

Producing the Guidelines together with the EAS has been important, says Reiner, because EAS members are predominantly scientists who deal with the different aspects of atherosclerosis including dyslipidemias. He says: 'I think that this mixture of everyday cardiology practice that came from the ESC side and expert

scientific basis coming from the EAS side produced very good Guidelines'.

The reference list is available as Supplementary material at *European Heart Journal* online.

Jennifer Taylor, MPhil

EACPR clinical methods training course

A success story in the Swiss Alps to better train researchers.

Preventive cardiology has become high priority in the ESC agenda. In order to increase ESC activities in this field, the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (EACPR) was created in 2006. The mission of the Association is 'to promote excellence in research, practice, education and policy in cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation in Europe'. The activities of the Association are built on the expertise of four subspecialties including:

Epidemiology, prevention, public health,
Rehabilitation, physical activity,
Basic science,
Sports cardiology.

The main assets of the Association are the *European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation* and the annual EuroPREvent congress. Other activities include research projects, guidelines and position paper development, and educational activities.

Research methods training course

A major aim of the Association is to promote excellence in cardiovascular research. For this purpose, a specific research methods training course has been developed and is organized by the Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit at the Inselspital University Hospital, Bern, Switzerland. Course directors are Prof. Diederick Grobbee from Utrecht, Netherlands and Prof. Hugo Saner from Bern, Switzerland. It was decided to locate the course in the lovely mountain village of Mürren, which is in the Swiss Alps just opposite to the famous ski resort of Wengen and the Jungfrau Mountain. Mürren is also famous for its quiet setting (no vehicles) and is the starting point for ascending to the top of the Schilthorn Mountain, where the revolving restaurant has become famous through a James Bond movie.

Course programme

The course seeks to provide systematic training in study planning and methods related to epidemiology, prevention, rehabilitation, sports cardiology, exercise cardiology, and related basic sciences. The course is arranged along two paths:

- (i) Lectures on study design, measurement, and bias.
- (ii) Assessment of Fellows' own research protocol where the participants learn to identify a research topic, to formulate

research questions, to undertake a literature study, to collect and analyse relevant data, and to develop a written sustained argument linking theory and evidence, which runs parallel to the lectures.

The faculty consists of members of the EACPR nuclei and from their scientific and executive committees. Participants are physicians and other health personnel with training in cardiology and with research interest in epidemiology, prevention, rehabilitation, sports cardiology, exercise cardiology, and related basic sciences. All participants are invited to bring their own study protocol for presentation and discussion.

Research topics

- Theory of science and study designs
- Cross-sectional studies
- Case-control studies
- Cohort studies
- Trials and experiments
- Presentation of research protocols
- Group tasks
- How to read abstracts and papers
- How to write abstracts and papers
- Grant applications
- Lectures on concepts and measurements in rehabilitation, prevention, and sports cardiology



Course participants and faculty members from 3rd Research Methods Training Course 2011



Workshop, Intense group discussion including faculty members are highly appreciated by the participants

Course participants

The Research Methods Training Course is restricted to 24 participants in order to allow optimal interaction with teachers and faculty. Since 2009, three courses have been organized which included 77 participants from 19 different countries. The majority of the participants are cardiologists in training and PhD students from graduate schools in Central and Eastern European countries. However, several participants have come from outside Europe including countries as far away as India.

Information

The next Research Methods Training Course is planned for 8–13 January 2012; eurocardio.edu@insel.ch.

Prof. Hugo Saner

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Leading the Asia-Pacific region

Japan's *Circulation Journal* is striving for a position in the Asia-Pacific region similar to that of *Circulation* in the USA and *European Heart Journal* in Europe.



The first issue of *Circulation Journal* was published on 1 April 1935 as the first medical journal of cardiology by the Japanese Circulation Society. Toshikazu Mashimo was the launch editor and held the post until 1941.

The current editor-in-chief, Hiroaki Shimokawa, professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine in Sendai, Japan, took office in 2008.

The journal has two editorial offices. In Sendai, Shimokawa receives daily help from Mayumi Abe, a secretary for the journal at Tohoku University, and Dr Satoshi Yasuda, who is executive editor. The Kyoto office houses the headquarters of the Japanese Circulation Society. The Society has 18 staff members, of which two—Yuka Nakamura and Uika Hosomichi—are devoted to assisting Shimokawa with the journal.

Specialist support is provided by 34 associate editors in Japan and 17 international associate editors, including nine from the USA, one from Switzerland, one from Italy, two from Korea, two from China, one from Taiwan, and one from Australia.

The journal also has a 27-strong international advisory board with members from the USA, UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Korea, and China.

Circulation Journal covers all aspects of cardiovascular research and practice. Readers include members of the Japanese Circulation Society, especially Asian-Pacific cardiologists. There are around 24 000 subscribers.

The journal's first impact factor of 0.5 was awarded in 2000. It has risen steadily since then to 2.692 in 2009.



H. Shimokawa