

NEWS

■ The **EAPCI Fellows Course** will take place on the 19th and 20th of June at the Heart House, Sophia Antipolis, France. Covering all the core subjects in the interventional cardiology syllabus, it is aimed at medical doctors who have started or have recently completed a programme of training.

■ Enrol now in the **EAPCI eLearning platform!** The EAPCI developed this 24-month online learning programme with 48 web-based educational courses, 450 MCQs covering 7 EAPCI core curriculum topics and using 3 modules: knowledge, skills, and professional development...All leading to a certificate of excellence in training in interventional cardiology!

■ Become an **EAPCI member** today! We've reached more than 6,500 members from 131 countries, Isn't it time you joined too? Become part of the responsive and highly interactive European Interventional Cardiology network. And remember, EAPCI membership is FREE.

EAPCI Focus on the Swedish Working Group on Percutaneous Coronary Interventions

An interview with the President, Göran Olivecrona

What does the EAPCI membership mean for a national society?

We had difficulties finding our voice within the Swedish Cardiology Society due to their perception of us as “maverick interventionalists”; thanks to the EAPCI, they realised the real need for a dedicated Working Group. The EAPCI also facilitates our presence at EuroPCR, allowing us to host symposiums, which has a favourable impact. During our Working Group meetings, we discuss the curriculum for interventional cardiologists using the EAPCI core curriculum for training as a foundation. We have translated this into Swedish, making slight modifications due to our geography and natural issues, and we encourage its adoption by hospital administrators. We also promote the annual Nordic Interventional Cardiology Conference (NICC) hosted by the three Nordic Working Groups.

What are the current issues related to the national society?

There are obstacles to curriculum adoption, primarily as administrators consider training something which happens naturally. They don't realise they need to set aside dedicated time in cathlabs for each interventionalist to train – it's not simply a question of hiring a cardiologist and expecting them to somehow to mature into an interventional cardiologist. The curriculum is also not recognised by the Ministry of Health, and its adoption remains a goal. Today, we are seeing more and more people going onto the ESC e-learning platform, something which is spreading slowly through Sweden and Europe, with the eventual goal being to obtain certification from the regulating health authorities similar to cardiology. This is a core priority, which we are dedicated to working towards in the long term. We have other goals. One is to see more women entering cardiology and interventional cardiology. Our initiative for women in interventional cardiology was actually established before that of the EAPCI. We performed our own surveys analysing why there were so few women in interventional cardiology and tried to understand how we could recruit more women into our field. Concerning fellows, I believe the majority of them stay in Sweden with very few going abroad. It is worth noting that training an interventional cardiologist is a long and tedious process, especially as there are no established fellowship programmes. Formalising the training process is very important. Historically, Sweden has always been open to research and there remain many opportunities here.

Read the full interview at http://www.pcronline.com/eurointervention/84th_issue/5b



Göran Olivecrona, President of the Swedish Working Group on Percutaneous Coronary Interventions



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Working Group website:

<http://www.cardio.se/arbetsgruppen-f%C3%B6r-pci>

Upcoming annual meeting:

April 21-22, 2016, Örbero, Sweden

Founded:

2008

Members:

143

EAPCI members:

67

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European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI)

