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EHJ News

Welcome on board! Meet the new EHJ board reviewers

In August 2021, the EHJ welcomed a talented and skilled new group of Board Reviewers from a diverse range of countries and backgrounds who will bring their own perspective and expertise to the journal. CardioPulse is delighted to present the new reviewers.

Holger Thiele, MD, is a professor at the Heart Center Leipzig at the University of Leipzig, Germany. He is currently president-elect of the German Cardiac Society. He studied medicine in Berlin and later trained at the Heart Center of the University of Leipzig. He worked as a research fellow in the field of cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR) at the German Heart Institute in Berlin and also at the Leeds General Infirmary, University of Leeds, UK. His main interests are acute coronary syndromes, chronic coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, structural heart disease, interventional cardiology, and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (*Figure 1*).

Figure 1 Holger Thiele, MD.

Elena Osto, MD, PhD, is an assistant professor at the University Hospital Zurich and University of Zurich, Switzerland, where she heads the cardio-metabolic research group. She is a physician scientist who completed her medical training and PhD in cardiovascular science at the University of Padua in Italy. Her main area of research is cardiovascular biology with a particular focus on endothelial cell metabolism and function in immuno-inflammatory and metabolic disorders such as obesity, diabetes, and ageing. She has developed a wealth of clinical expertise in the field of cardiac imaging focusing on non-invasive investigation of coronary microvascular function. She is currently the Secretary of the ESC Working Group on Atherosclerosis and Vascular Biology and a board member of the EAPC-Secondary Prevention and Rehabilitation Section (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2 Elena Osto, MD, PhD.

Vincenzo Lionetti, MD, PhD, is an associate professor of anaesthesiology at the Institute of Life Sciences of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy, and a consultant anaesthesiologist at Fondazione Toscana G. Monasterio, Pisa, Italy. A graduate of the University of Bari School of Medicine in Italy, he completed a fellowship at the New York Medical College, Valhalla, USA. He was later awarded a PhD on Innovative Strategies in Biomedical Research by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, where he later went on to establish the Unit of Translational Critical Care Medicine (TrancriLab). His main interests include perioperative cardioprotection by targeting epigenetic mechanisms underlying myocardial intercellular cross talk and heart–brain axis using a multimodal translational-based approach (*Figure 3*).

Figure 3 Vincenzo Lionetti, MD, PhD.

Konstantinos Stellos, MD, is a graduate of the medical school of the Democritus University of Thrace, Greece, and trained at the university hospitals of Tübingen and Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is a professor of cardiovascular medicine of the universities of Heidelberg, Germany, and Newcastle, UK. He also chairs the Department of Cardiovascular Research at the Medical Faculty Mannheim of the University of Heidelberg. His main interests are RNA modifications in cardiovascular homeostasis and disease, vascular biology (vascular control of organ function in health and disease), cardiovascular immunology (leucocyte trafficking in inflammatory and ischaemic diseases), and preventive cardiology (identification of residual risk and risk stratification of patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease) (*Figure 4*).

Figure 4 Konstantinos Stellos, MD.

Rosalinda Madonna, MD, PhD, is a senior research scientist, an assistant professor, and a consultant cardiologist at the University of Pisa, Italy, and an adjunct assistant professor in internal medicine at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, USA. She is past chair of the ESC Cellular Biology of the Heart Working Group.

She is a graduate of the medical school of the University of Chieti, Italy, where she also received her PhD. She was a research scientist at the Texas Heart Institute (THI) in Houston. She completed her post-doctoral research fellowship in molecular cardiology at the University of Louisville, USA. She received the title Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Summelweis, Budapest, Hungary. Her main interests include stem cell therapy in ischaemic heart disease and heart failure cell rejuvenation, vascular senescence, atherosclerosis, anticancer drug-induced cardiovascular toxicity, and pulmonary hypertension (*Figure 5*).

Figure 5 Rosalinda Madonna, MD, PhD.

Simon Kraler, MD, graduated from the Medical School of Graz, Austria, with highest honours after pursuing clinical rotations in Europe and the USA. Currently, he is a research assistant at the Center for Molecular Cardiology, Zurich, where he investigates novel mechanisms that underpin valvular and vascular calcifications using multi-omics approaches, human cells, and genetic murine models, for which he was awarded several grants by different notable organizations, including the Swiss Heart Foundation. In his translational undertakings and as a fellow of the SPUM-ACS registry, Simon studies the role of novel markers to refine risk stratification algorithms in patients with acute coronary syndromes. Simon is particularly interested in acute and chronic manifestations of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease as well as calcific aortic valve disease, and the molecular and cellular mechanisms underpinning their pathogenesis. (*Figure 6*)

Figure 6 Simon Kraler, MD.

Melissa Middeldorp, PhD, University of Adelaide, Australia, is a post-doctoral research fellow whose PhD focused on risk factors for atrial fibrillation (AF)—in particular, the management of risk factors through individualized, structured clinics and the differences in outcomes between men and women with AF. She established and implemented a risk factor modification programme for patients with AF, which helped create changes to the AF guidelines for patient management. Her main interests include atrial fibrillation, risk factors, integrated care, gender, eHealth, and epidemiology (*Figure 7*).

Figure 7 Melissa Middeldorp, PhD.

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Global Spotlights

ESC/HFA Quality of Care Centres: the ultimate frontier in unifying heart failure management

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Heart failure (HF) is a major public health concern and a leading global cause of mortality, hospitalization, disability, and high associated healthcare costs. According to the recent Heart Failure Association of the ESC (HFA) Atlas survey of the 42 European Society of Cardiology (ESC) member countries, with a population of ~800 million people, the burden of HF in this region is estimated to involve ~14 million patients, ~2.5 million hospitalisations, and ~2.4 million new cases annually.[1] Multidisciplinary management of HF, defined as patient-centred, multi-specialist and coordinated care from primary to tertiary levels, has been shown to effectively improve outcomes and optimize the utilization of resources.[2] However, the HFA Atlas has demonstrated that there are significant disparities in healthcare organization and available resources for its management across Europe that result in the heterogenous delivery of contemporary diagnostic modalities and guideline directed therapies (GDT).[1] Furthermore, in most countries, dedicated institutions for HF management (i.e. HF centres) are sparse and insufficient to accommodate for the growing demands for expert HF care.[1]

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