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President-Elect Candidates

Associate Professor Stephan Gielen, FESC (DE)

Present Appointment:

Senior Physician, Dept. of Internal Medicine/Cardiology, Heart Center, University of Leipzig
Director, Heart Failure Clinic
Ass. Prof. of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Leipzig

Degrees and Qualifications:

1988-94 Medical School Education
- Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
- Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA
- Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA
1994 Medical State Examination
1996 Medical License, Arnsberg, North-Rhine Westfalia, Germany
1997 United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE, ECFMG)
2000 Board Certification in Emergency Medicine
2002 Board Certification in Internal Medicine
2002 Board Certification in Cardiology
2006 *Lehrbefähigung für das Fach Innere Medizin* (Habilitation)
2006 *Privatdozentur* (Associate Professorship in Internal Medicine)
2009 License for postgraduate training in Internal Medicine
(*Weiterbildungsermächtigung*)

Previous Appointments:

1994-97 University of Heidelberg, Dept. of Cardiology
Since 1997 University of Leipzig, Heart Center, Dept. of Internal Medicine/Cardiology

Memberships in Official Committees and Working Groups:

Official Spokesperson of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) for exercise physiology
Treasurer and Member of the Executive Board, *European Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation* (EACPR), a registered branch of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)
Vice-Chair of the Working Group *Cardiovascular Prevention* of the German Society of Cardiology (DGK)
Vice-Chair of the Working Group *Heart Disease in the Elderly* of the German Society of Cardiology (DGK)
Member, Guideline Committee, Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases,
Member, Guideline Committee, Resistance Training in Cardiac Rehabilitation,
German Association of Cardiac Prevention & Rehabilitation (DGPR)
Congress President 2010, *German Association of Cardiac Prevention & Rehabilitation* (DGPR)

Journal Review and Abstract Grading

Journals: Circulation, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, ATVB, American Journal of Cardiology, German Journal of Cardiology, Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation.

Abstract Grading: European Society of Cardiology, EACPR, German Society of Cardiology.

Editorial Board Memberships:

Editorial Board Member, Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation & Prevention

Research

Endothelial function in cardiovascular diseases.

Pathophysiology of heart failure

- The molecular basis of central and peripheral changes in heart failure
- Effects of physical activity on peripheral skeletal muscle alterations and central hemodynamics in heart failure
- Age-dependency of training effects in heart failure patients and healthy subjects
- Pharmaceutical therapy of heart failure associated catabolism and cardiac cachexia

Author/co-author in more than 45 peer-reviewed journal articles and 4 book chapters (including the ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine).

Vision Statement

Over the past years we witnessed the successful merger of two former ESC working groups to a single successful association. Under Prof. Saner's and Prof. Wood's leadership the section structure was developed to build a framework for scientific cooperation, project development, and publication. Additionally, the sections form the basis for all scientific activities related to the annual EuroPREvent congress by proposing and organizing lectures and sessions.

However, new challenges lie ahead: As EACPR we are no longer the small intimate family of the former working group but we are increasingly exposed to larger ESC stage. The ESC would like to see our association as "the European voice for prevention" with a far greater involvement in political lobbying and practical implementation projects than currently seen. To live up to these expectations we will have to gradually move from resolving our internal restructuring processes (including the reduction in the number of sections and the consolidation of our finances) to strategic planning of our role for the decade which lies ahead of us. EuroPREvent 2011 in Geneva will provide a unique opportunity to build a global prevention network by teaming up with WHO and cardiovascular prevention association from Countries outside Europe. The ultimate goals are clear: To press for a coherent anti-tobacco legislation world-wide, to permit people to choose heart-healthy foods which carry adequate declarations of contents, and to lobby for urban environments that stimulate rather than limit opportunities for physical activities.

All these goals are not new, but our attention was bound by our internal issues in the last years. This decade is the time to shift from restructuring to repositioning our association as the European forum for cardiovascular prevention, rehabilitation, and sports medicine. Additionally, we need to rejuvenate our association and to attract more young clinical researchers, epidemiologists, physiotherapists, and nutritional experts to join our association and to become actively involved in the sections and committees. To attract the brightest minds in our field we have to give a strong and clear answer to their question "Why should I join?" Not just because we are a strong ESC branch but mainly because we offer the best place for scientific networking, support new research projects, and actively define standards in prevention/rehabilitation and sports medicine. For this we need to build a strong financial background based on an economically successful congress and other educational services (including certification for cardiovascular prevention).

My dream of the EACPR at the end of this decade is that of a flourishing international scientific community which sets the standards for prevention politics and safety aspects in sports medicine and influences European health policy as the European scientific expert council. Our congress will be the international meeting place for cardiovascular prevention attracting 3000+ participants, because governments have finally realized the benefits of shifting 2% of their health budgets to prevention projects. To make these dreams a reality it may take more than two years, but as you know nothing happens unless there is first a dream...

Professor Zeljko Reiner, FESC (HR)

Professor Zeljko Reiner was born in 1953 in Zagreb, Croatia and he got his MD, M Sc and PhD degrees at Zagreb University. He was later visiting scientist for several years in USA and Germany and consultant in internal medicine, diabetology and metabolic diseases. Since 2004 he is director of the Zagreb University Hospital Center. Since 1988 he is full professor (tenure) at Medical school, Zagreb University and his main interest for the last 25 years is lipidology and preventive cardiology. For many years he was chairman of the Department of internal medicine at Zagreb University Medical School. He helped in founding the Department for Cardiac Rehabilitation at the University of Rijeka in Croatia where he is also full professor. He is Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and fellow of the European Society of Cardiology. He was the founder and still is the president of Croatian Atherosclerosis Society, founder and vice-president of Croatian Obesity Society, founder of Croatian Hypertension Society, chairman of the Epidemiology and prevention committee of the Croatian Cardiac Society and was Secretary general of the Croatian Medical Association – CMA (at the moment he is member of the CMA Board). He was member of the WHO Executive board in Geneva where he was representing Europe, and was chairman of the WHO Tobacco - free Europe Committee. He was also one of the 3 members of the WHO's "Leon Bernard Prize" committee. From 1993 to 1998 he served as state secretary for health, and from 1998 to 2000 as minister of health of Croatia. Since 2004 he is president of Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences (member since 1990). He is full member of Croatian National Academy of Sciences and Arts (only 20 members) and chairman of its Atherosclerosis Research Committee. He was engaged since 2005 as an expert of the European Commission for the evaluation of proposals received under the 6FP and 7FP for research and technological development in cardiology. He is also president of the National Health Council of Croatia. He was member of the International advisory and/or scientific boards of all European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) and International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS) congresses in the last 15 years, as well as European and World cardiology congresses and an invited lecturer and chairman at many international meetings.

He has a long experience in administration of scientific societies - he was a member of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) Executive Committee and is a member of the European Joint Prevention Committee for Cardiovascular Diseases for the last 5 years. In the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) at the moment he is a member of the Practice Guidelines Committee and Congress Program Committee (his 3rd term). In the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (EACPR) he is co-chairing the Science and Guidelines Committee and is member of the EACPR Board. He is also one of the authors of the Fourth European Joint Societies' Guidelines on CVD Prevention in Clinical Medicine, he is a member of the task force for the Fifth European Joint Guidelines for CVD Prevention and is chairing the ESC task force for the European guidelines on the management of dyslipidemias. He is on editorial boards of several journals (Europ J Cardiovasc Prevent Rehabil, Atherosclerosis, Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis etc.) and is reviewer for many journals (Lancet, J Am Coll Nutr, J Cell Biochem, Fundam Clin Pharmacol, Ann Nutr Metab, etc.). He has published many papers, mostly in indexed journals with substantial impact factor, and was editor or coauthor of 18 books. He is acknowledged as one of the leading personalities in the preventive cardiology.

Vision Statement

Since, according to the Statutes and the existing Strategic plan, the six main sections are the scientific backbone of the EACPR, each formed around a specific topic: basic science, cardiac rehabilitation, epidemiology and public health, exercise physiology, prevention and health policy and sports cardiology, their interaction should be further stimulated. The spirit of unity of the different aspects dealing with prevention and rehabilitation is essential for the safe and prosperous future of the EACPR since it reflects the real needs of the patients, both in primary but even more in secondary prevention of CVD.

Financial stability of the EACPR is another important issue, particularly in the times of recession with less interest of industry to support projects and meetings. Therefore the appropriate attention should be paid to the contacts with the industry but also with different EU bodies. EuroPREvent as the main EACPR annual scientific congress must be strongly supported and we should make it more attractive for the industry but also for younger investigators. Participants from outside the Europe should also be attracted by better advertising similarly as they have been attracted to ESC congresses during the last several years. This would not only contribute to the better visibility of the EACPR but also to the financial success of our congresses.

Our journal which has reached a significant scientific reputation - European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, should also be further supported to increase even more its impact factor. EACPR has to become the main body for directing the policy of ESC concerning CVD prevention and rehabilitation with a significant impact on the whole ESC policy. Along with this, EACPR has to have not only the main role in the future Joint CVD Prevention Guidelines, but also a stronger influence in producing other ESC guidelines in which rehabilitation and prevention issues have to achieve more visibility. EACPR should therefore also establish much tighter connections with National coordinators for CVD prevention and become the main driving force for the implementation of the prevention guidelines in the countries.

Production of EACPR position papers should be stimulated in the fields where still some controversies exist. So far the experts in rehabilitation were more active in this aspect, but prevention and sports cardiology should be stimulated to work on such papers as well. European Textbook on Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation and the prevention and rehabilitation section of the ESC Textbook of Cardiology are also two possibilities for achieving better visibility of the EACPR inside the ESC, but much broader as well.

European courses such as those on Cardiac Rehabilitation (Bern), Preventive cardiology course for nurses and allied health professionals in conjunction with the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, Master classes and Research methods training course should become a model for other similar educational activities of the EACPR which have to be developed.

A very important issue is the core curriculum for European cardiologists but also the development of a core curriculum for a future Preventive and Rehabilitation Cardiologist which should be established and acknowledged along with, for example, the Invasive or Non-invasive Cardiologist. Advocating this approach should be one of the most important activities of the EACPR.

The EACPR Board Committees are to lead EACPR flagship projects in collaboration with the Sections, based on representation from each of the Sections. Successful projects such as SCORE+, HeartQol, EUROASPIRE and EUROACTION should be continued, but new projects, particularly in the field of rehabilitation and sports cardiology have to be stimulated as well.

Secretary Candidate

Professor Luc Vanhees, FESC (BE)

Position at Catholic University Leuven:

Full Professor in Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation
Head of Department Rehabilitation Sciences
Head research unit Cardiovascular Rehabilitation
Member of several evaluation and educational committees

Position at University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, the Netherlands

Professor and head Research group "Lifestyle and Health"

Position at ESC

Secretary and member executive committee EACPR
Past chair section Exercise Physiology
Chair communications Committee

Research projects

1. Genetic determinants of exercise performance and the response to exercise training in heart disease. The renin angiotensin system, autonomic, endothelial and muscular function.
2. Determinants of exercise tolerance and trainability in adult patients with congenital heart disease.
3. Exercise and Cardiac arrhythmias.
4. Physical activity in patients with respiratory disease and lung transplantation.
5. Determinants low back pain: exploration of the relationship between physical activity, physical fitness and low pain back.
6. Physical activity, health related fitness and cognitive function.
7. Variation in postural control strategies in people with or without low back pain.
8. Utrecht Spina Bifida And Graded Exercise (USAGE) Study: physical activity, physical fitness and development of an exercise program to improve daily activities and participation in ambulatory children with Spina Bifida' - Drs J. de Groot
9. Gezondheidskundige interventies bij het metabool syndroom.
10. An electronic learning environment for enrolling master students: detection and upgrading of deficits in prior knowledge for the English master program "rehabilitation sciences and physiotherapy".

Vision Statement

From the start on of our Association and even more since my current mandate as secretary, I realize the great importance of a good organization and efficient external and internal communication within our Association.

As secretary, I had the last two years the pleasure to work with a group of very enthusiastic officers, board members and ESC staff.

But we all realize that we still have a long road to go in order to put the EACPR at the level it deserves, as **the** Professional European organization responsible for the implementation of prevention, as **the** scientific European organization related to the fields of Prevention, Rehabilitation, Sports Cardiology, Applied Exercise Physiology and Basic and Translational Science.

At the end of my current mandate of secretary I have to state that my interest in, my appreciation of and my dedication towards the association is only increased. Therefore, I consider with great willingness and enthusiasm a possible second period as secretary.

In order to be able to continue my humble contribution to the building up process of our association, I ask you to consider my application for the mandate as secretary of our association.

Treasurer Candidate

Professor Dan Gaita, FESC (RO)

University Studies and Diplomas:

Since 2008	Professor in Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara
Since 1997	Cardiologist in Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Timisoara
1994-1997	Residency in cardiology (Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Clinic, Timisoara)
1988-1994	Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine (ASCAR Clinic of Cardiology, Timisoara)
1982-1988	Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara

Main titles

2009	Coordinator of the Romanian Programme for Cardiovascular Prevention
since 2007	National Coordinator for Cardiovascular Prevention of European Society of Cardiology.
2005 - 2008	President of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Working Group within Romanian Society of Cardiology
since 2005	Coordinator of European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Education and Accreditation Committee.
since 2004	Scientific & Research Vice Rector of Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy

Fields of interest:

- exercise testing
- exercise training in special groups: PTCA, CABG, valve prostheses, heart failure, elderly
- cardiovascular prevention & rehabilitation: hypertension, coronary heart disease, lipids, diabetes

Main scientific work:

- PhD at Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara: "Cardiac Rehabilitation in Chronic Heart Failure" (2000)
- director of 5 national and international research projects
- author / co-author of 10 books and book chapters in cardiovascular rehabilitation; 54 full papers in journals of cardiology; 392 abstracts in conferences and congresses
- co-author of "Position paper of the Working Group on Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology of the European Society of Cardiology: core components of cardiac rehabilitation in chronic heart failure". Eur J Cardiovasc Prev Rehabil, 2005
- co-author of "Secondary prevention through cardiac rehabilitation. From knowledge to implementation. A Position Paper from the Cardiac Rehabilitation Section of the European Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention". Eur J Cardiovasc Prev Rehabil – in press
- co-author of "Cardiac Rehabilitation: Europe" in "Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation" published by Springer-Verlag London Limited, 2007.
- reviewer of 2007 Guidelines for the Management of Arterial Hypertension. Eur Heart J. 2007
- reviewer of The ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine (Second Edition), Oxford University Press 2009
- since 2003 – member of International Editorial Board of European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation
- since 2005 - reviewer of the abstracts of ESC Congress
- since 2003 – reviewer of the abstracts of European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation
- member of the Scientific Committee of EuroPrevent - Madrid 2007.
- coordinator of Heart Health Charter signing process in Romania (2007)
- organizer of Romanian Forum for Cardiovascular Prevention (2009)

Affiliation:

- 2006-2007 Member in Steering Committee of EuroAspire III Survey
- 2006-2007 National Coordinator of EuroAspire III Survey in Romania
- since 2006 – member in the Board of European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation
- since 2006 – member of Educational & Accreditation Committee of European Society of Cardiology
- 2003-2006 – member of Cardiac Rehabilitation Nucleus of European Society of Cardiology
- 1995-1999 – member of European Association on Cardiovascular Rehabilitation (1999 –member in Board of Directors)
- since 1995 – member of Heart Friends Around the World
- since 1994 – member of European Society of Cardiology and of Working Group of Exercise Physiology and Cardiac Rehabilitation
- since 1991 – member of Romanian Society of Cardiology and of Working Group of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (secretary 1994-1996 and since 2000)

European educational courses:

- Co-director of ESC Educational Committee Course- Dubrovnik Cardiology Update, 1-4 October 2009
- Course director of the ESC Course "The Everyday Challenge of Prevention – From Risk Factors to Effective Intervention" - European Heart House, 23-25 November 2006, Sophia Antipolis, France.
- Faculty of the ESC Course "The everyday challenge of prevention – From guidelines to effective intervention" – European Heart House, 15-17 November, 2007, Sophia Antipolis, France.
- Faculty of the ESC Course "The everyday challenge of prevention" – European Heart House, 20-22 November 2008 , Sophia Antipolis, France.
- Faculty of the EACPR Course "How to set up and run a Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme", Bern, Switzerland in 2006, 2008, 2010
- Faculty of the ESC Course "Smoking Cessation" - European Heart House, 5-6 June 2008 , Sophia Antipolis, France.
- Invited speaker in National Congresses of Cardiology from: Spain, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia, Bulgaria

Vision Statement

The scientific research management is my expertise. In my career I have been challenged to be a good cardiologist, devoted teacher and to develop leadership within the management and staff ranks of hospitals, health and educational systems. Now I aspire to bring my ability and skills to get results as Treasurer of the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation.

I offer a strong combination of instructional/public-speaking experience and healthcare expertise that qualifies me extremely well. I am convinced that my distinctive background equips me with a significant advantage in this position, because it has provided me with the ability *to find financial solution* and *to prepare comprehensive budget reports*, as well as the skills *to negotiate with sponsors and partners*.

I am a Board member of my University, EACPR and ESC Education Committee coupled with a Master's degree in Human Resources. While my enclosed resume provides an informative overview of my strengths and achievements, I have also listed the main three points of my applicable experience:

1. High research management background: improving my expertise in financial management as Vice-rector with research in my University and National Coordinator of Romanian Programme for Cardiovascular Prevention, I can bring my knowledge in *building-up a long-term financial strategy* of EACPR, based on EU standards.

2. Strong pan-European connections: being recognized in home-country and in the European Cardiology Community, I can bring together the energy and the appropriate persons who can *help EACPR to achieve its goals within ESC*.

3. Proved organizational skills: having a successful experience as project manager and in fund-raising process, I can support EACPR Board *to improve the awards and grants related activities*. Taking in consideration my background and my motivation to contribute to EACPR goals and achievements, please consider me one of the best options for being elected Treasurer of EACPR.