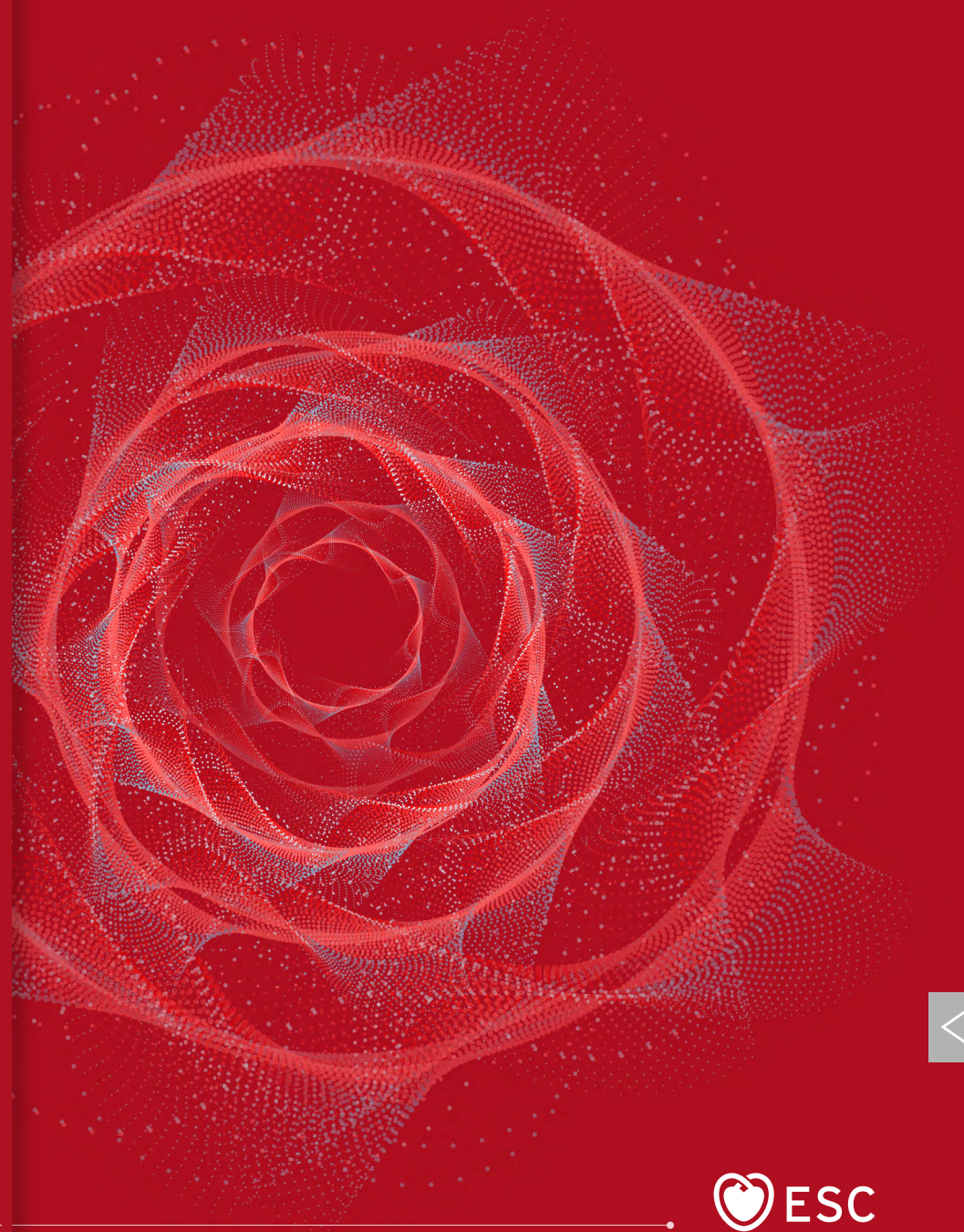


2024

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024



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● President's Report



As doctors, nurses, scientists, and heart health professionals, we see the terrible impact of cardiovascular disease (CVD) on the lives of our patients and their loved ones every day. That's our reality. What is also a reality is the evidence that makes the scale and cost of CVD irrefutable. A call for action to ensure that policy is enacted and funds are made available to act is a matter of urgency.

In 2023, we welcomed the nomination of a new CEO at the ESC, Jean François Riffaud, who brought with him expertise from both the healthcare and humanitarian sectors. His leadership will, no doubt, help us to achieve one of our strategic priorities - the creation of an EU CV health plan - by communicating more boldly and clearly with EU lawmakers to urge them to prioritise CV health policy. We must remind them that CVD is not inevitable.

Research and development is far out of proportion to CVD's burden and lags behind other therapeutic areas. Alarming, out of 89 positive opinions for the authorisation of new medicines issued by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2022, none were in the CVD area.

As you will read in this Annual Report, the ESC continues to work tirelessly to make positive change happen through multiple channels. The constant need to educate ourselves, lawmakers, and the wider public remains top of mind for our society. Our volunteers and staff passionately dedicate themselves to our mission, every single day.

During the past year, three ESC subspecialty associations, the EAPC, EHRA and HFA, all celebrated their 20-year anniversaries. For the past two decades, the need for the work they do has very much been necessary. I hope we can say 20 years from now that CVD is not the EU's biggest killer and that tens of millions of people are no longer living with CVD. Until then, we must continue to find the solutions to this solvable problem.

Franz Weidinger

ESC President 2022-2024

Strategic Plan

The ESC Strategic Plan continues to provide direction for everything the European Society of Cardiology, its Associations, Working Groups and Councils do. The strategic aims remain guiding factors in our drive towards reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease. As we move forward, careful monitoring of the implementation process will allow the ESC to contribute to its overriding mission.



Our Community

Membership

Membership remained essential to the ESC mission - members are at the heart of the organisation and the ESC Strategic Plan.

The growth of ESC Membership across our communities continued, reflecting the needs of healthcare professionals to stay connected and up to date to advance the field of cardiology and improve patient outcomes. Over 45% of members are young (under 40 years old), indicating a bright future for the ESC, as these members represent the future leaders of the organisation.

The subspecialty events throughout the year and ESC Congress 2023 in August saw large a number of members attending and enjoying coming together as a community, with new members joining and great feedback on member benefits, showing the continued appeal of in-person events for networking and generating pride in being part of the ESC.

The ESC Subspecialty Associations evolved. Notably, the Heart Failure Association tallied a record number of members: 4,000. For the first time, the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) launched a paying membership programme.



Fellows of the ESC (FESC)

The FESC community remained particularly engaged. At ESC Congress 2023, newly elected FESC were given a warm welcome at a special event and were also acknowledged during the Inaugural Ceremony. A dedicated FESC Lounge with enhanced services gave them a chance to network and take time to recharge.



National Cardiac Societies and Global Partners

In-person representation at National Cardiac Societies (NCS) and Affiliated Cardiac Societies (ACS) events continued to strengthen the links between these societies and the ESC, promote membership in the ESC and our sub-specialty communities, and warmly welcome new members.

Cardiac Society Partnership

Together at ESC Congress 2023

A meeting for National Cardiac Societies Presidents and Affiliated Cardiac Societies Presidents was held during the congress, bringing together the presidents to discuss future tasks and the evolution of the ESC.

To further encourage collaboration, 15 individual leadership meetings were organised with ESC leadership and strategic cardiac societies.

Global Community area

An innovative stand and exchange area set in a prime location at ESC Congress was dedicated to networking and interacting, with 54 National Cardiac Societies, 16 Affiliated Cardiac Societies and Global Partners enthusiastically participating.

18 Daily Highlight Sessions, 11 NCS Sessions and 10 ACS Sessions were organised onsite on the buzzing Global Stage.

These activities provided ESC Cardiac Societies with the opportunity to:

- Engage and network with the global cardiology community
- Present their views on the hot topics at the congress (Daily Highlight Sessions); and
- Share their scientific knowledge during joint sessions.

Spring Summit 2024

NCS representatives participated in the strategic event of the year in March at the European Heart House, an opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and discuss. The summit topic was 'CVD prevention and environmental risk factors'.





Congresses

Being together in the energising and inspiring congress environment was motivation for more delegates to attend in-person than the previous year. On average, congresses with an online component (EHRA, Heart Failure and ESC Congress) saw approximately 80% of delegates attending onsite and 20% attending online.

All other congresses were in-person only, with access to online content on demand.

The ESC remained mindful of the aim within the ESC Strategic Plan of Environmental Sustainability. An ESC Congress Sustainability Focus Group was created to help define the framework for fostering sustainable congress practices that address the interconnected challenges of climate change.

ESC Congress 2023

International reach

Participants from more than 150 countries/territories attended ESC Congress 2023, showcasing its global impact.

Attendance diversity

With 62% male and 38% female attendees, the congress demonstrated a significant gender balance, which may be very positive given the historically 'male-dominated' field of cardiology.

Engagement metrics

The average time spent by participants watching live and on-demand content during the congress indicated strong engagement.

Programme dynamics

The extensive scientific and educational programmes, including abstract-based sessions, Late-Breaking Science Sessions, and ESC TV Sessions, underscored the depth of the congress programme, appealing to a wide range of interests within the cardiology community.



● ESC Congress 2023 – Key Figures



30,013 participants from **157** countries/territories

- 23,790 onsite
- 6,223 online
- 38% female (up 1% from 2022)



32% of online and **34%** of onsite participants were under 40 years of age



8,936 participants attended the online event

- **49%** of online participants were also onsite delegates



1,590 invited faculty

- **77** countries represented - **42%** female



2,849 presenters (abstracts, clinical cases)

- **82** countries represented



7,496 abstract submitted / **3,752** accepted



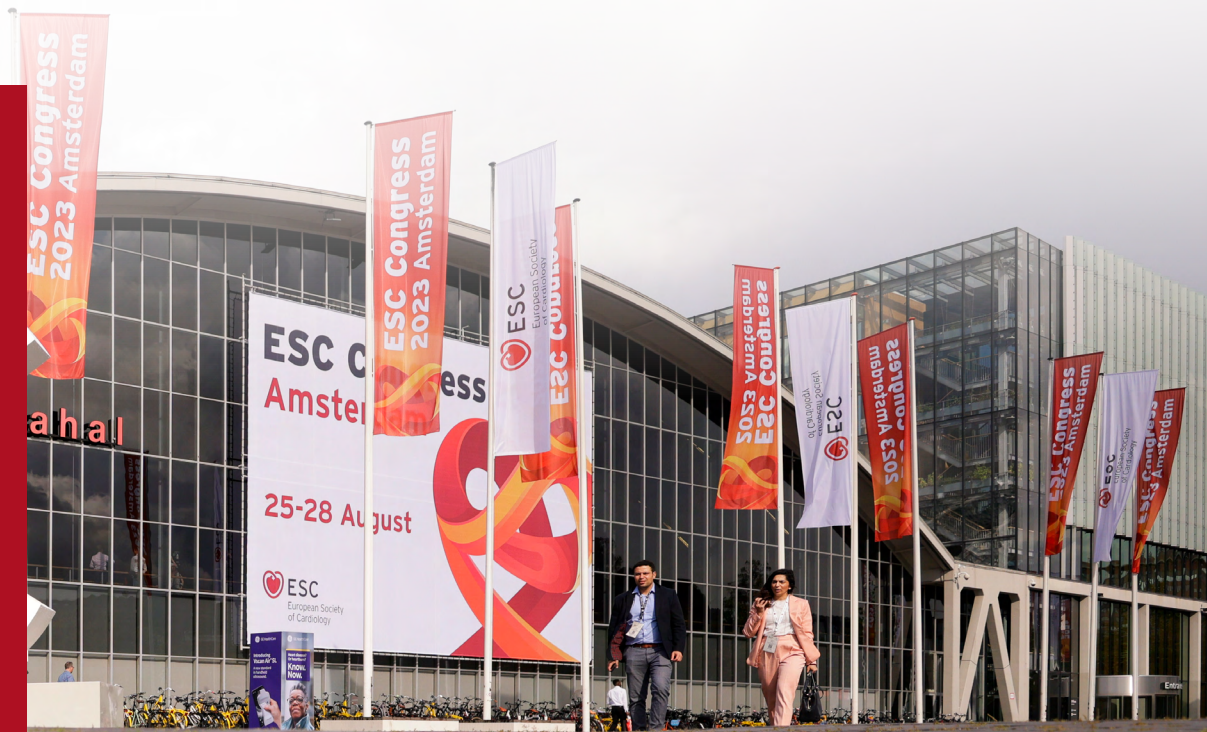
938 clinical cases submitted / **248** accepted



73 ESC TV programme sessions



18 Daily Highlight Sessions from Global Partners



Subspecialty and Other Congresses 2023 - Key Figures



Over **16,000** participants

- Registrations from **138** countries
- **Over 14,000** onsite participants
- **2,000** online participants



42% of participants were under 40 years of age



42% of participants were female



17% of participants were from Affiliated Cardiac Societies



1,360 faculty and almost **2,700** abstracts and clinical cases presenters



950 scientific and educational sessions
12.5% were live-streamed



● Other Congresses and Meetings

The ESC has developed collaborative relationships with its Cardiac Society Partners in Asia to make a difference in the prevention and management of CVD there.

The ESC had a dedicated track at the annual event of the Asean Federation of Cardiology in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2023. The one-day programme covered the 2023 ESC Guidelines and highlighted the most important Late-Breaking Trials from ESC Congress 2023.

Annual meetings were held for six ESC Working Groups and two ESC Councils during the financial year.





Advocacy

For the first time in the 30-year history of the EU, CVD was made an EU presidency priority, meaning that 27 EU Ministers of Health will be discussing its impact on the EU and what policies and budgets are needed to combat it.

Under leadership of the ESC Secretariat, the European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health held the largest ever exhibition on CVD in the European Parliament in Brussels. Over 100 Members of the European Parliament from 20 countries signed the pledge to support an EU CV Health Plan and were interviewed by ESC volunteers in their own languages.

The ESC, together with the EU Presidency, will organise a high-level conference to bring together 31 Ministries of Health and to present the ESC-EU Presidency Paper 'Improving Cardiovascular Health in Europe: the Case for EU and National Plans'.

The ESC worked with regulators to tackle medical device and medicinal product shortages and to ensure healthcare workers have what they need to treat their patients. They also worked on key legislative files to ensure improved access to health data for research purposes and to prioritise cardiovascular health.

● Patient Engagement

Members of the ESC Patient Forum were more visible and involved at 2023 congresses, participating as speakers and discussants at several subspecialty congresses throughout the year. At ESC Congress 2023, there were 14 scientific and ESC TV sessions involving patients and, for the first time, the forum had a stand in the busy Lounge and Exchange Area.

The forum established internal workstreams focusing on topics which members have identified as common priorities. The resulting publications were:

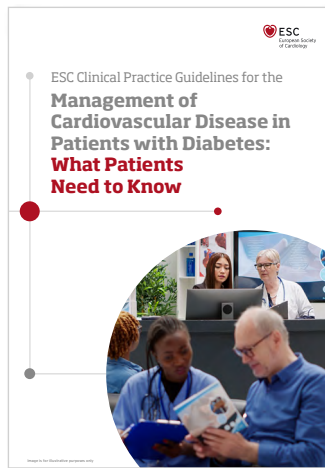
- *Disparity in diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease in women: a call to joint action from the European Society of Cardiology Patient Forum*
- *How your patient is really feeling: the emotional hinterland of a cardiac diagnosis*

ESC Cardiovascular Round Tables continued to include ESC Patient Forum members as speakers at nearly every CRT event.



Public awareness / resources for patients

In order to help better educate patients, the year saw the publication of the *ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of Cardiovascular Disease in Patients with Diabetes: What Patients Need to Know* and an update of the *ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines: The Management of Chronic and Acute Heart Failure: What Patients Need to Know*



Expanding its reach, the European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC) website **Healthy-Heart.org** became available in 12 languages.

EHRA launched the **Find My EP** directory.

EHRA websites for patients included new languages.

- afibmatters.org is available in 14 languages
- myrhythmdevice.org is available in 3 languages

In addition, EHRA launched **Pulse Day**, an annual global awareness initiative in collaboration with APHRS, HRS, and LAHRS to address the knowledge gap on cardiac arrhythmias.



Pulse Day

GLOBAL ARRHYTHMIA AWARENESS DAY
EHRA - APHRS - HRS - LAHRS



Research

ESC Atlas of Cardiology

The *ESC Atlas of Cardiology* has maps, analyses, and comparisons of the cardiology healthcare systems in ESC member countries in order to support evidence-based health policy.

Data collection was completed for the new edition of the ESC General Atlas (fourth edition) and initiated for ESC Atlas in Interventional Cardiology (third edition) and ESC Atlas in Heart Rhythm Disorders (first edition). These are scheduled to be published in FY25 and FY26.

Burden of Cardiovascular Disease

The *Burden of Cardiovascular Disease* project is a collaboration between the European Society of Cardiology and the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. The project estimates the economic burden of cardiovascular diseases in ESC member countries – how much CVD really costs us. It provides up-to-date, relevant and reliable estimates on the financial burden of CVD in order to inform those involved in healthcare policy and implementation, including industry, policymakers, healthcare managers, clinicians, and patients.

ESC Atlas and the Burden of Disease key data supported an ESC advocacy campaign in Strasbourg (11-14 December 2023) with more than 100 participating EU Members of Parliament.



EuroHeart



EuroHeart

European Unified Registries for Heart Care
Evaluation and Randomised Trials

The EuroHeart initiative develops and maintains an international collaboration that provides common definitions of quality of care indicators, and an optional IT infrastructure for continuous online registration of harmonised patient data with real-time feedback, supporting improvement of care and outcomes in patients with common cardiovascular diseases.

EuroHeart released its inaugural annual report, presenting 2022 data on acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) from seven countries. Covering close to 40,000 patients, this report represents a significant milestone in our mission to improve cardiovascular care.

GRASP

The Global Registries and Surveys Programme (GRASP) completed setup of protocols for the EuroAspire VI Registry (26 countries enrolled), the HF Snapshot (49 countries) and the CCS Snapshot (43 countries). First patient inclusion is planned in Q1 of FY25 for all studies. GRASP is a promising successor to the EURObservational Registry Programme (EORP).

Cardiovascular Disease Risk Prediction

The CV Risk Collaboration (CRC) Unit continued to develop CVD prediction algorithms for special situations. The models are important to understanding CVD risk prediction and are part of the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines.

EU-Funded Projects

NextGen

NextGen, an innovative project using artificial intelligence (AI) to personalise therapies for patients with cardiovascular disease kicked off in January 2024, receiving €7.6 million from the EU's Horizon Europe programme. The aim of this project is to create a fully functional small-scale European Health Data Space (EHDS): a health-specific ecosystem with rules, common standards, practices, and infrastructures, as well as a governance framework to boost citizens trust in health technologies.



CORE-MD

*Coordinating Research and Evidence
for Medical Devices*

CORE-MD project coordinated by ESC ended in March 2024. The main findings have been presented in a final conference in Brussels opened by ESC President Franz Weidinger. The objective of CORE-MD was to review the current state of implementation of the EU Medical Device Regulation and to consider what developments and reforms are needed. The final recommendations on the clinical investigations of high-risk devices have been submitted to EU officials.



The four-year, EU-funded AFFECT-EU project - which ended in March 2024 - brought together healthcare professionals, patient representatives, payers, and industry in a consortium of 26 partners, including ESC and EHRA, to define a feasible atrial fibrillation screening strategy for healthcare systems across Europe with the ultimate aim of preventing strokes and premature death.

ESC is also running nine additional projects funded by the EU's Horizon Europe programme. A full overview is available [here](#).

Guidelines

The year brought the much-anticipated publication of four [2023 ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) and one Focused Update:

- ESC Guidelines for the management of cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes
- ESC Guidelines for the management of cardiomyopathies
- ESC Guidelines for the management of endocarditis
- ESC Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes
- Focused Update of the 2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure

Development of future guidelines

For the third time, an open call for participation in ESC Guidelines Task Forces was made. In January 2024, a call for three 2026 titles was launched and yielded 400 applications.

The handy and interactive ESC Pocket Guidelines Mobile App was used by **158,250** people in **212** countries.



Publications

Building on the success of the previous year, record Impact Factors (IF) were achieved by three ESC journals:

- *European Heart Journal (EHJ)*: 39.3
- *European Journal of Heart Failure (EJHF)*: 18.2
- *EP Europace*: 6.1

Three new editors-in-chief were appointed within the ESC journal family:

- *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology (EJPC)*: Victor Aboyans
- *European Journal of Heart Failure (EJHF)*: Michael Böhm
- *ESC Heart Failure (ESCHF)*: Piotr Ponikowski

EP-Europace made history as the first ESC Journal Family title to become Open Access after previously being a subscription journal.

In support of the ESC Strategic Plan of Environmental Sustainability, the *European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (EHJ-CVP)* and *European Heart Journal - Acute CardioVascular Care (EHJ-ACVC)* have transitioned to become digital-only journals. In addition, printed journal issues were replaced at congresses with flyers highlighting journal initiatives and the valuable contributions of leading authors.

New journal club

A dynamic vehicle for lively discussions and networking for the EAPC Young Community, the [EAPC Journal Club](#) was launched. Providing reviews of the latest research literature in preventive cardiology journals worldwide, articles are selected – and commented on – by the EAPC Journal Club Team.

Books

The long-awaited [ESC Textbook of Heart Failure](#) and the [ESC Textbook of Thrombosis](#) were both released in late 2023.

The [EACVI Handbook of Cardiovascular CT](#), concise and ideal as an everyday companion, was also published.



Education

European Exam in Core Cardiology (EECC)

The EECC is a joint venture between the ESC, the Union of European Medical Specialists-Cardiology Section (UEMS-CS), participating National and Affiliated Cardiac Societies. It is supported by independent academic oversight.

The exam tests the core knowledge required by cardiology speciality trainees.

The (EECC) and 20 subspecialty Association exams were administered with 3,079 candidates participating.

- EECC 2023: 868 participants, up 19% compared with the previous year
- Five new pilot countries were added to the venture (Egypt, Romania, Syria, Gulf Heart Association, Georgia)
- The EECC/APSC one-year e-learning course was launched
- EECC leadership was expanded
- 26 ESC National Cardiac Societies, 2 ESC Affiliated Cardiac Societies and 2 ESC Global Partners (APSC & GHA) participated



European Heart Academy

The European Heart Academy collaborates with top selected European universities to provide academic degrees in key areas of cardiovascular medicine, putting the focus on transversal skills and career development. The European Heart Academy graduated more than 130 students from its four postgraduate programmes:

- In June 2023, 32 graduates of the Diploma of Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management (DAS-CAM) received their diplomas at the Art & History Museum in Brussels by the Dean of Maastricht University and the European Heart Academy Leadership. (DAS-CAM programme is now running as EHRA Level 3 Programme).
- The fifth intake of the Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure with Zurich University graduated in December 2023 with more than 60 students.
- The fourth intake of the MSc in Clinical Trials with Oxford University was initiated in October 2023. The ESC supported outstanding students by providing a grant to cover their tuition fees.
- Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the eighth intake, the seventh edition of the MSc in Health Economics, Outcomes and Management in Clinical Sciences with the London School of Economics (LSE) had its 20 students' graduation delayed until December 2023. The ninth intake started in December 2023 with the ESC providing five scholarships covering half the tuition fees of outstanding candidates.

DAS-CAM
Diploma of Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management

BECOME A FUTURE LEADER IN ARRHYTHMOLOGY

Courses Included:

- Cutting-edge cardiac arrhythmology
- Regulatory & societal dimensions
- Cardiovascular: biostatistics & Health economics
- Leadership management
- ...and much more

Maastricht UMC+
Maastricht University

www.escardio.org/DASCAM

ESC
European Society of Cardiology

EHRA
European Heart Rhythm Association

MSc in Clinical Trials

Get a Master's Degree from the University of Oxford

- Principles of randomised trials
- Design to implementation
- Data management and analysis
- Clinical Trials regulation and ethical framework

www.europeanheartacademy.org

Health Department
POPULATION HEALTH

ESC
European Society of Cardiology

ESC
European Society of Cardiology

ICARe-HF

As we continue to lead the way in advancing cardiovascular care through innovative programmes and initiatives, ICARe-HF, an international accreditation programme for heart failure centres, was created by the Heart Failure Association of the ESC. The ICARe-HF programme sets high standards for clinical practice, ensuring that patients receive the best possible treatment and support. By promoting rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement, the ESC aims to enhance the quality of heart failure care across Europe, ultimately improving patient outcomes and fostering professional growth among healthcare providers.

FOCUS

FOCUS disseminated newly released ESC Guidelines while monitoring and supporting local best practices for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Among the educational resources provided to cardiologists: new webinars, literature and relevant resources drawn from the vast body of knowledge available on ESC 365, as well as reports on the implementation of previously released ESC Guidelines.

From September 2023 to March 2024, seven editions were released on: CVD and Diabetes, ACS, Cardiomyopathies, Endocarditis, HF, Career Development, and COVID-19 and CVD.

EHRA Educational Pathway

To provide a structured and progressive educational guide, EHRA launched the EHRA Educational Pathway, a three-tiered framework - for arrhythmia fellows (Basic), arrhythmia specialists (Advanced), and arrhythmia leaders (Leaders).

HFA
Heart Failure
Association
European Society of Cardiology

Does your centre apply best practices and strive for excellence in heart failure care?
Get accredited as an HFA Quality of Care Centre

Apply through ICARe-HF | The new gold standard for heart failure care in Europe and beyond
escardio.org/ICARe-HF

This programme is supported by Boehringer Ingelheim and Lilly Alliance, and Novartis in the form of an educational grant. The scientific programme has not been influenced in any way by its sponsors.

Boehringer Ingelheim Lilly NOVARTIS



Webinars

September was the busiest month on the webinars calendar with 11. The largest number of participants at the 78 webinars that took place throughout the year came from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Association for Acute CardioVascular Care (ACVC) attracted 500 participants to the second '[Best of 2023 in Acute Cardiovascular Care](#)' webinar designed to provide healthcare professionals with a comprehensive overview of the latest findings in the management of that disease.

Courses

The [ACNAP Course on Syncope](#) was the second online edition of this successful course based on the ESC Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Syncope. Expanding its reach across borders, subtitles were available in Italian, Spanish, and French.

The [ACVC School in Barcelona](#) taught participants how to master rapid decision-making and precise techniques. To optimise learning outcomes, the eight workshops were specifically designed for small groups.

Endorsed Courses

[Endorsement](#) helps maintain a high level of quality for live educational events in cardiology: 43 met the ESC criteria and were approved.

Tutorials

The [EACVI launched FoCUS Echo online tutorials](#) to explain when and how to perform a FoCUS exam and how to avoid pitfalls using tips and tricks from the best experts.



e-Learning

To improve accessibility, EACVI launched Level 1 e-Learning Programmes on all four imaging modalities.

Tools for clinical practice

ACNAP launched 'Be Guidelines Smart', an interactive tool to manage Afib by providing definitive advice and support to multidisciplinary teams regarding their role in the implementation of ESC Guidelines.

EAPC developed the IMPLEMENT programme and delivered an updated ESC CVD Risk Calculation App with new recommendations for patients and physicians on HeartScore.org, and a Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Memocard for General Practitioners.

ACVC's AcuteCVDays campaign in May 2023 saw more than 6,000 unique visitors to their webpage that shares knowledge about acute myocardial infarction, as well as recommendations and best practices within the very focused field of acute cardiovascular care.

Recognising outstanding contributions

The ACNAP Distinguished Service Award was introduced in 2023 to reward nurses and allied professionals who have demonstrated long-term outstanding commitment and contributions to the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions (ACNAP). The award is presented during ACNAP Congress each year and was awarded in 2023 to Prof. Tiny Jaarsma of Linköping University in Sweden.

The EAPC, which celebrated its 20th anniversary, awarded three EAPC Medals during Preventive Cardiology 2023 congress to recognise outstanding contributions.

Why is CVD Prevention needed?

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, causing significant individual and societal burdens. Preventing CVD can reduce the occurrence of CVD events, improve quality of life, and decrease healthcare costs. In the 2020 ESC Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice, a patient-centred approach is recommended to achieve optimal CVD prevention in each individual.

Prediction of 10-year or lifetime risk of first or recurrent CVD events is central to identify patients at the highest risk and to start the process of shared decision making. The **SCORE2** and **SCORE2-OP** risk algorithms calculate the 10-year CVD risk for apparently healthy people. For patients with established CVD or with diabetes specific risk scores are available.

A healthy lifestyle is recommended for everyone, and medical treatment of LDL-C and blood pressure should be guided by the CVD risk of an individual patient. Intensifying risk factor treatment in patients with established CVD or diabetes is also recommended to calculate CVD risk to enable shared decision making and to tailor treatment to the needs of an individual patient.

Why is CVD Prevention needed? | PREVENTION GOALS FOR ALL | WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES? | WHAT ARE THE TARGETS? | HOW DO I ASSESS RISK? | EUROPEAN SCORE CHARTS

Risk Assessment Memocard (SCORE2 & SCORE2-OP)
(Systematic COronary Risk Evaluation)
CVD risk prediction for better cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention

Why is CVD Prevention needed?

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[escardio.org/EAPC](https://www.escardio.org/EAPC)

Source: 2020 ESC Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice, European Heart Journal, Volume 41, Issue 44, 7 September 2020, Pages 5057-5350, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa464>

EAPC
European Association of Preventive Cardiology
Member body of ESCAPE



● Knowledge

ESC TV Today

The European Society of Cardiology continues to bring viewers the most relevant news in cardiovascular medicine. After a successful Season 1 debut, Season 2 continued in September 2023 with 22 episodes in production.

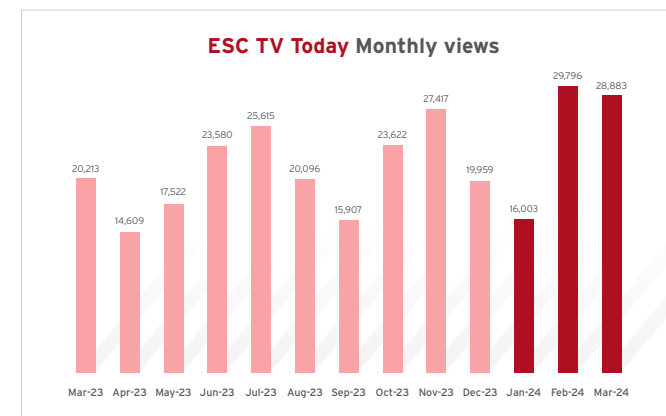
Each episode contains discussions on the latest and most important hot topics in cardiology, concise analysis, expert advice and opinions, summaries of recent papers, and interviews featuring the most renowned guests in cardiovascular healthcare.

A growing global audience is watching ESC TV Today to stay up to date on the latest and most important news in cardiology. Never Miss a Beat, ESC TV TODAY only on ESC 365.

Cardio Talk

The podcast series featuring key opinion leaders in cardiovascular medicine.

Since the debut of ESC Cardio Talk, ACNAP, ACVC, EACVI, EHRA and HFA have each launched their own series of recordings, covering interesting topics relevant to the daily practice of each community. Since September 2023, all Cardio Talks are now hosted on ESC 365, as well as on apps.



ESC 365

The cardiology knowledge hub

ESC 365 continues to be viewed as a high-value benefit and remains one of the top reasons to become an ESC Professional Member. Growing its audience with over 1.9 million sessions in 2023, it had visitors from 233 countries.

Expanding the reach and ease of use of this cardiology knowledge hub remains an ESC strategic priority, with ongoing work to improve the user experience and integration with the wider ESC ecosystem of digital platforms.

● Governance

An ESC Governance Task Force was approved by the ESC Board in July 2023 to audit the structure, authority and responsibilities, as well as decision-making processes, within the ESC. It will evaluate whether the ESC is taking the best actions for a medical society and make recommendations to ensure that ESC governance remains relevant in the future and in full compliance with the 2023-2028 ESC Strategic Plan.

The task force is expected to provide recommendations to the ESC Board in August 2024.

Elections

In accordance with its statutes, the ESC started the election process leading to the complete changeover of the ESC Board and its committees. The ESC Nominating Committee was in charge of the process, including the selection of candidates and the validation of the number of voting delegates for each of the ESC constituent bodies.

In parallel, ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils engaged in a similar democratic process that will lead to new leadership for these communities for the 2024-2026 mandate.

Associations bylaws

As a single legal entity, the same principles of good governance must apply to all ESC constituent bodies. Following the recommendation by the ESC Audit Committee in 2022 to review them across the Society, ESC Association constitutions were replaced by bylaws which were approved by the ESC Board in August 2023 and enacted in March 2024. Associations bylaws will be annexed to ESC bylaws when ready.

Ethics and Oversight Committee

The Ethics Committee has an advisory role for the ESC Management Group and Board. The committee issues general recommendations on ethical principles of professional and scientific conduct related to the research or management of cardiovascular disease.

The committee manages specific issues of professional or scientific misconduct of individual members or of any internal constituent body of the ESC if it affects the ESC as an organisation.

The ESC Ethics Committee conducts its activities in accordance with a charter approved by the Board of the ESC. It comprises ESC expert volunteer members, (non-ESC) legal and ethics experts, as well as representatives of the ESC Patient Forum and the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions.

Declaration of Interest (DOI) Policy

In the reporting period, the ESC collected 3,027 Declarations of Interest (DOI) from ESC volunteers working on ESC tasks or committees. This generated 9,282 DOI reviews performed by a total of 258 reviewers in compliance with the processes established in the ESC Declaration and Management of Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

Following review, 47 volunteers were asked to step down from their ESC positions because their declarations did not comply with the ESC DOI policy.

ESC Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides oversight of financial, ethical, and general governance in compliance with relevant policies and procedures. Particular attention is given to approval of the yearly financial statements, the assessment of risks, the management of financial assets, and the implementation of the Declaration of Interest policy. The Audit Committee also validates the checks and balances of the general governance of the ESC.

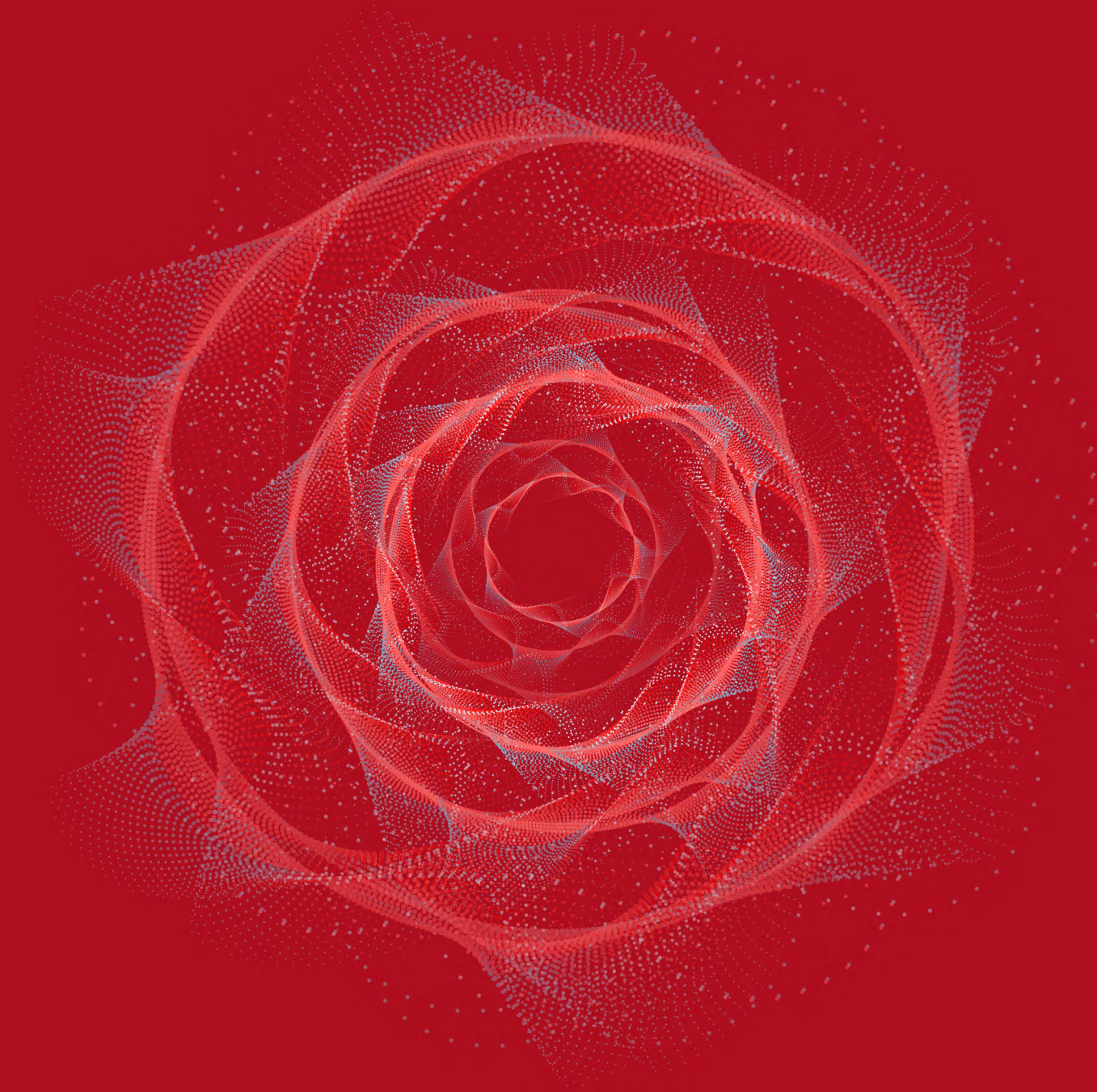
The Audit Committee consists of five members, three of them external with experience in business, law, financial affairs, marketing, and other professions. This external expertise ensures that best practices are implemented and that no prejudice or bias affects their decisions and deliberations. The other two members are elected and are ESC volunteers, one member represents National Cardiac Societies and the other member represents Associations, Councils and Working Groups.

The Audit Committee reports directly to the ESC General Assembly, further strengthening the Audit Committee's independence within the ESC structure. The Audit Committee included the following actions and recommendations:

1. Approve the 2023 - 2024 financial statements
2. Support the evolution of a mid and long-term budget
3. Regularly monitor (monthly) the ESC financial situation, with particular attention to the medium-term investments, while complying with the low risk profile set in the existing Financial Policy
4. Regularly monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Interest policy
5. Launch tender of ESC Auditors
6. Support the ESC Board on governance topics: revision of Associations bylaws, update the Code of Conduct, transparency on delegation of authority and decision making (who/for what/when) & accountability with improved monitoring of performance & include performance monitoring of the newly launched Gender policy



FINANCIAL REPORT

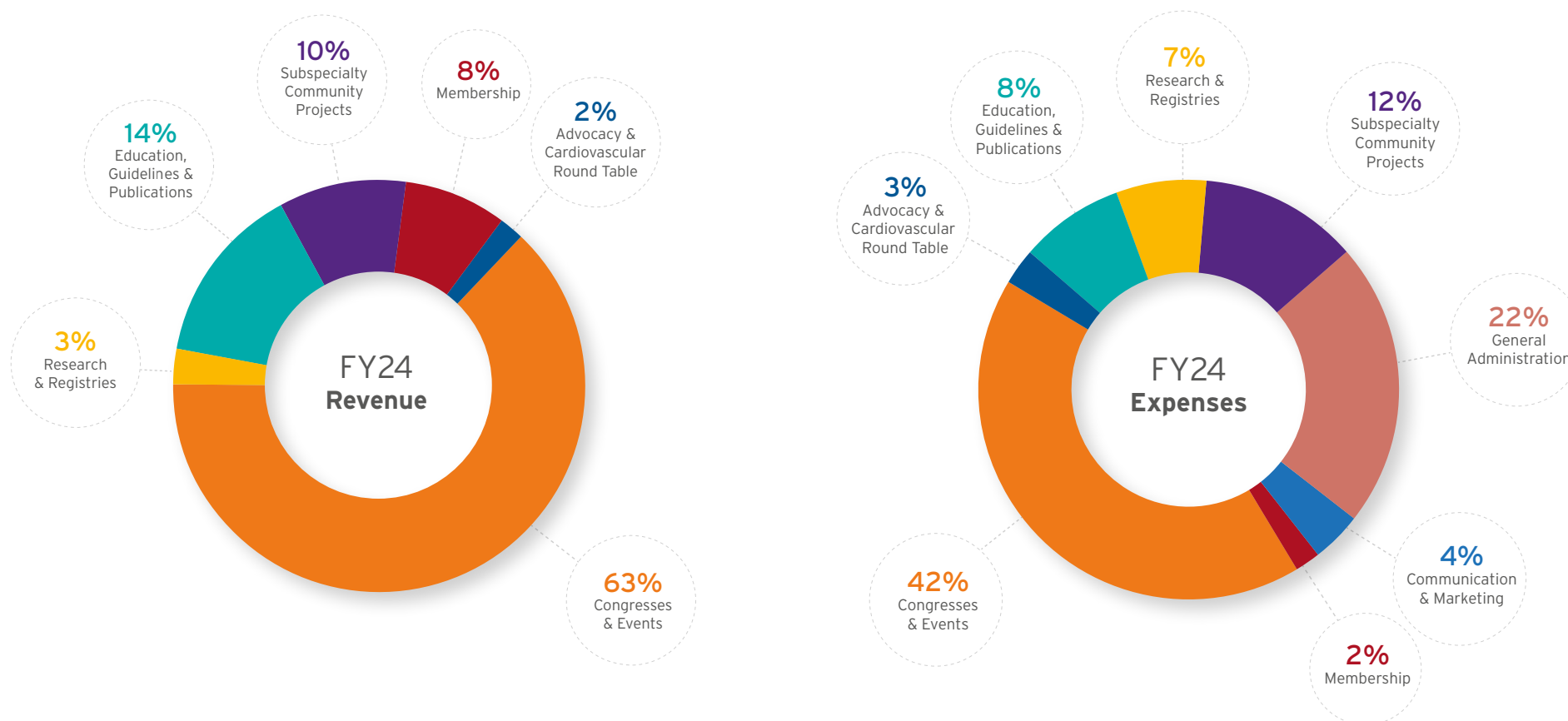


Secretary Treasurer's Report

The activities of the European Society of Cardiology are shared between two legal entities:

- The European Society of Cardiology, which is a not-for-profit professional medical association and learned society which engages in revenue-generating activities such as congresses, journals and membership
- The Maison Européenne du Coeur, a real estate property company which owns the European Heart House, campus and surrounding land.

The figures reported below concern both entities, prepared in accordance with French GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), certified by the Statutory Auditors and reviewed by the Audit Committee for the fiscal year ended March 2024.



● Auditor's Report

Société Européenne de Cardiologie S.E.C.

Year ended March 31, 2024

Statutory auditor's report on the consolidated financial statements

To the Annual General Meeting of S.E.C,

Opinion

In compliance with the engagement entrusted to us by your Annual General Meeting, we have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of S.E.C for the year ended March 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities and of the financial position of the Group as at March 31, 2024 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with French accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

- **Audit Framework**

We conducted our audit in accordance with professional standards applicable in France. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report.

- **Independence**

We conducted our audit engagement in compliance with the independence requirements of the French Commercial Code (*Code de commerce*) and the French Code of Ethics for Statutory Auditors (*Code de déontologie de la profession de commissaire aux comptes*) for the period from April 1, 2023 to the date of our report.

Justification of Assessments

In accordance with the requirements of Articles L. 821-53 and R. 821-180 of the French Commercial Code (*Code de commerce*) relating to the justification of our assessments, we inform you of the assessments that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period.

These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on specific items of the consolidated financial statements.

Specific verifications

We have also performed, in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the specific verifications required by laws and regulations of the information relating to the Group given in the Board of Directors' management report.

We have no matters to report as to its fair presentation and its consistency with the consolidated financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with French accounting principles and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is expected to liquidate the Association or to cease operations.

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors.

Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our role is to issue a report on the consolidated financial statements. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As specified in Article L.821-55 of the French Commercial Code (*Code de commerce*), our statutory audit does not include assurance on the viability of the Association or the quality of management of the affairs of the Association.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the statutory auditor exercises professional judgment throughout the audit and furthermore:

- Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence considered to be sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for his opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtains an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management in the consolidated financial statements.
- Assesses the appropriateness of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of his audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern. If the statutory auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, there is a requirement to draw attention in the audit report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are not provided or inadequate, to modify the opinion expressed therein.
- Evaluates the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements and assesses whether these statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtains sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. The statutory auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the consolidated financial statements and for the opinion expressed on these consolidated financial statements.

Nice, 12/07/2024

The Statutory Auditor
French original signed by
ERNST & YOUNG Audit
Matthieu Pruvost

This is a translation into English of the statutory auditor's report on the consolidated financial statements of the Association issued in French and it is provided solely for the convenience of English-speaking users.

This statutory auditor's report includes information required by French law, such as the verification of the information concerning the Group presented in the management report and other documents provided to the shareholders. This report should be read in conjunction with, and construed in accordance with, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

EMA Tables

Fiscal year ended March 2024

Based on European Medicines Agency guidelines, the overall proportion of industry and non-industry income is detailed below, considering the highest contribution from a single company represents 3% of the overall income.

INDUSTRY RELATED INCOME

| Name of company/ funder | Amount of income - Euros | % of organisation's overall income |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Congresses | 21,853,338 | 41.8% |
| Education & Certification | 3,601,683 | 6.9% |
| Other seminars | 1,311,036 | 2.5% |
| Studies and registers | 1,300,985 | 2.5% |
| Publications | 386,692 | 0.7% |
| Miscellaneous: sponsoring for CRT, sub-specialties fellowship training... | 824,751 | 1.6% |
| SUBTOTAL: | 29,278,485 | 56.0% |

NON-INDUSTRY RELATED INCOME

| Source of funding | Amount of income - Euros | % of organisation's overall income |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Congresses | 9,911,299 | 19.0% |
| Journal royalties | 6,066,051 | 11.6% |
| Membership fees | 4,196,765 | 8.0% |
| Education & Certification | 1,502,204 | 2.9% |
| Grants | 878,865 | 1.7% |
| Other seminars | 29,136 | 0.1% |
| Others | 422,475 | 0.8% |
| SUBTOTAL: | 23,006,795 | 44.0% |
| TOTAL: | 52,285,280 | 100% |

European Society of Cardiology

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