

'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

EHRA EP Working group of the moment - FOCUS ON SPAIN

The Spanish Heart Rhythm Association (ARC, from the Spanish: "Asociación del Ritmo Cardíaco") is the scientific association of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC; from the Spanish: "Sociedad española de Cardiología") that since 1980 has been concerned with heart rhythm and all aspects related to it in the fields of care, teaching, research and social and health care in Spain. At present, our association is the result of the merger in 2021 between the former Electrophysiology and Arrhythmias Section of the SEC and the Pacing Section of the SEC. The ARC is an integral part of the SEC, a non-profit scientific organization oriented towards public service and financed by membership fees and contributions from public and private organizations.

The mission of our association is:

- Promote excellence in care, teaching and research activities in the field of knowledge represented by our association.
- To act as a social and institutional interlocutor in the face of the demand that the challenges of the future imply to the association.
- To register medical procedures and certify quality and excellence in professional practice, in order to measure, quantify and introduce arguments for improvement and sustainability in professional practice, patient care, prevention of heart rhythm diseases and all drifts of socio-sanitary interest.

The ARC is composed of all those members of the SEC with a special interest and involvement with the field of knowledge of the heart rhythm. The steering committee is held every two years and currently is composed by:

David Calvo – President. Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid

Tomas Dantino - President-elect. Hospital Quironsalud Pozuelo and Ruber Juan Bravo, Madrid

Marta Pombo- Member. Hospital Costa del Sol, Marbella - Malaga

Vicente Bertomeu – Member. Hospital Clinica Benidorm, Alicante

Elena Arbelo – Member. Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Barcelona

One of the most consolidated achievements of our organization is the accreditation process that certifies the training of professionals and centers for the practice of invasive cardiac electrophysiology. Since 2001, when this process was launched, regulations have undergone dynamic changes that have allowed adapting to the new clinical and technical requirements of both professionals and centers. But there is no doubt that the certification model of our association has been an example model for supranational certification models such as the EHRA. Currently, the association has 1560 associates, a total of 192 accredited professionals and 32 accredited training centers. Reaching the level of accreditation by our association is a process that demands excellence from the aspects of care, science and teaching in the field of cardiac electrophysiology. Thus, the accreditation process of a professional requires the passing of a written test of specific knowledge and the documentation of a minimum of cases including highly complex interventional cardiac electrophysiology procedures, as well as stay for at least two years in a center accredited for training by our association. Importantly, these three items are subjected to an evaluation process by external audits that give solidity to the certification process. On the other hand, the centers that opt for the accreditation process must demonstrate quality care practice on complex and conventional electrophysiology procedures, training capacity, and also, a consolidated research trajectory. Details of the accreditation process for the practice of interventional cardiac electrophysiology of the ARC can be consulted in the web section <https://secardiologia.es/arritmias/acreditacion>.

Our organization also has a history of record care activity in the field of ablation of cardiac arrhythmias, implants of stimulation devices and implants of defibrillation devices. They are the source of annual publications with government ownership, that allow progress in the processes of clinical management and excellence of the practice of cardiac electrophysiology in our country. The data of the three registries are published annually in the Spanish Journal of Cardiology and allow us to have a reliable and updated knowledge, allowing us to take public and executive measures with important repercussions on our National Health System. These documents are freely accessible and allow not only to take

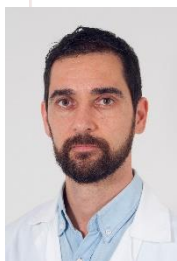
current measures, but also a panoramic and global vision with a temporal perspective of the evolutionary trends in our environment. Details of registrations and access to periodicals can be done through the <https://secardiologia.es/arritmias/registros> website.

The teaching vocation of our organization is committed to our society through the annual realization of our scientific meeting "Ritmo", which annually brings together more than 700 professionals linked to the sector. It is a three-day scientific program with updated content and regular participation of guests from the European environment linked to the EHRA. The teaching capacity of this event extends beyond the real-time realization of it, thanks to the teaching platforms where it is possible to consult the presentations and interventions accumulated over the years. These are accessible through the web section <https://secardiologia.es/arritmias/agenda/reuniones-anales>.

The association participates in the training of Spanish cardiologists by organizing several training courses which are held annually at the SEC headquarters. Finally, our organization's commitment to foreign and supranational organizations is clear. The close ties that unite us with Latin America allow us to establish permanent ties with LAHRS. And the link with EHRA is evident, as an affiliated association and through the active participation of many of our associates in its institutional and scientific bodies.

For all the above reasons, we have the pleasure to invite you to meet the Spanish Heart Rhythm Association.

Best regards.



David Calvo
President of the Spanish Heart Rhythm Association.