

EHRA Spring Summit Meeting

EHH, April 8-9 2013

Communication with National Working Groups: Dialogue or Monologue?

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EHRA - National Societies Connection

- **EHRA** = an **Association**
 - **association of WG / NS** – initial status
 - **association of individual members** – redefined current status
- **EHRA “associates” – 3 types:**
 - **WG** – “functional” body within the NS of cardiology
 - Arrhythmia NS – independent arrhythmia body in the country, with legal identity
 - Individual member

EHRA and the Arrhythmia NS

- Growing number (I, UK, B, N, SK, BY...)
- NS established in order to **increase the visibility of arrhythmology** (otherwise hidden/underrepresented...) in order to better address the needs of this **specific** subspecialty – arrhythmology is (the only?) “AZ subspecialty”
- For the Arrhythmia NS **EHRA should be the highest “umbrella” organisation**

EHRA and the NS / WG

- **Major aim up to present – creation and sustainability of the WB**
 - Increasing comprehensiveness and quality of data
 - Reference source of information on CRM therapy penetration in Europe – acknowledged by the EC
- **Goal achieved, proposal for new goal:**
 - **unified web-based WB registry?**

EHRA and the NS & WG (1)

- Take-home message of meetings with several national WG (F, PL, TR, ...):
 - NS committee should function as monitor of the specific needs of individual country NS / WG and subsequent presenter of these needs to other EHRA bodies in appropriate format

EHRA and the NS & WG (2)

- The EHRA – individual country connection is frequently based on **“historic” interpersonal relations** and does not reflect the current WG representation in that country
 - **Proposal:**
 - Ask each NS/WG to nominate a **“liason” officer** for the respective time period reporting to the NS committee

EHRA and the NS & WG (3)

– What do NS/WG expect from EHRA?

- Help establishing NS/WG in the “emerging” EP countries
- Offering them long-term support to acquire credibility in the national cardiology arena
- **Proposal:**
 - **Expand the program of joint EHRA session at national congresses**
 - **Offer “umbrella / affiliation” function for local meetings of high quality**
 - **Participate in the process of:**
 - **“local” guidelines production?**
 - **Document on stepwise GDL implementation?**

EHRA and the NS & WG (4)

– EHRA initiatives towards NS & WG

- Presently rather focused on specific regions – Eastern Initiative, ICD4Life
- **Proposal:** more projects ubiquitously applicable all over Europe / world – aim: **make EHRA programs more attractive for ALL NS&WG**
- Examples:
 - SCD Awareness Campaign
 - EHRA Centers of Excellence
 -

EHRA Spring Summit

Successfully established as a platform for:

- Reinforcing the cohesion of the arrhythmia community across ESC countries
- Stimulating dialogue between EHRA and national WG / NS
- It has the informal function of a “National Societies Leaders Council” – should we formalize such council ?

EHRA Spring Summit

- Space for evolution of tools & topics / issues discussed in the meeting
 - **“Regional” break-out sessions** – elaborating and presenting appropriate region-specific targets
 - **“How-to set-up a program” sessions** – EP, CP, CRT, ICD program
 - Scientific sessions addressing “taboo” topics (e.g. identifying patients with **urgent** priority for expensive treatments, CTR-P / CRT-D comparison, use of refurbished catheters, etc.)
 - Active involvement of ESC / EHRA recipients of fellowships as ambassadors

EHRA – NS / WG connection

Quo Vadis?

- **NS committee - *collective ombudsman* – for country specific issues related to CRM therapies**
 - Continuous efforts to improve communication with **actual** NS/WG representatives
 - Important role in promoting EHRA visibility
 - **new tools beyond education needed**

EHRA – NS / WG connection

Quo Vadis?

- **Role of NS / WG in improving the dialogue**
 - Improve **continuity** of main country targets, irrespective of inevitable personal changes in the WG
 - looking for partner countries in a similar situation – taking advantage of language, educational, medico-legal and cultural similarities – **EHRA of Regions**





Graham Greene: The Heart of the Matter

“...every monologue sooner or later becomes a discussion.”

EHRA & National WGs Dialogue or Monologue?



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Dialogue

“In true dialogue, both sides are willing to change”

Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnamese Zen Monk)