



Young community of EACVI: the transition from EACVI Club 35 to Heart Imagers of Tomorrow: a promising yet challenging step

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The purpose of this review is to summarize the activity and potential of the young community of European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging and to highlight the transition from Club 35 to 'Heart Imagers of tomorrow'.

Keywords young community • imaging • multimodality • association

The young community of EACVI—as named Club 35—was created in 2010 with the task of enhancing the position of young doctors within the cardiovascular imaging community. The first chair was Dr Laura Ernande and the next chair Dr Denisa Muraru. The primary aims of this community have been to better approach the young generation of experts in the field of non-invasive cardiovascular imaging; to offer opportunities for education, training, and mentoring; to enlarge the young community and share ideas; to guide the young professionals on educational resources; and to prepare the next generation of leaders in their field.

As an overall target of EACVI, we promote multimodality imaging, which equals to all aspects of echocardiography—including advanced modalities—cardiac magnetic resonance, computed tomography, and nuclear imaging. The committee of the young community which is constituted by 12 experts has a priority to engage the best of young experts in each field of multimodality imaging.

At the moment, the young community has 56 ambassadors which liaise with their National Society and make the most of teaching and education for the young doctors or allied health professionals in their country.

Change of name—transition to 'Heart Imagers of Tomorrow'

The last 5 years, the young community of EACVI was named 'Club 35', and the inclusion criterion was to be <35 years old.

Taking into consideration though the social-economic changes worldwide, the age by which a cardiology trainee finishes his specialty has increased significantly in certain countries. We had to take into account the demands and the needs of each country separately and to have standards of excellence for our young community, to attract as many young trainees as possible who are the future of cardiology. After discussion with our ambassadors and committee members, the advice we got from senior experts and also after following the results of a survey that was guided worldwide, we decided to change the name of the young community into 'Heart Imagers of tomorrow'.

The inclusion criteria will be:

- everyone (doctor or allied health professionals) younger than 38 years old or
- anyone within training, as long as they provide a letter of their head of the department.

The membership from European Society of Cardiology will change as well as per the 1st of January 2016; therefore, the annual fees increase to €65, but now the opportunities and the projects that we will be performing within the young community are enhanced and we are involving a great number of young and dynamic professionals.

At the moment, we are updating our webpage online, and we have two new initiatives: you will be able to find testimonials from each ambassador's action and the help that provides for his country and also an image gallery from all our previous meetings and courses.

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What opportunities rise for the 'Heart Imagers of Tomorrow'?

EACVI training courses: supporting the training and education for the young people

In November 2013, a successful course that took part in Athens was the stimulation for EACVI to support two official teaching courses every year. In October 2014, the EACVI teaching course on echocardiography, took place in Sofia (organised by Dr Denisa Muraru and Dr Iana Simova) with live streaming and it was very successful. The first course of 2015 took place in Antalya, Turkey, on 24 October 2015 (organized by Dr Taner Sen and Dr Elif Sade)—it included advanced echocardiography with hands on sessions on workstations, on 3-dimensional echocardiography, and speckle tracking. The attendance exceeded the expected amount and we had great feedback from everyone who attended.

The next course will take place in Lithuania on 8–9 January 2016, with the input of the respective ambassador Dr Zivile Valuckiene, and it will involve sessions of echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance, in respect to our willingness to enhance the training in multimodality imaging. Therefore, we are preparing workstations that will involve both the advanced echocardiographic modalities as well as cardiac MR exams.

We have already received requests for next year, and our aim is, by receiving the feedback of trainees, to improve our quality of performance and aiming to gain the best feedback from young colleagues.

Endorsed meetings: a step towards perfection in multimodality imaging

In May, EACVI endorsed two courses that took place in Athens involving multimodality imaging and structural heart disease, under the co-ordination of the ambassador of Greece, Dr Savvas Loizos, Dr Julia Grapsa, and Professor Petros Nihoyannopoulos. More than 170 trainees in total had the opportunity to attend the two meetings in either person or online (by live streaming). The trainees were instructed how to perform 3-dimensional echocardiography and speckle tracking on workstations.

The series of courses named 'Fundamentals of Echocardiography' took place in Dubai, UAE, under the organization of Dr Hatem Soliman and Dr Safaar Almohdar—they had a large number of participants and at the end of the day, there were five different workstations including simulators. The feedback was exceptional, and there has been already endorsement for two more training events in UAE within the next few months.

At the end of September 2015, the course on 3-dimensional echocardiography took place in Padua, Italy, under Dr Denisa Muraru and Professor Luigi Badano. Young experts from all around the world attended the course that was endorsed by EACVI and they had the opportunity to learn advanced imaging such as 3-dimensional modality and focus on volumetry or valvular heart diseases.

The meeting 'Pulmonary Hypertension Next Generation' that took place at Imperial College of London mid-November, under

Dr J. Simon R. Gibbs, attracted young trainees from all around the world, and it involved extensive discussion on right heart remodeling in pulmonary hypertension and its study with advanced imaging. The novelty was that we provided to trainees an online connection and they interacted online with the faculty. This enabled the immediate interaction between juniors and seniors, from across the world.

EACVI grants

The EACVI offers research and training grants to help young experts in obtaining valuable experience and skills in a high standard academic centre in an ESC member country, other than their own. The research and training opportunities expand across the field of non-invasive imaging modalities (Echocardiography, Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, Nuclear Cardiology, and Cardiac CT).

With the support of EACVI, you get the chance to learn a specific imaging technique working side-by-side with experts in their own environment, to acquire practical skills and a level of understanding that you will never get from textbooks or the Internet. In addition, you will be exposed in a short time span to a high volume of examinations in a highly specialized laboratory, and the possibility to get immediate feedback to your questions or doubts from a knowledgeable source.

Directory of centres of excellence in multimodality imaging

The aim of EACVI is to ensure high quality and standards of excellence for the training and education of young people; therefore, we have a directory with all the centres involved in non-invasive cardiovascular medicine. Each trainee may find the contact details of the centre you wish to perform your fellowship and most importantly the number of investigations performed.

Preparation of online educational courses, webinars, and toolboxes

The young community is highly involved in training and education—our primary aim is to meet the needs and the challenges of our young colleagues and to formulate education depending on their opinion. 'Heart Imagers of tomorrow' participate to the EACVI clinical case gallery and webinars. Vice versa, there are many opportunities for young colleagues when they join our community, to make their work visible, to participate webinars online for free, and to attend ESCel platform that is the official educational platform of the European Society of Cardiology. On the ESCel platform, you will be able to find a basic echo course with all you need about anatomy, physiology, and basic echocardiography principles and a course on portable devices.

EACVI Echo e-learning course is based on the Echocardiography Core Syllabus, and it guides the young trainees step by step to provide the musts of the required knowledge to become an expert in Echocardiography. The respective e-learning courses for the rest of the imaging modalities are currently under preparation and will be online soon.

Promoting the young generation to follow standards of excellence: Certification

The EACVI provides the foremost individual certification and laboratory accreditation programmes for professional excellence in Europe and formal acknowledgement from a scientific society. The aim is to raise quality standards of practice and equipment across Europe in a uniform manner. Every year, many young colleagues attend the certification exams either during ESC, EACVI, or EACTA meetings. Certification is an important step towards clinical excellence by the compilation of written exams and the performance of an indicated number of investigations by the trainee.

Fundraising and volunteering

As professionals and human beings, we strongly feel that fundraising and volunteering will complete our aim and will give us the opportunity—as young people—to work hand in hand with the European Society of Cardiology and volunteer in examining people who are in need. This is one of the areas that we currently formulate therefore stay tuned.

How important is the transition into ‘Heart Imagers of Tomorrow’

Our new name ‘Heart Imagers of Tomorrow’ (HIT) and the broadening of inclusion criteria will give us the opportunity to involve more young people and all trainees, as well as allied health professionals. Our most important aim is—under the advice and the guidance of our mentors—to become not only excellent professionals, but also complete personalities, to develop skills in every aspect of clinical and everyday practice and to help our society. Young people have such a great potential and we are here to identify the stars and help them shine.

This is your opportunity. From the 2nd of December onwards, join the ‘Heart Imagers of tomorrow’.

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