

NEWS

■ Fellows course: 9-11 June 2016 at the Heart House, Sophia Antipolis, France. This course is designed to aid the continued development of medical doctors who have started or have recently completed a programme of training in interventional cardiology in the core subjects of the syllabus. Register now.

■ Attend the EAPCI General Assembly on Tuesday 17 May from 17:15 to 18:45, at the occasion of EuroPCR 2016 and hear, amongst others, the EAPCI Board elections results. Access the scientific programme of EuroPCR for further information concerning this session.

EAPCI Focus on the Cypriot Interventional Cardiology Working Group of the Cypriot Society of Cardiology (CSC)

An interview with the President, Savvas S. Constantinides

What does EAPCI membership mean for the national society?

EAPCI membership is practically universal amongst Cypriot interventionalists. For a small country like ours, with a small interventional cardiology community, being able to be part of a large organisation of colleagues such as the EAPCI is of the utmost importance for exchanging knowledge and experience, particularly at EuroPCR. Cyprus has seven cathlabs (six centres) with a one cathlab/120,000 population ratio. Despite our size limitations, we have been able to promote our work and share our experience at EuroPCR through joint sessions with other countries such as Greece, Serbia, the UK, Romania and Moldova. This year we will again be hosting a session with Greece and the UK.

The EAPCI represents a large pool of information that a small interventional community like ours can access. We can adhere to and gain from the experience and knowledge of larger countries with a long established tradition in interventional cardiology.

Current issues related to the national society?

In Cyprus, interventional cardiology is not recognised as a subspecialty. The Interventional Cardiology Working Group is relatively new and its activities are mainly performed under the auspices of the Cyprus Cardiological Society. The absence of an official interventional cardiology voice all these years has led to a lack of uniformity in the practice of interventional cardiology in Cyprus with no formal accreditation, quality control or audits. Primary PCI, although it began many years ago in individual private practices and despite the limited geographical areas that need to be covered and the excellent road network, has failed thus far to penetrate on a national basis, and STEMI treatment still depends on the



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Group



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Upcoming annual meeting:
Case and topic presentation meetings quarterly. Transradial meeting once a year (October)

Founded: 1977 (CSC);
2010 (WG)

Members: 16 (WG)

EAPCI Members: 15



European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI)

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY FELLOWS COURSES 2016

9 - 11 June 2016, Sophia-Antipolis (France)

Participants will be updated on standards of coronary and structural heart disease interventions, including indications, material selection, procedural aspects and pharmacology.

Full programme available online.

*Registration is limited to 85 fellows.

Register* today at
www.escardio.org/EAPCI



The EAPCI Young Community



EAPCI
A Registered Branch of the ESC



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY®

geographical area of presentation. Cyprus is a member of the Stent for Life initiative.

Despite these shortcomings, the establishment of our Working Group has brought local interventional cardiologists together. We organise regular case presentations and meetings for topic discussions and, in the last two years, we have hosted the “Cyprus Transradial Course”, an international course for radial intervention with the participation of local and international authorities within this field. This has led to very high transradial penetration, exceeding 80% in the country. I believe that the Working Group has been an important factor in moving interventional cardiology in Cyprus forward, through the sharing of experience and knowledge as well as the exchange of ideas.

Future vision, expectations and hopes related to the national society?

We are aiming to expand primary PCI throughout the country, eliminating the unacceptable geographical differences in the

management of STEMI. Through establishing a national registry for ACS, which will start running this year, we are hoping to highlight these inequalities and put pressure on the Ministry of Health to expand primary PCI to all areas involving both the public as well as the private sector within an organised National Health System. In addition, we are working on the establishment of a national PCI registry involving all practising interventional cardiology centres, in order to monitor the activities in all centres in Cyprus, perform audits and quality control and also to publish research results for the benefit of all. Finally, we hope to expand TAVI uptake which is currently limited due to reimbursement issues.

The Government is committed to establishing a formal National Health System which would hopefully cover all people living in a “unified” Cyprus, equally involving the public and private sectors in a way that would improve the availability and uniformity of interventional cardiology practice in Cyprus. I hope that this will take place in the near future.