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Announcement

The New Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure

The New Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure London

(PCHF London) is taking-off in January 2019

The heart failure epidemic

Heart failure is the end stage of most forms of heart disease and the new epidemic of the 21st century. It is the leading cause of hospitalization in patients over 65 years of age and associated with enormous healthcare costs. On the other hand, there has been impressive progress in the management of such patients thanks to novel imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), various diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers, and effective drugs such as inhibitors of the renin–angiotensin system, betablockers, mineralocorticoid antagonists and most recently the so-called ARNIs (angiotensin receptor/neprilysin inhibitors) as well as lastly, devices such as implantable defibrillators (ICDs), cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), and ventricular assist devices (Figure 1).

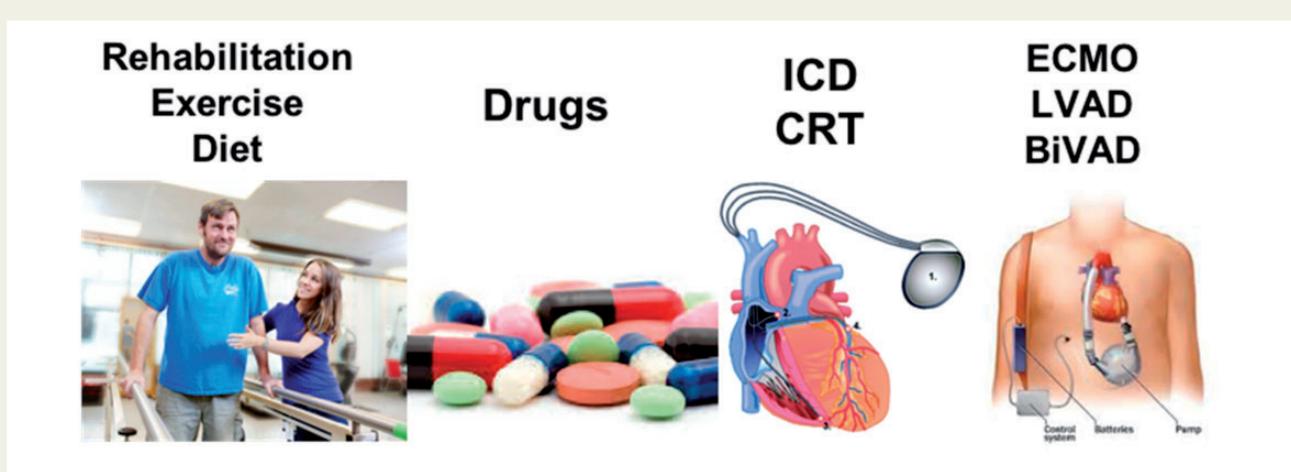
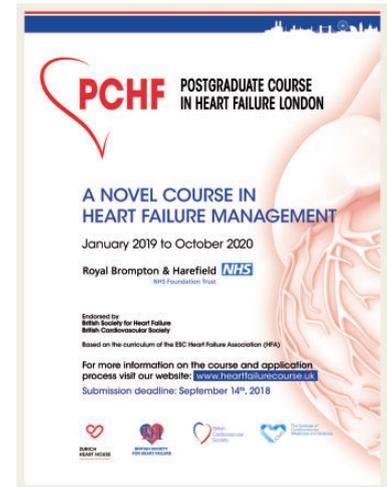


Figure 1 Spectrum of today's therapeutic options in the management of patients with heart failure.

The new heart failure doctor

These developments require physicians to be familiar with these diagnostic and therapeutic options and competent to use them in their everyday practice. Accordingly, these unmet educational needs have to be appropriately addressed by novel training programmes for cardiologists with an interest in heart failure to develop a professional profile with competence in all aspects of care for such patients.

This educational need was already identified in 2014 by the *Zurich Heart House* and the *University Hospital Zurich*, which together with the *ESC Heart Failure Association* established a first *Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure (PCHF)*, over a 2-year period leading to a *Certificate of Advanced Studies*. This course, now in its third cycle became extremely popular worldwide, so that applications that had been received for the third

course cycle starting in 2018 from 350 candidates exceeded all expectations. Since strict quality standards for such an interactive programme which not only includes lectures, but also hands-on workshops, allows for only a limited number of participants, a new improved PCHF course will be launched in London to address the obvious need for such additional educational programmes.

The London Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure Management

The London Postgraduate Course in Heart Failure Management consists of a 2-year programme with 6 modules of 3.5 days each, covering all relevant aspects of heart failure such as diagnostic procedures, in particular differential imaging with available modalities such as echocardiography, MRI, computed tomography and nuclear tests, pharmacotherapy with the most recent drugs, programming of devices and implantation and support of mechanical ventricular assist devices. Furthermore, the role of revascularisation either with percutaneous coronary intervention or bypass surgery and of trans-arterial valve implantation or valvular surgery, respectively, will be extensively demonstrated and discussed.

The course includes interactive lectures by key-opinion leaders from the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States (Figure 2), Live-in-a-Box sessions, or procedures demonstrating haemodynamic assessments, ablation procedures, hands-on sessions on imaging and device programming, virtual interventions (Figure 3) as well as case-based learning.



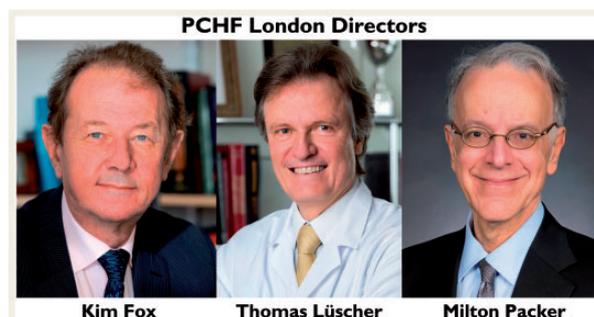
Figure 2 Interactive lectures with key-opinion leaders in heart failure management (here Professor Alexandre Mebazaa, Paris).



Figure 3 Hands-on course for assist devices, one of the practical features of the PCHF.

Sponsoring societies and institutions

The content of the course is based on the curriculum of the *ESC Heart Failure Association* (HFA) as well as the relevant ESC Practice Guidelines and runs under the auspices of the *British Society for Heart Failure* (BSH) and the *British Cardiovascular Society* (BCS) as well as the *Institute of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science* in the United Kingdom. The course Directors, Martin Cowie, Kim Fox, Richard Grocott-Mason, Shouvik Halder (Chair of the Education Committee, British Cardiovascular Society), Paul Kalra (Chair of the British Society for Heart Failure), Thomas F. Lüscher, and Milton Packer are enthusiastic to start this new programme at the *Royal Society of Medicine* and the *Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals* in London in January 2019. It further benefits from a renowned International Advisory Board which assists in developing the structure and content of the course and is also part of the faculty.





Application procedure

Candidates will be selected by members of the selection committee based on their interest in heart failure as documented by their motivation letter, medical school grades, rotations in a heart failure unit and/or publications in this specific field. Furthermore, career options in heart failure management as foreseen by their mentor will be taken into consideration. Candidates at the end of their training or junior staff members will have priority among the applicants. Applications are only possible on our website: www.heartfailurecourse.uk

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents in English:

- Curriculum vitae
- List of publications
- Grades of medical school
- Motivation letter
- Recommendation letter of supervisor
- Outline of future career

Application deadline: 14th of September 2018

For further information, visit www.heartfailurecourse.uk.



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Conflict of interest: none declared.