



**Hybrid Conference**

**15 - 17 October 2020**

**[www.mcardios.org](http://www.mcardios.org)**





Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to the Maltese Cardiac Society Conference 2020. The Scientific and Organizing Committee has risen to the challenge set by the COVID-19 pandemic and come up with our first ever 'hybrid' conference. This year's annual Maltese Cardiac Society Conference will have 30 attendees on site appropriately socially distanced in Mater Dei

Hospital's large central auditorium with the remaining participating online in a digital virtual conference.

Being a small National Cardiology Society on an archipelago at the southernmost tip of Europe, the travel difficulties we currently face are making it more difficult for us to keep abreast of the latest developments in cardiology.

It is therefore a great honour and privilege to have an international faculty of 17 high profile renowned cardiologists coming from 10 countries who will share their expertise on a broad spectrum of cardiology topics. A highlight of the conference will be the joint session with the European Society of Cardiology. Sessions will be led by a national chairperson and expert panel.

Research from our young cardiologists of tomorrow will again be given prominence with 2 prime time oral abstract sessions. E-posters will be accessible online via the Maltese Cardiac Society website.

The family practitioner update will go digital. Public heart awareness is being raised via Facebook and television campaigns.

We hope this year's conference will prove to be a very educational and stimulating experience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Xuereb', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr Robert G. Xuereb  
President of the Maltese Cardiac Society  
On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committee

## **Maltese Cardiac Society Board 2020**

President	Robert G Xuereb
Vice President	Alexander Manche
Hon Secretary	Terence Tilney
Treasurer	Caroline Jane Magri

## **Maltese Cardiac Society Conference 2020 Organising Committee**

President	Robert G Xuereb
Chairpersons Organising Committee	Alex Borg Caroline Jane Magri
Vice Chairperson Organising Committee	Andrew Cassar Maempel
Programme Committee	Robert G. Xuereb Alex Borg Caroline Jane Magri Lisa Buttigieg
Scientific Committee	Maryanne Caruana Philip Dingli Victor Grech Andrew Cassar Maempel Caroline Jane Magri
ESC Liaison Officer	Terence Tilney

Director GP sessions

Philip Sciortino  
Robert G Xuereb  
Caroline Jane Magri

Logistics

John Bonello  
Jeremy Fleri Soler  
William Camilleri  
Joseph J Galea  
Samuel Meilak  
Sara Xuereb  
Lisa Buttigieg  
Michelle Cassar

Website

Samuel Meilak  
Mario Scicluna

Webinar Transmission

Brian Cassar  
Joseph Debono

Information Technology and Media

Brian Cassar  
Samuel Meilak  
Mark Caruana  
William Camilleri

Online Programme Coordinators

Caroline Jane Magri  
Samuel Meilak

Onsite Moderator

Philip Dingli

Graphic Design

Kevin Bonnici

Sponsor Liaison Officer

Caroline Jane Magri

Typesetting and Publishing

Samuel Meilak

Kevin Bonnici

Conference Secretaries

Antoinette Calleja

Zvetlana Grech

**Website:** <http://www.mcardios.org>

### **External CME points for participation**

Thursday 15th October

3 points

Friday 16th October

6 points

Saturday 17th October

6 points

## **Conference Local Faculty**

Alex Borg  
Alex Manche  
Alice May Moore  
Andrew Cassar  
Andrew Cassar Maempel  
Caroline J. Magri  
Daniela Cassar Demarco  
Elton Pillaha  
Herbert Felice  
Joseph Galea  
Mario Cachia  
Mariosa Xuereb  
Mark A. Sammut  
Mark Abela  
Maryanne Caruana  
Matthew Mercieca Balbi  
Melanie Zammit Burg  
Oscar Aquilina  
Philip Dingli  
Philip Sciortino  
Rachel Anne Xuereb  
Robert G. Xuereb  
Terence Tilney  
Tiziana Felice  
Victor Grech  
Walter Busuttil

## **Conference International Faculty**

Alessandro Giardini

Alexander Lyon

Andreas Triantafyllis

Carlo Di Mario

Dimitrios Farmakis

Franz Weidinger

Gregory Lip

Jan Torzewski

Jane Somerville

Jeroen Bax

Jose L. Zamorano

Luca Testa

Marc Abboud

Michele Brunelli

Panos E. Vardas

Patricia Campbell

Ronen Beeri



## **Platinum Corporate Partners**

Astra Zeneca

ATG

Bayer

Charles de Giorgio - Abbott

Menarini

Pfizer

Philips

Technoline

VJ Salomone

## **Gold Corporate Partners**

Boehringer Ingelheim

Boston Scientific

Charles de Giorgio - Eli Lilly

Edwards Life Sciences

Novartis

## **Partners**

Beating Hearts Malta

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate

Malta College of Family Doctors

Mater Dei Hospital

Ministry of Health

University of Malta Faculty of Health Sciences

University of Malta Medical School

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Cardiology Update for the Family Physician**

*In collaboration with the Malta College of Family Doctors*

**Venue: Online Conference**

---

*Chairpersons:* Robert G. Xuereb, Philip Sciortino

20:00 Management of Atrial Fibrillation in the community

*Mark A. Sammut*

20:20 Managing GUCH patients in the community

*Maryanne Caruana*

20:40 Antiplatelets in primary and secondary prevention

*Matthew Mercieca Balbi*

21:00 Improving cardiovascular prognosis with novel diabetes drugs

*Mario Cachia*

**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Main Conference**

**Venue: Online Conference**

---

**09:00 Official Opening**

09:00 Opening Address

*Robert G. Xuereb, President Maltese Cardiac Society*

09:10 Address by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health

*Hon. Christopher Fearne*

09:20 Maltese Cardiac Society Award

*Robert G. Xuereb*

09:25 Secretary Speech

*Terence Tilney*

**09:30 SESSION 1: Keynote Lecture**

*Chairpersons:* Robert G. Xuereb, Alex Manche

09:30 The Future of Cardiology

*Panos E. Vardas (Heraklion, Greece)*

## **10:00 SESSION 2: Gems from the ESC**

*Chairperson:* Robert G. Xuereb

*Expert Panel:* Andrew Cassar, Andrew Cassar Maempel,  
Daniela Cassar Demarco

10:00 How and Why: New Classification of Tricuspid Regurgitation

*Jose L. Zamorano (Madrid, Spain)*

10:30 NSTEMI Guidelines 2020: What is new?

*Franz Weidinger (Vienna, Austria)*

11:00 Aortic Stenosis and Heart Failure

*Jeroen Bax (Leiden, Netherlands)*

---

### **11:30 Coffee Break, Online Exhibition**

---

## **11:50 SESSION 3: Challenges in Interventional Cardiology**

*Chairpersons:* Robert G. Xuereb

*Expert Panel:* Andrew Cassar Maempel, Philip Dingli,  
Matthew Mercieca Balbi

11:50 The Contemporary Approach to Heavily Calcified Coronary  
Lesions

*Carlo Di Mario (Florence, Italy)*

12:20 IVUS guided PCI: from basics to SyncVision Co-registration

*Luca Testa (Milan, Italy)*

12:50 Stent ablation using rotational atherectomy via an 8-Fr guide from the right radial artery

*Andreas Triantafyllis (Athens, Greece))*

13:20 TAP Technique for Bifurcation Lesions

*Marc Abboud (Lebanon)*

---

### **13:50 Lunch Break, Online Exhibition**

---

### **14:20 SESSION 4: Oral Abstract Session (1)**

*Chairperson:* Caroline J. Magri

*Expert Panel:* Victor Grech, Maryanne Caruana, Joseph Galea

1. Short PR interval in adolescent athletes and non-athletes  
*Abela M., Grech N., Degiorgio S., Xuereb R., Buttigieg L., Xuereb S., Sapiano K., Bonello J., Fleri Soler J., Camilleri W., Burg M., Sammut M.A., Grech V., Xuereb R.G., Malhotra A., Papadakis M., Sharma S.*
2. When the patients stayed home - the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on nationwide acute cardiac admissions and cardiac mortality  
*Grech N., Xuereb R., England K., Xuereb R.G., Caruana M.*
3. Monitoring of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity in the treatment of haematological malignancies, a local perspective  
*Vella J., Fleri Soler J., Mizzi J.M., Farrugia P., Farrugia D., Buttigieg L., Moore A., Grech M., Xuereb R.*
4. Can pharmacogenetic testing be used for precision antiplatelet therapy to improve prognosis in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention?  
*Osama S., Wirth F., Zahra G., Camilleri L., Xuereb R.G., Azzopardi L.M.*

5. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis to Assess the Clinical Outcomes of Open and Endoscopic Vein Harvest Techniques for CABG  
*Mootealoo M., Galea J.*
6. A 1-year review of a new national specialized heart failure *clinic*  
*Mizzi J.M. , Xuereb S., Moore A.M., Xuereb R.G.*

## **15:20 SESSION 5: The Changing Landscape of AF management. New Insights in AF and Stroke.**

*Chairperson:* Oscar Aquilina

*Expert Panel:* Mark A. Sammut, Melanie Zammit Burg, Alice May Moore

15:20 Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke

*Mark A. Sammut (Malta)*

15:50 AF Management in Heart Failure Patients

*Michele Brunelli (Magdeburg, Germany)*

## **16:20 Closing Remarks**

*Robert G. Xuereb, President Maltese Cardiac Society*

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Main Conference**

**Venue: Online Conference**

---

**09:00 SESSION 6: Scaffolds, Mitral Valve and more...**

*Chairperson:* Alex Borg

*Expert Panel:* Robert G. Xuereb, Andrew Cassar, Elton Pllaha

09:00 Use of Bioresorbable Scaffolds

*Jan Torzewski (Kempton Germany)*

09:30 Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation: State of the Art

*Gregory Lip (Liverpool, UK)*

10:00 Imaging for Mitraclip

*Ronen Beerli (Jerusalem, Israel)*

---

**10:30 Coffee Break, Online Exhibition**

---

**10:50 SESSION 7: COVID-19 and the Heart**

*Chairperson:* Victor Grech

*Expert Panel:* Walter Busuttil, Maryanne Caruana, Mariosa Xuereb

10:50 COVID-19 in a Paediatric Tertiary Centre

*Alessandro Giardini (London, UK)*



11:20 COVID-19 and the Heart

*Rachel Anne Xuereb (Malta)*

11:50 COVID-19: A personal experience

*Jane Somerville (London, UK)*

---

## **12:20 Lunch Break, Online Exhibition**

---

### **12:50 SESSION 8: Oral Abstract Session (2)**

*Chairperson:* Caroline J. Magri

*Expert Panel:* Victor Grech, Maryanne Caruana, Joseph Galea

7. Appropriateness of Referrals for Exercise ECG Stress Test  
*Manara M., Darmanin J., Bonello J.*
8. Cardiology Diagnostic Reference Levels: Impact of upgraded systems on patient X-ray doses  
*Pace E., Cortis K., Debono J., Grech M., Caruana C.J.*
9. Waist- Hip Ratio and HOMA-IR: Better Indicators of Risk of Myocardial Infarction than BMI in the Maltese Population  
*Dingli P., Attard R., Doggen C., Cassar K., Farrugia R., Bezzina Wettinger S.*
10. The Cardiac Genetics Molecular Testing Service  
*Scerri J., Debattista J., Farrugia Wismayer M., Mifsud I., Cassar W., Cutajar J., Galdies R., Scerri C.*
11. Outcome of patients with significant non-culprit lesions in STEMI patients  
*Grech N., Mizzi J.M., Formosa R., Yee Wang C., Magri Gatt P., Buttigieg M.L., Spiteri J., Agius M., Gatt R., Montanaro G., Camilleri R., Borg Axisa A., Nair A., Camilleri W., Mercieca Balbi M., Xuereb S., Xuereb R.G., Cassar Maempel A.*

12. Contrast Induced Nephropathy Post Coronary Interventions - A Local Study

*Borg J., Brincat S., Debrincat M., Fenech C., Manara M., Vella J., Mercieca Balbi M., Buttigieg J.*

**13:50 SESSION 9: Optimizing Outcomes in Heart Failure**

*Chairperson:* Tiziana Felice

*Expert Panel:* Alice May Moore, Herbert Felice, Mark Abela

13:50 Cardiovascular complications of immune check-point inhibitors

*Alexander Lyon (London, UK)*

14:20 Sacubitril/valsartan for Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction: An Update

*Dimitrios Farmakis (Athens, Greece)*

14:50 Emerging Therapy for Heart Failure - current and possible new standard of care

*Patricia Campbell (Dublin, Ireland)*

**15:20 Best Abstract Award and Closing Remarks**

*Robert G. Xuereb, President Maltese Cardiac Society*

## **e-Posters (Accessible on [www.mcardios.org](http://www.mcardios.org))**

- P1 Self-monitoring of blood pressure in Malta during pregnancy  
*Mercieca V., Cassar P., Scerri A.*
- P2 Applying the novel PADIT infection risk score: a retrospective, single-center study  
*Burg M, Azzopardi M., Buttigieg ML., Grech V., Aquilina O., Sammut M*
- P3 Incidence and Prevalence of Smoking Amongst Local Medical Students  
*Pizzuto M., Caruana Montaldo B., Muscat T., Seychell M.*
- P4 QTc Prolongation: Identification and Management among Inpatients on Psychiatric Treatment  
*Morgan E., Fenech I., Padovani J.*
- P5 Audit on the management of Heart Failure at a Rehabilitation Hospital in Malta  
*Calleja A., Bonnici M., Ferry P.*
- P6 The impact of heart team discussion on coronary revascularization- the local experience  
*Debrincat M., Vella J., Xuereb S., Dingli P., Cassar Maempel A*
- P7 Symptomatic digoxin toxicity in a patient on haemodialysis  
*Delicata L., Gatt A., Paris J.L., Bonello J., Vella M.P.*
- P8 Prophylactic statin therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes in primary care  
*Camilleri J., Camilleri R., Baldacchino S.*
- P9 HbA1c monitoring in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in primary care  
*Camilleri J., Camilleri R., Baldacchino S.*

- P10      Vascular complications post-TAVI in Malta using VARC-2 definition - A single centre experience  
*Cassar P., Cassar A., Ghio A.*
- P11      Thyroid Storm subsequent to type 1 amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis  
*Craus S., Rizzo C., Fava S., Mifsud S.*
- P12      Point-of-care testing devices for myocardial infarction markers  
*Delia N., Wirth F., Azzopardi L.M.*
- P13      Smoking cessation in post-hospitalisation cardiac rehabilitation  
*Scicluna G., Gauci M., Xuereb C., Desira J., Xuereb R.G., Wirth F., Azzopardi L.M.*
- P14      Quality of Life in patients with Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation versus Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement  
*Mifsud N.*
- P15      Patient Perception of Telephone Consultations vs On-Site Consultations  
*Zammit F., Falzon D., Dingli P., Cassar Maempel A.*
- P16      Acute Coronary Syndrome and its complications before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malta  
*Fleri Soler J., Bonnici Farrugia R., Sapiano A., Farrugia T., Xuereb R., Felice T.*
- P17      Pacemaker Implantation Post Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation: A game of Safety Vs Patience  
*Selbie G.A., Pllaha E., Formosa R., Zammit Burg M., Xuereb R.G., Cassar A.*

- P18      STEMI Targets Times in the COVID-19 Era  
*Debrincat M., Zammit F., Dingli P., Cassar Maempel A., Xuereb R*
- P19      Dyspnoea of Unexpected Origin- A Unique Case  
*Grech N., Fleri Soler J., Felice T.*
- P20      Cardiology Diagnostic Reference Levels: Impact of upgraded systems on patient X-ray doses  
*Pace E., Cortis K., Debono J., Grech M., Caruana C.J.*
- P21      Improvements in Door to Balloon Time following the Target 60 initiative  
*Xuereb Dingli M., Vella Brincat D., Buttigieg M.L., Azzopardi M.P  
Dingli, A.Cassar Maempel*
- P22      Correlating Cardiopulmonary bypass time and Cardiac ischaemic time to length of hospital stay and overall mortality risk  
*Mallia M., Sladden D.*
- P23      To attend or not to attend? – an analysis of face-to-face cardiology clinic visit attendance following the initial COVID-19 Maltese lockdown measures  
*Camilleri R., Buttigieg L., Caruana M.*
- P24      Case report: Suspected cardiac amyloidosis in a 67 yearold, Caucasian female  
*Zarb A., Camilleri M. L., P. J. Cassar, Farrugia Bonnici G.*
- P25      Case Report: Collapse Day 1 post elective surgery  
*Bonello J., Bonello M.*

## International Speakers

### Ronen Beeri



Associate professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at Hebrew University and holder of the Dr William Ganz Chair in Heart Studies.

Studied Cardiology at the Hadassah – Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. Post-doctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital – Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. Formerly director of the Cardiovascular Research Center of the Heart Institute in Hadassah.

Currently, director of the Diagnostic Cardiology Unit. ESC activity: Member, Education committee (2018-). Fellow- EACVI, member, Council on Valvular Diseases. Israel Heart Society activity: - 2009-2017- member, committee on basic science, 2010-2013 – Member, Israeli Board of Examiners in Cardiology, 2013-2017- Chairman, Israeli Board of Examiners in Cardiology. 2017- Chairman, Israeli Working Group on Echocardiography

Research interests: Mitral regurgitation, tricuspid regurgitation, myocardial remodeling

### Andreas Triantafyllis



Completed basic studies and cardiology residency in the University Hospital of Athens, Greece, where he also obtained his PhD thesis. Thereafter, followed a full fellowship training in Interventional Cardiology in St Antonius Hartcentrum Nieuwegein, Netherlands, and in the University Hospitals of Leuven, Belgium. He worked as a consultant Interventional Cardiologist in Catharina Ziekenhuis Eindhoven, Netherlands and is currently working in Asklepeion

Hospital Athens, Greece. His main areas of interest include complex coronary interventions, intracoronary imaging and physiology, and research in the field of interventional cardiology and basic science.

### **Patricia Campbell**



Graduated from University College Dublin, with cardiology residency between Ireland and Mayo Clinic. She then undertook her cardiology Specialist Registrar training in Dublin, before moving to Boston to train in Brigham and Women's/Harvard Medical School. She first did an Advanced Heart Failure/Cardiac Transplant fellowship under Lynne Stevenson and Echo fellowship and HF Research under Scott Solomon

and Mark Pfeffer.

She has worked as Clinical Assistant Professor in University of Calgary in Canada, and University College Dublin, working as a HF clinical and researcher, before returning home to take up role as HF Lead in her local trust, in Northern Ireland.

### **Gregory Y H Lip**



Professor Lip, MD, is Price-Evans Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine, at the University of Liverpool, UK – and Director of the Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science at the University of Liverpool and Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital. Professor Lip has had a major interest into the epidemiology of atrial fibrillation (AF), as well as the pathophysiology of thromboembolism in this

arrhythmia. Furthermore, he has been researching stroke and bleeding risk factors, and improvements in clinical risk stratification. The CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc and HAS-BLED scores - for assessing stroke and bleeding risk, respectively – were first proposed and independently validated following his research, and are now incorporated into international guidelines. In 2014, Professor Lip was ranked by Expertscape as the world's leading expert in the understanding and treatment of AF, a position still maintained in 2020

### **Jan Torzewski**



German Cardiologist, Medical Education Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, University of Cambridge, UK; Head Cardiovascular Center Oberallgäu/-Kempten since 2008/2012; Recipient Oskar Lapp Prize German Society Cardiology 1997, Heinz Meise Prize German Heart Foundation 2000, Master of Business Administration-Award, University Applied Sciences Neu-Ulm 2008, Nominee German Medical Award 2020

### **Jane Somerville**



Prof Jane Somerville is Emeritus Professor at Imperial College, London, and is globally acknowledged as a pioneer for her research into congenital heart disease. She also helped found the field of Grown Up Congenital Heart Disease and founded the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology.

### **Michele Brunelli**



Dr Michele Brunelli, is the director of the electrophysiology section at the department of Cardiology in Klinikum Magdeburg, Magdeburg. He started his training in clinical and interventional electrophysiology in 2005, and in 2008 moved to Germany (Zentralklinik Bad Berka) to focus on catheter ablation. He obtained his Ph.D. in Cardiac, Vascular, Renal and Metabolic Biology and Physiopathology from the

University of Genova. In 2016, Dr Brunelli moved to Fürth to support the opening of an EP service. His main areas of interest include clinical and invasive management of arrhythmias, and devices follow-up.



### **Marc Abboud**



General and interventional cardiologist in Saint Georges private hospital Ajaltoun, Lebanon  
Cath lab director

### **José L. Zamorano,**



José L. Zamorano, MD, PhD is a professor of medicine at the University Alcalá de Henares and chief of cardiology at the University Hospital Ramón y Cajal, both in Madrid, Spain. Professor Zamorano is the past secretary of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), past president of the European Association of Echocardiography (EAE) and has served as International Advisor of the American College of Cardiology's International Committee, director of the scientific program in imaging for the ESC Congress, Past Chair of the Practice Guidelines Committee of the ESC and Vice President of the ESC.

### **Alexander Lyon**



Dr. Alexander Lyon is a Senior Lecturer in Cardiology at Imperial College London and a Consultant Cardiologist at the Royal Brompton Hospital. His clinical interests are in the field of heart failure, cardio-oncology including chemotherapy cardiomyopathy and the cardiovascular complications of modern cancer therapies, Takotsubo syndrome and the effects of major stresses of the heart, and the development of novel therapeutics including gene therapy for chronic heart failure.

## **Panos E. Vardas**



Professor Vardas had been the Head of the Cardiology Department at Heraklion University Hospital, Crete, Greece from 1990 until June 2016. His career started at the University of Athens, where he obtained his Medical Degree and his MD Thesis. During the same period, he specialized in Internal Medicine and Cardiology in the clinics of the same University. In 1985 he started working at the Westminster Hospital in London, Cardiology Department, where he stayed until 1989, focusing on Clinical Electrophysiology and Cardiac Rhythm Management Devices. In 1993 he obtained his PhD in Clinical Electrophysiology from the Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School.

## **Luca Testa**



Professor Luca Testa is an Interventional Cardiologist working at the IRCCS Policlinico San Donato in San Donato, Milan, Italy. He is the head of the Coronary Revascularization Unit as well as of the Clinical Research Unit. His areas of research range from platelet aggregation, intracoronary imaging and physiology related to structural heart disease, particularly the TAVI. He is also particularly interested and involved in the development of new interventional devices. He has a National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor in Cardiovascular and Respiratory disease, and as Associate Professor in Health Sciences and Applied Medical Technology. He is currently in the Editorial Board and/or reviewer of several peer reviewed cardiology journals and is author of several major publications and book chapters.

## **Jeroen Bax**



Professor Jeroen Bax is director of both non-invasive imaging and the echo-lab at the Leiden University Medical Center in Leiden, the Netherlands. Professor Bax is also the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) immediate past president (2018-2020). His main interests include clinical cardiology, heart failure, cardiac resynchronisation therapy and the application of all different imaging modalities to these clinical fields. Professor Bax has authored numerous papers and holds several positions in national and international scientific organisations, as well as serving on the editorial board of many different journals.

## **Franz Weidinger**



Professor Franz Weidinger is the Head of Department of Medicine at Rudolfstiftung Hospital, a teaching hospital affiliated to Vienna Medical University, Austria. He earned his M.D. from the University of Vienna and completed his Fellowship Training in General Hospital in Vienna and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, United States. He has a board certificate in Cardiology, Internal Medicine, and Intensive Care Medicine from the Austrian Medical Chamber. His major research interests are Acute Coronary Syndromes, STEMI networks, Antiplatelet Therapy, and Cardiovascular Interventional Registries. He is the Vice President of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) for 2018 – 2020, and past President of the Austrian Cardiological Society. He was a member of the editorial board of Journal for Cardiology in 2003 and EuroIntervention in 2005. President elect of ESC 2020-2022.

## **Alessandro Giardini**



Dr Alessandro Giardini is a top cardiologist based at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, specialising in paediatric cardiology. An expert on congenital heart disease, Dr Giardini is Director of Inpatient Services at GOSH, and also provides outpatient consultations for all manner of heart problems in children, including palpitations, heart murmurs, chest pain, and heart valve issues. Graduating from the University of Bologna in his native Italy, Dr Giardini went on to undergo extensive training in paediatric cardiology both in Bologna and in San Francisco, USA. He is actively involved in research, having published over 120 articles in peer-reviewed journals. His unit at GOSH is a world leader in cardiac care. His philosophy is a patient-centric approach, delivering treatment with compassion and understanding, and personalising his consultations and treatment to each child and their family.

## **Carlo di Mario**



Prof Carlo Di Mario was born in Modena, Italy and graduated in medicine, specialising in cardiology, from the University of Padua. He trained in interventional cardiology and worked at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where he completed his PhD. He became professor of cardiology at the University of Florence and director of structural interventional cardiology at the Careggi University Hospital, Florence, Italy. He has previously served as research and clinical director for interventional cardiology at the University Vita-Salute of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan and consultant cardiologist at the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust. Between January 2003 and November 2016, he was professor of clinical cardiology, NHLI, Imperial College of Sciences, Medicine and Technology, and consultant cardiologist of the Royal Brompton and Harefield Foundation Trust, London.

## Dimitrios Farmakis



Associate Professor Dimitrios Farmakis graduated from the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and received his Doctoral Degree on haemoglobinopathy-associated heart disease from the same university in 2003. He specialized in Cardiology at Athens University Hospital and received his board certification in 2008. He was further trained in Cardio-Oncology at Bern University Hospital, Switzerland, in Heart Failure at Zurich University Medical School, Zurich, Switzerland, and in Clinical Trials at Harvard Medical School, Boston, U.S.A., by which he was awarded a distinction.. His research activity has focused on heart failure, haemoglobinopathies, cardiovascular pharmacology and cardio-oncology. He has served as a member of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guideline committee for Cardio-Oncology in 2016 and he is leading the 2019 edition of the Thalassaemia International Federation Guidelines for the management of transfusion-dependent thalassaemia.





## *Public Heart Awareness*



Public Health Awareness via  
Facebook and Television  
Campaigns





Maltese Cardiac Society  
Conference 2021