

Acute Cardiovascular Care Association

Together Saving Lives

www.escardio.org/ACCA



Acute
Cardiovascular
Care Association
A Registered Branch of the ESC



EUROPEAN
SOCIETY OF
CARDIOLOGY®



Our mission:

To improve the quality of care
and outcomes of patients with
acute cardiovascular diseases



Welcome address

By the President of the Acute Cardiovascular Care Association

Dear colleagues and friends

The ESC Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care was formed in 2000 to properly define the role of the cardiologist when managing acute patients in intensive cardiac care units (ICCU). The scope of our work has become much wider since that time, and we have all witnessed great progress in the diagnosis and management of acute cardiovascular conditions. Over those 12 years, our focus has also evolved into a multi-disciplinary approach that brings together professionals from the majority of medical disciplines. As well as all of the cardiology sub-specialties, we have welcomed the excellent contribution of experts from emergency medicine, intensive care, anaesthesia, radiology, nursing, medical technology, paramedics, and many other healthcare professions.

In February 2011, we amended the Working Group's objective to reflect the new scope and to extend our remit beyond the walls of the ICCU. Our new mission, to improve the quality of care and outcome of patients with acute cardiovascular diseases, is intended to encompass the period between the pre-hospital phase all the way up to the end of the first week of hospitalisation. It was agreed that this ambitious objective would be best achieved by forming a unique scientific body to facilitate the integration of experts and sharing of techniques in the management of acute cardiovascular care across Europe. This decision has directly led to the European Society of Cardiology establishing the new Acute Cardiovascular Care Association (ACCA).

The ACCA will build on the efforts of the Working Group it replaces, and will continue to contribute to ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines, the IACC textbook, the new EHJ-ACVC journal and research papers. The professional certification programme will be maintained. Of course, the annual ACC congress will continue to offer a compelling scientific programme and networking opportunities for professionals involved in acute cardiac care.

The creation of the ACCA will be influential in guiding National Cardiac Societies towards a set of common standards for the delivery of state-of-the-art treatments to patients admitted to intensive care units.

We are particularly grateful to Professor Christiaan Vrints, whose energy and enthusiasm for the project is gratefully acknowledged.

We encourage anybody interested in our sub-specialty to apply for membership and help us to steer the ACCA to become a respected and authoritative voice in the field of acute cardiac care.

Professor Peter Clemmensen

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The Acute Cardiovascular Care Association (ACCA)

In early 2011, the ESC's Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care revised its mission against a backdrop of significant changes to this important sub-specialty. In particular, these included increased complexity in the management of cardiovascular disease, major advances in diagnosis and treatment strategies, and the contribution to patient outcomes made by professionals from many other healthcare disciplines.

It was decided to broaden the traditional focus of the Working Group around cardiologists specifically working in Intensive Cardiac Care Units (ICCU). Instead, it would now encompass the complete care of patients with acute cardiovascular disorders from first medical contact in the pre-hospital phase up to the end of the first week of hospitalisation.

The task of creating a unique scientific body to facilitate the necessary integration of expertise and techniques was challenging but critical. It was felt that this would be best achieved by changing the status of the Working Group to become an Association of the ESC. This would allow it to embrace new responsibilities with a dedicated Board and organisation with professional support staff.

This ambitious decision was made easy by the substantial portfolio of assets owned and developed by the Working Group over a number of years that would be available to the new Association. These assets included a renowned Congress, a brand-new journal, a textbook on intensive and acute cardiac care, an established certification programme, and – most importantly – an active membership approaching 1,000 from over 70 countries.

The journey that began in 2000 with the formation of the Working Group for Acute Cardiac Care has entered a new era.

Welcome to the Acute Cardiovascular Care Association.

From Working Group to Association

The Acute Cardiovascular Care Association of the ESC (ACCA) was established by vote at the General Assembly of the 2012 ESC Congress held in Munich, Germany. The ACCA took over the role of the former Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care which had been created in 2000 under the chairmanship of Professor Yonathan Hasin. The Working Group was successively chaired by Professor Gerasimos Filippatos, Doctor Marco Tubaro, Professor Nicolas Danchin, and Professor Christiaan Vrints.

Professor Peter Clemmensen now becomes the first President of the new Acute Cardiovascular Care Association.

Over the past twelve years, the Working Group has constantly evolved and improved its dedication to best outcome for patients. Time and effort has been invested in numerous projects that now constitute a solid foundation for the new association. On that basis, the ACCA has developed a robust business plan and is implementing a series of far-reaching initiatives that include:

- Working closely with National Cardiac Societies to establish – and adopt – harmonised treatment standards across Europe
- Establishing the ACCA as a multi-disciplinary exchange platform for medical professionals
- Providing state-of-the-art education, certification, and training on the most effective treatment strategies
- Supporting professionals involved in acute cardiac care to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of acute cardiovascular diseases
- Influencing and advising healthcare professionals, scientists, institutions and hospitals, allied societies of all aspects of acute cardiac care; policy and decision makers and media.

Former chairs of the Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care



Y Hasin
2000-2004



G Filippatos
2004-2006



M Tubaro
2006-2008



N Danchin
2008-2010



C Vrints
2010-2012

ACCA Board and Structure

Administration of the ACCA is the responsibility of a full Board providing management, supervision, and guidance.

The ACCA board comprises executive board as well as six committee's chairs. The Editor-in-Chief of the EHJ-ACVC Journal and the ESC Chief Executive Officer belong to the Board as ex-officio and non-voting members.

FULL BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	President Elect	Past President	Secretary	Treasurer
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BOARD

Committee Chairs	EHJ-ACVC Editor-in-Chief	ESC Chief Executive Officer
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COMMITTEES

Membership & National Cardiac Societies relations

Allied Societies, ESC Working Groups, Councils & Associations

Scientific Activities

Education & Training

ACC Congress

Communication, Web & Press

Executive Board

The executive board determines objectives/strategies of the Association and supervises all the organizational structure and initiatives. It comprises the following members:



President

Professor Peter Clemmensen

Professor of Cardiology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark



President-Elect

Associate Professor Héctor Bueno

Head of Clinical Cardiology, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain



Past President

Professor Christiaan Vrints

Department of Cardiology - University Hospital of Antwerpen, Belgium



Secretary

Professor Christian Mueller

Cardiology, University Hospital, Basel, Switzerland



Treasurer

Professor Bulent Gorenek

Cardiology Department, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Eskisehir, Turkey

Committees

The ACCA functions have been devolved into six distinct committees, each of which will shortly welcome four new members to be recruited from the wider Association membership:



Role

Membership and NS Relations

(Chair: Professor Doron Zahger, Israel)

To define membership value and member benefits, to liaise with national acute cardiac care working groups and to attract acute cardiac care professionals into the ACCA community



Role

Allied Societies, ESC Associations, Councils and WGs

(Chair: Professor Tom Quinn, UK)

To ensure continuous liaison and good relationships with external allied societies and the ESC Councils, Associations, and Working Groups



Role

Scientific Activities

(Chair: Professor Uwe Zeymer, Germany)

To initiate and promote multi-national European studies and registries in the field of acute cardiac care



Role

Education and Training

(Chair: Doctor Susanna Price, UK)

To promote knowledge and skills through training and certification programmes to a multi-disciplinary audience



Role

ACC Congress

(Chair: Doctor Maddalena Lettino, Italy)

To develop a state-of-the-art scientific programme and promote the ACCA's congress to a worldwide audience as a unique platform of information exchange



Role

Web, Communication, and Press

(Chair: Professor Kurt Huber, Austria)

To establish ACCA's reputation and international standing with a wide audience through both internal and external media channels

Membership

One of our major goals is to unite the large number of healthcare professionals involved in acute cardiovascular care around a single purpose that we express as 'Together saving lives'. Treatment is a dynamic process, which starts during first contact with the patient and continues until stabilisation occurs, often involving many different medical disciplines and settings. These settings include pre-hospital care, emergency departments, intensive care units (both cardiac and general), and medical wards. It can involve clinical and non-clinical interventions, pharmacology, imaging, invasive, surgical, and many others.

Key to the ethos of our membership strategy is the reality that acute cardiac care is typically delivered by a multiplicity of professionals, and not only cardiologists. This is fundamental to our mission. Although we expect the core of our membership to be drawn from healthcare professionals directly involved in acute cardiac care, we also extend a warm welcome to other groups including scientists and researchers, policy-makers, health managers, and members of allied societies.

Building an active community

We are very focused on the importance of building the community that will deliver success in our mission. To become a world-class reference on acute cardiac care, we must first attract the world-class expertise. Our goals include the following:

- To become a vibrant, multi-disciplinary, international community in which all members will strive to meet our mission
- To draw on world-class expertise and provide the encouragement and support facilities for members

to share experiences and knowledge, and learn from each other

- To develop a range of educational activities and materials that will help achieve this, and will offer opportunities to participate in the Association's activities regardless of formal background
- To collate, manage, and present all relevant knowledge around acute cardiac care and make it easily accessible in a centralised forum

Joining the ACCA

Membership is open to everybody interested in this important field. There are many excellent reasons to join, and they include the following:

- Exchange knowledge with your peers and enhance your professional expertise and skills
- Join an active, vibrant community that is focused on your area of specialism
- Participate in the election of the ACCA Board, and be eligible to stand for those positions
- Receive regular, updated news via an ACCA e-newsletter
- Benefit from reduced registration fee to the ACC Annual Congress
- Access the ACCA educational platform at preferred rates
- Benefit from reduced fee to certification examinations
- Receive the EHJ-ACVC journal and other ESC journals at preferred rates
- Get discounts on IACC Textbook and other ESC publications
- Receive automatic ESC membership

Join now!

Education and Research

The ACCA will promote education programmes to spread knowledge of new and emerging science in the field of acute cardiac care. We will also put in place initiatives to develop the skills of practitioners through training and certification programmes. We have begun the task of creating and standardising an extensive library of high quality educational materials and services, and lobbying the National Societies for their support in harmonising acute cardiac care education within the ESC region. The following paragraphs are a brief summary of initiatives in place:

Individual certifications – We have started the process for individual certification from a strong base thanks to prior work carried out by the Working Group. Since 2006, there has been a certification procedure for acute cardiac care as a sub-speciality in adult cardiology. It has been referenced to the Core Curriculum and an extensive bank of MCQs and related testing content have been created. Exams will be organised in national testing centres throughout the whole year, providing easy access for candidates at reasonable cost for expenses. Practical skills will be assessed by local trainers and documented using a logbook. Formal certification will be completed once the exam has been successfully passed and a logbook submitted for approval.

ESC eLearning platform – Again, prior work has created a strong starting point. The Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care had invested considerable time and effort in the development of the ESC eLearning

platform and a series of specific education materials. All 72 chapters of the IACC Textbook will form the framework of educational content as “modules”.

ACCA Institutional Certification – Certification will be given to institutions able to demonstrate outstanding acute cardiac care training programmes that fulfil a number of requirements. A full list of certified institutions will be published on the ACCA webpage.

Registries – We will vigorously pursue the first continuous Europe-wide registry of consecutive patients presenting with acute cardiac symptoms in Europe, providing benchmark reports on key performance indicators for quality assurance with the intention of improving the implementation of ESC guidelines into clinical practice.

Study groups – We have formed expert study groups, including:

- **Biomarkers** – A group of about 20 international experts focusing on the proper clinical application of cardiac biomarkers including troponins, natriuretic peptides, and inflammatory and thrombotic markers in acute cardiac care.
- **Pre-hospital care** – A group promoting studies, registries and educational initiatives in the management of sudden cardiac death and acute coronary syndromes. The group focuses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, pre-hospital triage and diagnosis of chest pain, logistical organisation of patient transport, ECG transmission and cathlab activation.

Congresses & Meetings

The Acute Cardiac Care Congress is one of the Association's core activities. It is a unique forum in which physicians, nurses, paramedics, related healthcare professionals, and industry meet to discuss the latest therapies and innovations, to share experiences, and to exchange ideas on daily practice. From 2012, Congress will become an annual event beginning in Istanbul with 2013 visiting Madrid. These will build on the great successes of previous Congresses in Rome (2004), Prague (2006), Paris (2008), and Copenhagen (2010).

The organising committee aims to provide a programme of significant scientific value with more than 40 presentations comprising main symposia sessions, how-to sessions, and abstract sessions. We will introduce practical case studies that will be presented in an interactive format. Real life cases will be demonstrated by experts, discussed with the audience, and concluded by recommendations and take-home messages that delegates can implement in daily practice. The congress also offers delegates industry-supported educational sessions, and participants will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition area to meet with industry representatives and discover recent innovations.

The first European Summit on Acute Cardiovascular Care was held at European Heart House in October 2011. It was attended by more than 50 participants from 22 countries representing all of the main professions and disciplines involved in acute cardiac care. The agenda gave participants the opportunity to discuss and interact on the many challenges faced by health professionals involved in cardiac intensive care.



Publications



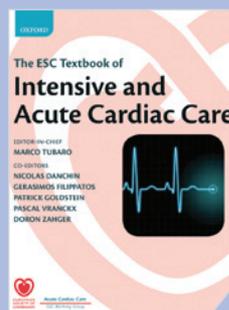
The European Heart Journal on Acute Cardiovascular Care, which launched in Spring 2012, aims to publish high quality content covering both clinical and scientific subjects. Its unique approach integrates the expertise of the cardiology, emergency, and intensive care sub-specialties in the management of patients with acute cardiovascular syndromes. Readers

can access continuous update that may help them improve the quality of care and the outcome of patients with acute cardiovascular diseases. The journal has a strong educational focus and devotes space to reviews, illustrative clinical cases, practical tips and tricks, and how-to articles. Editor-in-chief – Professor Christiaan Vrints, FESC

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“Although the ESC Journal Family covers most parts of cardiovascular medicine with its products, there are still white spots on the map. One of them is acute coronary syndromes..... acute cardiovascular syndromes still account for a large part of morbidity and mortality and the number of patients suffering from acute coronary syndromes is increasing. It is therefore with great joy that we can welcome Acute Cardiovascular Care as a new member to the ESC Journal Family.”

Thomas F Lüscher, Editor-in-Chief,
European Heart Journal



The ESC Textbook of Intensive and Acute Cardiac Care is a key reference for training and accreditation in this specialty. It serves as a reference for experienced and trainee cardiologists and intensivists from all over Europe, establishing a common basis of knowledge in the field and a uniform and improved quality of care, and is fully consistent with guidelines specified in the ESC Core

Curriculum for Acute Cardiac Care. The book comprises 76 chapters, each written by an international opinion leader. The chapters are augmented with numerous high quality colour images. An online version is available with links to references that allows full text searches and other useful features. Editor-in-chief – Doctor Marco Tubaro

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“The ESC Textbook of Intensive and Acute Cardiac Care is an exceptional resource and invaluable review text. An excellent purchase for senior clinicians in cardiology and critical care and a must-have for cardiac intensivists-in-training, it also will be useful to scientists, clinical investigators, journal editors, and practicing clinicians.”

David P. Strum, MD, FRCP(C),
Journal of the American Medical Association

Publications

The ACCA will continue the positive contributions made by the members of the former Working Group to ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines. The broader remit of the Association means that its expertise will be sought in most of these new or updated guidelines that are currently under development.

Year	Guideline title
2012	Acute Myocardial Infarction
2012	Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice (Update)
2012	Heart Failure (Full Update)
2012	Universal Definition of Myocardial Infarction
2012	Valvular Heart Disease
2013	Diabetes, Pre-diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases
2013	Indications on Cardiac Pacing & Synchronization Therapy
2013	Stable Coronary Arterial Disease

The ACCA will continue to encourage its membership to develop and publish scientific papers of interest to the wider community of cardiology and related professions. Recent papers include:

- Management of patients presenting with chest pain in the emergency department
- Recommendations for the use of high-sensitivity troponins in acute cardiac care
- Diagnosis and Treatment of patients with

acute myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock

- Recommendations for the structure, organisation, and operation of intensive cardiac care units
- Evaluation and early management of the patient with chest pain of presumed cardiac origin





Learn more about

ACCA

and join us

www.escardio.org/ACCA

“We are confident that the new Acute Cardiovascular Care Association will quickly become a strong foundation for the multi-disciplinary expertise that will drive new research, pioneer new treatments, share knowledge and learning, and – most of all – produce better outcomes for our patients.”

The ACCA Board

- *12 years of successful history as the Working Group on Acute Cardiac Care*
- *An Executive Board of renowned European experts*
- *Membership of over 1100 (in June 2012)*
- *Annual ACC Congress with increasing number of delegates*
- *A brand new journal: EHJ-ACVC published by SAGE (First issue: April 2012)*
- *An IACC Textbook published by OUP (First issue: January 2011)*
- *A proven educational programme using the ESC eLearning platform*
- *An ACC Certification programme for individuals*
- *A European ACC Summit gathering national representatives in the field (bi-annual)*
- *Participation in ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines*
- *Production of many scientific position papers*

