

## **A good year for the Heart Failure Association**

This year has been a very productive and successful one for the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the European Society of Cardiology. A lot has been achieved owing to the high level of commitment from the HFA Board and Committee members, as well as the strong devotion of our many HFA members, including young physicians and researchers. The HFA has once again achieved great success with the organisation of its annual flagship meeting, the Heart Failure congress, which took place in Athens, Greece. Heart Failure 2019 proved to be the world's leading scientific meeting on heart failure, attended by more than 5,000 participants and comprising a faculty of almost 300 experts from all over the world. During 2019, over ten HFA position papers have been published, covering important topics and scientific progress in heart failure. These also include the Clinical Practice Update [1], which is intended to provide highly needed information on recent advances in heart failure therapies that should bridge the period until the publication of the new Guidelines in 2021. The HFA also conducted 15 webinars, which have been well received by thousands of viewers all over world, eager to enrich their knowledge and get practical tips from prominent experts.

The first edition of the HFA ATLAS on heart failure, one of HFA's pivotal projects, has progressed to the next level. The HFA ATLAS design paper, describing the blueprints of the project, has been submitted to the *European Journal of Heart Failure* and a lot of effort has been put into completion of the HFA ATLAS main paper. The main paper will provide the current knowledge on heart failure epidemiology and map the distribution of resources, management strategies and the activities of the National Heart Failure Societies in 42 European countries, which has not been commenced before.

In 2020, the HFA has the intention to broaden its membership, in fact double the number of the HFA Silver and Gold members. Those who become HFA members benefit from numerous educational programmes, research initiatives and an easier access to congresses, educational material and scientific publications.

As planned at the beginning of the HFA Board mandate 2018-2020, the Quality of Care Centres (QCC), representing one of the major HFA activities, have been carefully defined and presented to the European Society of Cardiology. The QCC will provide multidisciplinary team management through the HFA accredited network of centres, embedded in the national health care systems. The major goal of the QCC will be to unify and advance the quality of heart failure management, as well as to improve heart failure prevention, post-discharge management, educational and research collaboration in Europe. The pilot phase of the QCC project will commence soon in eleven countries (Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Italy, Greece and Israel), with the help of the leading heart failure experts and representatives of the National Heart Failure Societies. Based on the experience and feedback from the pilot phase, further strategies for a sustainable and evolving QCC concept will be developed.

In 2019, we also witnessed the development and approval of the *European Society of Cardiology Textbook of Heart Failure*. Since the HFA is the only association currently lacking a

dedicated textbook, this major initiative will help to provide an outstanding document, which will be the global reference textbook on heart failure. The Editors-in-Chief, Section Editors and Chapter Authors, as well as the scientific content of the book, were carefully analysed and approved by the HFA Board. The major work on the book will be completed in 2020, with the aim to present the first edition of the *European Society of Cardiology Textbook of Heart Failure* during the HFA Annual Congress 2022 in Madrid.

The trilateral cooperation between the HFA, Heart Failure Societies of America and the Japanese Heart Failure Society, resulted in the first, highly successful Trilateral Cooperative Meeting, which took place in March 2019 in Munich. The first meeting was dedicated to the update on endomyocardial biopsy in cardiovascular diseases. Further on, it was felt that a second Trilateral Cooperative Meeting should be established. Hence, the HFA took the initiative to liaise with the Korean Society of Heart Failure and the Chinese Heart Failure Society. This cooperation is intended to strengthen educational, research and professional cooperation between the three heart failure societies and will prove once again that the HFA is a world's leader in heart failure, open to broadening collaboration and developing new connections with other societies across the globe.

Hopefully, in the year 2020, we will see continuity in our successful endeavours and new achievements at the HFA.

Petar Seferovic

President, Heart Failure Association, 2018-2020

## REFERENCES

1. Seferovic PM, Ponikowski P, Anker SD, Bauersachs J, Chioncel O, Cleland JGF, et al. Clinical practice update on heart failure 2019: pharmacotherapy, procedures, devices and patient management. An expert consensus meeting report of The Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology. *European journal of heart failure*. 2019.