

EHRA

EUROPEAN HEART RHYTHM ASSOCIATION



2013 Activities Report

Committees Highlights Education Relations Science

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 2013 Activity Report of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). As well as the successes achieved during the last year – which are summarised below and reviewed in more detail on the following pages – the Board has already discussed priorities for the coming year. These include:

- Increasing efforts to further improve collaboration between EHRA and National Cardiac Societies
- Starting new registries on CRT in heart failure patients, renal denervation in patients with arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation, and others
- Expanding the EHRA Fellowship Training Programme through the Proctor programme
- Enhancing the EHRA certification process to offer an iPad-based exam for Allied Professional physicians
- Forming three new committees on Innovations, Women in EP, and Young Electrophysiologists

This 2013 report summarises a very long list of EHRA activities, some of which began in the year while others are the continuation of work that was initiated in previous years. Our immediate Past-President, Professor Angelo Auricchio, was the driving force behind many projects and he continues to be responsible for our European Union activities, and for establishing an educational programme in Belarus and other selected Eastern European countries in collaboration with the respective authorities.

This includes our commitment to the LCD for Life programme, which will focus on Georgia, Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of this programme is to further improve the healthcare and outcomes of arrhythmia patients across Europe. Therefore, we will also continue the very important White Book project which collects data across Europe on device implantations and EP ablation procedures. This is the first project to allow direct comparisons across ESC countries and illustrates the heterogeneity of healthcare across Europe.

The new patient website on atrial fibrillation has been launched and has proved popular with a high numbers of visitors. The practical guide on NOACs has become a worldwide success with an increasing demand for translation from many National Cardiac Societies including those in the Asia-Pacific and Latin America regions, as well as our industry partners. Regular updates will be one of the key features over the coming years.

A number of important scientific documents have been published, both by EHRA itself and through collaboration with other ESC Associations and regional societies. This international exposure indicates EHRA's great interest in gaining further global visibility, and reinforces our decision to attend major EP meetings worldwide and to co-organise joint sessions, including live transmissions from European centres.

Our national and international reputation as the leading European Arrhythmia society continues to grow thanks to a wide range of activities, initiatives and projects, and is well reflected by our increased membership numbers from outside of the traditional ESC countries, especially from Brazil and China. We had a very successful EHRA EUROPACE Cardiostim congress in 2013 at Athens with more than 5000 participants. The number of abstracts submitted (at 1624) was the highest in the ten-year history of EHRA. Among others, the tremendous work of the programme chairs and their committees and the active participation of the ESC Working Groups on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology and e-Cardiology were important factors in the overall success of Athens. Hopefully, we will achieve a similar success in 2014 at the Cardiostim EHRA EUROPACE in Nice.

All this would not be possible without the dedication of all the volunteers who willingly commit so much time to EHRA. This includes my colleagues on the EHRA Board, and members of all of the EHRA committees. EHRA has also received, as always, excellent support from the permanent staff at the European Heart House, and my deepest gratitude goes to members and staff that have been part of EHRA since it was established ten years ago in 2003.

We are proud of all of the EHRA achievements, and understand that they happen only because individuals contribute time, energy, encouragement, and professional skills. I therefore hope very much that, even in difficult economic times, our collective enthusiasm will let EHRA grow to stimulate new science, and to educate and train people in the fascinating field of basic and clinical electrophysiology – for the sake of our patients.

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



President's Introduction.....	I
EHRA Board and Committees.....	3
EHRA 2003 – 2013.....the first 10 years.....	7
EP Europace Journal.....	8
Membership & Benefits.....	9
Education	
Education Activities.....	10
Training Fellowships.....	11
Certification Exams.....	12
EHRA Website.....	12
Relations	
National Societies.....	13
International Affairs.....	15
Science	
Scientific Documents.....	16
Health Economics.....	16
Scientific Initiatives.....	17
New Committees	
Women in EP.....	18
Young EP.....	18
Innovations.....	18
EHRA EUROPACE 2013 Congress.....	19



Professor A. Auricchio
Past President



Professor K.-H. Kuck
President



Professor G. Hindricks
President-Elect



Professor C. Leclercq
Secretary



Professor B. Merkely
Treasurer



Professor A.J. Camm
Editor-in-Chief of EP-Europace (ex-officio)



Professor P. Volders
Representative of the ESC WG on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology (ex-officio)



Professor M. Malik
Representative of the ESC WG on e-Cardiology (ex-officio)



Doctor K. Zeppenfeld
Certification



Doctor H. Burri
Education



Professor C. Linde
EUROPACE 2015 Programme



Doctor F. Leyva
Health Economics



Professor P. Kirchhof
International Affairs



Professor L. Padeletti
National Societies



Professor C. Blomström Lundqvist
Scientific Initiatives



Professor G.Y.H. Lip
Scientific Documents



Professor J.-L. Merino
Training Fellowships



Doctor M. Didenko
Website and Communication



Professor P. Schauer
Innovations



Doctor T. de Potter
Young Electrophysiologists



Doctor S. Ernst
Women in EP



EXECUTIVE BOARD

Professor K.-H. Kuck, FESC, Germany

President

Professor G. Hindricks, FESC, Germany

President-Elect

Professor A. Auricchio, FESC, Switzerland

Past President

Professor C. Leclercq, FESC, France

Secretary

Professor B. Merkely, FESC, Hungary

Treasurer

Professor A.J. Camm, FESC, UK

Editor-in-Chief of EP-Europace (ex-officio)

Professor P. Volders, FESC, Netherlands

Representative of the ESC WG on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology (ex-officio)

Professor M. Malik, FESC, UK

Representative of the ESC WG on e-Cardiology (ex-officio)

CERTIFICATION

Prof. K. Zeppenfeld, FESC, Netherlands, **Chair**

Dr. C. Carbucicchio, FESC, Italy, **Chair sub-section EP Members**

Dr. A. Berruezo, Spain

Dr. M. Earley, UK

Dr. A. Fontenla, Spain

Dr. P. Peichl, Czech Republic

Dr. C. Piorkowski, Germany

Dr. H. Tanner, Switzerland

Dr. S. Tzeis, FESC, Greece, **Chair sub-section CP Members**

Dr. D. Boecker, Germany

Prof. J.-C. Deharo, FESC, France

Dr. J.B. Johansen, Denmark

Dr. S. Richter, Germany

Dr. J. Steffel, FESC, Switzerland

Dr. D. Theuns, FESC, Netherlands

Prof. J. Cosedis Nielsen, Denmark, **Co-Chair**

Dr. N. Linker, FESC, UK, **Chair sub-section AP Members**

Mr. V. Antonakos, Greece

Dr. G. Botto, FESC, Italy

Mr. J. Elders, Netherlands

Mr. P. Nolan, Ireland

Mrs. L. Straumann, Switzerland

Dr. A. Turley, UK

Mr. D. Veen, Netherlands

Dr. D.J. Wright, UK

EDUCATION

Dr. H. Burri, Switzerland, **Chair**

Members

Prof. J. Almendral, FESC, Spain

Assoc. Prof. F. Braunschweig, FESC, Sweden

Prof. C. De Chillou, FESC, France

Prof. M. Duytschaever, FESC, Belgium

Dr. H. Høgh-Petersen, Denmark

Prof. M. Antz, FESC, Germany, **Co-Chair**

Assoc. Prof. C. Israel, Germany

Dr. P. Lambiase, UK

Dr. M. Lunati, Italy

Dr. C. Morais, Portugal

Prof. L. Saghy, Hungary



CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Prof. C. Linde, FESC, Sweden, **EHRA Chair**
 Prof. M. Glikson, FESC, Israel, **EHRA Co-Chair**

Prof. P. Ritter, France, **Cardiostim Chair**
 Prof. P. Jais, France, **Cardiostim Co-Chair**

Members

Prof. J.-J. Blanc, FESC, France
 Prof. C. Blomström-Lundqvist, Sweden
 Dr. L. Boersma, FESC, Netherlands
 Dr. M.G. Bongiorno, Italy
 Dr. P. Bordachar, France
 Prof. G. Boriani, FESC, Italy
 Dr. G.L. Botto, Italy
 Dr. M. Brignole, FESC, Italy
 Prof. J. Brugada, Spain
 Dr. C. Butter, Germany
 Prof. J.-C. Daubert, FESC, France
 Dr. T. de Potter, Belgium
 Prof. J.-C. Deharo, FESC, France
 Dr. P. Della Bella, Italy
 Prof. J. Ehrlich, Germany
 Dr. S. Ernst, FESC, UK
 Prof. I. Fernandez Lozano, FESC, Spain
 Dr. M. Gasparini, Italy
 Dr. P. Geelen, FESC, Belgium

Prof. A. Goette, Germany
 Prof. B. Gorennek, FESC, Turkey
 Dr. M. Haim, Israel
 Dr. F. Halimi, France
 Assoc. Prof. C. Hassager, FESC, Denmark
 Prof. J. Hastrup Svendsen, FESC, Denmark
 Dr. D. Hayes, USA
 Prof. H. Heidbüchel, FESC, Belgium
 Prof. M. Hocini, France
 Assoc. Prof. C. Israel, Germany
 Prof. T. Jaarsma, NFESC, Netherlands
 Prof. J. Janousek, Czech Republic
 Prof. W. Jung, FESC, Germany
 Prof. R.A. Kenny, Ireland
 Dr. V. Kutyifa, FESC, USA
 Prof. G.Y.H. Lip, FESC, UK
 Prof. M. Malik, FESC, UK
 Prof. J. Morgan, UK
 Dr. F. Murgatroyd, FESC, UK

Dr. C. Napolitano, Italy
 Dr. M O'Neill, UK
 Dr. J. Oldgren, FESC, Sweden
 Prof. V. Probst, France
 Dr. A. Proclemer, Italy
 Dr. R.P. Ricci, Italy
 Dr. E. Rosenthal, UK
 Dr. F. Sacher, France
 Prof. G. Schmidt, Germany
 Dr. W.K. Shen, USA
 Prof. C. Sticherling, Switzerland
 Prof. L. Padeletti, Italy
 Prof. I. van Gelder, Netherlands
 Dr. S. Viskin, Israel
 Prof. P. Volders, Netherlands
 Prof. H.J.J. Wellens, FESC, Netherlands
 Prof. C. Wolpert, FESC, Germany
 Prof. W. Zareba, FESC, USA
 Prof. D. Zipes, EFESC, USA

HEALTH ECONOMICS

Dr. F. Leyva, UK, **Chair**
 Prof. F. Braunschweig, FESC, Sweden, **Co-Chair**

Members

Prof. D. Andresen, FESC, Germany
 Prof. M. Cowie, FESC, UK
 Dr. C. Klersy, Italy
 Dr. G.H. Mairesse, FESC, Belgium

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Prof. P. Kirchhof, FESC, UK, **Chair**

Members

Prof. A. Goette, Germany
 Dr. L. Mont, FESC, Spain
 Prof. P.J. Schwartz, FESC, Italy
 Dr. D. Shah, Switzerland

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Prof. L. Padeletti, Italy, **Chair**
 Prof. J. Kautzner, FESC, Czech Republic, **Co-Chair**

Members

Dr. D. Arnar, FESC, Iceland
 Dr. M. Duytschaever, Belgium
 Prof. M. Eldar, FESC, Israel
 Dr. S. Furniss, UK
 Prof. J. Kazmierczak, FESC, Poland
 Dr. F. Morgado, Portugal
 Prof. H. Püerfellner, FESC, Austria
 Prof. P. Raatikainen, FESC, Finland
 Dr. T. Steen, Norway
 Dr. R.-G. Vatasescu, Romania
 Dr. X. Vinolas, Spain
 Dr. A. Vural, Turkey

NOMINATING

Prof. A. Auricchio, FESC, Switzerland, **Chair**

Members

Prof. M. Brignole, FESC, Italy
 Prof. J.-C. Deharo, FESC, France
 Prof. H. Crijns, FESC, Netherlands
 Prof. H. Klein, FESC, Germany
 Prof. G. Marinskis, FESC, Lithuania



SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

Prof. G.Y.H. Lip, FESC, UK, **Chair**
 Prof. B. Gorenek, FESC, Turkey, **Co-Chair**

Members

Prof. G. Boriani, FESC, Italy
 Dr. M. Brignole, FESC, Italy
 Prof. G-A. Dan, FESC, Romania
 Prof. L. Fauchier, FESC, France
 Dr. M. Gulizia, FESC, Italy
 Prof. H. Heidbüchel, FESC, Belgium
 Dr. D. Lane, UK
 Dr. F. Marin, Spain
 Dr. A. M. Mitjans, FESC, Spain
 Dr. I. Savelieva, FESC, UK
 Prof. C. Sticherling, FESC, Switzerland
 Prof. M.A. Vos, Netherlands

SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVES

Prof. C. Blomström-Lundqvist, FESC, Sweden, **Chair**
 Dr. M.G. Bongiorni, FESC, Italy, **Co-Chair**

Members

Dr. J. Chen, Norway
 Prof. N. Dagres, Greece
 Dr. H. Estner, Germany
 Dr. M. Hocini, France
 Dr. T.B. Larsen, Denmark
 Assoc. Prof. A. Madrid, Spain
 Dr. L. Pison, Netherlands
 Asst. Prof. T. Potpara, FESC, Serbia
 Dr. A. Proclemer, Italy
 Dr. E. Sciaraffia, Sweden
 Dr. D. Todd, UK

TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

Prof. J.L. Merino, Spain, **Chair**
 Dr. E. Wissner, Germany, **Co-Chair**

Members

Prof. E. Aliot, FESC, France
 Dr. A. Berruezo, Spain
 Dr. P. Raatikainen, FESC, Finland
 Prof. L. Szumowski, Poland
 Prof. C. Wolpert, FESC, Germany

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Prof. M. Didenko, Russia, **Chair**
 Prof. H. Püererfellner, FESC, Austria, **Co-Chair**

Members

Dr. N. de Groot, Netherlands
 Ms. M. True Hills, USA
 Prof. J.-Y. Le Heuzey, FESC, France
 Dr. D. Lane, UK
 Assoc. Prof. A. Madrid, Spain
 Dr. M. Martinek, Austria
 Dr. C. Meyer, Germany
 Dr. A. Romanov, FESC, Russia
 Prof. R. Schilling, FESC, UK

INNOVATIONS

Prof. P. Schauerte, Germany, **Chair**

Members

Dr. P. Bordachar, France
 Dr. A. Metzner, Germany
 Prof. F. Prinzen, FESC, Netherlands
 Dr. G. Rackauskas, Lithuania

YOUNG EP

Dr. T. de Potter, Belgium, **Chair**

Members

Dr. E. Arbelo, Spain
 Dr. V. Kutyifa, FESC, Hungary
 Dr. A. Metzner, Germany
 Dr. M. Pazdernik, Czech Republic

WOMEN IN EP

Dr. S. Ernst, FESC, UK, **Chair**

Members

Dr. M.G. Bongiorni, FESC, Italy
 Dr. M. Grecu, FESC, Romania
 Prof. S.G. Priori, FESC, Italy
 Prof. R. Schilling, FESC, UK

EHRA 2003-2013 the first 10 years



Since it was formed ten years ago as the first ESC Association, EHRA has gone from strength to strength. The initial strategy in 2003 was aimed at creating a professional body to represent the interests of cardiologists specialising in arrhythmia and pacing. EHRA's early days saw a strategic focus around two important aspects:

- Key projects to establish a fundamental academic, scientific, and professional presence and to prioritise education
- Building relationships with arrhythmia and EP societies within the ESC-member countries and globally

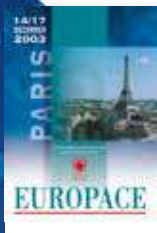


The successful implementation of the strategy has led to EHRA becoming the most influential European society in its field and well positioned to achieve even more in the future. Innovative education projects have been developed to help share best practice, while certification examinations ensure that standards are being harmonised. New communications technologies have been embraced, and recent years have seen EHRA webinars and the e-learning platform launched, along with iPad-based applications for EHRA Key Messages and exams. The EHRA website has been dramatically improved over the years, and in 2013 a dedicated website for atrial fibrillation was created to help patients and cardiologists alike.

Our Scientific activities have also expanded significantly. The White Book project is notable, and this important document is now a reference for checking the effectiveness of EHRA's progress in harmonising arrhythmia treatment and is also used by the EU. The ICD 4 life project has been recently initiated to widen awareness of sudden cardiac death and to promote defibrillator therapy in selected countries. Relationships continue to be a vital part of EHRA strategy, and we have worked hard to build warm and fruitful relations with National Societies, other ESC Associations and Working Groups, the EU, Health Ministries of national governments, and sister societies around the world.

The EP Europace Journal enjoys a growing reputation – and Impact Factor – and is acknowledged as one of the world's best EP journals. The EHRA EUROPACE Congress has become a highlight in the global calendar, attracting over 5,000 cardiologists and professionals to the 2013 edition in Athens. EHRA EUROPACE has more than doubled in size and attendance since 2003, and is set to become even more important following the recent announcement of collaboration with Cardiostim.

2003



2005



2007



2009



2011



2013



EHRA 2003-2013
THE FIRST 10 YEARS





EP Europace is the journal of EHRA and the ESC Working Groups on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology and e-Cardiology. It covers advances in the fields of pacing, arrhythmias and cardiac electrophysiology. Published monthly, its objective is to provide information on high quality, original scientific work in Europe and beyond that is relevant to EHRA members and their specialisms.



**“Ranked as
world’s 4th best
electrophysiology
journal”**

The Journal has earned an excellent – and growing –

Impact Factor of 2.765

It offers wide-ranging content that includes peer-reviewed basic and clinical EP research guidelines, papers, consensus statements, position papers, invited reviews, editorial comments, EP Wire Surveys, and EP Case Express reports.

Editor-in-chief – Prof. A.J. Camm, FESC, UK



Membership and Benefits



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

Membership benefits include:

- **Special registration fee** for EHRA educational courses
- **Free registration** for EHRA Webinars
- **Free access** to the ESC eLearning platform
- **10% registration discount** for Cardiostim EHRA EUROPACE Congress (June 2014)
- **10% off** all cardiology publications from Oxford University Press (OUP)
- **Reduced fee** for the EP Europace Journal
- **Exclusive access** to EHRA Training Fellowships and a selection of EHRA Educational Content online
- **Automatic ESC membership and benefits**
- **Free ESC Pocket Guidelines** at the ESC Congress
 - **Discount prices** on ESC Educational Products
 - **Special subscription prices** for ESC Journals (including EHJ)
 - **Receive ESC congresses related information**
 - **Receive ESC Educational Programme information**
 - **Personal European Membership Card** (currently for members of some National Cardiac Societies only)
- **Receive the EHRA E-newsletter**
- **Voting rights**

Fee structure

- **Basic:** all the benefits listed above
- **Online:** all the benefits listed above, plus access to the online version of the 2014 EP Europace Journal
- **Full:** all the benefits listed above, plus access to the online and paper versions of the 2014 EP Europace Journal



EHRA membership rates and options

2014	Basic membership (per year)	Online membership ² (per year)	Full membership ² (per year)
Physicians	60 €	110 €	195 €
Allied professionals, Under 35 ¹ , Non-clinicians, Basic Scientist	50 €	85 €	180 €

Note 1 Born After 01.01.1979

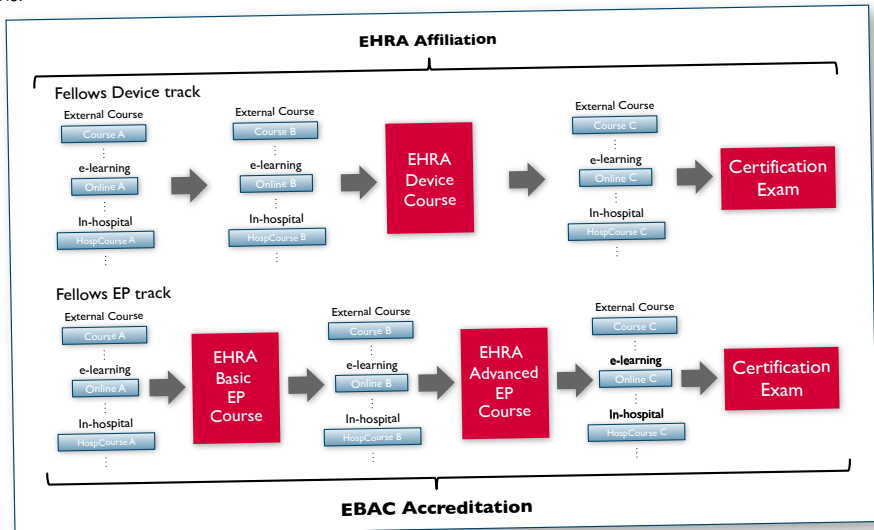
Note 2 If you attended EUROPACE 2013 and paid the standard registration fee you will receive the journal automatically during 2014. In this case, please select Basic Membership.



The EHRA Education Committee develops 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 developed 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 developed to help maintain the highest standards of professional excellence.



TRAINING COURSES

During 2013, EHRA delivered a number of major training programmes for members including:

EHRA Advanced EP course, Heart House, February 2013 – this course, directed by Professor Antz Matthias, provided participants with knowledge of advanced EP techniques with special interest in ablation and imaging.

EHRA Cardiac Pacing, ICD and Cardiac Resynchronisation, Vienna, March 2013 – this course covered ICDs and CRT, and was directed by Doctor Haran Burri. The content combined theoretical lectures, troubleshooting case presentations, and mock exams. Speakers from all major device companies presented the technical features of their products under strict non-commercial guidance.

EHRA Daily Arrhythmia and Device Practice, St Petersburg, May 2013 – this case-based course directed by Professor Hein Heidbuchel, was aimed at general cardiologists and covered arrhythmia and device-related problems.

EHRA Advanced EP, Egypt, June 2013 – following a request from the Egyptian Cardiac Rhythm Association (ECRA), the Advanced EP Course was delivered in Alexandria, Egypt, under the directorship of Professor Hein Heidbuchel.

EHRA Case-based Arrhythmia and Device Practice, Amsterdam, August 2013 – this course was aimed at established electrophysiologists that perform ablations and/or device implants. Directed by Doctor Carsten Israel, it provided the opportunity to work interactively on complex diagnostic and therapeutic issues.

EHRA Basic EP, Heart House, October 2013 – this was directed by Professor Richard Schilling 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.

EHRA Cardiac Pacing, ICD and Cardiac Resynchronisation (Russian language), Vienna, Oct/Nov 2013 – this course was directed by Doctor Haran Burri and was based on the Cardiac Pacing, ICD and Cardiac Resynchronisation course. For the first time ever, content was delivered in **both Russian and English with a simultaneous translation**.

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 29 individual modules)

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



Free access for EHRA Members



WEBINARS

Eight webinars were held during 2013, all organised by Prof. Christophe Leclercq and Prof. Frieder Braunschweig. These included EHRA Member-only webinars (highlighted in grey), and a series of Open Access webinars available to non-members (highlighted in pink).

Date	Topic	Speaker	Host
February	Follow-up of CRT devices clinical cases	C. Linde	C. Leclercq
March	Cardioversion of AF; when, for whom, and how	I. Van Gelder	F. Cosio
April	ICD case presentation	C. Israel	C. Wolpert
May	ECG and IEGM cases for SVT	J. Almendral	F. Arribas
September	Anti-thrombotic therapy in AF; NOAC in daily practice (Bayer)	H. Heidbuchel & M. Alings	P. Kirchhoff
October	Why, when, and how to optimise CRT patients (Sorin)	H. Burri & M. Oliviera	C. Leclercq
November	EHRA4 Therapy Expansion for Multipoint Pacing (St Jude)	A. Rinaldi	P. Bordacher
December	2013 Guidelines on cardiac pacing and CRT	C. Linde & O. Breithardt	M. Brignole

AFFILIATED COURSES and ENDORSED MEETINGS

A series of courses organised by Biotronik, Medtronic, Sorin, and St-Jude Medical were affiliated with EHRA. Also, a number of national and international meetings were endorsed – please see the full list at the EHRA website on the Education pages.

TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

EHRA Training Fellowships give physicians from ESC and Affiliated Countries the opportunity to gain specialised training in clinical electrophysiology in another ESC member country. The objective is to promote the development of academic medicine within the field of clinical cardiac electrophysiology. Thanks to the support from Industry partners, 23 grants were awarded in 2013 from 91 applications received. Of these, 70 were from individuals and 21 from centres. Of the grants, 20 were awarded to applicants from the ESC member countries, while three were jointly awarded with the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS).



***“23 grants were awarded in 2013
from 91 applications received”***

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 first Academic Research Fellowship was announced at the 2013 EHRA Europace Congress in Athens.

2014 Key Initiative

In the pipeline: the launch of the **Proctor programme**, an initiative dedicated to support for established physicians or former Fellows in **Eastern Europe**. Under the programme, these individuals can receive **grants** to enable them to travel to Western Europe hosting centres to acquire new skills and techniques.



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. For 2014 and beyond, CP and EP physicians will be able to complete certification exams electronically using tablet computers. The committee has also focused on the certification process for Allied Professionals 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 2013, this number had more than doubled. The theory exam was offered in tablet format in 2013 for the first time, with 46 candidates taking this option..



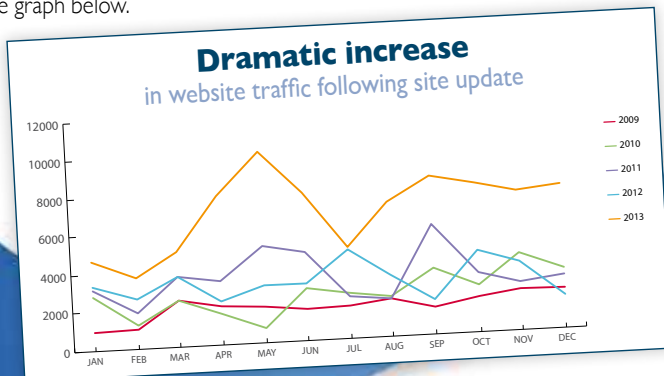
“For 2014 and beyond, CP and EP physicians will be able to complete certification exams electronically using tablet computers”

2014 Key Initiative

Accreditation of training centres to basic or advanced level for CP & EP will be developed.

EHRA WEBSITE

The Website and Communication Committee aims to provide high-quality online content covering EHRA's activities and to facilitate information sharing throughout the EHRA network. The website is routinely used by medical professionals in ESC member countries and beyond to encourage discussion, debate, and cooperation. With education a key priority, the website has been continually updated with powerful new features such as 'ask the expert' webinars, on-line recordings of previous educational courses, and webcasts from past congresses for on-demand playback. In addition, members can now browse the complete range of EHRA resources, services and products. All of these improvements have contributed to a dramatic increase in traffic to the EHRA website as shown in the graph below.



The Committee is currently analysing key metrics from the website in respect of visitor numbers, profiles, and information accessed that will be used to prioritise development effort during 2014.

Other notable successes include the EHRA quarterly newsletter which now has the highest readership rate amongst all newsletters produced within the ESC family, and the recent launch of the www.afibmatters.com website, a comprehensive information resource for atrial fibrillation patients.



New
patient
website
about
Atrial
Fibrillation

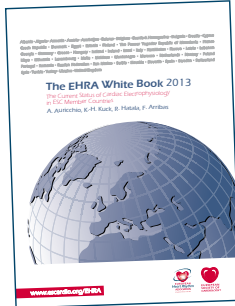
2014 Key Initiative

The Committee will shortly introduce German and French versions of the EHRA website, and continue to enhance the new atrial fibrillation website.



NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The National Cardiac Societies Committee promotes EHRA activities within the ESC member countries. The White Book and ICD for Life projects are two very important initiatives that illustrate the strong relationship that the EHRA has established with National Cardiac Societies and their Working Groups in Electrophysiology, Cardiac Pacing and Arrhythmias. The following paragraphs provide a short summary of progress during 2013.



2013 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 46 of the ESC's 55 member countries in the 2013 edition. The book also serves as a

continuous reference for all the EHRA initiatives in education and training, and has become the standard information source for comparing arrhythmia treatment between countries. The EU also uses the White Book, and it has been published on the HEIDI information resource. The online version of the White Book is available at the EHRA website.



EP Europace White Book supplement:

This important supplement, published online in February 2014, represents a structured analysis of data collected in the EHRA White Book since 2008. The report brings together the most up-to-date statistics on EP procedures including the implantation of cardiovascular electronic device in

the 46 ESC countries and includes all data captured in the first five editions. The report also details the methodology used for data collection and analysis of the major heart rhythm disorders and includes IPGs, ICDs, CRTs, and Catheter Ablation. The increasing relevance of societal and economic implications of life-saving therapies has led EHRA to highlight this aspect in a dedicated section of the supplement.

Mutual collaboration and exchange:

EHRA implemented a new organisation of the National Cardiac Societies Committee in 2013 that appoints 10 regional representatives to enhance mutual collaboration and information exchange between EHRA, EP Working Groups, and National Cardiac Societies. The list of ESC countries has been divided into four regions; Northern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe, and Eastern Europe, and the regional representatives – all members of the National Cardiac Societies Committee – are responsible for liaison activities.



ICD 4 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. This project promotes defibrillator therapy as the only life-saving modality for prevention of sudden cardiac death. 22 countries were invited to participate, and Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia have been selected based on their responses, with

the programme running throughout 2014. EHRA has created a video to explain the background to ICD 4 life aimed at healthcare professionals and patients alike. The video is available at the EHRA website.



Winners of the ICD 4 life Initiative during EHRA 2013 in Athens. Pictured from the left to the right: Prof. Josef Kautzner ICD 4 life project leader with the NCS Committee; Dr Boris Goronja, Chairman of the Working groups of Cardiac pacing, Society of cardiologists of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dr. Giorgi Papiashvili, Chairman of the Working Group on Arrhythmias, Georgian College of Cardiology; Dr. Alexandru Deutsch, Secretary of the Society Cardiology, Arrhythmias Working group; Dr. Kakhaber Etsadashvili, Vice Chairman of the Working Group on Arrhythmias, Georgian College of Cardiology; Prof. Angelo Auricchio, EHRA President 2011-2013



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 2013 Summit drew representatives from 34 countries as well as industry partners and Affiliated Societies, with a central theme entitled 'Toward Harmonisation of Activities of European Electrophysiology Community'. Presentations are available at the EHRA website under the EHRA Summit page.

“The 2013 Summit drew representatives from 34 countries as well as industry partners and Affiliated Societies”



Relationships with Healthcare Institutions:

EHRA strives to build enduring and valuable relationships with the Ministries of Health of emerging economies and other interested institutions including the WHO and the EU's Directorate for Health & Consumer Affairs. The objective is to ensure that arrhythmia and cardiac pacing issues are properly considered.

MEP Heart Group:

In November 2013, the European Parliament in Brussels hosted the first ever Cardiovascular Health Week, a week of awareness-raising activities around the theme 'Mind Your Heart - for a Heart Healthy Europe'. The initiative was organised by the MEP Heart Group with the support of the ESC and the European Heart Network (EHN). The aim was to inform EU policy makers of the burden of CVD and to invite them to make cardiovascular health a priority in the EU. The initiative provided a platform for all stakeholders active in the fight against CVD

to interact and promote their specific cause under a common umbrella. EHRA also participated in a session of the European Parliament entitled, 'Towards equality for European cardiovascular patients'.

Belarus project:

EHRA is working on developing a five-year collaborative educational programme with the Republic of Belarus. This programme establishes a national centre of excellence, provides help with training and certification, and disseminates knowledge related to arrhythmia disorders. In addition, access is provided to EHRA registries. It is likely that the same programme will be implemented in collaboration with Romania and Armenia.





INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The EHRA International Affairs Committee coordinates co-operation between EHRA and sister societies from all over the world. The activities of the committee include the organisation of joint sessions during the EHRA EUROPACE and Cardiotim congresses as well as during events outside of Europe. 2013 saw EHRA initiating global collaboration projects with societies in Asia, South America, and the US in scientific documents and the organisation of joint sessions, some of which were live.

In addition, dedicated fellowship programmes are being developed to intensify partnership and education initiatives in interventional electrophysiology and cardiac implants. These programmes are currently being run successfully with societies in Asia and South America. Thanks to close collaboration during 2013 with a number of sister societies, joint Training Fellowship Programmes were launched with three members of the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS) being recognised. EHRA has also attended several international meetings to promote its core capabilities, and taken booth space at a number of them.



***“Dedicated fellowship programmes
are being run successfully
with societies in Asia and South America”***





SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

EHRA's 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 Working Groups and relevant organisations and sister societies around the world to generate consensus statements, it also organises policy conferences with peer societies such as the Atrial Fibrillation Network (AFNET) to agree joint responses to position papers. EHRA published a number of important scientific papers, statements, and other documents during 2013. The topics covered included:

- Impact of extending device longevity on the long-term costs of ICD therapy: a modelling study with a 15-year time horizon
- The use of imaging for electrophysiological and devices procedures: a report from the first EHRA Policy Conference
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapy for arrhythmias in the paediatric population: EHRA and AEPC-Arrhythmia Working Group joint consensus statement
- Personalised management of atrial fibrillation: proceedings from the fourth Atrial Fibrillation competence NETWORK/EHRA consensus conference
- HRS/EHRA/APHRS Expert Consensus Statement on the Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Inherited Primary Arrhythmia Syndromes
- EHRA Practical Guide on the use of NOACs in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation
- Press release (Nov. 2013): Clinical Research needs investigator-initiated trials: AFNET-EAST has enrolled 1000 patients

Work continued on the exciting EHRA Key Messages initiative. These A6 booklets and corresponding slide sets summarise the content of relevant scientific documents in a convenient and accessible format. There are now three titles available:

- 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

“Work has continued on the exciting EHRA Key Messages initiative with three titles now available”

2014 Key Initiative

A smartphone app for Key Message available in June 2014.



HEALTH ECONOMICS

The EHRA Health Economics Committee is responsible for raising awareness of EP- and CP-related health economic issues. This focus has emerged to address increasing anxieties surrounding the distribution of healthcare budgets and supports the EHRA position outlined in a number of formal papers. Notable amongst these is a paper titled, 'Health technology assessment in interventional electrophysiology and device therapy: a 2013 position paper of the European Heart Rhythm Association', recently published in the EHJ. This paper will help establish EHRA as a major stakeholder in the field of EP and CP therapy.

2014 Key Initiative

The Health Economics Committee expects to continue supporting research activities, and will also look closely at aspects of telemonitoring including reimbursement.



SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVES

The main goals of the Scientific Initiatives Committee are to support research activity within the wider community of cardiac rhythm specialists and cardiac electrophysiologists, and to facilitate identification of experts and institutions willing to collaborate in gathering evidence to underpin clinical practice. 2013 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 2013, the Committee continued its efforts to increase the number of the Research Network partners, which now total 255. 12 EP Wire surveys were published in the EP Europace Journal during 2013 on various aspects of EP practice and can be found on the EHRA website.

Registries – EHRA contributes to a number of significant clinical trial surveys. Notable amongst these are:

- The EAST trial (Early comprehensive Atrial fibrillation Stroke prevention Trial - www.easttrial.org) is a European, investigator-initiated study jointly conducted by AFNET (as sponsor) and EHRA. The trial is supported in a unique partnership by Sanofi Aventis and St Jude Medical. Its aims are to determine whether an early, standardised rhythm control intervention can help prevent adverse cardiovascular outcomes associated with atrial fibrillation, including stroke and death. At the end of 2013, over 1000 patients had been enrolled in 11 participating European countries.
- The Atrial Fibrillation Ablation Registry is part of the **EURObservational Research Programme (EORP)** with co-operation across 28 ESC member countries and 2 ESC affiliated 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 antithrombotic drugs and new antiarrhythmic agents, and will inform about outcomes related to guideline-adherent management of AF.
- The Atrial Fibrillation General Long-Term Registry was launched this year. The 56 ESC member countries have been invited, and affiliates are welcome to join this study if they so wish.
- The European Lead Extraction Controlled Registry (ELECTRa) is the first large prospective, multi-centre, European Controlled Registry of consecutive patients undergoing TLE procedures. Initial results were presented in June 2013 during EHRA EUROPACE with an update planned during 2014 ESC Congress.



EURObservational Research Programme	N° of Centres	N° of Expected Patients
Atrial Fibrillation Ablation • Pilot Phase • Long-term Phase	72 150	1,410 (Presented at Hot Line ESC 2012) 3,000
Atrial Fibrillation General • Pilot Phase • Long-term Phase	70 250	3,229 – pilot finished 10,000+
ELECTRa (European Lead Extraction ConTRolled) Registry	75	3,500

New Committees



Three new EHRA committees were established in June 2013; Women in Electrophysiology, Young Electrophysiologists, and Innovations. Each of these areas presents unique challenges that, in the Board's judgement, will be best addressed by dedicated teams of enthusiastic professionals. Over the coming months, we hope to see genuine progress in tackling some of the key issues.

WOMEN IN EP

As long ago as 2005, the ESC recognised the need to focus attention on females in cardiology through its ESC Women@Heart initiative. The EHRA's Women in EP Committee aims to take this a stage further by focusing on arrhythmia from the perspective of female patients and female physicians. Immediate action plans include:

- To develop an online platform of guidance for female physicians on various aspects of their professional life
- 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 reach out to female patients and physicians, inside and outside the EHRA countries
- To support women-specific initiatives and strengthen gender equality



YOUNG EP

The Young Electrophysiologists committee has been formed to facilitate, enhance and accelerate the development of early career electrophysiologists. Its goal is to promote the work of our members, and create a global network within the scientific EP community to assist with non-clinical professional training needs. Immediate action plans include:

- Build a network for young EPs through national/local ambassadors
- Provide up-to-date educational content to Young EP members
- Promote the relevance of congress and events to Young EP members
- Create a Young EP member exchange programme



NEW COMMITTEES

INNOVATIONS

The pace of innovation is usually related to the number and quality of ideas and how effectively those ideas are applied to medical needs.

The new EHRA Innovations Committee has been created to establish formal processes that capture the ideas, match them to unmet needs, and ensure that no promising innovations are lost.

The Committee's scope of work can be summarised under three groupings:

- To establish an infrastructure for the evaluation and processing of novel ideas related to EHRA
- To establish web-based portal structures in which individuals can research and identify unmet needs with input from experts
- To establish an online information store that offers a simple way to save exciting, innovative research ideas that have never been developed due to retirement, re-assignment or similar

EHRA EUROPACE 2013 Congress



The highly successful 2013 EHRA EUROPACE Congress was held at the Metropolitan Expo Exhibition Centre in Athens. It was, for the first time, the result of collaboration between EHRA and the ESC Working Groups on e-Cardiology and Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology.



Press coverage

Media coverage of EHRA EUROPACE 2013 was comprehensive. Nine press releases were issued ahead of and during Congress addressing a wide range of topics. These included; announcement of late breaking clinical trials, launch of afibmatters.com website, new additions to the White Book, association between fish consumption and AF, new ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines on Cardiac Pacing and CRT, and an investigation into rhythm disturbances caused by cola and honey. As a result, 573 articles were published in the general and specialist media related to EHRA EUROPACE, both online and offline. There were also announcements of results from a number of studies and trials, notably:

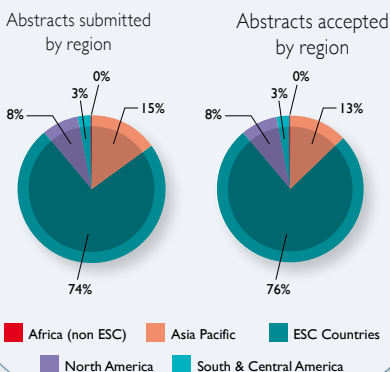
- **The PREFER AF** study found that Oral anticoagulation is now used in over 85% of patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) eligible for therapy.
- **ISSUE (the International Study on Syncope of Uncertain Aetiology)** determined that cardiac pacing is more effective in patients with presumed neurally mediated syncope (NMS) and asystolic episodes in which tilt table testing proves negative (TT-), than in patients in which the tilt table testing proves positive (TT+).
- **Gap-AF - AFNET I Trial:** using catheter ablation to create complete linear lesions around pulmonary veins, proved more effective than the creation of incomplete lesions in preventing recurrence of atrial fibrillation (AF), reports the GAP-AF study. For the first time a randomized controlled study has been undertaken comparing the two different ablation strategies for patients with paroxysmal AF.
- **Catheter Ablation for the Treatment of Persistent Atrial Fibrillation:** the SARA trial found that catheter ablation therapy was superior to medical therapy for maintenance of sinus rhythm in patients with persistent AF.

2013 Highlights

Over 5,000 delegates attended from 103 countries

70% arrhythmia and electrophysiology professionals or members of the allied professions

1,624 abstracts from 68 countries submitted with 1018 accepted



119 scientific sessions held; 87 pre-arranged and 32 abstract-based

49 stands in the exhibition area (33 industry) and 10% increase in exhibition space

24 satellite symposia hosted by industry

EHRA EUROPACE
2013 CONGRESS



Honorary Lectures & Awards

Intercontinental Lecture



Doctor Stanley Nattel awarded (left)
and Professor Gerhard Hindricks

Eindhoven Lecture



Professor A. John Camm awarded

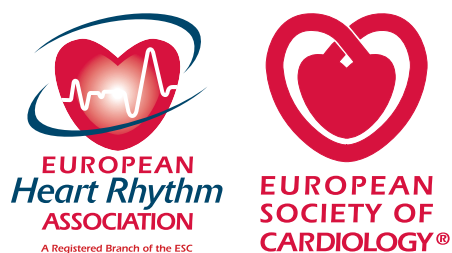
Pioneer in Clinical Electrophysiology Lecture



Professor Lukas Kappenberger awarded (left)
and Professor Panos E. Vardas, ESC President

See you in...





EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY
LES TEMPLIERS - 2035 ROUTE DES COLLES
CS 80179 BIOT
06903 SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS CEDEX - FRANCE
PHONE: +33 (0)4 92 94 76 00
FAX: +33 (0)4 92 94 76 01

Contact us: EHRA@escardio.org

www.escardio.org/EHRA