

EHRA 2024

ACTIVITY REPORT



| President's Introduction

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present the 2024 EHRA Activity Report, which showcases the collective efforts and dedication of the 2022–2024 EHRA Board and our invaluable volunteer members. This year was marked by a series of engaging and impactful initiatives.

The [EHRA 2024 Congress](#), held from 7–9 April, was our third in-person event post-pandemic and a monumental success, attracting a record 6,000 attendees—a 24% increase from last year. This remarkable turnout reflects the dynamic growth in our field, fueled by rapid advancements in research, technology, and engaging in-person formats. Notably, 40% of attendees were under the age of 40, underscoring our commitment to education and active engagement with the next generation.

Key highlights included a record 72 abstract submissions for the Late Breaking Clinical Trials sessions, a 44% increase from the previous year. Thanks to the editorial team, these trials were published simultaneously in the EP Europace journal, significantly enhancing their visibility and impact. Additionally, the release of the [2024 EHRA/HRS/APHRS and LAHRS expert consensus statement on catheter and surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation](#), led by Dr. Stelios Tzeis, was a major milestone.

Attendees also enjoyed exclusive previews of forthcoming EHRA scientific documents, such as the Management of Patients with an Electrical Storm and the Practical Guide for Antiarrhythmic Drugs, which are set to profoundly influence patient care. For the second year, a pre-congress summit was conducted, this time on Pulse-Field Ablation, which was a complete success and gathered 362 participants.

Beyond the latest science and activities for our senior researchers and clinical experts, the congress was a hub for education and training, with several important activities planned for our more junior colleagues. As in Barcelona in 2023, both the simulation village and hands-on anatomical sessions were in high demand, filling up well before the event. Another edition of the [ECG](#) and EP tracing competitions took place under the guidance of Dr. Katarzyna Malaczynska-Rajpold, Chair of the Young EP Committee. To facilitate access to these activities, we offered 250 registration grants, carefully allocated by Prof. Nikolaos Dagres and his Selection Committee.

Financially, this congress has been our most successful yet, affirming the investments and efforts of the past year. My deepest appreciation goes to the congress Chairs, Profs. Serge Boveda and Andrea Sarkozy, the Scientific Programme Committee, and the organizing team for their tireless work and innovative contributions to the EHRA 2023 congress in Barcelona and EHRA 2024 congress in Berlin, setting an exciting stage for the EHRA 2025 Congress in Vienna.

Congratulations to the editorial team of the [EP Europace](#) journal for achieving a remarkable 1.8 increase in Impact Factor, reaching 7.9. This was the largest increase among the ESC family of journals, positioning our journal in the first quartile of all cardiology journals and as one of the top three journals focused on heart rhythm disorders. After two successful years as Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Angelo Auricchio has resigned due to new professional endeavors. We extend our gratitude for his outstanding work and welcome Prof. Giuseppe Boriani as the interim Editor-in-Chief until the end of 2024.

An [EHRA Scientific Documents policy](#) has been developed under the leadership of Prof. Katja Zeppenfeld. This policy makes the process of developing EHRA's documents more transparent, efficient, and consistent, thereby enhancing their quality. This is crucial as our association leads globally in producing numerous highly cited documents annually.

The [STEEER-AF](#) trial, to which EHRA was a main contributor, was presented during the ESC Congress, testifying to our commitment to the creation of knowledge and science. This adds to our other key European Union projects, EHRA-PATHS and the PROFID EHRA trials.

This year, the [EHRA traditional](#) and [Young EP](#) took place in Warsaw from 12–14 June, with 123 participants (representing 42 countries and including 17 industry representatives). Key discussions focused on the future of digitalization and data management in electrophysiology, including telemedicine, remote monitoring, artificial intelligence, and the upcoming European Health Data Space. We look forward to further discussing professional and advocacy topics with our [National Societies](#) and healthcare industry partners in Sofia, Bulgaria next year.



| President's Introduction

The data collection for the EHRA-ESC Atlas on Heart Rhythm Disorders project was launched and is progressing at a good pace, with almost all our National Societies having submitted data. This important initiative will collect information on manpower and clinical practices (ablation, CIED implantation, and lead extractions) from various ESC countries, similar to what the EHRA White Book did until 2017. We look forward to the final publication in 2025 and its presentation at the next EHRA Congress by Drs. Michal M. Farkowski and Daniel Scherr, Chairs of the 2022–2024 National Societies Committee. These data will complement those carefully gathered and published in our journal through several surveys by the Health Economics Committee led by Prof. Giuseppe Boriani.

EHRA certification continues to grow under the leadership of Drs. Andreu Porta-Sanchez and Malcolm Finlay. A record number of 422 participants was reached this year, including the fourth edition of the EHRA / LAHRS certification exam. The long-awaited renewal of the EHRA Core Curriculum for the Heart Rhythm Specialist, which dated back to 2009, is now complete and complemented with requirements for Allied Professionals. It will surely be an excellent guide for those preparing for certification.

Our education framework has evolved, and the new pathway is now fully in place. Please take advantage of this carefully planned journey by Dr. Marta de Riva Silva and Prof. Philipp Sommer, whether you are at the beginning of your career (Level I, mostly online courses), aiming to become an expert (Level II, both onsite and online activities), or aspiring to be a leader (Level III, onsite and online activities to develop soft skills and earn a university certificate). EHRA certification is now fully embedded in this pathway and is required to progress from Level II to Level III.

The ECGen focus group, under the leadership of Prof. Elijah Behr, contributed to many of the above activities, promoting the rapidly evolving field of cardiogenomics in heart rhythm disorders. Given the importance of this topic, new changes in the structure of ECGen are forthcoming.

The repository of recall alerts for CIEDs and medical devices in our field is now active. This service provides a centralised list of alerts with summary information, recommendations, and links to full descriptions, greatly enhancing convenience for our members. Our gratitude goes to Profs. Elena Arbelo and Ignacio Fernández Lozano from the Advocacy Committee for the development of this project. The World Forum on CIED Follow-up and Interoperability continues to progress at a good pace under the leadership of Prof. Hein Heidebuchel. EHRA is now part of the CardX consortium and is close to developing a Practical Guide on Interoperability of Device Follow-up.

The Pulse Day initiative is now fully established, with several activities conducted over the past 12 months under the leadership of Dr. Julian Chun. This day, officially set for 1 March (as one in three people will experience cardiac arrhythmia in their lifetime), aims to raise public awareness about heart rhythm disorders. It is led by the four major global heart rhythm societies—EHRA, HRS, APHRS, and LAHRS. This initiative is crucial given the prevalence and impact of these conditions, which are often underrecognised by regulators and research funding institutions.

The outstanding work of the e-communication and Digital Committee, led by Prof. David Duncker, contributed to the success of many of the above activities by supporting each committee. Successful initiatives such as EHRA by ESC TV Studio during the Congress and CardioTalks.

The 2024–2026 EHRA Executive Board elections were conducted smoothly, resulting in Profs. Haran Burri and Serge Boveda, and Dr. Emma Svennberg being elected as President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. They have now joined Prof. Helmut Pürerfellner during his mandate as President. We should all feel proud and privileged to have their leadership, and I feel relieved to know that EHRA is in their good hands.

All these activities have been developed thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the EHRA family, driven by the motivation to serve you as part of the EHRA community. This appreciation is reflected in the record number of over 4,500 EHRA members (more than 20% international) reached this year. You can find profiles of many members on our website in the «[Find my EP](#)» section, an easy way to connect with colleagues and peers. We should all be proud of our vibrant and active community.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to the EHRA Executive Board, committee Chairs, volunteers, EHRA staff, and all EHRA members. Your enthusiasm and motivation have been truly inspiring, and I am proud to be part of this vibrant community striving for excellence in clinical care, education, and research.

Warm regards,

José Luis Merino
EHRA President, September 2022 – August 2024

| EHRA Board 2022-2024

Executive Board Members

President

Prof. Jose Luis Merino, Spain
FESC, FEHRA



Past-President

Prof. Christophe Leclercq, France
FESC, FEHRA



President-Elect

Prof. Helmut Pürerfellner, Austria
FESC, FEHRA



Treasurer

Prof. Isabelle van Gelder, The Netherlands
FEHRA



Secretary

Prof. Haran Burri, Switzerland
FESC, FEHRA



Ex-Officio: Appointed Members

Editor-in-Chief of EP Europace journal

Prof. Angelo Auricchio, Switzerland: until 31 August
FESC, FEHRA



Interim Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Giuseppe Boriani, Italy: From 1 September
FESC, FEHRA



Ex-Officio: Working Group Representatives

Rep. of the ESC Working Group on e-Cardiology

Prof. Ruben Casado Arroyo, Belgium
FESC



Rep. of the ESC Working Group on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology

Prof. Ana-Maria Gomez, France
FESC



Rep. of the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Genetic Group of EHRA

Prof. Elijah Behr, UK
FESC



| Committee Chairpersons 2022-2024

CONGRESS

Congress Scientific Programme Committee
 Assoc. Prof. Serge Boveda, France
 FESC, FEHRA



EDUCATION

Education Committee
 Dr. Marta De Riva Silva, The Netherlands
 FEHRA



Certification Committee
 Dr. Andreu Porta-Sanchez, Spain
 FEHRA



Selection Committee
 Dr. Nikolaos Dargès, Germany
 FEHRA



ELECTION

Nominating Committee
 Prof. Christophe Leclercq, France
 FESC, FEHRA



ADVOCACY

Advocacy & Quality Improvement Committee (AQIC)
 Assoc. Prof. Elena Arbelo, Spain
 FESC



Patient Committee
 Prof. Jean-Claude Deharo, France
 FESC



mHealth, Health Economics and PROM Committee
 Prof. Giuseppe Boriani, Italy
 FESC, FEHRA



COMMUNICATION

Digital and e-Communication Committee
 Prof. David Duncker, Germany
 FESC FEHRA



RESEARCH

Scientific Initiatives Committee
 Prof. Julian Chun, Germany
 FEHRA



Scientific Documents Committee
 Prof. Katja Zeppenfeld, The Netherlands
 FESC, FEHRA



MEMBERSHIP

International Affairs Committee
 Prof. Gregory Y. H. Lip, UK
 FESC, FEHRA



National Cardiac Societies Committee
 Dr. Michal M. Farkowski, Poland



Young EP Committee
 Dr. Katarzyna Malaczynska-Rajpold, UK



Congress



Chairperson

Assoc. Prof. Serge Boveda,
France
FESC, FEHRA



Co-Chairperson

Prof. Andrea Sarkozy, Belgium
FEHRA



EHRA Congress is the annual meeting of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) and it brings together scientists, healthcare professionals and other players involved in arrhythmia management from all around the world.

This congress is eagerly anticipated each year as it unites the EHRA community, offering a unique opportunity for networking and the excitement of discovering, learning, and sharing in person.

The theme of the EHRA 2024 Congress was: 'innovation and education to overcome arrhythmias'. The congress was held in **Berlin and online** and was composed of an onsite part and 3 live-streamed channels for the online audience.

The focus was to bring back people in person again, and therefore it had specific sessions and workshops only available to the onsite audience.

Once again, the EHRA meeting proposed novelties strongly oriented towards education and training, like the Simulation Village, Live Heart Anatomy workshops, and ECGs/EGMs tracing sessions.

Over **350 faculty from 38 countries** provided the content that drove the congress, and this was a big success.

EHRA was proud to offer 250 congress grants.

Lastly, on Saturday 6 April (just before the congress) the Pulse Field Ablation (PFA) Summit took place. This stand-alone event was held at the CityCube as well, gathering 360 participants.

Serge Boveda

Chair of the EHRA Congress Scientific Programme Committee 2022-2024

Andrea Sarkozy

Co-Chair of the EHRA Congress Scientific Programme Committee 2022-2024



EHRA 2025
30 March - 1 April

Join us in Vienna or online from
wherever you are in the world

Facts & figures

EHRA 2024 - Berlin & Online



Participation

- **4,373** total registrations (**85%** onsite and **15%** online)
- **110** countries represented
- **37%** of delegates under 40
- **29%** of delegates were female



Scientific sessions

- **104** scientific and educational sessions
- **98** abstract-based sessions



Abstracts

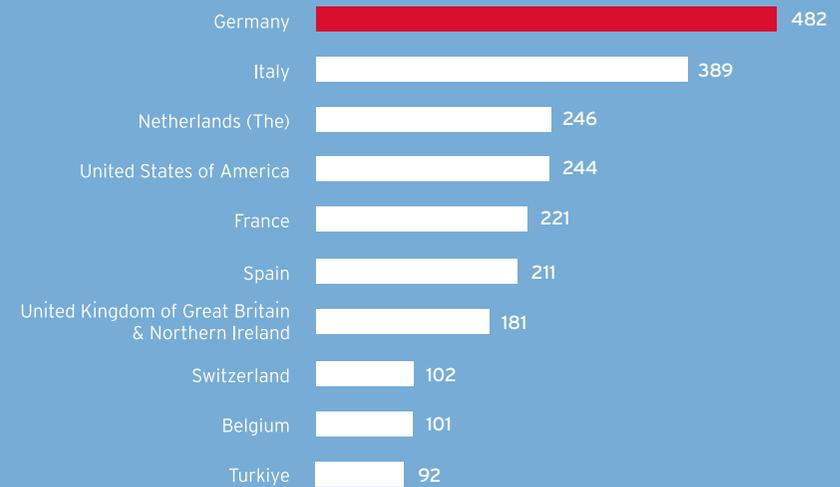
- **1,289** abstracts submitted; **941** abstracts accepted



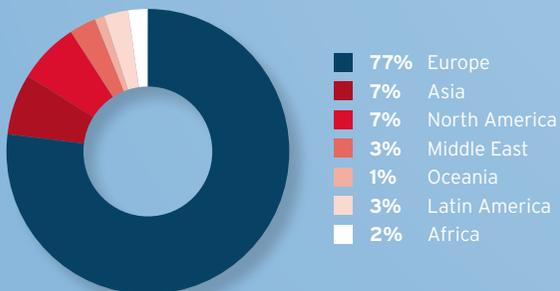
Industry

- **Industry sponsored sessions: 16** Satellite Symposia
- **Exhibition: 46** exhibiting companies – **1,647 m²** occupied

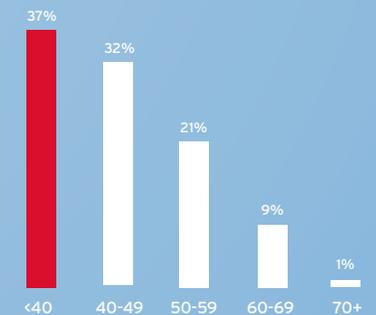
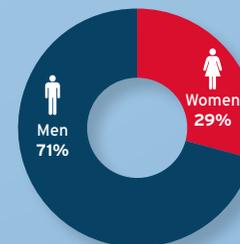
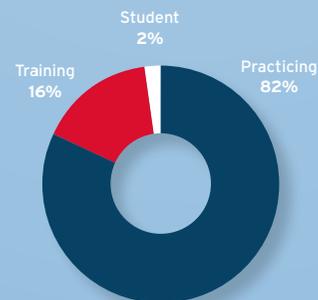
Participants Top Countries



Geographic location of participants



Delegate profiles



Congress

EHRA 2024 featured seven joint sessions with its sister societies and partners.

Society	Session title	Chairs	Faculty
APHRS	Screening for atrial fibrillation	D Duncker W Shimizu	R Schnabel NY Chan T Chao JH Svendsen
CHRS	Optimising catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation	L Macle JL Merino	J Andrade R Tilz M Deyell A Metzner
CSPE	Indications: atrial fibrillation ablation in specific subgroups	G Hindricks W Hua	M Tang J Guerra L O'Neill H He L Perrotta
HFA	When, why, and how to perform conduction system pacing	F Zanon O Cano Perez	C Basso L Antohi MMO Oliveira H Burri
HRS	Atrial fibrillation rhythm control in heart failure patients: what has changed?	J Hurwitz G Hindricks	N Marrouche M Bergonti R Gopinathannair H Puererfellner
JHRS	Ablation strategies for challenging SVT	L O'Neill K Satomi	R De Ponti K Nagashima D Shah J Kishihara
LAHRS	Recurrent AF/AT: what to do?	U Rojel A Sarkozy	G Rodriguez-Diez C Teres D Calvo Cuervo M La Meir

Education



Committee Chairperson

Dr. Marta de Riva Silva,
The Netherlands
FEHRA



Committee Co-Chairperson

Prof. Philipp Sommer,
Germany
FESC, FEHRA



"The EHRA Level 3 programme aims to provide the future leaders in arrhythmology with critical skills in biostatistics, leadership and health technology assessment. These overarching skills come together with key innovations in cardiac electrophysiology and arrhythmia management in one online module and four in-person modules, covering topics such as the development of an EP unit, multidisciplinary care and guidelines & advocacy.

The first cohort of the EHRA Level 3 programme started in September 2024 with 32 experienced clinical electrophysiologists from 16 countries. The first in-person module took place from 12–15 October in Maastricht, The Netherlands and featured highly-interactive sessions discussing the state-of-the-art in integrated arrhythmia management."

Jordi Heijman, Maastricht University
DASCAM Course Director

At EHRA, we are committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities aimed at enhancing patient care and advancing the medical field, and we are excited to introduce our new EHRA Educational Pathway spanning three levels.

Level 1 is tailored for beginners, particularly fellows starting their journey in the field. This fully online programme allows participants to learn at their own pace over one year, and covers the fundamentals of Electrophysiology (EP) and cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIED).

Level 2 offers specialised tracks for arrhythmia specialists, focusing on CIED or EP, aiming to become experts in the field. Each track comprises several onsite courses, including preparatory courses for the certification exams in both CIED and EP. **New this year:** Advanced CIED course including conduction system pacing and SVT online course (launched in December 2024).

Level 3 - DASCAM has been designed for arrhythmia specialists who aim to take a key leadership role in the field. This one-year curriculum focuses on leadership skills and the latest innovations in EP and CIED technologies.

The EHRA Educational Pathway



Educational Pathway
A structured, 3-tier framework



A key reference library
with access to 400 references



17 webinars



Six certification exams
EP, CIED for **physicians** and allied professionals



34 EHRA Recognised Training Centres (ERTC)

Education

EHRA Educational Courses

Every year, EHRA designs and provides the latest educational training programmes to help maintain professional excellence among cardiologists specialising in cardiac devices and electrophysiology. In 2024, EHRA delivered five in-person courses and one online course.

Date	Topic	Location	Course Director	Attendees
Feb.	EHRA Advanced CIED	Onsite Nice, France	H. Burri	83
May	EHRA Interventional EP and Examination Preparatory Course (EPC)	Onsite Budapest, Hungary	I.Roca A. Sultan	52
June	EHRA Course on Cardiac Pacing, ICD and Cardiac Resynchronisation	Onsite Vienna, Austria	J. Steffel P. Moskal	143
Oct.	EHRA Course on Advanced EP, with Focus on AF Ablation	Onsite Malaga, Spain	D. Gupta I. Deisenhofer	50
Nov.	EHRA Course on Advanced EP, with Focus on VT Ablation	Onsite Milan, Italy	A. Sarkozy P. Peichl	58
All year long	EHRA SVT Course (Published in December 2024)	Online	P. Futyma	

NEW IN 2025!

EHRA Online Course on SVT Ablation

We are thrilled to announce an exciting addition to our educational offerings: an online course on SVT ablation, which was launched at the end of 2024. Designed as part of Level 2 of our Educational Framework, this course will be a fantastic resource for young electrophysiologists and anyone looking to refresh their knowledge. Get ready to learn from some of the best experts in the field - it's the perfect opportunity to enhance your skills and stay ahead in the world of SVT ablation.

In light of the recent publication of the new core curriculum for heart rhythm specialists, we're excited to share that we will be updating our Key Reference Library! This comprehensive resource will feature landmark papers and high-quality reviews, designed to support those preparing for certification exams and to help everyone stay current in our rapidly evolving field. We are collaborating with the Young EP Committee and the Certification Committee to ensure this update meets the needs of our community. Stay tuned for more details!



Webinars

EHRA organised a total of 16 webinars in 2024 and participated in one joint webinar with EACVI, as shown in the table below.

EHRA conducted six webinars exclusive to EHRA Members* and ten open-access webinars (available to all). Furthermore, EHRA delivered one "Fundamentals in arrhythmias" webinar, accessible to all, which addresses general cardiologists, cardiology fellows in training (young EHRA Members, Cardiologists of Tomorrow (COT)) and cardiologists wishing to update their scientific knowledge on the topic.

Date	Topic	Presenter	Moderator	Attendees
Jan.	Optimising atrial arrhythmia ablation: how has HPSD revolutionised the ablation workflow and the importance of the right ablation tools.	C. Heeger & C. Teres	P. Sommer	308
Feb.	Innovations in ICD therapy: from transvenous to extravascular	F. Murgatroyd & L. Boersma	C. Leclercq	618
March	Current Pacing perspectives for patient with heart failure. Joint Webinar with HFA	N. Rivas & A. Kloppe	J. Cleland	587
March	Innovation in insertable cardiac monitoring to maximise workflow efficiency and enhance patient care	P. Roberts & F. Quartieri	D. Linz	357
April	*Highlights from EHRA Congress 2024	A. Sarkozy	S. Boveda	123
April	Newest clinical evidence on device treatment for heart failure and sudden cardiac arrest	W. Mullens & A. Auricchio	C. Israel	502
May	Personalised solutions for advanced atrial fibrillation treatment	S. Ahsan & M. LaMeir	P. Sommer	415
June	*What is genetic variation and how does it cause cardiac disease?	C. Bezzina & E. Behr	J. Tfelt-Hansen	61
July	*Cardiac neuroablation for vasovagal syncope: for whom? when? how?	S. Richter	T. Aksu	125
Sept.	*Quality assessment of our clinical practice: realities and difficulties	A. Abdin & T. Potpara	E. Arbelo	50
Sept.	ESC Guidelines on SCD Risk Stratification: implications on daily clinical practice and decision-making. Joint Webinar with HFA	L. Kober & C. Leclercq & M. Metra	W. Mullens	575
Oct.	How to manage anticoagulation therapy in patients after cerebrovascular events	E. Arbelo & R. Collins	D. Capodanno	552
Oct.	*The 12-lead ECG in different etiologies of structural heart disease – FUNDAMENTAL	C. Veltmann	J.L. Merino	826
Nov.	*Imaging left atrial cardiomyopathy. Joint Webinar with EACVI	A. Cohen & G. Hindricks	B. Cosyns	333
Nov.	How to adapt your anticoagulation practice according to the 2024 ESC Guidelines on Atrial Fibrillation: rationale and recommendations	E. Svennberg & I.C. Van Gelder	P. Kirchhof	476
Dec.	Access site management in focus: optimising the workflow	M. Finlay & J. Vogler	Daniel Scherr	226
Dec.	*Cardiovascular genetics in practice: what to know for today and tomorrow	J. Ingles and L. Crotti	Arthur Wilde	82

*Restricted to EHRA members.

Education



STEEER-AF

The Stroke prevention & rhythm control Therapy (STEEER-AF) project consists in the evaluation of an educational programme of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), in an unblinded cluster-randomised controlled trial, in patients with atrial fibrillation. This is a two-armed, parallel-design, international multicentre trial (three phase project).

In 2014, EHRA, together with the ESC and the ESC Council on Stroke, performed a needs assessment (Phase one – completed) to understand the educational needs of cardiologists, neurologists and GPs/ FPs in six countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, UK and Poland) in the following areas:

1. Current treatment and management of AF
2. Utilisation of optimal stroke prevention strategies with AF patients
3. Other potential issues and barriers in the management of AF

This study also included the design and deployment of accredited educational activities allowing participants to gain up to 11 CME points (Phase two – in progress).

A quantitative study to assess outcome using a pragmatic cluster-randomised trial is being conducted in those six ESC countries and led by investigators from those countries, with 10 to 15 sites per country (Phase three – in progress). The primary objective of the trial is to determine whether a comprehensive education programme for healthcare professionals who treat patients with AF will improve guideline-adherent treatment for stroke prevention and rhythm control, compared with no structured education.

In 2024, the follow-up of the study is still ongoing.

- All centres have been activated in the six participating countries (70 sites) and have completed the patient enrolment phase (target of 25 patients per center)
- The randomisation of the centres started in May 2022 and is effective for all of them
- A quality analysis was used to check the baseline data for the 1,732 patients
- The educational programme has also been completed. 18 sessions (three per country) were organised for centres randomised to the intervention arm
- Follow-up visits between six and nine months were completed at the end of 2023
- The project will be fully completed by the end of 2024 after the follow-up visits of 18 months
- The primary outcomes were presented at a hotline late-breaking session at ESC 2024
- The design and deployment paper published in *Europace* (DOI: [Journal Article](#))



Certification



Committee Chairperson
 Dr. Andreu Porta-Sanchez,
 Spain
 FEHRA





Committee Co-Chairperson
 Dr. Malcolm Finlay,
 UK



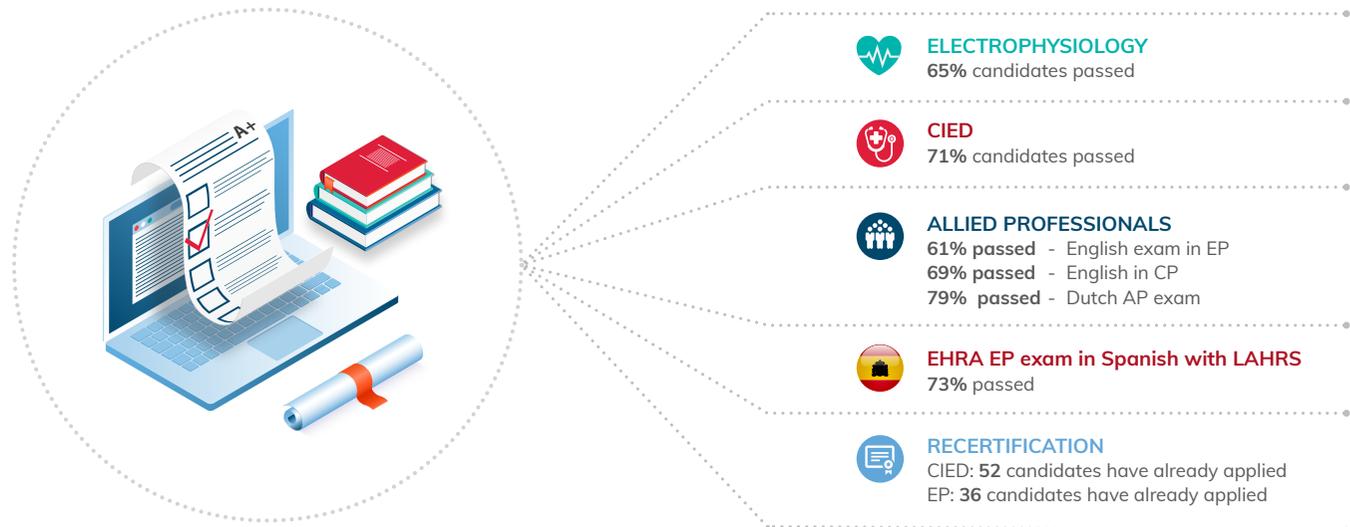
Designed to certify both practical experience and expertise in cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIED) and electrophysiology, **EHRA Certification** was launched in 2005. In recent years, success rates have improved, which may in part be due to the exam preparatory courses organised by the EHRA Education Committee.

The online format allowed candidates to sit the EHRA Certification exam using their own computer or tablet from their preferred location worldwide. 2024 set a new record number of attendees with **408 participants** undergoing the exams and was also the year chosen to update the **core curriculum for the heart rhythm specialist**.

The exam consists of a rigorous test of knowledge with pass marks set by the standard-setting subcommittee using validated statistical methods. A continuous renewal of the questions of the exams ensures that new technologies in the field are represented. The EHRA certification process assesses the competence, knowledge and skills of physicians and allied professionals. Success in the exam provides a 10-year certification at level one, and, for physicians, an additional logbook is needed to achieve the full level two certification.

Initial certification is valid for 10 years, after which candidates apply for recertification to keep the certification valid. Recertification for EP and CIED physicians was launched in 2023. The recertification process consists of a checklist to validate continuing engagement in EHRA educational activities and attendance of the EHRA annual congresses. **52 candidates** have already applied for recertification in CIED and 36 candidates applied for recertification in EP.

The proportion of candidates who passed the online exams in 2024



Certification



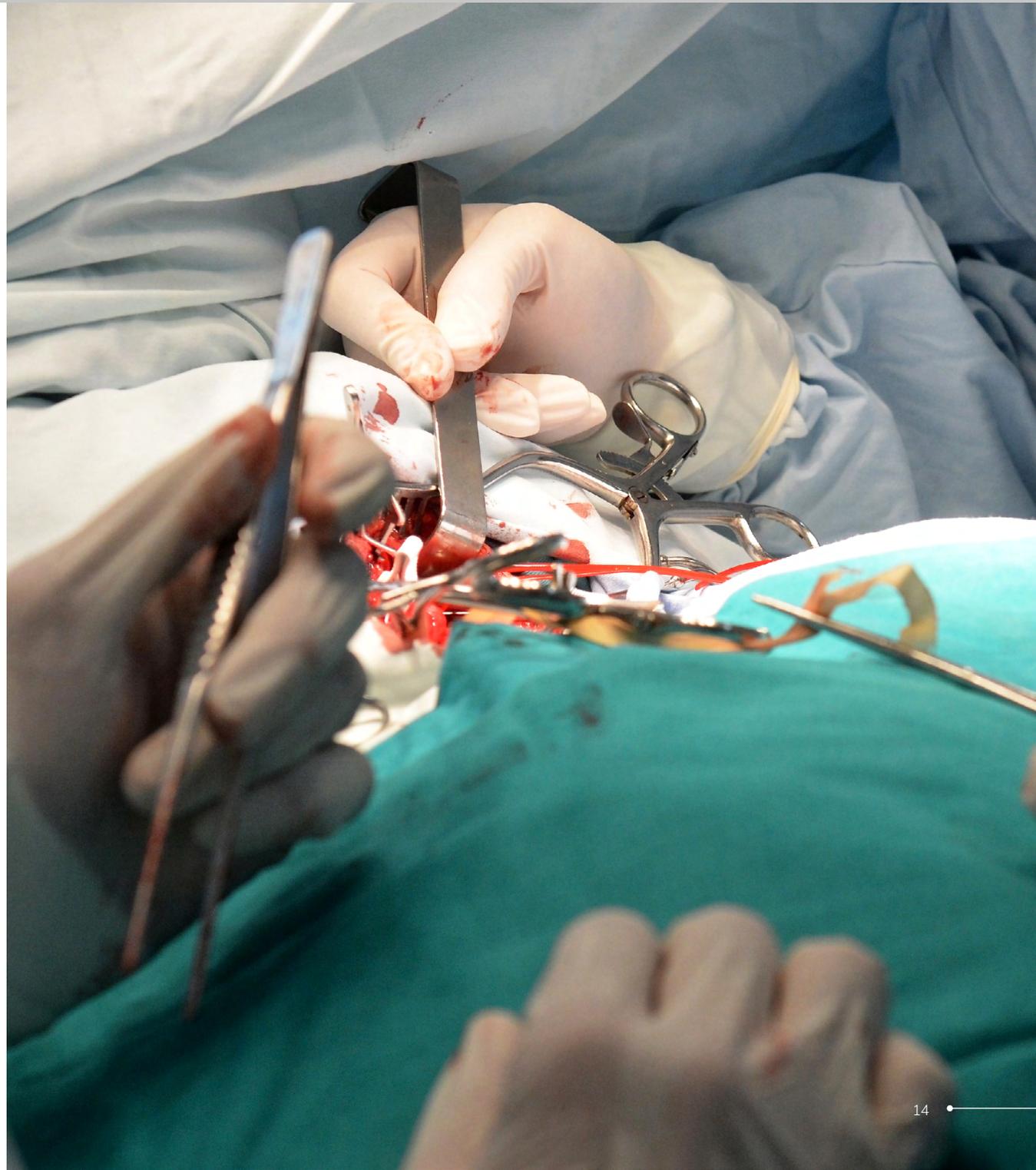
EHRA Recognised Training Centres (ERTC)

The EHRA Certification Committee is also in charge of EHRA Recognised Training Centres (ERTC), an initiative that encourages good educational practices by providing a quality label for training excellence and efficiency.

EHRA Recognised Training Centre (ERTC) programme is a quality label. It enables training centres to highlight efficiency, add value to the quality of their education and mentoring, increase notoriety, and attract fellows and practitioners. It can also be used as a means to verify the uniformity of educational tools and standardised practical teaching, and to improve the overall quality of laboratories.

An ERTC Quality Label is valid for five full years from the date of acceptance.

Four new centres went through the selection process in 2024, and 10 **centres** went through the renewal process, bringing the total number of ERTC to **34**.



Selection



Committee Chairperson

Dr. Nikolaos Dages,
Germany
FEHRA



Committee Co-Chairperson

Prof. Tom De Potter,
Belgium
FEHRA



The EHRA Selection Committee continues to manage training fellowship activities which promote the development of academic medicine in the field of cardiac rhythm disorders.

EHRA Training Fellowship Grants

EHRA Training Fellowships are offered to give physicians the opportunity to gain specialised training in clinical electrophysiology or cardiac pacing carried out in an ESC member country, preferably outside their home country.

Four EHRA Training Fellowship grants (two in Electrophysiology and two in Cardiac Pacing) were awarded to physicians from across Europe.

EHRA Observational Training Programme (EOTP)

In 2024, **seven electrophysiologists** received a grant to visit a centre for two to four weeks.

EHRA Congress Educational Grants

The Selection Committee is also responsible for the selection of candidates who are awarded the EHRA Congress Grants based on the criteria set by the EHRA Board. **400 congress grants were made available** for EHRA 2025 (Vienna, Austria) allowing winners to benefit from a free congress registration.



Fellow of EHRA (FEHRA)

Lastly, the EHRA Selection Committee is also responsible for reviewing the Fellow of EHRA (FEHRA) applications. This prestigious title recognises EHRA Members who have made exceptional contributions to cardiac rhythm, distinguishing themselves in clinical, educational, and organisational aspects of the field.

In 2024, the FEHRA title was awarded to 23 prominent EHRA Members.



Advocacy

“

The mission of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) is to improve the quality of life and reduce sudden cardiac death by limiting the impact of heart rhythm disturbances. To this end, the heart rhythm professionals need to interact with decision-makers in healthcare, other medical and professional associations, industry partners, and patient advocacy organisations, to provide expert advice and support and promote optimal health care policies and standards. Furthermore, the profession needs to promote the implementation of quality improvement initiatives keeping the focus on the patient, to address gaps and disparities in practice, improve outcomes of care and encourage communication, coordination, and collaboration between all professionals treating patients with heart rhythm disorders.

The overarching goal of EHRA's Advocacy and Quality Improvement Committee (AQIC), in collaboration with other EHRA committees, is to provide a platform to implement and coordinate these activities to ultimately serve the mission of the EHRA. ”

Elena Arbelo, EHRA AQIC Chairperson, FESC



Advocacy and Quality Improvement



Committee Chairperson
Assoc. Prof. Elena Arbelo,
Spain
FESC



Committee Co-Chairperson
Assoc. Prof. Tatjana Potpara,
Serbia
FESC



The EHRA Advocacy and Quality Improvement Committee (AQIC) actively pursues EHRA's goals in advocacy and quality-related matters, contributing to various committees and collaborations. Here's a summary of the committee's key objectives and activities throughout 2024.

Advocacy:

a) Representation of EHRA in the ESC Advocacy committees, and supporting the ESC at EU level:

- AQIC represents EHRA in the ESC Regulatory Affairs Committee, contributing to task forces analysing the impact of new regulations and defining unmet medical needs.
- Active participation in the European Commission's Medical Device Coordination Group task forces on orphan devices and post-market surveillance.

b) Representation of the ESC in the creation of the Alliance for Workplace Awareness and Response to Emergencies (AWARE), which is dedicated to enhancing workplace preparedness for health emergencies, especially sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), by advocating for improved first aid and CPR training requirements, as well as ensuring the availability of essential emergency equipment, such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs), in workplaces across Europe.

c) Network Development: Collaboration with sister societies (APHRs, HRS & LAHRS) towards the creation of a global arrhythmia awareness day (Pulse Day), a global survey on quality indicators, and a roadmap for quality improvement in cardiac arrhythmias.

d) Access to Drugs: an EHRA survey on antiarrhythmic drug accessibility to address challenges and disparities. Data gathered helped inform the European Medicines Agencies on the list of critical drugs for heart rhythm disorders.

e) Access to Medical Devices: Raised awareness and addressed accessibility issues for heart rhythm-related medical devices, including involvement in EU Medical Device Coordination Group (EU MDCCG) task forces.

f) Nomenclature and Interoperability: Actively participating in World Forum on CIED, promoting standardised nomenclature and interoperability. EHRA AQIC mediated discussions with EU parliament members and stakeholders.

h) Patient Advocacy: Aligned with EHRA Patient Committee

Quality Improvement:

a) Representation in ESC Quality matters: participating in ESC position statement on patient-reported outcomes, emphasising their importance in cardiovascular clinical practice.

b) Key Quality Indicators: Awaiting re-evaluation of ESC Quality Indicators initiative; planned to propose an update for atrial fibrillation care in collaboration with sister societies in the next AQIC term.

c) Dissemination of standardised quality indicators: putting in place several educational activities to raise awareness and promote implementation on quality indicator measurement such as a session at EHRA 2024 on 'Improving quality of care for patients with atrial fibrillation: can quality indicators help?'. Webinars on the topic and a session at ESC 2025 are planned.

f) Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) Collection: Systematic review to identify validated questionnaires: patient-reported outcomes recommended by the EHRA quality indicators consensus document and robust evaluation of the measurement properties of validated AF symptom severity questionnaires completed.

i) Patient Safety: Creation of an [EHRA repository of medical device alerts and recalls](#) to enhance patient safety and EHRA's presence as a key opinion leader.

The EHRA AQIC's multifaceted approach encompasses advocacy, collaboration, quality improvement, and patient-centric initiatives, contributing significantly to EHRA's mission and the advancement of cardiovascular care.



World Forum on Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices Follow-up

This World Forum was initiated in 2022 as an initiative of the four worldwide EP societies (EHRA, HRS, APHRS and LAHRS) under the impulse of Prof. Hein Heidbuchel (EHRA Past-President 2018-2020) in order to optimise the data flow of remote and in-office CIED interrogations. Indeed, many technical hurdles negate an efficient clinical workflow (and even create medicolegal risks for healthcare providers), i.e. in contrast to the DICOM standard for the exchange of medical images, CIED manufacturers use proprietary file formats (often even different for interrogations in-office and via telemonitoring) that are not exchangeable. Moreover, clinicians often are unaware about absence of reliable connectivity of CIED to the telemonitoring servers and hospital (again with different technical issues among different manufacturers), the priority reporting of alerts and their handling is variable across the industry, etc. This situation significantly hinders an efficient telemonitoring ecosystem.

The World Forum brings together all global stakeholders in the field, including the five major CIED manufacturers and 14 middleware companies (companies that now offer different solutions to help streamline the fragmented data flow). The major goal of the World Forum is to overcome the described interoperability barriers. Standardisation will facilitate automated data integration and hence alleviate the burden of inefficient follow-up, improve data accuracy and allow more rapid clinical decision making. By integrating CIED data flow with other sources of data and therapeutic interventions (e.g. medication, lab data, monitored symptoms...) this will lead to more personalised remote monitoring based on patient characteristics, i.e. moving from a device-centric perspective to a patient-centric approach, ultimately benefiting both patients and health care providers.



In 2023-2024, the World Forum moved for concrete action under the umbrella of the standards setting organisation HL7. Within HL7, the CodeX community is focused on bringing standards to healthcare data across three domains, including cardiovascular health (called CardX). The first use case being tackled is the 'connectivity use case' so that a loss of remote connection is reported in a uniform way and can be dealt with efficiently. The aim is to create new Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) standards to tackle the problems described above. FHIR enables secure and efficient data exchange. Because the World Forum is a member in CardX together with the major CIED vendors, there is a unique platform where clinician's needs can be met with technical developments along newly set standards. The World Forum and CardX hope to have a first Implementation Guide (IG) ready for testing during a Connectathon by the Summer of 2025, which could set the stage for industry-wide adoption in the future. Stay tuned!



Together with its sister societies (HRS, APHRS and LAHRS), EHRA launched the first edition of Pulse day, the Global Arrhythmia Awareness Day, on 1 March

Why?

Cardiac arrhythmias, irregular heartbeats, can range from harmless to life-threatening, yet there is a significant knowledge gap in the general population. If we take Germany as an example, two million Germans suffer from Atrial Fibrillation (AF), a common arrhythmia, with prevalence increasing, particularly in the aging population. AF can lead to severe complications such as heart failure and stroke. The European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) recommends screening for AF, emphasising the importance of early detection.

Approximately one-third of the global population may develop a serious arrhythmia, linking the date (one-third i.e. 1 March) with the medical data.

Pulse Day is based on the ACES Concept which focuses on:

- **Action (A):** Learn and teach how to take the pulse
- **Connect (C):** Encourage the young generation to care for the older generation
- **Educate (E):** Provide information to individuals at risk and the general population
- **Share (S):** Widely spread the initiative through social media campaigns



Patients



Committee Chairperson
Prof. Jean-Claude Deharo,
France, FESC




Committee Co-Chairperson
Dr. Francisco Moscoso Costa,
Portugal, FESC




Yes...
Your device may be **infected**.
Most infections
can be treated.



EHRA offers informative and up-to-date educational resources to patients through its dedicated websites, afibmatters.org and myrhythmdevice.org. These platforms help patients make informed decisions when engaging in discussions about their treatment plans with their physicians.

afibmatters.org

Available in 14 languages



New in 2024

- Available in 1 new language: Croatian
- New Patient-Physician Video interview tackling AF symptoms, the importance of checking your pulse and AF treatment
- Publication of the **ESC Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines – explained for patients**
- **Users increased by 43%, compared to the previous year, and page views by 35%**

myrhythmdevice.org

Available in 3 languages



New in 2024

- Content improved with hyperlinks
- New video resources: [Patient-Physician Video interview](#) about SCD and an explanatory video on CIED infection



MY RHYTHM DEVICE
PATIENT RESOURCES

FindmyEP

A [directory](#) to help patients locate EP experts in their home country or when travelling abroad. This tool can also be used by physicians to connect with their peers and with healthcare providers in clinical, educational, and research services.



Patients

"I live in Scotland, on the Isle of Bute, and was diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation and Heart Failure in 2021.

Since my diagnosis in 2021, I have made it my mission to find out as much as I can about my condition, and to try and raise awareness of symptoms to help early diagnosis and treatment.

I have been privileged to be a member of the EHRA Patient Committee (formed of patients and physicians) for the last two years. Working with clinicians and other patients has given me the confidence to get involved in various projects with the overall aim of getting information out to patients living with CVDs. To give them the power to take responsibility for their own health and to have the confidence to make informed choices on their preferred treatment options.

It is important to be heard as a patient living every day with a chronic, sometimes incurable cardiovascular disease. I have been listened to by all members of the committee and I believe my unique perspective of living with Atrial Fibrillation and Heart Failure on a rural island complements the diversity of the committee. It balances the power between clinicians and patients as we make shared decisions to try and reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases."

Sharon, patient representative on the EHRA Patient Committee



The EHRA Patient Committee is also committed to measuring patient reported experience and outcomes and participates in other projects and activities, on top of improving the patient websites.

- **'Patient experience in the EP lab'** – a survey was conducted from June to September 2023, translated in 10 languages. The paper has been finalised and will be published in 2025
- **3 congress sessions** at EHRA 2024 with patient participation:
 - [The patient's perception of AF care](#) (J. Dwight)
 - [SCD in the family, how to deal with it?](#) (A. Verstrael)
 - [IST, a never-ending story, a patient perspective](#) (I. Drossart)

| mHealth, Health Economics and PROM



Chairperson

Prof. Giuseppe Boriani, Italy
FESC, FEHRA



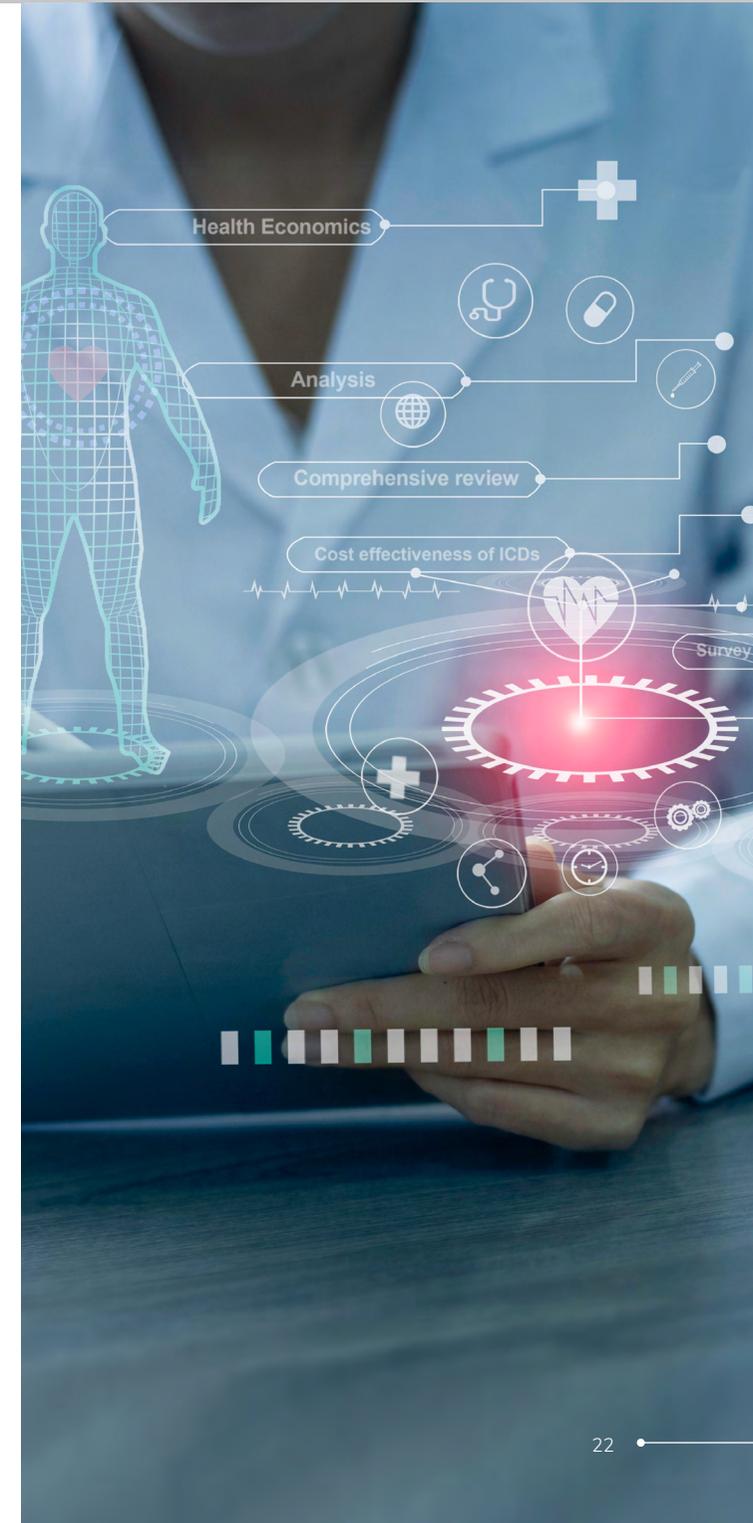
Co-Chairperson

Prof. Ruben Casado Arroyo,
Belgium
FESC



In 2024, the EHRA mHealth, Health Economics and PROM Committee undertook various initiatives:

- **Review paper on Value-Based Health Care in EP and Cardiology (Published):** Initiated a review paper on Value-Based Health Care in Electrophysiology (EP) and Cardiology. The results were published in the *EP Europace* journal (August 2024)
- **A comprehensive review and meta-analysis on same-day discharge vs. overnight stay following catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation: (Published):** The manuscript was published in the *EP Europace* journal in July 2024
- **Cost effectiveness of ICDs and CRTD:** proposed a project to assess the cost-effectiveness of Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators (ICDs) and Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy Defibrillators (CRTD). The objective is to update prior assessments, utilising new calculations with a Markov model. The initial assessments, published by Prof. Cowie MR et al. in *Europace* in 2009, are considered outdated. The manuscript is planned to be submitted for publication in the first quarter of 2025.
- **Survey on Public Tendering:** currently conducting a survey on public tendering with the aim of understanding the current situation in the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) National Cardiac Societies (NCS) countries. The scope extends beyond devices, and the questionnaire is under review. The survey was circulated in 2024 and the resulting manuscript will be submitted for publication in the first quarter of 2025.



 | EU Projects

AFFECT-EU

The project, which involved 14 EU countries and aimed at developing an accurate, risk-based, and ready-for-implementation atrial fibrillation (AF) screening algorithm using digital devices for early detection and reduction of AF-related health inequities, morbidity, and mortality across Europe, has successfully concluded.

In the course of 2024, the final steps of the project were executed, culminating in a final event held in Brussels, where the project results were presented to a diverse audience of stakeholders, partners, and policymakers. The event showcased the culmination of several years of collaborative efforts, focusing on the project's contributions to improving AF screening methods and addressing health disparities related to AF in Europe.

A total of seven deliverables were submitted to the European Commission during this year (of these, four were led by the ESC/EHRA).

While the project officially closed on 30 March 2024, a formal review meeting with the European Commission took place in mid-October 2024, where project outcomes were reviewed and final evaluations conducted.

AFFECT-EU project came to an end, as well as the final review meeting with the European Commission.

The external reviewers shared that EHRA contributed positively to the significant immediate, and potential impact of the project, by delivering webinars on AF screening, developing of educational materials, and engaging with stakeholders through both online and in-person meetings. "The project's visibility at high-profile conferences such as EHRA 2023 has contributed to heightened awareness and dissemination of findings" evaluators wrote.



These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreements No. 847770, No. 847999 and No. 945260.

PROFID EHRA

*PROFID EHRA

The aim of PROFID is to develop a personalised prediction of the risk for sudden cardiac death (SCD) after myocardial infarction, a leading cause of death in Europe, as well as a personalised SCD prevention by targeted implantation of an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). The goal is to successfully prevent the majority of SCD events that occur after myocardial infarction by accurate and timely identification of patients that are at high risk for SCD followed by implantable cardioverter defibrillator ICD implantation. Key element of the project is the PROFID EHRA clinical trial.

In 2024, the main focus was on the start and implementation of the PROFID EHRA trial, which is supposed to enroll 3,595 patients in 13 European countries and in Israel. The trial was discussed at a scientific session at the EHRA Congress 2024 (Berlin) as well as at the ESC Congress 2024 (London) in an ESC-TV session. Dr. John Mandrola, a renowned cardiac electrophysiologist and a field-specific influencer from the USA, with a huge number of followers worldwide, named PROFID EHRA the "boldest trial done in cardiology in decades".

The PROFID EHRA trial will be the first randomised adequately powered reassessment of the potential benefit of ICD therapy in myocardial infarction survivors with reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) under contemporary optimal medical therapy. Chief Investigator of the PROFID EHRA trial, Dr. Nikolaos Dagres shared: "A novel randomised assessment of the ICD benefit in these patients is urgently needed, in order to close a significant evidence gap for a major aspect of clinical routine."

Participants will be randomly allocated in a one to one ratio to optimal medical therapy alone or optimal medical therapy with ICD implantation. The primary outcome is all-cause mortality. Secondary outcomes include death from cardiovascular causes, sudden cardiac death, hospital readmissions for cardiovascular causes, length of stay in hospital and quality of life. A cost effectiveness analysis will also be conducted. The study will last around 49 months and is expected to update corresponding European clinical guidelines on SCD prevention and ICD implantation.

| EU Projects

EHRA-PATHS

The EHRA-PATHS project, coordinated by EHRA/ESC and funded by the European Commission, continues to make significant strides toward transforming clinical practice for atrial fibrillation (AF) into a holistic, inclusive, and personalised approach. The project is set to run for a total of 60 months, starting from 1 April 2021, with the overarching goal of reducing the healthcare burden of multimorbid AF patients aged 65 and older, both medically and financially, across Europe.

A major milestone this year was the launch of the clinical trial, spearheaded by the University Medical Center Groningen. This trial marks an important phase in testing and validating the integrated care strategies and comorbidity pathways developed by the consortium.

During the EHRA Congress 2024, the EHRA-PATHS project held a dedicated session titled “EHRA-PATHS Project Explores Complexities of Atrial Fibrillation and Comorbidities”. Following the session, a consortium meeting was held to discuss ongoing progress and upcoming activities. Additionally, EHRA-PATHS was featured at the ESC Congress 2024 with a session called “EHRA-PATHS: Systematic Approach for AF & Multimorbidity.”

Throughout 2024, the consortium successfully submitted four deliverables to the European Commission, two of which were led by the ESC.

A review meeting with the European Commission took place on 16 July 2024. The feedback from the commission was largely positive, with the project receiving comments for its progress and future activities. The consortium remains committed to continuing the project’s momentum as it enters its next phase.



These projects have received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreements No. 847770, No. 847999 and No. 945260.

| Digital and e-Communication



Committee Chairperson
Prof. David Duncker, Germany
FESC, FEHRA





e-Communication Subcommittee Co-Chairperson
Dr. Rodrigue Garcia, France
FESC





Digital Subcommittee Co-Chairperson
Dr Emma Svennberg, Sweden
FESC, FEHRA



931,662 impressions
for #EHRA2024

40,328 engagement
for #EHRA2024

121,258 video views
#EHRA2024

@EHRAPresident
4,100 followers

12 bulletins
more than **41,000** subscribers



*most social media marketing experts agree that a good engagement rate is between 1% to 5%



The Digital & e-Communication Committee was highly involved in the Social Media activities of the EHRA 2024 Congress, with #EHRAmotions (short videos sharing the direct and onsite congress experience), #EHRASnacks (interviews and discussions on hot topics) and the EHRA good morning and wrap-up sessions (introducing the daily congress highlights).

- #EHRASnacks: 12 videos posted across EHRA and ESC channels
- #EHRAmotions
- 6  (Twitter) Social Media Reporters interviewing congress participants on the congress experience
- 10  (Twitter) Social Media ambassadors: posting live during sessions
- Instagram stories to highlight the feeling and atmosphere during the congress + daily pictures across platforms
- 3 visual summaries based on LBTs
- Simultaneous publications
- Press releases posted on ESCardioNews  (Twitter) x 6

Digital and e-Communication

EHRA Cardio Talk - Keep the rhythm

The monthly podcast series features key opinion leaders in Electrophysiology and Cardiac Pacing tackling topics about EHRA papers, interviews with experts, and education.

The 2024 podcasts were hosted by Prof. D. Duncker and, on some occasions, Dr. R. Garcia and Prof. D. Linz.

Release date in 2024	Topics	Guest(s)
January	AF ablation as first line therapy	J. Andrade
February	Sudden Cardiac Death	E. Marijon
March	Prevalence of cardiac arrhythmias in the general population and how to tackle them	E. Arbelo & J. L. Merino
April	EHRA-HRS-APHRS-LAHRS Expert Consensus Statement on catheter and surgical ablation of AF	S. Tzeis
May	Electrical storm	R. Lenarczyk
June	Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA)	S. Narayan
July	EHRA document on Cardioneuroablation	T. Aksu
August	Guideline-directed medical therapy for heart failure in patients with implantable devices	G. Boriani
September	EHRA President's vision for EHRA	H. Pürerfellner
October	Gender Differences in EP	J. Han
November	Best evidence in EP	J. Mandrola
December	My favourite studies in 2024	A.Sultan



Monthly downloads



Scientific Initiatives



Committee Chairperson

Prof. Julian Chun,
Germany
FEHRA



Committee Co-Chairperson

Dr. Sergio Castrejon,
Spain
FEHRA



Additional projects in which the SIC contributed

The EHRA SIC also launched a survey in collaboration with the Patient Committee to help raise and measure awareness about arrhythmias in the general population and patients. This research was conducted within the scope of the global Pulse Day project led in collaboration with EHRA's sister societies and celebrated yearly on 1 March.

Analysis is ongoing and the results will be published in Q1 2025.

Since 2023 the SIC supports the EMBOL-AF study, which aim is to understand real-life stroke rates in AF ablation and management. Data acquisition was carried out over 2023 and 2024 and analysis has started.

The Scientific Initiatives Committee (SIC) undertakes research providing a picture of daily EP practice and insight into how arrhythmia treatment is consistently applied across ESC member countries.

The SIC conducts several types of surveys including centre-based (addressing the EHRA Scientific Research Network which represents more than **300 centres**), physician-based (addressing the EHRA membership) and patient-based (in collaboration with the EHRA Patient Committee), together with other initiatives, such as systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

The EHRA 2022-2024 Committee also collaborated with external members on the development of research proposals when in line with the EHRA and SIC's strategy, to help close the gap(s) of evidence in the field of electrophysiology or pacing, with emphasis on:

- Arrhythmia management/patient care
- Implementation of technological innovations
- Arrhythmias and heart failure

2024 publications include the following:

- Genetic testing for inherited arrhythmia syndromes and cardiomyopathies: results of an EHRA survey (August 2024)
- Definition and management of arrhythmia-induced cardiomyopathy: results of an EHRA survey (May 2024)
- Cardioneuroablation for vasovagal syncope: results of an EHRA survey (May 2024)
- STereotactic Arrhythmia Radioablation and its implications for modern cardiac ElectroPhysiology: results of an EHRA survey (May 2024)
- Management of ventricular tachycardias: insights on centre settings, procedural workflow, endpoints, and implementation of guidelines: results of an EHRA Survey (February 2024)
- Utilisation of, and perceived need for simulators in clinical electrophysiology: results of an EHRA survey (February 2024)
- Current management of atrial fibrillation in routine practice according to the last ESC guidelines: results of an EHRA survey (January 2024)
- Prevention and treatment of pericardial tamponade in the electrophysiology laboratory: results of an EHRA survey (January 2024)

All survey results are published in [EP Europace](#) and on [EHRA/ESC website](#).



| Scientific Documents



Committee Chairperson

Prof. Katja Zeppenfeld,
The Netherlands
FESC, FEHRA



Committee Co-Chairperson

Prof. Jens Cosedis Nielsen,
Denmark
FESC, FEHRA



The Scientific Documents Committee facilitates, develops and publishes scientific documents that address highly relevant topics for heart rhythm specialists according to the newly developed [EHRA scientific document policy](#). Clinical consensus statements provide important guidance for clinical management on topics not covered or not covered in sufficient detail in existing or upcoming ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines. Scientific statements systematically review and interpret scientific evidence followed by a summary position of EHRA, while statements outline and convey the position of EHRA on non-medical issues. The members of the writing groups are selected based on their internationally recognised expertise and experience in the field, and aim to closely collaborate with other ESC associations: councils and working groups and international sister societies. EHRA scientific documents are peer reviewed and published in the *EP Europace* journal.

Recent published documents include:

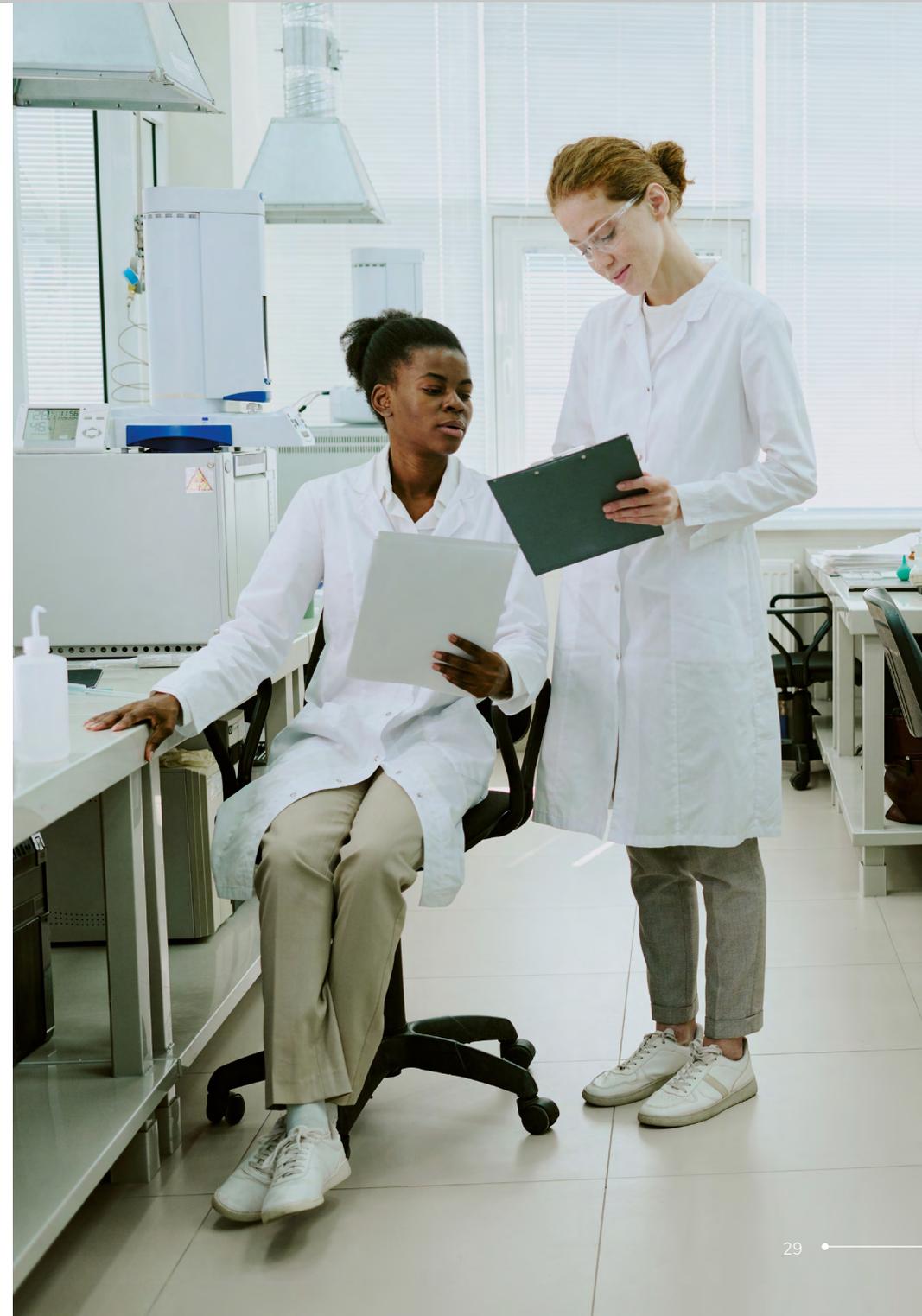
- Ventricular tachycardia substrate delineation and data transfer for stereotactic body radiotherapy: An EHRA Clinical Consensus Statement
- Drug therapy and catheter ablation for management of arrhythmias in continuous flow left ventricular assist device's patients: A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) and the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the ESC
- 2024 updated European Heart Rhythm Association Core Curriculum for physicians and allied professionals: Syllabus, Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills, training assessment, and training centre/trainer/trainee requirements to guide the certification for cardiac implantable electronic devices and invasive cardiac electrophysiology
- Cardioneuroablation for the treatment of reflex syncope and functional bradyarrhythmias: A Scientific Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC, the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRs) and the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS)
- Atrial Cardiomyopathy Revisited - Evolution of a Concept: A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC, the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), the Asian Pacific Heart Rhythm Association (APHRs), and the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS)
- Pre- and Post-Procedural Cardiac Imaging (CT and MRI) in Electrophysiology: A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) and European Association Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI) of the ESC
- Management of patients with an electrical storm or clustered ventricular arrhythmias: A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association of the ESC—endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society, Heart Rhythm Society, and Latin-American Heart Rhythm Society
- European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)/Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)/Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRs)/Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS): Expert Consensus Statement on Catheter and Surgical Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation



Scientific Documents

Documents in the pipeline to be published in the first quarter of 2025

- Management of patients with transvalvular leads undergoing percutaneous tricuspid valve interventions - A scientific statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), the Asian Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), and the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society (CHRS) Vascular Access
- Practical Guide on Epicardial Ventricular Tachycardia Ablation - A 2024 Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), the Asian Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS), and the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society (CHRS)
- ESC Clinical Consensus Statement on Conduction System Pacing. With special contribution of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC and endorsed by the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society (CHRS), the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), and the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS)
- The role of pharmacological provocation testing in cardiac electrophysiology – A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) of the ESC, the ESC Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, the Association of Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), the Paediatric & Congenital Electrophysiology Society (PACES), the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), the Asian Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), and the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS)
- 2024 Scientific Statement on the state of art of Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Electrophysiology by the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), and the ESC Working Group in e-Cardiology



Scientific Documents

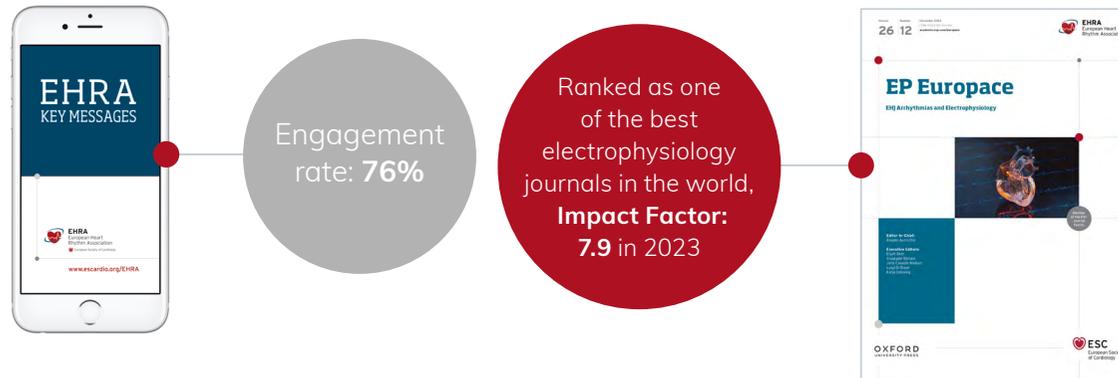
EP Europace

Official journal of EHRA, the ESC Working Groups on Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology and e-Cardiology.

What happened in 2024?

- On 1 September Giuseppe Boriani took the position of Interim Editor-in-Chief of EP Europace
- An open call for Editor-in-Chief was set compiling a series of state-of-the-art reviews, commissioned by the Editorial Board

160,725 visits with content engagement to Europace the website in April 2024



EHRA Key Messages App

Free app containing the main messages and highlights of published scientific documents in concise and accessible formats. 1,548 visitors in April when the Electrical Storm Key Messages was released.

Top 3 EHRA Key Messages in 2024	Views
1. EHRA practical guide on the use of NOACS	32,480
2. Management of patients with an electrical storm	11,527
3. EHRA Clinical Consensus Statement on Conduction System Pacing	9,863

| ECGen recent achievements

This has been a very active 12 months for the focus group. Two scientific documents have been progressed and are close to completion: 'Diagnosis and management of primary arrhythmia syndromes in children': Drs. Elena Arbelo and Georgia Sarquella Brugada and 'The role of pharmacological provocation testing in cardiac electrophysiology': Profs. Elijah Behr and Jacob Tfelt-Hansen.

A new EHRA survey was proposed, conducted and published in the *EP Europace* journal in collaboration with the Young EP community led by Dr. Ivan Zeljkovic, Prof. Giulio Conte and entitled: 'Current State of Genetic Testing for Cardiac Diseases across ESC Countries: an EHRA Physician-based Survey on Management and Adherence to Current Recommendations'.

The EHRA Congress programme 9 sessions were shared and proposed across genomics, channelopathy, cardiomyopathy, and sudden death by Profs. Elijah Behr, Kristina Haugaa, Jacob Tfelt-Hansen and Eloi Marijon.

The group supplied five video lectures for Level 1 content of the new education curriculum on basic knowledge of genomics, genetic testing, and genetic disorders: channelopathy and cardiomyopathy, as well as the clinical application of genetic testing. These were presented by Profs. Arthur Wilde, Eric Schulze-Bahr, Elijah Behr, Jacob Tfelt-Hansen and Carol Ann Remme. A webinar on genetics and genetic testing was provided by Profs. Connie R. Bezzina and Elijah Behr. Alongside this, Andrea Mazzanti developed MCQ resources, for certification purposes.

Another collaboration with the Young EP community is the development of the EP Insight Observerships for Cardiac Genetic centres with at least two take up so far. Other collaboration opportunities included Asso. Prof. Lia Crotti acting as EHRA representative nucleus member of the Working Group for Myocardial and Pericardial disease, presenting together with Prof. Elijah Behr at an EHRA session at the Belgrade 2023 meeting. Both also acted as EHRA board representatives to the ESC Council on Cardiovascular Genomics.

Research promotion included supporting registries such as the atrial arrhythmias in channelopathy (Prof. Giulio Conte), ERN GUARD HEART registries, and the Genomics of Unexplained Cardiac Arrest (GenUCA) project with the contribution of the EHRA centres in Poland, Czechia, Greece, Latvia, Austria, and Belgium.



International Affairs



Committee Chairperson

Prof. Gregory Y. H. Lip,
United Kingdom
FESC, FEHRA



Committee Co-Chairperson

Prof. Jan Steffel,
Switzerland
FESC, FEHRA



The EHRA International Affairs Committee helps to develop the association’s international relationships by strengthening EHRA’s collaboration with its sister societies.

These sister societies include the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) and the Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS).

Thanks to its strong ties with its sister societies and with its numerous international partners EHRA is able to create many opportunities to meet at congresses, collaborate on joint scientific documents and offer educational opportunities for young peers worldwide. Towards this aim, the International Affairs Committee regularly collaborates with several EHRA committees (Scientific Documents, Education & Certification, Patients and AQIC).

Lastly, in 2024, EHRA participated in joint sessions at several sister and affiliated societies’ congresses as well as other international events.

Date	Event	Topic	EHRA representatives
May 2024	HRS 2024 Boston (USA)	Artificial Intelligence in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management: the Present and the Future	J.L. Merino, S. Ernst, D. Linz
		Electrophysiology Considerations of Cardiac Sarcoidosis	J.L. Merino
July 2024	JHRS 2024 Kanazawa (Japan)	The development of ablation and 3D map	J.L. Merino, P. Jaïs, J.Kautzner
September 2024	APHRS 2024 Sydney	Approaching the Clinically Complex Patient with Atrial Fibrillation: Easy as ABC or an SOS	H. Pürerfellner, H. Burri, G.Y.H. Lip, J. Steffel
November 2024	GW-ICC /AHRS. 2024 Beijing (China)/Virtual	Atrial substrate, AF burden and Overt AF: State of the Art	A. Goette, G. Lip
		EUROPACE @ GWICC session	L. Di Biase, G. Boriani
November 2024	LAHRS 2024 Cartagena (Colombia)	Thermal Ablation: How to select the best energy and parameters for an effective and safe transmural lesion?	JL. Merino, T. Datino

National Cardiac Societies



Chairperson
Dr. Michal Farkowski,
Poland





Committee Co-Chairperson
Dr. Daniel Scherr,
Austria
FESC, FEHRA





The National Cardiac Societies Committee's activities are driven by **three main objectives**:

- **Strengthen** relations between EHRA and EP National Cardiac Societies (NCS)/ Working Groups (WG) as well as monitor their expectations to facilitate collaboration
- **Encourage** individual members to join EHRA and become more involved in the association
- **Implement** actions and procedures which lead to better networking, such as the traditional EHRA Summit, and joint sessions on EPNCS/WG events

EHRA Summit

The Summit was held on **13 and 14 June 2024 in Warsaw, Poland.**

42 different countries were represented in the Summit. Representatives from all over Europe participated in discussions around Certification and Medical Device Regulation.

Improving Collaboration with our partners

EP Working Group of the moment

This initiative showcases a new EP NCS or EP WG of the EHRA network quarterly. It highlights the efforts and activities these partner organisations are undertaking and promotes the interaction between the various EP NCS/ WG and EHRA.

Countries showcased in 2024



Joint sessions

In 2024, EHRA participated in 11 joint sessions across Europe, at EP NCS/WG national meetings and congresses in the following countries:



Atlas

EHRA, in collaboration with the ESC Data Science Committee - Public Health Data Group, is developing the inaugural ESC Atlas in Heart Rhythm Disorders, with participation from 51 countries (Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania; San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan). This inaugural initiative seeks to establish a robust data framework for tracking trends in the electrophysiology field. Modeled after the ESC Atlas of Cardiology and other ESC sub-specialty Atlases, the project is designed to create a unified platform that will significantly influence the future of cardiology and electrophysiology community.

| Young Electrophysiologists



Committee Chairperson

Dr. Katarzyna Malaczynska-Rajpold
UK



Committee Co-Chairperson

Dr. Martin Manninger,
Austria
FESC, FEHRA



The Young EP Network serves electrophysiologists in the early stages of their careers, providing support for their professional development and the expansion of their global professional network. This is achieved by focusing on education, fostering networking opportunities, and enhancing visibility. The Young EP Committee actively engages the young community through a diverse range of projects aligned with these goals.

ECG competition

The 4th edition of the ECG Competition took place during the congress in Berlin. **Ten national** teams composed of **3 excellent ECG readers** were challenged live with difficult ECGs during the congress. The session was attended by over **200 people** onsite and had over **120 views online**.

Young EP network

The EHRA Young EP network currently counts over **700 active members**.

Young EP Summit

The event took place on 11 and 12 June in Warsaw, Poland, where **23 Young EP from 19 countries** attended. The main speaker of this edition was Chris Bojke, Professor of Health Economics at the University of Leeds, UK, who delivered an thought-provoking workshop on Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in healthcare. For the Young EPs, this Summit was also an opportunity to network with other Young Ambassadors and members of the EHRA Board.



The goal of the Young EP Committee is to promote its members' work and create a global network within the scientific EP community to support both clinical and non-clinical professional training needs."

Martin Manninger, Co-Chair



Career development

- **EP Insight short visiting programme:** In 2024, four Young EP benefited from this programme.
- **EHRA speed mentoring:** During the EHRA 2024 congress in Berlin, **13 mentees** got the opportunity to get guidance on their career paths from the experience and wisdom of **9 mentors** during individual sessions. On top, two group mentoring sessions took place this year and were greatly appreciated by the 8 participants.
- **Networking Cocktail:** An annual event at the EHRA Congress, providing Young EPs with an opportunity to connect with peers and engage in casual conversations with leading experts in a relaxed, welcoming setting.
- **Tracing Workshops:** A series of nine educational sessions at the EHRA Congress focused on interpreting ECGs and intracardiac electrograms, presented by Young EPs alongside renowned experts.
- **EHRA Young EP panelists' list:** Renewed annually with Young EP members endorsed by their national ambassadors as available moderators of congress sessions. Every year Young EPs from this list are offered to co-chair sessions during the EHRA congress.
- **Library of EP recordings**
Launched mid-2022, this library provides 10-15-min educational videos which focus on performing various types of EP and CP procedures. These are recorded by key opinion leaders and narrated by Young EPs. New videos are added quarterly. Topics added in 2024:

Date	Topic	Operator	Comments
December 2024	Diagnostic electrophysiological study in a patient with recurrent syncope	M. Nesti	M. Nesti
September 2024	AVNRT-Zero Fluoroscopy Case	I. Zeljkovic	N. Pavlovic
July 2024	AVNRT-Conventional Case	N. Pavlovic	I. Zeljkovic
May 2024	Ablation of typical right atrial flutter	M. Manninger D. Scherr	M. Manninger D. Scherr
March 2024	Occupational radiation protection in the EP Lab during pregnancy	H. Hillmann	H. Hillmann
January 2024	Ablation of post-surgical atypical atrial flutter	P. Sommer	P. Sommer



| Membership

The EHRA membership offer is tailored to fit the EHRA members' needs, with a special offer for young professionals.



6,241 members in 2024



**157 FEHRA
2 EFEHRA (emeritus)**

Gender Scale

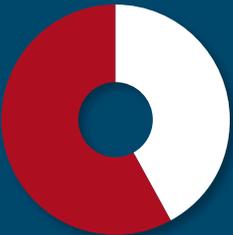


Male
71%



Female
29%

Age Scale



Above 40
58%

Under 40
42%

EHRA Silver Membership can be combined with ESC Professional Membership or another Subspecialty Association Silver Membership. More information: escardio.org/EHRA-membership





Fellowship

Recognising excellence through the Fellowship of EHRA

Annual call for applications
1 August - 15 October

EHRA Members benefits

- Discount on Europace Article Processing Charges (APC)
- Access to EHRA courses on ESC eLearning platform
- Discount on EHRA congress, educational courses and certification exams
- Unlimited access to EHRA webinars and resources from all EHRA congresses on ESC 365
- Exclusive access to grants, training programmes, EHRA Fellowship (FEHRA), and mentoring opportunities
- Discount of EHRA books, ESC textbooks and handbooks, and publications
- Access to EHRA networking events
- Voting rights and access to EHRA Member directories
- **New:** Access to a repository of Safety Alerts on Heart Rhythm Devices & Systems

EHRA Board 2024-2026

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Members of EHRA,

As the new President of EHRA, I am profoundly grateful for the trust you have placed in me to lead this esteemed association, which for more than 20 years has been committed to improving the diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life for patients with heart rhythm disorders. The new EHRA Board comprises the Executive Board, **13 committee Chairs** and **three ex officio members**.

I am extremely proud to have these highly motivated colleagues by my side to advance our mission. The board may be new, but EHRA's commitment to education, research, and clinical excellence has been, and remains, unwavering. We will continue to provide cutting-edge educational resources based on our new three-level educational pathway. The new Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management (DAS-CAM) diploma course (level 3) recently began with 32 participants and will certainly enrich EHRA with new leaders in the field. If you have passed at least one EHRA certification exam successfully, I encourage you to apply to be part of next year's course.

Speaking of enriching our field, EHRA Training Fellowships give physicians the opportunity to learn in EHRA Recognised Training Centres outside their home country. Applications are still being accepted until 15 November, so I encourage you to apply.

Our annual congress is increasingly attracting delegates from all over the world and EHRA 2025 in Vienna next April will certainly be no exception. It is now time to submit your abstracts and clinical cases (by 7 and 19 November respectively) if you haven't already. As you are an EHRA Member, you can also apply for an EHRA Congress Educational Grant through 20 November to cover the cost of registration. You can find out more below in this, my first newsletter as EHRA President.

Helmut Puererfellner
EHRA 2024-2026 President

Executive Board Members

President

Prof. Helmut Puererfellner, Austria
FESC, FEHRA



Past-President

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FESC, FEHRA



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FESC, FEHRA



Rep of the ESC WG of Cardiac Cellular Electrophysiology

Prof. Jordi Heijman, Austria
FESC



Rep of the ESC WG on E-cardiology

Prof. Ruben Casado Arroyo, Belgium
FESC



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Advocacy, Quality Improvement and Health Economics committee (AQIHEC)

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FESC



National Cardiac Societies

Prof. Daniel Scherr, Austria
FESC, FEHRA



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FESC, FEHRA



Young EP

Dr. Martin Manninger, Austria
FESC, FEHRA



ECGen

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Certification

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Spain
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Selection

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Digital and Mhealth

David Duncker, Germany
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Scientific Initiatives

Prof. Julian Chun, Germany
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EHRA
European Heart
Rhythm Association

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