

Dear Colleagues,

2017/18 is a very important year for the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) – we will reorganise to fit the two-year cycle of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) so that our Executive Board will change on every even year, next time in August/September 2018. For this reason, the team for 2017/18 will be a one-year term, but what a year it will be! Our new constitution will be instituted, the Association will be transformed to dovetail with the 5 pillars of the ESC (congress, membership, education, research, and advocacy), and EHRA, as with the rest of the ESC, will be rebranded to emphasise the cohesion between the ESC and its Associations.

We are starting the presidency mandate with the news that EP-Europace Journal has done well and has increased its impact factor to 4.530. The new Editor-in-Chief is Gerhard Hindricks (also immediate past president of the Association) and manuscripts are flying in at an unprecedented rate. Please give our journal your very strong support – it is finally in the big league and you must help to push it to an even higher level.

Coincident with the 2017 ESC Barcelona Congress we will publish once more the White Book supplement, containing by far the most comprehensive and accurate electrophysiology statistics from Europe. This year is really special, since we also have an analysis of the progress in Europe over the last 10 years of data collection. This is a “gala supplement” in Europace and I encourage all of you to study the figures and use them to support your research, publication and advocacy efforts. Please don't forget to cite where all these data come from.

Our biggest efforts this year must go into ensuring that our first solo meeting is an outstanding success when we meet in Barcelona 18-20 March 2018. We cannot stick to our usual date and must swap to the first quarter of the year to avoid conflict with other meetings. All of this might have been taken in our stride but for the introduction of new EUCOMED regulations in 2018 which prohibit EUCOMED members (most, if not all, of the device companies) from directly supporting any individuals to come to our congress. It is possible for the companies to continue to support attendance in general by making donations to departments, national societies or to EHRA/ESC. In the expectation that some money will come directly to EHRA we have established a Selection Committee specifically to consider how to allocate whatever funds we receive. However, this is a new and unknown world, which we must address positively. Make sure that you are planning to come to Barcelona and look around for new avenues for sponsorship. Start now – most pharmaceutical companies do not have the same restrictions. Also, try to encourage meetings of alumni, clinical trials, study groups, training events and so on, to run close to the meeting in Barcelona (evening, early mornings, etc.) so that we can get as many as possible of our members and guests to the congress.

This year we have much work to do with other ESC Working Groups, European study groups and networks, grant organisation to support EHRA research, national societies/specialist groups, etc. If you have interest or influence in these arenas, please make sure that you are involved – contact EHRA, your professional society which will work hard to support you in every way.

A John Camm

EHRA President 2017-2018