

'EP Working Group of the Moment': A joint initiative between the EHRA National Cardiac Societies Committee, the EHRA Young EP Committee and the EHRA e-Communication Committee



AGEP.

**The German Electrophysiology Working Group
(AGEP)**

The German Electrophysiology Working group is the largest working group within the German Cardiac Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie- DGK)

The AGEP represents not only cardiologist with special interest in invasive electrophysiology but also cardiac pacing

Web: <https://ag-ep.de>; Twitter: @AGEP_DGK; Siilo: *just beat it* Mail: arbeitsgruppen@dgk.org

Organization:

The AGEP nucleus 2021-2023 consists of the following members:

Sonia Busch, David Duncker, Heidi Estner, Shibu Matthew, Christian Meyer, Andreas Rillig, Anja Schade, Boris Schmidt, Philipp Sommer and Roland Tilz



AGEP Chair Daniel Steven



AGEP Co-Chair Christian Veltmann

The AGEP consists of almost 2000 members that are represented by 12 electrophysiologists with a large network within the German Cardiac Society. This “nucleus” of the AGEP is heavily involved in the main processes that are of interest of the 2000 members in this active community of cardiologists.

Our desire is to achieve the best care for our patients facilitated by the most favorable working condition for electrophysiological procedures.

The main ambitions and aims that are being discussed throughout the 5 yearly meetings of the nucleus focus are the following aspects:

- Planning and organization of the yearly meeting of the German Cardiac and Electrophysiology Congresses
- Facilitating scientific progress and achievement in the field of EP
- Cooperation with EHRA, HRS and other international societies
- Social media communication
- Cooperation with political institutions
- Cooperation with industry representatives
- Cooperation with other workings groups
- Enable education for young electrophysiologist with different programmes
- Enhance and measure quality of EP procedures
- Facilitate certification processes to warrant common procedural standards
- Develop educational programmes for nurses and assisting personnel

AGEP educational program

Our goal here is to facilitate education, not only for physician working in the EP lab, but also for nurses, assisting personnel, referring physicians and other staff.

In the field of complex procedures, only well-trained staff can warrant the level of safety and efficacy that we demand for our procedures. Furthermore, the motivation and acquisition depend on a surrounding team with optimized skills for their work.

The AGEP therefore provides the following educational programmes:

- Beat Club:
 - o 8 times per year in different cities
 - o Scope: EP/ ECG training for referring physicians or those otherwise interested in EP
- Assisting personnel
 - o 3 times per year
 - o Dedicated for allied professionals in the EP lab
 - o 3 days course covering everything from ECG to sedation
- EP intensified course
 - o Five 2-day-courses in different centres through Germany
 - o Scope: Young electrophysiologists that just started their access to the left atrium
 - o Focus on mechanism, expert advice, live EP lab observation and networking

- Women in EP
 - One day congress
 - From women for women
 - Scope: to openly discuss EP, politics, career, and gender specific content

- CIED courses
 - Different programs for different devices
 - Scope: General knowledge for cardiologists/ board exam preparation

- Live Congress
 - EP live once yearly
 - Joined with interventional cardiology topics
 - Scope: Glimpse into the EP lab and novel technologies revisited live by experts

AGEP certified Atrial Fibrillation ablation centers

The AGEP has defined quality criteria that need to be met to be certified as an AF ablation center. The process involves standard operating procedures, specific personnel, and certification requirements along with specific requirements for infrastructure and patients' outcome assessment. The process is also facilitated using a video conference tool during which the center online presents their ambulatory, ward and electrophysiological laboratory capacities and structures. Thus far, 58 centers throughout Germany have been certified as indicated on the map. This quality assessment may also have implications for reimbursement decisions in the future.



The main cardiology meeting takes place in the first week after Easter and usually attracts 8000 cardiologists to Mannheim. Approximately 30% of the meeting are reserved for scientific

and general electrophysiological sessions, science boxes, poster presentation and keynote lectures. Usually at the beginning of October, the German EP community convenes at the yearly German Rhythm meeting which again contains scientific abstracts but is also dominated by live cases and general EP talks. The focus of this meeting are hands-on aspects with special interest in novel technology developments.

Position Papers

Whenever guidelines are published or specific subjects arise that the AGEP nucleus would like to comment on, position papers are published. The recent papers were the following:

- ✓ Analgo-Sedation during electrophysiologic procedures
- ✓ CIED Lead extraction
- ✓ Wearables
- ✓ Position paper on early battery depletion
- ✓ Commentary on the 2022 ESC guidelines on VT and sudden cardiac death

Members of the AGEP actively involved in EHRA committees:

- ✓ Julian Chun – Scientific Initiatives committee
- ✓ Philipp Sommer – Education committee
- ✓ Micaela Ebert – Education committee
- ✓ David Duncker – Digital and e-Communication committee
- ✓ Daniel Steven – Certification committee
- ✓ Christof Kolb – Certification committee
- ✓ Nikolaos Dargres – Selection committee
- ✓ Christian Wolpert – Selection committee
- ✓ Thomas Deneke – National Cardiac Societies committee
- ✓ Renate Schnabel - National Cardiac Societies committee
- ✓ Henrike Hillmann – Young EP committee
- ✓ Sotirios Nedios – International Affairs committee
- ✓ Matthiaz Antz – Patient committee
- ✓ Maura Zylla – Health Economics committee
- ✓ Amr Abdin – Advocacy & Quality Improvement committee
- ✓ Gerhard Hindricks - Advocacy & Quality Improvement committee

& Laura Rottner – EHRA Young Ambassador

EHRA recognised training centers:

- ✓ Markus Hospital Frankfurt – Julian Chun
- ✓ Segeberger Kliniken – Martin Borlich
- ✓ University Hospital Aachen – Nouredin Sawan
- ✓ University Heart Center Lübeck – Roland Tilz
- ✓ Heart Center Leipzig – Katrin Landgraf
- ✓ Heart Center Bad Neustadt – Thomas Deneke

- ✓ Heart- and Diabetes Center Oeynhausen – Philipp Sommer
- ✓ Alfred Krupp Hospital Essen – Kars Neven