The ESC membership community: a unique, diverse and global group of cardiologists

In an ever-changing and dynamic global environment, the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) is shifting from a product-based to a member-centred organization.

‘Membership is one of the most critical developments made by the ESC in the last 5 years’, said Professor Barbara Casadei, ESC President 2018–20. ‘It allows the cardiology community across the world to share a unique experience with the ESC and access an array of new, scientific products and services, to improve their clinical practice’.

At the heart of this new membership effort however, is the keen sense of belonging to a world-renowned organization that is expanding the boundaries of cardiovascular medicine. Members report a sense of pride that this is their society. They feel good about their year-long special relationship. While ESC Congress, with more than 31 000 delegates from over 150 countries, is without doubt the ESC’s most acclaimed scientific activity, ESC membership takes that energy and science to another level.

The ESC remains focused to be a society that is open and modern, innovative and diverse. A society that listens carefully to its members and their needs and in return provides them with unparalleled scientific resources.

European Society of Cardiology is fortunate to have some of the world’s leading authorities in cardiovascular health at its helm. They are supported by teams at the European Heart House in Sophia-Antipolis, France and at the European Heart Academy in Brussels, Belgium. These experts identified the need for the ESC to develop a strong, direct membership programme to give greater access to our science, to make membership truly global, to more closely engage with young cardiologists, and to provide ongoing support to every dedicated professional working in cardiology.

This support includes networks in every subspecialty and super-subspecialty, thanks to the collaboration with the ESC’s various associations. It is part of the unique strength of the ESC family, and our members can benefit from that knowledge and experience, at any stage of their career.

The benefits of ESC Professional Membership include: free online access to one of our journals; free and early access to the online version of the new ESC Textbook on Cardiovascular Medicine; unique opportunities for networking and e-learning; and special areas, opportunities and discounts for ESC Congress.

Membership fees range from 30€ for the young to 120€ for the standard ESC Professional Membership (which provides savings of up to 50% for ESC Congress on-site registration). Members of National Cardiac Societies benefit from a privileged rate at 100€ when upgrading to ESC Professional Membership. Subspecialty association memberships offer three levels (ivory, silver, and gold) with fees from 36€ to 234€. Combined packages offer even greater savings. They include ESC Professional Membership plus a sub-specialty association silver membership (72€ for the young including full access to the ESC 365 online library) or two sub-specialty association silver memberships for 198€. ESC Membership can be purchased, renewed, and upgraded online at any time with access to benefits for a full 12 months.
The feedback we have received thus far has been encouraging, and we have set up a new Membership & Community Division at the European Heart House to take all the comments we receive to improve the service and benefits we provide. We look forward to welcoming new Professional Members from all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities. We are here to support you throughout your career.

More information can be found at https://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/Membership.

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ESH Annual Meeting 2018

Reinhold Kreutz reports on the 28th European Meeting on Hypertension and Cardiovascular Protection that took place in Barcelona, Spain, 8–11 June

From 8–11 June, the 28th Annual Meeting on Hypertension and Cardiovascular Protection of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) was held in Barcelona, Spain. More than 2700 hypertension specialists from Europe and the rest of the world attended the congress and enjoyed the state-of-the-art presentations of European and world-wide experts. The scientific programme covered more than 100 sessions on recent topics in hypertension and associated diseases. Some of the sessions were organized as Joint Sessions with other Societies (Table 1). Special sessions were dedicated to practical aspects of hypertension management via Teaching, How-to, Meet the Expert and Clinical case sessions.

During the opening session Prof. Josep Redon, Honorary President of the Congress, Valencia (Spain), Prof. Antonio Coca, President of the Congress, Barcelona (Spain) and Prof. Konstantinos Tsiofou, President of ESH, Athens (Greece), welcomed the attendees to the meeting in Barcelona.

In addition, a brief but moving eulogy for Prof. Alberto Zanchetti was given by Prof. Giuseppe Mancia, Milan (Italy). Prof. Zanchetti, a Past-President and honorary member of ESH, passed away at the age of 91 in Milan on 24 March 2018. Prof. Zanchetti was the driving force behind the ESH and his activities included the joint ESH/ESC Guidelines on Hypertension, which he first inspired...