

*EP Working Group of the Moment: a joint initiative between the EHRA National Cardiac Societies Committee, the EHRA Young EP and E-Communications Committees.*

**The Portuguese Arrhythmology Pacing and  
Electrophysiology Association (APAPE)**



The [APAPE](#) is a specialized association within the Portuguese Society of Cardiology. It was created in 1999, with the aim of fomenting and sharing the scientific knowledge in the field of arrhythmias. APAPE's mission is also to inform and educate the general population ensuring the best of care for Portuguese patients. The APAPE has scientific, administrative and financial autonomy.

The APAPE has approximately 300 members, including general cardiologists, arrhythmologists electrophysiologists, pacemaker implanters, fellows, nurses, allied professionals, patients and members of the industry.

Link: <http://apape.pt>

**Executive Board 2019-2021**

President: Dr Leonor Parreira

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Secretary: Dr Nuno Cabanelas

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Vice-President Pacing: Dr Victor Martins

Vice- President Electrophysiology: Dr Pedro Carmo

**General Assembly 2019-2021**

President: Dr Helena Costa

Secretaries: Dr Paulo Fontes and Dr Paulo Fonseca

**Demographic Data**

The current population of Portugal is 10,145,758 people as of December 26, 2019.

The Portuguese healthcare system incorporates both public and private healthcare services.

National public health system services are free and available to all residents although charges

have been introduced for many services in recent years. Portugal currently spends around 9.1% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on healthcare. Around 70% is public expenditure and 30% is private expenditure.

### Sub-specialty training in Electrophysiology

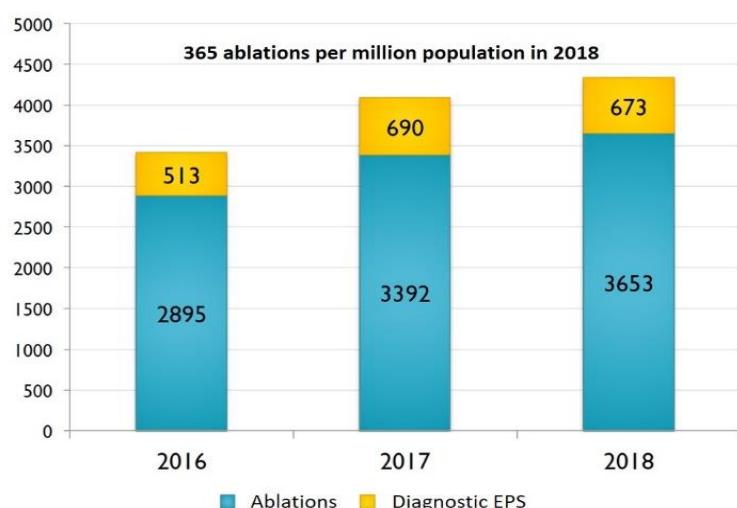
In Portugal the training in Electrophysiology has the minimal duration of two years after the completion of the General Cardiology Fellowship. The majority of trainees undertake simultaneous training in both Cardiovascular Electrophysiology and Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Device (CIED) therapy. The final assessment consists of a curricular evaluation and an oral examination, after which the cardiologist is certified as an Electrophysiologist by the Portuguese College of Physicians. The EHRA certification is not mandatory.

### Data from the 2018 APAPE Registry of Pacing and Electrophysiology

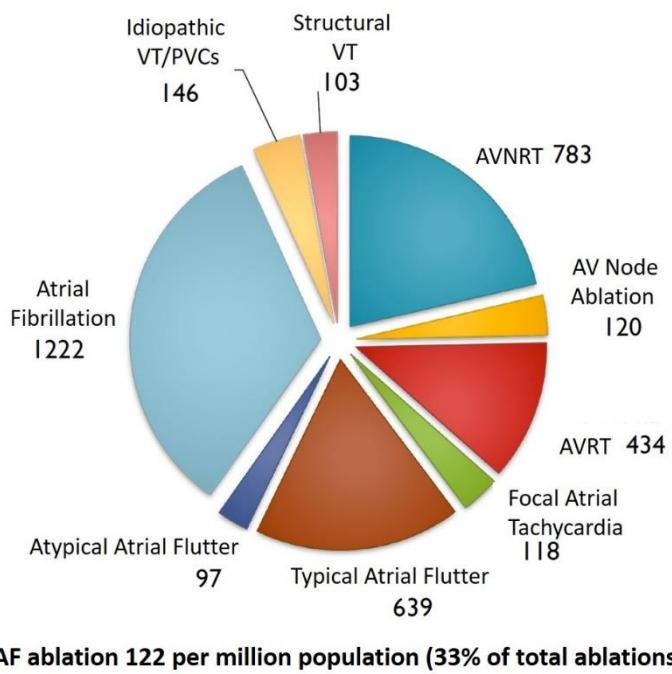
- ***Number of Centres, Electrophysiologists and Implanting physicians***

Nº of centres implanting devices (% private)	29 (30%)
Nº of centres performing electrophysiology and ablation procedures (% private)	22 (27%)
Nº of CIED implanting physicians	111
Nº of CIED implanting physicians in training	33
Nº of Electrophysiologists	33
Nº Electrophysiology fellows	25

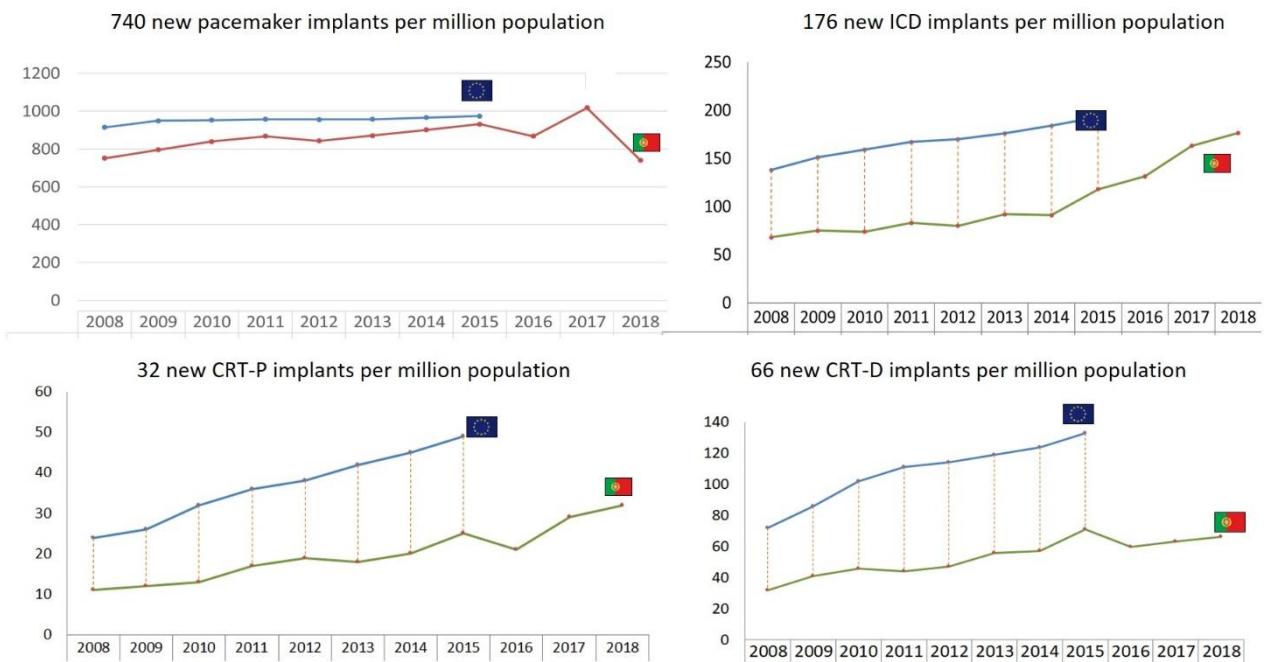
- ***2018 APAPE Electrophysiology Registry***



- Indications for Catheter Ablation



- 2018 APAPE Cardiac Electronic Device Implantation Registry



## National APAPE Meetings

The organization of APAPE's meetings is done in association with the Portuguese Hearth Rhythm Institute (IPRC) which is a non-profit institution dedicated to support the investigation and education on Arrhythmias. The IPRC takes care of the financial organization while APAPE is in charge of the scientific responsibility. An annual congress is held in February, with a 2-day duration on arrhythmias, device therapy and electrophysiology. The Arrhythmias Annual Meeting traditionally incorporates a Luso-Brazilian Symposium with the participation of members of the Brazilian Society of Arrhythmology (SOBRAC) and, since 2018, a joint session with EHRA. This meeting is certified by the EACCME. Two other annual smaller meetings with one day duration are also organized by the APAPE:

- National Pacing Meeting in May-June
- National Electrophysiology Meeting in November-December

## Collaboration with EHRA

- ***Training***

One Portuguese centre has been recognized by EHRA as a training centre for electrophysiology and cardiac pacing (the Arrhythmology, Pacing & Electrophysiology Unit of Central Lisbon University Hospital is an [ERTC](#) since 2018).

Seven centres have joined the pilot of the newly created EHRA hands-off training Young EP Insight Initiative, to be launched in February.

- ***Contribution to EHRA Pillars & Committees***

- Advocacy Pillar (Chair)
- E-communications Committee (Chair)
- Congress Scientific programme Committee (3 members)
- National Cardiac Societies (NCS) Committee (1 member)

- ***Contribution to the Young EP Community***

Portugal is represented within EHRA by one Young EP Ambassador and 15 Young Portuguese are part of the EHRA Young EP network.

- ***Contribution to EHRA 2020 Congress Faculty:*** 11 participants (2019: 14 participants)
- ***Contribution to EHRA Summits:*** 2 participants (APAPE President and Portuguese EHRA Young Ambassador)

- ***Participation in EHRA Registries***

- AF Long-term Registry / AF III Registry – 8 centers
- ELECTRa (European Lead Extraction ConTRolled) Registry – 1 center

## **APAPE Projects for 2019-2021**

### **1. Quality assessment in Electrophysiology**

Develop a National registry for evaluation of quality indicators in AF ablation (RIQAFA). This registry aims at evaluating the adherence to the current Guidelines in Portuguese centres performing AF ablation. The IT platform is already finished, and we will start including patients in the beginning of 2020, the results will be published before March 2021.

### **2. Data informatization**

- Create an electronic identification card for CIED patients
- Develop a National Registry platform for remote monitoring of patients with an ICD or a CRT device implanted.

### **3. Education**

- Promote theoretical-practical short courses on mapping of arrhythmias and device follow-up to young electrophysiologists.
- Promote joint meetings with other associations and working groups of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology.
- Continue to provide a legal mean of financing educational grants to attend National and International Meetings.
- Create an annual grant to reward authors with papers published in International Journals.
- Collaborate with EHRA and LAHRS to promote educational webinars in Portuguese.

### **4. Relationships with other Arrhythmology Associations or Societies**

- Maintain the relations with SOBRAC and extend it to the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS).
- Strengthen the relationship with EHRA by promoting the Portuguese participation in EHRA activities, namely registries and education.
- Increase the number of EHRA memberships by advertising on the APAPE website its advantages and promoting [EHRA congress](#) as well as other EHRA meetings and initiatives.

### **5. Concerns**

- Maintain the quality of education in the setting of economic constraints and guidelines for the cooperation between medical technology manufacturers and healthcare professionals imposed by the MedTech.
- Promote medical registries and clinical investigation, despite the GDPR compliance requirements.