year)	Full Membership <sup>3</sup> (per year)
Physicians	60 €	110 €	195 €
Allied professionals, Under 35 <sup>2</sup> , Non-clinicians, Basic Scientist	50 €	85 €	180 €

Note 2 Born After 01.01.1980

Note 3 If you attended the CARDIOSTIM-EHRA EUROPACE 2014 in Nice through the standard registration fee for the whole duration of the Congress, you will get the Europace Journal automatically for one year in 2015. Therefore please select the Basic Membership fee when completing your membership application

## 2015 Key Initiative

As part of the ESC new membership strategy EHRA will launch its new membership scheme in 2016.

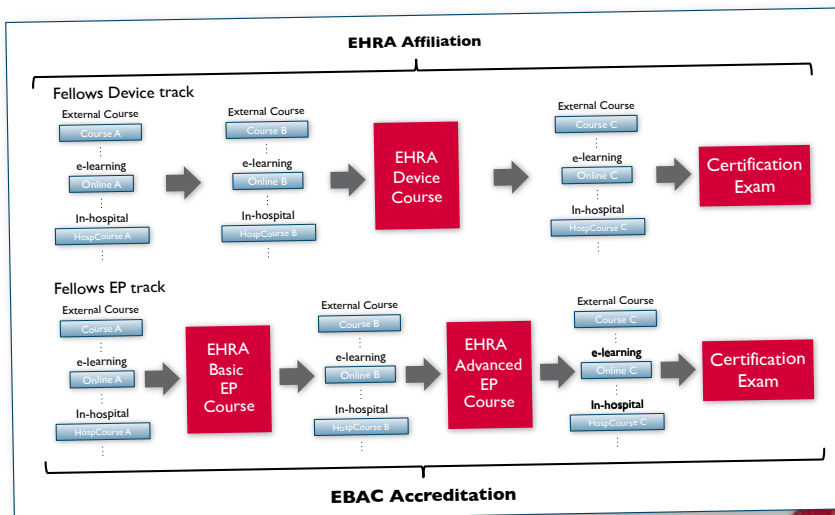


The EHRA Education Committee oversees the development and delivery of high quality training programmes for cardiologists specialising in pacing and EP, for trained electrophysiologists, and for cardiologists with a special interest in arrhythmias. Participation in training courses in any format is a great help when taking the EHRA certification exams.

## EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The EHRA Educational Framework has been designed to help maintain the highest standards of professional excellence. It embraces both home-grown and third-party initiatives, and covers both CP and EP specialties. External courses can be affiliated after evaluation by the Education Committee.

*“The EHRA Educational Framework has been designed to help maintain the highest standards of professional excellence”*



## TRAINING COURSES

During 2014, EHRA delivered a number of major training programmes for members including:

**EHRA Advanced EP course**, Sophia Antipolis, February 2014 – this course was directed by Professor Matthias Antz, and provided the 100 participants with knowledge of advanced EP techniques with special interest in ablation and imaging.

**EHRA Cardiac Pacing, ICD, and Cardiac Resynchronisation**, Vienna, March 2014 – this course covered ICDs and CRT, and was directed by Doctor Maurizio Lunati. The content combined theoretical lectures, troubleshooting case presentations, and mock exams. Speakers from all major device companies presented the technical features of their products to 190 participants under strict non-commercial guidance.

**EHRA EP and CP Mini-Courses**, Gulf EP LIVE, Dubai, March 2014 – EHRA conducted a Cardiac Device Course and a Cardiac EP course for the second time in the region. Course Director was Associate Professor Haran Burri, the EHRA chairman of education, and there were 40 participants.

**EHRA Introductory Course on Interventional Cardiac EP (formerly Basic EP)**, Sophia Antipolis, October 2014 – this course was directed by Professor Jesus Almendral and was designed for first year EP Fellows and for Fellows who needed to undertake a review of EP fundamentals. The content covered the mechanisms, diagnosis, and treatment of supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias. There were 82 participants.

**EHRA Cardiac Pacing, ICD and Cardiac Resynchronisation (Russian language)**, St Petersburg, October 2014 – this course was directed by Associate Professor Haran Burri and was based on the Cardiac Pacing, ICD, and Cardiac Resynchronisation course. The first time ever in Russia, the content was delivered in both Russian and English languages with a simultaneous translation, and there were 56 participants for the second consecutive year (Vienna, 2013).

## ESC eLEARNING PLATFORM (ESCeL)

The ESC eLearning platform (ESCeL) is a web based initiative which aims to harmonise cardiovascular training across the sub-specialties of cardiology. EHRA is taking full advantage of the platform to offer two tracks:

- Fellows CP track (containing 16 individual modules)
- Fellows EP track (containing 27 individual modules)



Each module comprises an on-demand slideshow with audio, while learning outcome is assessed by multiple choice questions.



**2015 Key Initiative**

**Tracks on Lead Extraction to be offered on ESCeL.**



## WEBINARS

Eleven webinars were held during 2014, all organised by Professor Frieder Braunschweig. These included EHRA Member-only webinars and a series of Open Access webinars available to non-members (highlighted in blue). For the first time, a webinar in Portuguese was organised with the Brazilian Heart Rhythm Society - Sociedade Brasileira de Arritmias Cardíacas (SOBRAC) – this is highlighted in green.

Date	Topic	Speaker	Host
January	Vascular access in electrophysiology: Issues and solutions	Dr. C. Piorkowski	Prof. F. Braunschweig
March	Tips and tricks for successful LV lead implantation	Assoc. Prof. H. Burri	Dr. H. Petersen
April	Webinar on sleep apnoea and cardiovascular co-morbidities	Dr. P. Defaye & Dr. A.-M. Sinha	Prof. J.-M. Davy
May	Which patient is indicated for an ICD?	Prof. F. Braunschweig	Prof. M. Zabeln
June	Atrial Fibrillation: New Perspectives for an Old Problem (in Portuguese)	Dr. L. Magalhães & Dr. A. Lorga Filho	Dr. C. Morais
June	Managing the Risk of Sudden Cardiac Death using a Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillator	Prof. C. Perings	Dr. L. Boersma
July	LV only pacing in CRT	Dr. M. Gasparini	Prof. C. Leclercq
September	Managing device system infections: clinical cases	Prof. D. Klug	Assoc. Prof. C. Kennergren
October	Minimising x-ray dose exposure for EP physicians, patients and support staff	Dr. L. Dekker & Prof. H. Heidebuchel	Prof. F. Braunschweig
November	Atrial fibrillation ablation, different types of energy delivery	Prof. M. Antz	Dr. M. Duytschaever
December	Leadless Pacing	Dr. C. Piorkowski	Prof. G. Hindricks

***“Selected webinars  
are open to  
non-members”***

## AFFILIATED COURSES

A series of training courses organised by Biotronik, Medtronic, Sorin, and St-Jude Medical were formally affiliated with EHRA in 2014. An audit for the industry employee courses in cardiac pacing and EP was undertaken at the request of industry partners: St Jude Medical and Boston Scientific.



## TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

### Regular Training Fellowships

EHRA Training Fellowships give physicians from ESC the opportunity to gain specialised training in clinical cardiac EP in another ESC member country. The objective is to promote the development of academic medicine. Thanks to the generous support of our industry partners, 16 grants were awarded in 2014 from 104 applications received. Of these, 68 were from individuals and 36 from centres. 13 of the grants were awarded to applicants from the ESC member countries, while three were jointly awarded with the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS).



### Proctor Programme

In addition, the Proctor Programme has been successfully launched. This programme provides support for physicians or former Fellows from eastern Europe to visit established CP and EP centres-of-excellence for training in new techniques. In this first full year, 14 individuals applied for support along with 11 centres. Six positions have been offered in 2014.

### Academic Research Fellowship

The Scientific Initiatives Committee has proposed and established the Academic Research Fellowship. Its purpose is to promote a potential career within academic electrophysiology by providing research supervision and guidance towards various research fields. This approach suits candidates looking for a period of high quality supervised research, and the grant is open for both clinical and basic science research. The duration is one year with the option of an additional year. The Second Academic Research Fellowship was announced at the 2014 CARDIOSTIM - EHRA EUROPACE in Nice.

## 2015 Key Initiative

To extend the Proctor Programme to Allied Professionals.

## EHRA CERTIFICATION

The mission statement of the EHRA Certification Committee is to assure the optimal quality in arrhythmia health care by assessing the competence in knowledge, skills, and attitudes of professionals and institutions. In 2014, physicians completed their CP and EP certification exams electronically using iPads for the first time. The committee also focused on the certification process for Allied Professionals (APs) in order to support greater homogeneity in expertise across borders, and to encourage more dialogue between APs. AP certification was first launched in 2011 with 34 candidates and, by 2014, this number had more than doubled. For the second time, EHRA delivered the AP exam on iPad in the Dutch language in the Netherlands. The feedback from physicians and APs on the electronic exam format has been positive throughout.



## 2015 Key Initiative

To successfully launch the EHRA Recognised Training Centre (ERTC).





## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The objective of the National Cardiac Societies Committee is to actively promote EHRA activities within the ESC member countries. To help meet this objective, the structure of the Committee was redefined in 2014 following an initiative by the EHRA President, Professor Karl-Heinz Kuck. The ESC member countries have now been organised into five regions according to OECD classifications and Regional Coordinators have been appointed for each. The regions are Western Europe, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, and Non-European. The role of the Coordinator is to support and promote EHRA activities and initiatives, and help bring together representatives from the respective National Cardiac Societies and Working Groups to share information and challenges. The Regional Coordinators will also be responsible for monitoring activities within their regions that can reduce the impact of cardiac arrhythmias and lower the incidence of sudden cardiac death. Work has focused on a number of programmes:

## 2014 EHRA White Book

The EHRA White Book of Cardiac Electrophysiology is a platform for the progressive harmonisation of access to arrhythmia treatment. The enthusiastic cooperation of National Cardiac Societies and Working Groups means that EHRA was able to report on 49 of the ESC's 56 member countries in the 2014 edition. The book also serves as a continuous reference for all EHRA initiatives in education and training, and has become the standard information source for comparing arrhythmia treatment between countries. The online version of the White Book is available at the EHRA website.

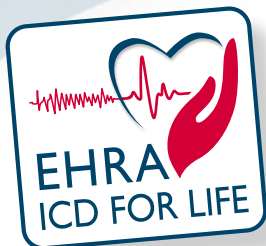
## *The 2014 White Book was published in the environmentally friendly format of USB Memory Stick*

### The EHRA White Book 2014

The Current Status of Cardiac Electrophysiology  
in ESC Member Countries

K.-H. Kuck, G. Hindricks, L. Padeletti  
P. Raatikainen, D.O. Arnar

[www.escardio.org/EHRA](http://www.escardio.org/EHRA)



## ICD FOR LIFE PROJECT

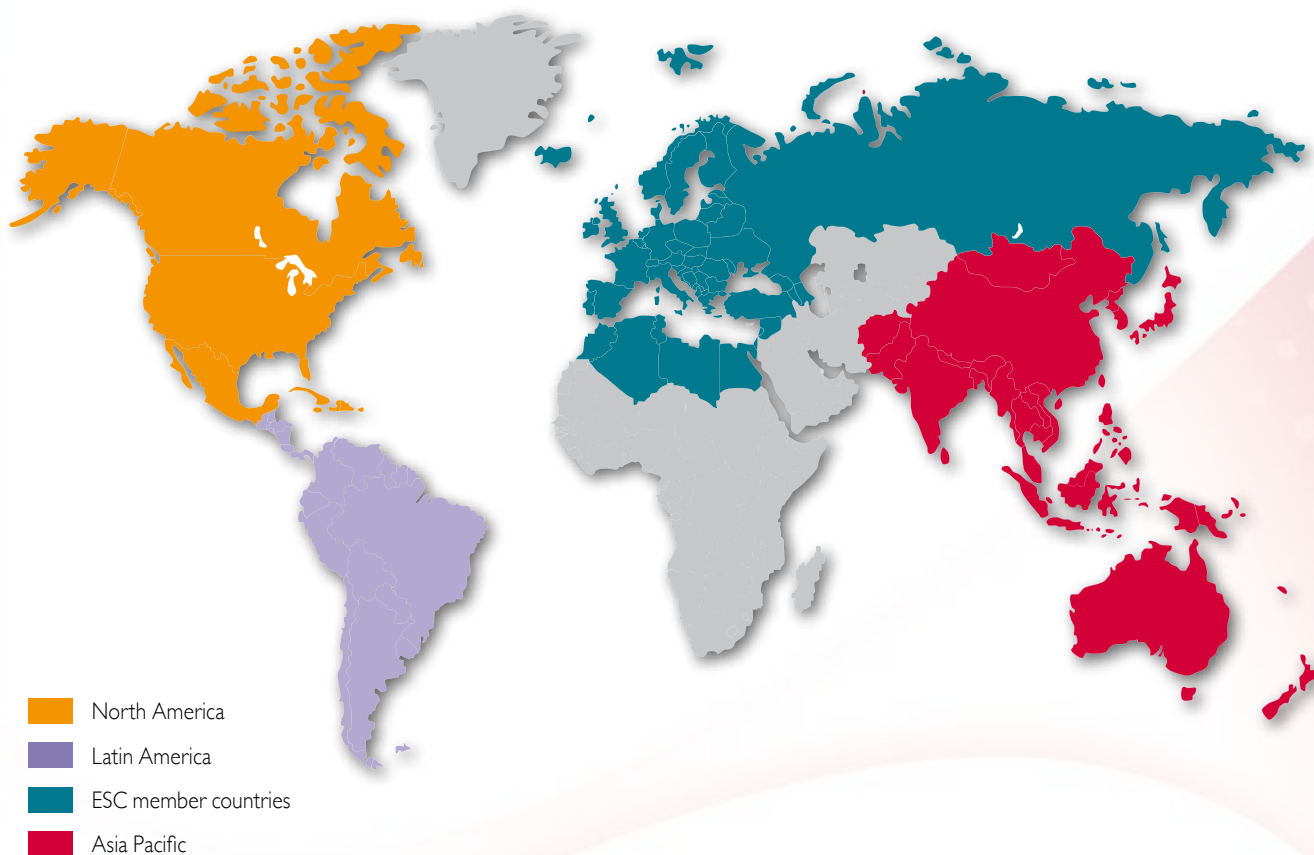
The White Book identifies a great disparity of ICD use across ESC member countries, particularly in eastern Europe. Based on this evidence, EHRA decided to launch an initiative to raise awareness of ICDs and sudden cardiac death in countries with the lowest rates of ICD therapy.

The three selected countries – Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia – are following up their respective ICD for Life projects and members have maintained pressure on the policy makers within their countries. Review meetings were held in Sarajevo and Tbilisi in November and in Sinaia in October attended by the EHRA Representatives, the Chairmen of the EP Working Groups, and the appropriate national government health authorities.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EHRA has established a number of valued partnerships with medical societies outside of the ESC constituency. The EHRA International Affairs Committee manages a number of important partnerships between EHRA and other medical societies. It oversees joint activities with partner societies which typically include informal meetings and joint sessions at congresses, as well as jointly publishing scientific papers in EP Europace and other scientific journals. One example published during 2014 is an expert consensus statement on ventricular arrhythmias developed in collaboration with the US-based Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) and the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS). The International Training Fellowship programme continues to thrive. Awards were made in 2014 to three APHRS members with the theme of Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing with emphasis on Catheter Ablation. Under the terms of the Training Fellowship, these specialist cardiologists from China and India will spend a year at research facilities in Austria and Belgium.



## EHRA SUMMIT

This yearly meeting brings together EHRA with the National Cardiac Societies and related Working Groups of ESC member countries to help shape future strategy. The 2014 Summit drew representatives from 34 countries as well as industry partners and hospital policy makers with a central theme entitled 'The end of the European welfare state'. Presentations are available on the EHRA website under the EHRA Summit page.

## ENDORSED MEETINGS

A number of endorsed national and international meetings were held and the full list is available on the EHRA website.



## SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

The EHRA Scientific Documents Committee develops innovative and relevant scientific content of interest to the membership and the wider cardiology profession. The Committee cooperates with other ESC Associations and/or Working Groups to generate consensus statements, and also organises policy conferences with peer societies. Articles have been written to review multi-point and leadless pacing for publication in EP Europace, with others in the pipeline. In addition, Associate Professor Haran Burri has written the EHRA Book of Pacemaker, ICD, and CRT Troubleshooting Case-based learning with multiple choice questions. This book is now in print while another book covering electrophysiology tracings is currently in preparation.

EHRA published a number of important scientific papers, statements, and other documents during 2014. The topics covered included:

- New devices in heart failure: an EHRA report
- Practical ways to reduce radiation dose for patients and staff during device implantations and EP procedures
- EHRA/EAPCI expert consensus statement on catheter-based left atrial appendage occlusion
- Cardiac arrhythmias in acute coronary syndromes: position paper from the joint EHRA, ACCA, and EAPCI task force

The EHRA Key Messages initiative continues to evolve. Originally prepared as A6 booklets and slide sets to summarise the content of relevant scientific documents, they are now available for mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones for the ultimate in accessibility. The mobile application can be downloaded at the EHRA website. Topics covered by the current Key Messages include:

- Comprehensive risk reduction in patients with atrial fibrillation: emerging diagnostic and therapeutic options
- Pathways for training and accreditation for transvenous lead extraction
- Novel Oral Anticoagulants for Atrial Fibrillation.

***“EHRA Key Messages are now available to download on smartphones and tablets in English, Japanese and Spanish”***



## HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Health Economics Committee tackles important issues in current EP and CIED practice. A survey of telemonitoring practice in Europe has been published which reveals that lack of reimbursement remains the main obstacle to implementing the technology despite the perceived benefits. A meta-analysis of randomised, controlled trials of device telemonitoring has also been undertaken.

During 2014, there was a focus on the natural history and healthcare costs of patients treated with CIEDs. In the future, we will examine the European distribution statistics of ablation in atrial fibrillation cases in relation to healthcare resources. The Committee also plans to provide a comprehensive health economics review comparing EP and CIED interventions with other medical interventions. The top priority for 2015 will be the measurement of the effect of clinically proven therapies on healthcare utilisation and costs across Europe. The Committee is confident that its expert resources comprising EP, CIED, heart failure specialists, statisticians, and health economists will continue to provide a valuable assessment of topical issues.



## SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVES

The primary goal of the Scientific Initiatives Committee is to support research activity within the wider community of cardiac rhythm specialists and electrophysiologists. The committee also maintains a close relationship with European experts and institutions so that regional differences in clinical practice and adherence to guidelines can be identified. This initiative is ultimately aimed at overcoming geographical inconsistencies in access to arrhythmia treatment across Europe. 2014 has seen progress on a number of projects including:



**Research Network Initiative and EP Wire Surveys** – Daily clinical practice often shows significant deviation from official guidelines, which are usually based on the results of large randomised trials. A major activity of the Committee in the last few years has been the consistent attempt to depict current daily practice in the whole spectrum of electrophysiology. This depiction of current practice may reveal areas which require intensified attempts of guideline implementation, but also show fields of debated practice and stimulate future research. These goals are accomplished through the Research Network, which is a network of centres prepared to participate in the performance of survey initiatives and research studies. A brief survey on different aspects of electrophysiology practice is prepared every month by the Committee and distributed across the Research Network. The results are analysed by the Committee and published in the EP Europace Journal in a specific column termed "EP Wire". In 2014, the Committee continued its efforts to increase the number of the Research Network partners, which now total 274. 12 EP Wire surveys were published in the EP Europace Journal during 2014 on various aspects of EP practice and can be found on the EHRA website.

**Surveys, Registries, and Trials** – EHRA contributes to a number of significant clinical studies. Notable amongst these are:

SURVEYS		
<b>EHRA European Patient Survey on Education &amp; Compliance of Patients taking Anticoagulants</b> is collecting information from eight European countries, addressing patients who have, or have had, atrial fibrillation. Patients participate in an online survey answering a questionnaire in their own language to evaluate their health. It will also provide better information to patients by increasing awareness of anticoagulation therapy - results will be available in 2015.	<b>First European EHRA SNAP SHOT SURVEY</b> on Periprocedural Routines for Atrial Fibrillation Ablation (ESSS-PRAFA) aims at screening the clinical EP practice by collecting data from consecutive patients undergoing such procedure over a period of four consecutive weeks, in Europe, at an individual level to better identify geographical inequalities and potential barriers for guidelines penetration/implementation in the medical community.	
REGISTRIES *		
<b>The Atrial Fibrillation Ablation Registry</b> has the cooperation of 27 ESC member countries. Its main objective is to describe the clinical epidemiology of patients undergoing an Atrial Fibrillation Ablation (AFA) procedure, and the diagnostic and/or therapeutic processes applied. A registry of AF management under the EORP will enable a timely assessment of the uptake of the new ESC Guidelines, allow monitoring of implementation and uptake of catheter ablation, new anti-thrombotic drugs, and new anti-arrhythmic agents, and will inform the outcomes as they relate to AF Guideline adherence.	<b>The European Lead Extraction Controlled Registry (ELECTRa)</b> is the first large prospective, multi-centre, European Controlled Registry of consecutive patients undergoing Transvenous Lead Extraction (TLE) procedures. This registry includes a follow-up phase at one year which is currently ongoing. Recruitment of patients across 19 countries began in November 2012 and ended in May 2014. Preliminary data on TLE in Europe has been presented during the 2014 ESC Congress in Barcelona and final results should be presented during the EHRA EUROPACE – CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan.	<b>The Atrial Fibrillation General Long-Term Registry</b> was launched this year. All 56 ESC member countries have been invited, and affiliates are welcome to join this study if they so wish.
TRIALS		
<b>The EAST trial (Early comprehensive Atrial fibrillation Stroke prevention Trial)</b> is a European, investigator-initiated study jointly conducted by AFNET (as sponsor) and EHRA. The trial is supported by a unique partnership including Sanofi Aventis and St Jude Medical and receives further funding from German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the German Centre for Heart Research (DZHK). Its aims are to determine whether early, standardised, rhythm control intervention can help prevent adverse cardiovascular outcomes associated with atrial fibrillation, including stroke and death. At the end of 2014, over 1 700 patients were enrolled in 11 European countries. We expect to continue enrolment until 2016.		



\*Three registries are being conducted under the umbrella of the EURObservational Research Programme (EORP)

EORP Registries	Number of Centres	Number of Expected Patients
<b>Atrial Fibrillation Ablation</b> • Pilot Phase • Long-term Phase	72 112	1 410 (presented at Hot Line ESC 2012) 2 750 (enrolled as of November 2014)
<b>Atrial Fibrillation General</b> • Pilot Phase • Long-term Phase	70 97	3,229 (now complete) 10,000
<b>ELECTRa</b> (European Lead Extraction ConTRolled) Registry	76	3,524

## Recently Established Committees



Three new EHRA committees have been established during the presidency of Professor Karl-Heinz Kuck; Women in EP, Young EP, and Innovation.

### INNOVATION

The EHRA Innovation Committee (EIC) has been recently formed to encourage innovation in electrophysiologists and related researchers and to translate that innovation into new products. The Committee's scope of work can be summarised under three headings:

- To encourage innovative thinking by EPs and scientists
- To share experience using the LinkedIn platform
- To reward innovation by creating the EHRA Inventors Award

### 2015 Key Initiative

To launch the first EHRA Inventors Award and create dedicated Scientific sessions for the EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan.

### WOMEN IN EP

At a clinical level, female patients are frequently under-represented in clinical trials and therefore valid scientific conclusions are not provided about this patient population. For example, atrial fibrillation has a similar incidence in male and female patients. However, the vast majority of trials evaluating catheter ablation therapy have included less than 25% female patients. In addition, although a growing percentage of cardiology trainees are women, it seems that the percentage of female trainees in clinical electrophysiology is not increasing proportionally. A recent survey indicated that the main reasons not to choose electrophysiology as a specialisation are the fear of radiation exposure and the absence of role models. For these reasons, EHRA has launched its Women in EP Committee. Its objectives include:



- To emphasise the opportunities of arrhythmia management specialisation to female trainees
- To promote female physicians in leadership positions through mentoring programmes
- To heighten the awareness of female-specific aspects of cardiac arrhythmias
- To initiate and support research specific to female patients
- To encourage female cardiology trainees to choose electrophysiology and support other female electrophysiologists throughout their career

### YOUNG EP

The Young EP committee has been formed to facilitate, enhance and accelerate the development of early career electrophysiologists. Its goals are to promote the work of its members, and create a global network within the Scientific EP community to assist with non-clinical professional training needs. Principal achievements during 2014 included:



- Creating a classic and strong network for young EPs with national and local ambassadors building interest around 450 specialists
- Launching an interactive network / community / platform on LinkedIn
- Organising two sessions dedicated to Young EPs at the CARDIOSTIM - EHRA EUROPACE in June 2014

### 2015 Key Initiative

To create a Young EP member exchange programme and to organise a dedicated session for Young EPs at the EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan.





The CARDIOSTIM - EHRA EUROPACE 2014 took place in Nice on 18 to 21 June. This was the first meeting managed in full collaboration with Cardiotim following the recently signed agreement between EHRA and Cardiotim management. The EHRA EUROPACE Scientific Committee was an integral part of the overall planning process and strongly influenced the content of the chosen scientific programme.

The congress hosted 5 664 participants and offered 190 scientific sessions and 20 abstract sessions. Of these, eight were oral presentations, six were moderated sessions, and six were poster sessions with an average of 85 posters per session. In addition, there were 23 industry sponsored sessions.

### Looking forward to EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015

A meeting of the Scientific Programme Committee for the upcoming EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 took place in Nice and included members of the Cardiotim team that will be helping to organise the meeting in Milan. With its high quality programme, EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 will keep participants updated on the latest developments in both science and education in the field of cardiac rhythm disorders and therapies. During four days of sessions, participants will have the opportunity to discover new research, learn from world-renowned experts, and discuss developments with colleagues and peers.

The programme will also offer dedicated sessions for Allied Professionals, Young Electrophysiologists, and Women in EP, and we are delighted that, once again, we will be joined by our colleagues from the ESC Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology and the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology. The EHRA mission, "To improve the quality of life of the European population by reducing the impact of cardiac arrhythmias and reduce sudden cardiac death", is a major factor that will continue to guide and shape the programme.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Milan, a city at the centre of Europe that is famous for its culture as well as its industrial and financial success. Milan offers a wealth of historic and modern sights including the Duomo, the Pirelli Tower, La Scala, and UNESCO's World Heritage Site at Santa Maria delle Grazie.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**



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**NEW! EHRA 2015 Members will have  
EXCLUSIVE ACCESS to dedicated scientific sessions during  
EHRA EUROPACE - CARDIOSTIM 2015 in Milan**

See you in



**EUROPACE EHRA 2015**  
CARDIOSTIM 21-24 June  
Milan Italy

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LEADLESS PACING  
CARDIO-ONCOLOGY  
Sc ICDS  
LIVE CASES  
INNOVATIONS  
ALLIED PROFESSIONALS  
YOUNG EP  
WOMEN IN EP  
PAEDIATRIC ARRHYTHMIAS

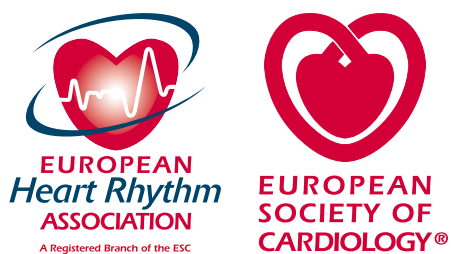
With the participation of the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology and in conjunction with the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ESC Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology

**KEY DEADLINES**

<b>20 January 2015</b> Abstract Submission	<b>17 April 2015</b> Early Fee Registration	<b>18 May 2015</b> Late Fee Registration
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SEE YOU IN





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