



 **MALTESE
CARDIAC SOCIETY**
CONFERENCE 2024
10-13 TH OCTOBER 2024



VENUE

MAIN AUDITORIUM, MATER DEI HOSPITAL

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.MCARDIOS.ORG

Dear friends,

The Maltese Cardiac Society Conference has become a yearly tradition. It is an opportunity for the local cardiology and cardiac surgical community to get together and to share the latest science, as well as to reach out to the family practitioners in the community and the general public.



This year is no exception. A team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, expertly led by Dr Alex Borg, have been working tirelessly for several months to deliver a programme that we hope will appeal to everyone's tastes.

We received a nice number of abstracts which will be delivered either as oral presentations during two dedicated sessions on Friday and Saturday, or as moderated posters during Friday's lunch break. I encourage all of you to take an active part in these sessions.

We wanted to do a bit more for the environment, and to save a tree or two, so, for the first time this year, the programme is only available as a PDF download upon scanning our QR code. We also wanted to put the years of confinement, lockdowns and N95 masks behind us and to enjoy being able to meet each other in person without feeling we are breaking the law! Hence, we chose to go back to an in-person only meeting.

Finally, we wanted to wrap up with some real fun during an epic Cardiology Quiz on Saturday afternoon. There are some lovely presents to be won at the end of what promises to be a battle nothing short of a scene from Gladiator! So please stay with us till the very end. You won't be disappointed!

Now sit back, relax and enjoy the conference!

Maryanne Caruana

President of the Maltese Cardiac Society

On behalf of all members of the Scientific and Organizing Committee

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External CME Points for Participation

Thursday 10 October

1 point

Friday 11 October

6 points

Saturday 12 October

6 points

Conference Local Faculty

Alex Borg

Alex Gatt

Alice May Moore

Andrew Cassar

Andrew Cassar Maempel

Assunta Attard

Caroline J Magri

Charmaine Caruana

Claire Cordina Marantidis

Claude Portanier

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James Farrugia

Jennifer Micallef

Jeremy Fleri Soler

John Bonello

Kevin Schembri

Liana Grima

Luise Reichmuth

Mariosa Xuereb

Maryanne Caruana

Mark A Sammut

Mark Abela

Mark Gruppetta

Matthew Mercieca Balbi

Michelle Cassar

Myra Tilney

Oscar Aquilina

Philip Dingli

Robert G Xuereb

Samuel Attard

Samuel Meilak

Sheldon Attard

Tonio Piscopo

Tiziana Felice

Conference International Faculty

Andreu Porta Sanchez (Barcelona, Spain)

Christophe Leclercq (Renne, France)

Elisa Mikus (Ravenna, Italy)

Faycal Abdenbi (Suresnes, France)

Gaetano Nucifora (Manchester, United Kingdom)

Giovanni Pedrazzini (Lugano, Switzerland)

Inga Drossart (Brussels, Belgium)

Julie De Backer (Gent, Belgium)

Luca Santini (Rome, Italy)

Martin Sluka (Olomouc, Czech Republic)

Mousa Ayesh Al Harbi (Dammam, Saudi Arabia)

Patrick Nagel (Berlin, Germany)

Perry Elliot (London, United Kingdom)

Wijnand den Dekker (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

Cardiology Update for the Family Physician

In collaboration with the Malta College of Family Doctors

Thursday 10th October, 2024

Venue: Veranda, Giardini Lambrosa, Sqaq Taċ-Ċawla, Rabat

20:00 President Opening Address

Maryanne Caruana

20:05 Making Sense of an Echo report

Alexander Borg

20:25 Cardiac Disease in Pregnancy

*Maryanne Caruana,
Tiziana Felice*

20:45 Management of Atrial Fibrillation in the Community

Mark A Sammut

Reception

Friday, 11th October 2024

Main Conference

Venue: Central Auditorium, Mater Dei Hospital

08:00 Registration

08:30 Official Opening

08:30 MCS President Opening Address

*Maryanne Caruana,
President Maltese Cardiac Society*

08:40 MCS Award

Maryanne Caruana

08:50 SESSION 1: Interventional cardiology

Chairperson: *Andrew Cassar Maempel*

Expert Panel: *Philip Dingli, Matthew Mercieca Balbi*

08:50 Precision cardiology: what do we need to know?

Giovanni Pedrazzini

09:15 Do Interventions Prevent Outcomes?

Robert G Xuereb

09:40 Use of Optical Coherence Tomography and Orbital Atherectomy in contemporary PCI

Wijnand den Dekker

10:05 Novel technology for lifetime TAVI planning in young patients

Martin Sluka

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:55 SESSION 2: ESC HIGHLIGHT Electrophysiology

Chairperson: *Mark Sammut*

Expert Panel: *Oscar Aquilina, John Bonello*

10:55 From patient to patient advocate – about complex arrhythmias, living with a pacemaker, and engaging in the ESC

Inga Drossart

11:20 Latest evidence in rhythm control for atrial fibrillation and heart failure

Andreu Porta Sanchez

11:45 Is ICD still useful for the prevention of SCD in patients with dilated cardiomyopathies?

Christophe Leclercq

12:10 Lunch Break and Moderated Posters

Judges: *Maryanne Caruana, Andrew Cassar Maempel, Alex Gatt, Mark Gruppetta*

MP01 Very high risk Pulmonary embolism treated with V-A ECMO and thrombectomy at the Erasmus MC

William Camilleri, Wijnand Den Dekker

MP02 Audit on the use of transthoracic echocardiography before elective non-cardiac surgery in Malta

Daniel Formosa, Manwel Abela, Daniel Farrugia

MP03 Frequency of NT-proBNP testing during inpatient management of heart failure in Mater Dei Hospital - are we testing too often?

Timothy Xuereb, Tara Borg Caruana, Jean Marc Mizzi, Maryanne Caruana

MP04 Vascular access complications in transfemoral Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantations - A Single Tertiary Centre audit

Jonathan-George Grima, Elton Pllaha, Robert G. Xuereb, Kevin Cassar, Matthew J. Grima

MP05 Evaluation of ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction management at Mater Dei Hospital

Diana Gauci, Philip Dingli

MP06 The Utilisation of Cardiac Holter Monitoring and Echocardiography following Acute Ischemic Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack

Nicolette Busuttill, Darren Galea Meilak, Francesca Theuma, Ian Said, Kevin Maria Zarb, Julia Darmanin

MP07 *Strep dysgalactiae* as cause of cardiac valve vegetation

Gajendra Acharya, Victoria Wong Murray, Ahmed Dawood Al Mahrizi Muhammad Jibrin

13:10 SESSION 3: Oral Abstract Session

Judges: *Maryanne Caruana, Andrew Cassar Maempel, Alex Gatt, Mark Gruppetta*

13:10 OP1 Nexilin-related cardiomyopathy (NEXN-CMP) - an island's perspective

Mark Abela, Myra Cassar, Jasmine Mifsud, Jeanesse Scerri, Jessica Debattista, Yanika Gialanze, M. Farrugia Wismayer, Christian Scerri, Tiziana Felice

13:20 OP2 The response to Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT) in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) receiving sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitor / angiotensin receptor/neprilysin inhibitor (ARNI) therapy is superior to the response in patients undergoing CRT and not receiving SGLT2 inhibitor/ARNI therapy.
Andrew Cuschieri, Joseph Demanuele, Victoria Farrugia, Gabriel Grima, Norbert Borg, Sheldon Attard, Joan Caruana, Samuel Meilak, John Bonello, Mark A Sammut, Alice M Moore, Melanie R Burg

13:30 OP3 Five-year clinical outcomes following Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) in patients with Left main coronary artery (LMCA) disease in a low volume centre: a retrospective cohort study
Michael Janula, Samuel P. Attard, Alessia Vella, Joseph Galea

13:40 OP4 Hyperuricaemia: Nationwide study in ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients
Christine Caruana, Neil Grech, Mary Anok Ayibam, David Mangion, Andrew Cassar Maempel

13:50 OP5 Ongoing Surveillance of Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device Infection Incidence at Mater Dei Hospital
Christine Caruana, Myra Cassar, Nathaniel Fenech, David Mangion, Samuel Meilak, John Bonello, Mark A Sammut, Melanie R Burg

14:00 OP6 Outcomes of Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion at Mater Dei Hospital
Rachele Farrugia, Steven Bajada, Christina Grima, Elton Pllaha

14:10 SESSION 4: Heart Failure

Chairperson: *Herbert Felice*

Expert Panel: *Mariosa Xuereb, Jeremy Fleri Soler*

14:10 Servo Ventilation Therapy in Heart Failure : What we have learned in the last decade

Faycal Abdenbi

14:35 Battling Heart Failure in the Real World

Alice Moore

15:00 Cardiac Contractility Modulation (CCM) in Heart Failure Management:
Reducing hospitalizations and improving quality of life.

Luca Santini

15:25 Coffee Break

15:55 SESSION 5: Inherited Cardiac Conditions & ACHD

Chairperson: *Tiziana Felice*

Expert Panel: *Alex Borg, Mark Abela*

15:55 Myosin Inhibitors: A game changer for patients with obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy?

Perry Elliot

16:20 What do current guidelines say about Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease (HTAD)?

Julie De Backer

16:45 Beyond Ejection Fraction: Cardiac MR Imaging to Improve Risk Stratification of SCD

Gaetano Nucifora

17:10 Fontan circulation: When complex becomes even more complex

Maryanne Caruana

17:35 Closing Remarks

Alex Borg

Saturday, 12th October 2024

Main Conference

Venue: Central Auditorium, Mater Dei Hospital

09:00 Registration

09:30 SESSION 6: Digital Health & Future Perspectives

Chairperson: *Andrew Cassar*

Expert Panel: *Caroline Magri, Elton Pillaha, Samuel Meilak*

09:30 No leads no pocket. Pushing frontiers with leadless pacing.

Mousa Ayeshe Al Harbi

09:55 Left Bundle Branch Pacing - The Emerging Pacing Modality. Benefits and Outcomes

Patrick Nagel

10:20 Implementing Digital Technology to improve the identification of individuals at high risk of Cardiovascular Disease-using Familial Hypercholesterolemia

Myra Tilney

10:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 SESSION 7: Oral Abstract Session

Judges: *Maryanne Caruana, Andrew Cassar Maempel, Caroline Magri, Alex Gatt, Mark Gruppetta*

11:00 OP7 Helicopter Transfer of STEMI Patients from Gozo General Hospital to Mater Dei Hospital – Across the Years

Daniel Formosa, Philip Dingli

11:10 OP8 Audit: A Retrospective Analysis of Mater Dei Hospital Heart Team Meeting Outcomes

Francesca Karlsson, Jean Marc Mizzi, Matthew Mercieca Balbi

11:20 OP9 An insight into patient education and awareness in relation to use of SGLT-2 inhibitors

Peter Cassar, Filippo Farrugia, Alexia Aquilina, Sarah Craus, Alex Role, David Coppini

11:30 OP10 Medical admissions for chest pain- An audit on inpatient

James Scicluna, Luca Gauci, Greta Micallef, Maria Zarb, Peter Fsadni, Matthew Mercieca Balbi

11:40 OP11 Markers of atherosclerosis following COVID-19

Rachel Anne Xuereb, Robert G. Xuereb, Stephen Fava, Caroline J. Magri

11:50 OP12 Carbon or Cow: the choice of aortic prosthesis in the seventh decade

Joseph Galea, Natasya Nabila, Samuel Attard

12:00 SESSION 8: Cardiac Surgery

Chairperson: *Tonio Piscopo*

Expert Panel: *Kevin Schembri, Claire Cordina Marantidis*

12:00 Transcatheter Aortic Valve or Sutureless Prosthesis: Friends or Foe?

Elisa Mikus

12:25 Endocarditis: the surgeon's perspective

Samuel Attard

12:50 Endocarditis - Cases from the MDT

*Daniela Demarco
James Farrugia*

13:15 Lunch Break

14:15 SESSION 9: Allied Health

Chairperson: *Sheldon Attard*

Expert Panel: *Francis Zarb, Jennifer Micallef*

14:15 The dirty business of cardiac devices

Liana Grima, Michelle Cassar

14:30 The era of device-detected arrhythmias

Charmaine Caruana

14:45 CMR in patients with cardiac devices: a best practice approach

Claude Portanier

15:00 The Gozo Heart Failure Clinic - A multidisciplinary team approach to care

Assunta Attard

15:15 SESSION 10: Cardiology Quiz

Maryanne Caruana, Luise Reichmuth

16:15 Best Abstract Awards and Closing Remarks

Alex Borg, Maryanne Caruana

Sunday, 13th October 2024

Public Awareness Day

Venue: Ġnien il-Hena, Mater Dei Hospital

09:00 Health Check & Cardiology Expo

Educational Talks

09:30 Address by the President of the Maltese Cardiac Society

Maryanne Caruana

09:40 Cardiac Arrest: Red Flags and Causes

Tiziana Felice

10:00 Basic Life Support and AED use

Duncan Briffa

Refreshments

Speakers

Dr Alexander Borg qualified from the University of Malta in 1997, underwent cardiology training in Manchester, UK, and has been working as a consultant since 2012. His subspecialty interest is cardiovascular imaging, valvular heart disease and myocardial deformation imaging, with practical skills in advanced echocardiography, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and cardiac CT



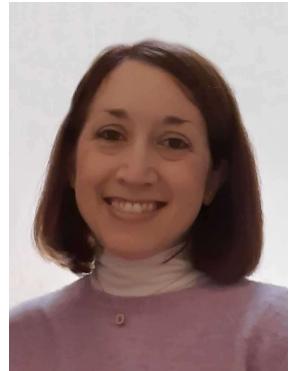
scanning. He currently works as a clinical cardiologist and cardiovascular imager at Mater Dei Hospital in Malta. He is actively involved in the ESC European Examination in Core Cardiology, and is Chair Elect of the EACC Question Selection Committee.



Dr Alice May Moore graduated from the University of Malta (Medicine and Surgery) in 2009 and started working at Mater Dei Hospital in the same year. She spent 3 years in general medicine after completing the foundation programme in 2011. In 2014 she started higher specialist training in Cardiology and received CCST in Cardiology in 2018. She spent a year at King's College Hospital in London as part of a training fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure. This also included a month's

fellowship at the Heart Transplant Centre at Papworth Hospital in Papworth. She is currently working as acting consultant cardiologist with a special interest in advanced heart failure, cardio-oncology and cardiac transplantation.

Ms Assunta Attard is a Cardiac Practice Nurse who works at Gozo General Hospital. She graduated from the University of Malta in 2000 with a Degree (Hons) in Nursing. In 2022 she obtained her Masters in Nursing (Clinical Practice) with the University of Dundee focusing on heart failure care. She also took a course in Cardiac Rehabilitation with the National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health. In the 24 years of nursing she has worked in several clinical settings including the General Surgical/Medical Wards, Intensive/High dependency Care Units and CCU. Presently, her role is in developing a Heart Failure and a Cardiac Rehabilitation Service for Gozo General Hospital.



Ms Charmaine Caruana holds a Masters degree in Healthcare Leadership and Management. She is principal ECG technician in the cardiac laboratory. She furthered her studies in 2017 by completing an upgrading course at MCAST in Higher Diploma in Physiological Measurements. Since the beginning of the Cardiac services in Malta (1993), she was allocated to assist in interventional cardiology in monitoring hemodynamics. Throughout the years she attended training in pacemaker programming and interrogation. One of her main interest is ECG interpretation and in June 2023 she completed an online course with St George's university of London entitled, "How to interpret the ECG in athletes and young adults".

Prof. Christophe Leclercq is from the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Rennes (FR) and chief of the cardiology department. His main areas of interest include device therapy for arrhythmias and heart failure.

Prof. Christophe Leclercq has published over 210 manuscripts and he is a reviewer for the major cardiology journals. He was the President of The European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) between 2020-2022 , which is a branch of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). He is currently a member of the ESC board and the President of the French Society of Cardiology.



Mr Claude Portanier Mifsud has over 27 years of experience as a radiographer, working in both clinical and management roles. He gained clinical experience working across various areas of radiography and has also lectured within the Radiography Department at the University of Malta while pursuing a Master's in Radiography and in Management. For 11 years, Claude led the MRI unit at MDH, where together with a number of professionals introduced several

new services that significantly enhanced patient care. One notable achievement was the introduction of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance (CMR) services, where next year cardiology and radiology mark 10 years of successful collaboration. Currently, Claude is responsible for promoting staff development within the Radiography profession at MDH while continuing to provide clinical MRI services.”

Prof. Elisa Mikus is a senior Cardiac Surgeon at Maria Cecilia Hospital in Cotignola, Emilia-Romagna, Italy. She graduated in Medicine and Surgery in 2002 and specialized in 2007 at the Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna. In 2022, she completed her Ph.D. Cardio-Nephro-Thoracic Sciences at the University of Bologna and appointed an Associate Professor in 2023. She mainly deals with minimally invasive cardiac surgery, with particular interest in the treatment of aortic stenosis, mitral insufficiency and aortic aneurysm. She also has extensive experience in performing coronary bypass and aortic root surgery.



Dr Fayçal Abdenbi is current the Clinical Segment Lead in Sleep and Respiratory Care Department, Philips based in Paris, France. He obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1991 from the Sciences and Technology University of Oran - Mohamed Boudiaf (USTO-MB), and obtained a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC) in 2005. He has a robust skill set that includes Learning Management, Blended Learning, Sleep Training, Medical Devices, Training and more.

Dr Gaetano Nucifora graduated cum laude from the Medical School at The University of Udine, Italy and in 2006, completed his Cardiology training at The University of Trieste, Italy.

From 2007 to 2011, he secured clinical and research fellowships in the field of non-invasive cardiac imaging (echocardiography, coronary computed tomography and cardiac magnetic resonance) at Leiden



University Medical Center, Netherlands, Fondazione CNR/Regione Toscana Gabriele Monasterio, Pisa, Italy and Fondazione Cardiocentro Ticino, Lugano, Switzerland. He gained a PhD at The Leiden University, discussing the use of non-invasive imaging modalities for the diagnosis and risk stratification of patients with suspected or established coronary artery disease.

He then worked as a Consultant Cardiologist at The University Hospital “Santa Maria della Misericordia”, Udine, Italy from 2011 to 2016, and as a researcher in the field of cardiac magnetic resonance imaging at The South Australian Medical and Research Institute (SAHMRI), Adelaide, Australia, from 2016 to 2017. In 2017, he moved to the UK as was appointed as Consultant Cardiologist at Wythenshawe Hospital, now part of the Manchester University NHS FT, where he further developed the Cardiac MR and Cardiac CT services.

The cross-sectional cardiac Imaging Unit at Wythenshawe Campus is one of the largest dedicated cardiac imaging facilities in the country performing ~ 7000 cardiac studies a year. Dr Nucifora is Level III accredited and performs and/or reports over 300 CTA and over 1000 CMR studies annually. He continues to have an active research interest and has published >150 peer-reviewed manuscripts across a wide spectrum of cardiovascular medicine.



Prof Giovanni B. Pedrazzini is the Head of the Cardiology Service at the Cardiocentro Institute in Lugano, where he directed the interventional cardiology service from 1999 to 2017. In 2017, he was called to be part of the first group of 5 full professors of the newly formed Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at the Università della Svizzera Italiana, of which he has been Dean since January 1, 2021. After studying medicine in Lausanne (graduating in 1985), he obtained a degree in internal medicine (1991) and subsequently, in 1996, that of cardiology, further specializing, under the

guidance of Prof. Bernard Maier in Bern and Prof. Thomas Lüscher in Zurich, with short periods abroad, in interventional cardiology. As part of his activity as head of the interventional cardiology service at Cardiocentro Ticino, he contributed to the implementation of cutting-edge percutaneous techniques, from the emergency dilation treatment of primary myocardial infarction at the beginning of the 2000s, to the most modern percutaneous valvular therapies, a field in which Cardiocentro has been a pioneer and a national/international reference center since the very beginning. From 2000 to 2016 he organized and directed the international congress "Interventional Symposium on high risk coronary and structural interventions" which was held every 2 years at the Cardiocentro Ticino with the participation of more than 300 national and international experts. Active within the Swiss Society of Cardiology, he first directed the invasive cardiology group (2012-2014) becoming President in the two-year period 2019-2020. As a clinical researcher he is responsible for the Swiss registry on percutaneous treatment of mitral valves using Mitraclip, active since 2011 with the inclusion of more than 1500 patients, and is the author of numerous publications in international journals. His areas of scientific interest are mainly focused on percutaneous valvular therapies, antiplatelet treatments and acute coronary syndrome. He is a member of

several scientific guilds and is part of the Steering Committee of the Swiss registry on acute myocardial infarction (AMIS plus). During his career he has been invited to numerous national and international conferences as a speaker and expert. Within the Master of Biomedicine he is responsible for the Circulation module and is in charge of the courses on acute coronary syndrome and heart failure. For several years he has coordinated a humanitarian project in Guinea Bissau that has allowed the treatment of more than 25 young patients suffering from severe rheumatic valvular disease through surgical valve replacement or percutaneous dilation at the Cardiocentro Ticino. He is also responsible for a project to finance a center for disabled/abused girls in the outskirts of Calcutta. In his work and in his various activities he is a staunch defender of teamwork, convinced that the ability to know how to work in a team, from the management of complex patients to the construction of a faculty, from scientific activity to the management of a service allows to achieve otherwise unimaginable results and represents nowadays an indispensable added value. Among his numerous hobbies is writing with three books published in Ticino. He is married to Marialuisa and is the father of 4 children and happily a grandfather.

Ms Inga Drossart, is an ESC Patient Forum member & ESC Patient Engagement Officer. She is a passionate arrhythmia patient advocate with over 20 years of personal experience of catheter ablations, pacemaker implant, open heart surgery, antiarrhythmic drugs and anticoagulation. She has been a member of the ESC Patient Forum since 2018 and became ESC Patient Engagement Officer in 2019. Her primary role at the ESC is to coordinate and provide support to the ESC Patient Forum and to facilitate the involvement of patients in the areas of ESC activity which could benefit from patient engagement. Before joining the ESC, Inga worked four years in a patient organization (German Heart Foundation). Her academic background is in



Political Science (B.A., Universitaet Bremen, Germany) and Environmental Politics (M.A., Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany).



Prof Julie De Backer, MD, PhD, FESC, is a genetic cardiologist at Ghent University Hospital, Belgium. She heads the Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) clinic and coordinates interdisciplinary programs for ACHD & Heritable Thoracic Aortic Disease (HTAD) patients, with a focus on patient centered care.

She is appointed full professor at the Ghent University. Her translational research focuses on in-depth cardiovascular profiling in Marfan syndrome and HTAD, exploring geno/phenotype relationships. Julie De Backer and her team employ genetic animal models in search for novel treatment targets.

She is an active member of VASCERN, ESC's Aorta and Peripheral Vascular Disease Working Group, and the Montalcino Aortic Consortium. She co-chaired the 2020 ESC ACHD guidelines and chairs the 2025 ESC pregnancy guidelines.

Ms Liana Grima has worked as a staff nurse at Mater Dei Hospital since 2019, with over 4 years experience in the Cardiac Catheterisation Suite. In 2024 she completed a Masters Degree in Healthcare Management and Leadership and is currently undergoing a course with the ESC to become a qualified cardiac catheterisation lab nurse.





Dr Luca Santini was born in Rome, Italy, and graduated at the Catholic University of Sacred Heart Medical School of Rome in 1999. He underwent specialisation in Cardiology in 2003, at University of Tor Vergata, Rome, and pursued his training in cardiac pacing at San Filippo Neri Hospital, Rome 2001-2003. Dr Santini read for a PhD at Tor Vergata University in 2009. He worked as consultant cardiologist at University Hospital Tor Vergata, in Rome from 2009 to 2015. From 2015 onwards, he was been EP Lab Coordinator at G.B. Grassi Hospital,

Rome. Dr Santini is was also adjunct Professor of Cardiology, University of Tor Vergata from 2009 to 2015. He authored several books and scientific treatises, published over 100 peer review papers. He is active member of EHRA, ECAS and WSA, and also served in volunteer roles for AIAC (Italian Association of Arrhythmology/Cardiac pacing) and FIC (Italian Federation of Cardiology). He is co-Chairman of International Symposium on Progress in Clinical Pacing, Rome. Clinical and research interests focus on CRT and remote heart failure diagnostics for device patients.

Dr Luise Reichmuth is a consultant general and cardiac radiologist with a special interest in cardiac CT and MRI. She is the radiology lead of the cardiac imaging team at Mater Dei Hospital in Msida, Malta. She qualified with Distinction in Medicine from the University of Malta in 2008 and began specialist training in radiology in 2010 at Mater Dei Hospital after completing two years of Foundation Training. She spent a year at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust as part of a clinical fellowship in Cardiac Imaging.



She is a post-graduate training coordinator in radiology and has given numerous lectures at national conferences.



Dr Mark Sammut graduated as Doctor of Medicine at the University of Malta in June 1997. He received my medical and cardiology training at Saint Luke's Hospital and Mater Dei Hospital in Malta, completing my general cardiology specialization in August 2007. In December 2011 he completed a one-year fellowship in Advanced Clinical Electrophysiology with Emphasis on Catheter Ablation at Zentralklinik in Bad Berka Germany where he performed and assisted in various EP procedures including ablations for supraventricular tachycardias, ventricular tachycardias, paroxysmal and persistent atrial fibrillation. In August 2012 he successfully passed the EHRA Certification Exam in Invasive Electrophysiology. He was appointed Consultant Cardiologist in the Department of Cardiology in May 2011. His duties as consultant are mainly related to my special interest in

Electrophysiology and Devices and include being responsible for the care of cardiology inpatients and outpatients, performing regular lists of invasive and non-invasive cardiac investigations, carrying out various invasive procedures such as pacemaker implantations and Electrophysiological studies and ablations, as well as doing regular on-call duties in the field of Electrophysiology and Devices. As Visiting Lecturer in the University of Malta and Lecturer in Bart's Medical School in Gozo, he delivers regular tutorials to medical students with a particular emphasis on cardiology. He regularly give talks and presentations in local meetings and courses on cardiac arrhythmias and pacing. He represents the Maltese Cardiac Society as the national guidelines co-ordinator for the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), and act as the national ambassador for the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). He has chaired a session on cardiac resynchronization therapy at the ESC conference in 2019. He has been part of the panel that has reviewed the 2014 ESC guidelines on non-cardiac surgery, the 2015 ESC guidelines on Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death and the 2018 ESC guidelines on the diagnosis and management of syncope, the 2020 ESC guidelines on the diagnosis and management of atrial fibrillation and the 2021 ESC guidelines on cardiac pacing and cardiac resynchronization therapy, representing the Maltese Cardiac Society. He is also an official abstract reviewer for the ESC. He currently occupies the role of Honorary Secretary of the Maltese Cardiac Society.



Dr Martin Sluka is a cardiologist practising at the University Hospital Olomouc in Czech Republic. His areas of expertise are interventional cardiology and heart valve disease.

His clinical research consists of co-authoring at least 16 peer reviewed articles and participating in at least 2 clinical trials in the past 15 years. He has co-authored on a wide range of topics such as TAVR and its' technical aspects, interventional prevention of paradoxical embolism, and extracorporeal CPR. He

has previously presented at the ESC Congress, delivering presentations on 'Combined strategy for large-bore arteriotomy closure after TAVI' in 2022, and 'Left lower pulmonary vein occlusion following pulmonary vein isolation for AF' in 2019.

Dr Maryanne Caruana is a consultant cardiologist at Mater Dei Hospital where she runs the Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Aortopathy Services. She underwent her core cardiology training in Malta and then moved on to subspecialise in ACHD through fellowships at The Heart Hospital in London and the Bristol Heart Centre. In 2018, she was awarded a PhD from the University of Malta for her work on ACHD in the Maltese Islands. She has been the VASCERN HTAD Working Group Focal Point for Mater Dei Hospital since 2020.



She was elected President of the Maltese Cardiac Society in October 2023. She is also the Chairperson of Beating Hearts Malta, a Maltese NGO for children and adults with congenital heart disease.



Ms Michelle Cassar has graduated from the Nursing School, St. Luke's Hospital, Malta, with over 40 years of clinical and managerial nursing experience. She worked in ITU at St. Luke's Hospital, supported by a working experience in Cardiac Intensive Care, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London. Also, she worked on surgical wards and at the Cardiac Lab. She has been a key leading role in the development and implementation of the Nurse-Led Heart Failure Clinic at Mater Dei Hospital, which is a success

story. She is versatile, motivated and always ready for opportunities towards improving service delivery. She has attended several conferences, locally and abroad, related both to administrative and nursing practice, with a special focus on cardiology. She is currently occupying the leading role as Senior Charge Nurse of Cardiac Lab and Pacemaker Wound Check Clinic.

Dr Mousa Ayesh Al Harbi is a specialist in cardiac technology. He obtained his MBBS degree from the King Faisal University (now known as Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, IAU) in 2006. In 2013 he became a member of the American Board of Cardiovascular Medicine & Canadian Board of Adult Cardiology. In 2016 he completed his Fellowship in Advanced Cardiac Electrophysiology at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Between 2016 & 2019, he served as Internal Medicine/Cardiology Consultant at the King Fahad Hospital of the University, Saudi Arabia, and Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine, IAU, between 2016 and 2019. Between 2017 & 2019 he also fulfilled the roles of Director at the Cardiac Centre at King Fahad Hospital of the University (KFHU) and Chairman of the Cardiac Technology Department at the College of Applied Medical Sciences, IAU, between 2018 & 2019. He has worked as a Consultant Cardiac Electrophysiologist at the Cardiac Centre at the King Fahad Specialist Hospital-Dammam since 2019, and as Director of the Cardiology Service Line since 2021. He has also served as Vice President of the Saudi Heart Rhythm Society since 2019. Some of his most notable publications include 'The Effect of Cardiac Rehabilitation and a Specialized Clinic on Outcomes of Patients with Atrial Fibrillation' published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, 'The effect of revascularization on mortality and risk of ventricular arrhythmia in patients with ischaemic cardiomyopathy' in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders, 'The Effect of Shock Burden on Heart Failure and Mortality' in the CJC Open, the official journal of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, and 'Tidal Peritoneal Dialysis versus ultrafiltration in type 1 cardiorenal syndrome: A prospective randomized study' in the International Journal of Artificial Organs. He also formed part of the Saudi Heart Rhythm Society Task Force on Management of Potential Arrhythmogenicity Associated with Pharmacotherapy for COVID-19 (2020).





Dr Myra K Tilney is Consultant physician, Dept of Primary Care and Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of Malta; qualified with exceptional performance in Medicine, and trained in Malta, Belgium and UK; recipient of various bursaries and scholarships. Her interests include cardiovascular disease, and its risk factors, dyslipidaemias, digital health and quality of care improvement. She provides a Lipid Clinic service since over 20 years.

She has sat on various national and international educational and professional committees and is a regular expert reviewer for EU research from FP6 to Horizon Europe, as well as being Emeritus Regional Advisor for the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

She is national lead coordinator for Malta in the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Studies Collaboration and also for the EAS Lipid Clinic Network. She established a Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Register including patients and their families, and is designing and exploring the implementation of a tool for clinical process improvement in this underdiagnosed and undertreated condition

Dr Patrick Nagel is from is from the Charité Hospital in Berlin, Germany. He studied human medicine from 2000-2002 at the EMAU Greifswald and from 2002 to 2007 at the Technical University of Munich, followed by a Doctorate at the German Heart Center Munich, Department of Pediatric Cardiology. Since 2007 he has been a research associate at the Department of Cardiology at the Benjamin Franklin Campus of the Charité Berlin. He has began his fellowship in electrophysiology in 2014 and has been practicing as a senior physician in rhythmology since 2015. His chief clinical and scientific focus is in rhythmic device therapy.



Prof Perry Elliott is Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at University College London and a Senior Investigator of the UK National Institute for Health Research. He is director of the UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science UCL and a consultant cardiologist at St. Bartholomew's Hospital London. He is Chairman of the ESC Heart Academy and past chair of the ESC Council on Cardiovascular Genomics, the ESC Working Group on Myocardial and Pericardial Diseases and the Executive Committee for the European Outcomes Research Programme registry on cardiomyopathies. He is an executive Editor for the European Heart Journal. For almost 30 years,

he has led numerous international consortia and has made substantial scientific and policy contributions including clinical risk tools, discovery of rare and common genetic causes of inherited heart conditions, and US and

European Practice guidelines. He is founder and chair of the International Cardiomyopathy Network and President of Cardiomyopathy UK.

Dr Andreu Porta Sánchez graduated in Medicine from the University of Barcelona (Hospital Clínic) in 2007 and began his MIR training in 2008 in Cardiology at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital in Barcelona. In 2013, he received a Postgraduate grant from the "la Caixa" Foundation and continued his clinical training in the subspecialty of Cardiac Arrhythmias at the University of Toronto (Canada) in 2014. He completed the Master's Degree in Health Research Methodology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2017. In December 2017 after obtaining his "Clinical Fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology" degree in Canada, he



returned to Spain to continue his career in academic medicine at the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares and as an interventional electrophysiologist at Hospital Quironsalud Madrid. He holds a PhD with cum laude mention and an international doctorate from the Universitat de Barcelona (2019) on the topic of Ventricular Tachycardia. He is the author of more than 50 publications in first quartile medical journals, more than 20 review articles and book chapters, and a reviewer of articles for arrhythmia specialty journals. In 2022 he was appointed as the chair of the Certification Committee of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). He is a speaker at international arrhythmia meetings. He is currently an Associate Clinical Professor at Universitat de Barcelona and Staff at the Arrhythmia Unit of the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona and leads the large animal translational arrhythmia laboratory at IDIBAPS.



Dr Robert G. Xuereb is a consultant cardiologist, and is the Past President of the Maltese Cardiac Society 2013-2023. He was a Nominating Committee Member on the Governing Board of the European Society of Cardiology 2020-2022. He is the Past Chairperson of the Department of Cardiology of Mater Dei Hospital, Malta, 2014-2024. He was key in the setting up of the first ever interventional cardiology services based in Malta in the early 1990s. In 2014 he set up the Department of Cardiology at Mater Dei

Hospital. He was instrumental in the introduction of numerous innovations in the care of the cardiac patient ranging from CT coronary angiography and cardiac MR, to atrial fibrillation ablation, to precision coronary stenting using intravascular ultrasound and pressure measurements, and intravascular lithotripsy, to transcatheter edge to edge repair of the mitral valve, percutaneous bicaval valve implantation for tricuspid regurgitation, and left atrial appendage occlusion to prevent strokes, to left ventricular assist devices. He has consolidated the cardiology training programme to the highest European standards. He has established the subspecialties of clinical cardiology, interventional cardiology, advanced cardiac imaging, and electrophysiology and pacing, and set up numerous new specialized cardiology clinics. Following the success of the meetings he organized for interventional senior consultant cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from Europe, South America, and the Middle East, the Department of Cardiology of Mater Dei Hospital is now recognized as a 'Centre of Excellence' in interventional coronary cardiology and structural heart interventional cardiology on the global cardiology scene. Dr Xuereb continues to strive hard for the reduction of cardiovascular disease and deaths in Malta. He was appointed to the National Order of Merit by the President of Malta HE Dr George Vella December 2023. He is currently the CEO of the Foundation of Medical Services which is responsible of the healthcare infrastructure of Malta.

Dr Tiziana Felice is a consultant cardiologist at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta and she has a special interest in inherited cardiomyopathies. She specialized in the inherited cardiomyopathy field at the Heart Hospital in London under the guidance of Prof Elliot. In 2014, she set up an inherited cardiomyopathy service in Malta where patients suffering from these conditions are reviewed and assessed for their risk of sudden cardiac death. Dr Felice contributed to setting up a cardiovascular



genetic service at Mater Dei Hospital. In 2019 she obtained a master's degree by research in identifying mutations causing sarcomeric hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in the Maltese population. She has participated in a multicenter research regarding HCM in the paediatric population. She is currently the deputy chairperson of the cardiology department at Mater Dei Hospital.



Dr Wijnand K. den Dekker studied medicine at the University of Utrecht and obtained his medical degree in 2006. He completed his PhD in 2011 and cardiology training in 2017 at the Thoraxcenter of the Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Subsequently, he did his fellowship interventional cardiology before he joined the department of interventional cardiology in the Thoraxcenter, Erasmus MC as staff member. He is part of the percutaneous coronary intervention program and has a particular interest in treatment of patients with calcified coronary lesions and acute coronary syndromes. He is further involved in research in the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, particularly in preclinical setting. He has published and co-authored multiple papers in peer-reviewed journals.



MALTESE CARDIAC SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2024

PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY

Join us to learn more about heart health and the latest in cardiac care!



Gnien il-Hena, Mater Dei Hospital

get to know your



Blood Pressure



Body Mass Index



Glucose



13

OCTOBER

09:00 - 13:00

Open to the General Public - Free Entrance

09:00 - 13:00

Health Check and Cardiology Expo

- Cardiovascular health screen
- Cardiology expo
- Information on diet, smoking cessation and exercise

09:30 - 10:30

Educational Talks

Gnien il-Hena (Green block, Ground Floor)

09:30 am

Address by the President of the Maltese Cardiac society

Dr. Maryanne Caruana

09:40 am

Cardiac Arrest: Red Flags and Causes

Dr. Tiziana Felice

10:00 am

Basic Life Support and AED use

Mr Duncan Briffa

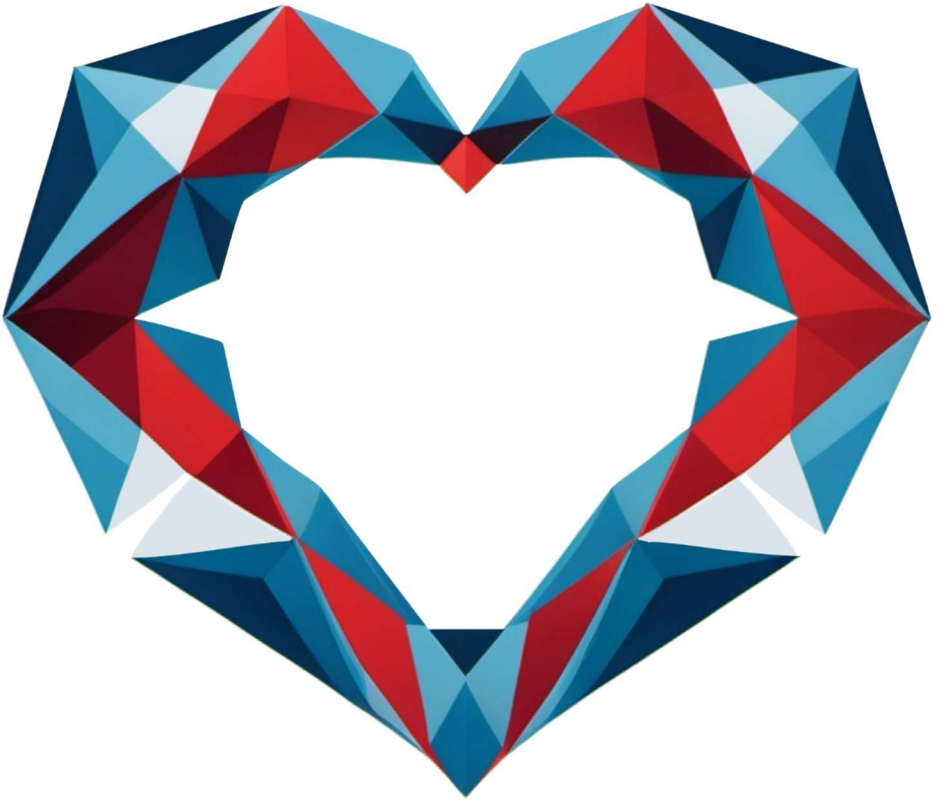
Refreshments will be served following the talks

Soċjeta Maltija
tal-Qalb



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MALTESE CARDIAC SOCIETY
— CONFERENCE 2025 —