

Connecting EP and Pacing with Cardiovascular Medicine: My candidacy as EHRA president-elect

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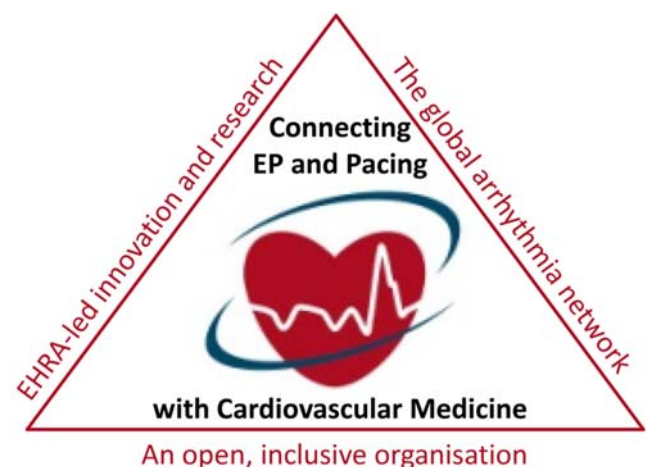
If you elect me, I will aim for a strong, diverse* EHRA board working with me towards three main goals (I-III). This statement outlines my vision for EHRA and addresses the five questions (q) asked by the nominating committee on my thoughts regarding 1 EHRA's financial and human resources (q1); 2 ERHA-only membership (q2); 3 EHRA's role for clinical training and education (q3); 4 EHRA's role in research (q4); and 5 EHRA's role in ESC guidelines (q5):

I. EHRA: An open*, inclusive organisation (q1-q5). EHRA is the leading European arrhythmia organisation. Working with my board I will strengthen EHRA by involving even more electrophysiologists, female colleagues, EP and pacing trainees, young rhythm experts, and arrhythmia researchers from all ESC countries. We will also invite cardiovascular professionals with an interest in arrhythmias to join EHRA as members. I am involved in an ongoing update of the ESC and EHRA membership as chair of the ESC membership committee. I will include more patients in EHRA's activities, building on EHRA's expertise in this area, partnering with national working groups, and integrating the ESC patient forum. This larger, more inclusive EHRA will deliver new activities and enhance EHRA's leadership in the field of cardiac arrhythmias (q1, q4). A new membership model may be finalised before my mandate. If needed, my board and I will ensure an optimized EHRA membership (q2). I plan joint activities and statements with National EP working groups and the ESC advocacy team to create a unified voice for all matters related to arrhythmias (q5). This will make EHRA and its partners more relevant for policy makers, payors, industry partners, patients, and the general public, increase the weight of EHRA in the ESC, and better connect EP and pacing with the cardiology community (q1, q3, q4, q5).

II. EHRA-led innovation and research (q1, q4, q5). EHRA develops practice guidelines, EHRA position papers, and consensus conferences from within EHRA, with other entities in the ESC, and with strong and valuable partner organisations such as HRS, APHRS, or SOLAECE (q5). My board and I will support and strengthen these joint activities that directly improve the care of patients with arrhythmias (q5). EHRA also leads or contributes to research projects and clinical trials, often in EU-wide consortia and with partners in the ESC. This has created a strong network connecting EHRA with researchers, professional organisations and working groups, industry, public funders, and universities. The annual EHRA congress and Europace are key EHRA assets to distribute new science and innovation. I will add my visibility and experience to strengthen the EHRA congress and Europace and to create opportunities for EHRA members to lead, and to actively contribute to, arrhythmia innovation and research (q4, q5). Supported by my board, I will help EHRA to leverage the opportunities provided by data science and digital health, creating a better understanding of arrhythmias and generating additional funding for research and innovation projects (q1, q4).

III. EHRA: The global arrhythmia network (q3, q4). EHRA provides excellent training. The quality of the educational material produced by EHRA and its growing social media presence form an excellent starting point to develop a global arrhythmia education strategy for EHRA (q3). Digital communication enhances our ability to access information and to discuss ideas without the physical restraints of time and space (q3, q4). The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated this development. To enhance the digital and social media components of EHRA's communication and education activities, I will invite younger EHRA members and the National EP and arrhythmia working groups to lead these activities (q1, q3). My board will use blended learning concepts combining hands-on training with online sessions and formats, and interactive digital programmes, to improve EHRA's courses and to make them available to a wider audience (q3). This will enable EHRA to offer modern, high-quality training and education to all learners interested in arrhythmias (q3). This work will also strengthen the preparatory courses and the excellent EHRA exams certifying individuals in EP and pacing (q3). Working with National Working Groups, the EHRA board, and the ESC, I will update the EP and pacing curricula, strengthen the EHRA exams, and advocate their adoption in National and European certification initiatives (q3).

The spirit of togetherness that I experienced in EHRA and in the EHRA board is one of its key strengths. I will nurture EHRA's togetherness as president-elect, working with José Merino and his board, and as EHRA president. My experience in the board of the ESC will help me to make the best use of the ESC network, its international reach, and its structures. Thereby, I will help to make EHRA stronger, and to position EHRA as the premier organisation for the next generations of rhythm specialists.



**diverse and open refer to adequate representation of women and men, young and experienced, balanced regional participation, and contributions from different professions and expertises in the field of arrhythmias.*