

Press release 1 – Madrid, May 31st, 2014



**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of the  
European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)  
May 31-June 3, Madrid, Spain**

***EAS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Celebrate in Madrid 2014 with the latest in  
atherosclerosis research***

**About 2000 delegates from over 70 countries across five continents will converge on Madrid to help EAS mark this milestone. EAS Madrid 2014 is hosted by the Spanish Society of Arteriosclerosis.**

The EAS was founded in 1964 with the mission to “advance and exchange knowledge concerning the causes, natural history, treatment and prevention of atherosclerotic disease”. With atherosclerosis becoming an increasingly important concern as European populations grow older, the work of the Society is today more relevant than ever.

**President of the EAS 2013-2017, Professor Alberico L. Catapano** (University of Milan, Italy) highlights the importance of EAS turning 50:

*‘Madrid 2014 is a special occasion as it marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EAS. Over this time, the Society has become a leading player in atherosclerosis research and education in Europe. EAS has been at the forefront of basic research into the mechanisms that underlie atherosclerosis, as well as clinical initiatives focused on discovery of new treatments and optimising the management of dyslipidaemia.*

*2014 heralds a very exciting time in lipids and atherosclerosis research. Recent discoveries in genetics and pharmacology have driven the development of novel therapies targeting atherosclerosis. Now, more than ever, EAS remains committed to improving patient care to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.’*

**Highlights of EAS Madrid 2014**

Working with the host Spanish Society of Arteriosclerosis and **Congress Chair, Prof. Jesús Millán Núñez-Cortés** (Universitario Gregorio Marañón Catedrático de Medicina, Universidad Complutense), EAS Madrid 2014 offers an exciting programme spanning basic and clinical research.

*‘The Spanish Society of Arteriosclerosis, under the Presidency of Her Majesty The Queen Sofia of Spain, welcomes all delegates to EAS Madrid. The Congress offers both cutting-edge atherosclerosis research and results from clinical trials, together with outstanding state of the art plenaries.’* - Prof. Jesús Millán Núñez-Cortés, EAS Madrid Congress Chair.

- **The Anitschkow Lecture**, given by this year's recipient of the **Anitschkow Prize**, **Professor John J.P. Kastelein**, Professor of Medicine at the Department of Vascular Medicine, Academic Medical Center (AMC) of the University of Amsterdam and Strategic Chair of Genetics of Cardiovascular Disease. Professor Kastelein has been a leading proponent of the "extreme genetics" approach in research, in which the study of rare human disorders associated with premature coronary disease has had broader application in understanding the aetiology of heart disease, as well as identifying therapeutic targets that are valid for all patients. This approach has been successful in defining familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) as the paradigm for the relationship between low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and heart disease; as well as disorders of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and elevated triglycerides. Such genetic insights have been instrumental in the development of gene therapy for lipoprotein lipase deficiency. Prof. Kastelein's current research interests focus on the aetiology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of hypertriglyceridaemia, hypercholesterolaemia and low HDL-C, all conditions associated with atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease.

*'Professor John Kastelein has been at the forefront in translating insights from genetic studies to innovative therapeutic approaches'* – EAS President, Prof. Alberico L. Catapano.

For further information: <http://www.eas-society.org/anitschkow-prize-winner-2014---john-kastelein.aspx>.

The Anitschkow lecture will be a focus of the Opening Ceremony of EAS Madrid, Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 18:00-19:30.

- **The Plenary Sessions**, an important feature of EAS Congresses, offer exciting state of the science lectures from leading international experts. Topics covered during EAS Madrid 2014 include:
  - The role of immunity in atherosclerosis, exploring the potential of vaccines and the microRNAs [*Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 08:30-10:30*]
  - Cardiometabolic disease, including future prospects for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease [*Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 08:30-10:30*]
  - Residual cardiovascular risk beyond statins, and the potential of emerging risk factors as contributors to this risk
  - PCSK9 inhibition: possibilities for targeting this residual risk  
*[Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 08:30-10:30]*

*'These Plenary Sessions, with lectures by leading experts in these fields, provide an important educational resource and a timely update for EAS members'*

– EAS President, Prof. Alberico L. Catapano

- **Late Breaking Sessions:** Building on the strength of previous Congresses, this year there will be two Late Breaking Sessions.
  - **Late Breaking Session I** highlights clinical trials with novel therapeutic approaches. Of particular interest will be presentation of data from the phase III trial with the PCSK9 monoclonal antibody evolocumab in homozygous FH (TESLA). *[Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15:45-16:30]*
  - **Late Breaking Session II** provides further information on the early stages of development of new therapies, including imaging trials; genetic insights; and long-term follow-up data with a novel gene therapy for lipoprotein lipase deficiency. *[Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15:45-16:30]*

In addition, **Workshops at EAS Madrid** offer new insights into exciting topics including:

- New targets for lipid-lowering therapy *[Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:45-12:30]*
- Environmental and metabolic stressors in cardiovascular disease *[Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00-12:30]*
- Nutrition and nutraceuticals *[Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00-12:30]*
- Novel protective effects of HDL *[Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15:00-16:30]*
- Hypolipidaemic drugs, present and future *[Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00-12:30]*
- Optimising the treatment of FH *[Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:45-12:30]*

### **EAS: Building on links with other Societies**

Collaborations with societies focused on the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the Society of Laboratory Medicine, as well as local societies throughout Europe and beyond, have the common aim of improving patient care. EAS Madrid showcases two joint sessions:

- **Joint Symposium with the ESC: Lipid lowering in CVD prevention: where do we stand and where are we going?** This Workshop will review current guidelines for dyslipidaemia management and cardiovascular disease prevention, and discuss the challenges for the future in terms of lipid and non-lipid targets. *[Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 15:00-16:30]*
- **Joint ICCR-EAS Workshop: Targeting lifestyle in CVD risk management and prevention.** This Workshop discusses the integral role of lifestyle in cardiovascular disease prevention, with insights from the PREDIMED and LookAhead studies. *[Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 15:00-16:30]*

### **EAS Initiatives: At the forefront for education**

The European Atherosclerosis Society's goal is to provide a framework for scientific and clinical discussion of new developments in basic research, diagnosis and therapy of atherosclerosis.

*'Fifty years on, the EAS continues to build on its strengths and address the needs of members. The Society has an even more relevant role in the area of guidelines for the management of dyslipidemia, and for global risk, as well as addressing specific areas of concern, driven by the Consensus Panel initiatives. The EAS is recognized as a trusted source of information by its members and by the scientific community'* - EAS President, Prof. Alberico L. Catapano.

**Initiatives Update Session:** EAS President, Prof. Alberico L. Catapano (University of Milan, Italy) and Vice-President, Prof. Olov Wiklund (Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden), will discuss ongoing and new initiatives by the Society  
[Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15:00-16:30].

### **Ongoing EAS Initiatives**

- **EAS Academy:** The Society's on-line educational resource, with webcasts, podcasts, technical videos and learning tools, guidelines, consensus papers, and other educational resources under the responsibility of Professor S. Lale Tokgözoğlu (Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey). Full access to the EAS Academy is one of the key benefits of Society membership. For further information: <http://www.eas-society.org/eas-academy.aspx>
- **EAS Consensus Panel:** The EAS Consensus Panel has been one of the most successful initiatives of the Society. The Consensus Panel is co-chaired by Professor M. John Chapman, EAS Past-President (INSERM U939, Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital, Paris, France) and Professor Henry N. Ginsberg (Columbia University, New York, USA). The EAS Consensus Panel has previously produced statements on :
  - Lipoprotein(a)
  - Triglyceride-rich lipoproteins and HDL-C
  - FH
  - Phytosterol-supplemented foods in dyslipidaemia management and cardiovascular disease prevention

Ongoing initiatives focus on homozygous FH and statin intolerance.

- **EAS Advanced Courses:** These courses highlight a different aspect of basic science and research or clinical prevention, diagnosis and treatment in the field of atherosclerotic vascular disease and its complications. The courses are run by recognised experts and distinguished specialists in the relevant research or clinical area.

## **EAS in the Future**

The EAS is working very hard to further promote the growth of the Society and to ensure scientific excellence in meetings.

*'We believe that EAS Madrid reflects this goal. We continue to ensure that the EAS provides trustworthy, efficient and top-level education in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. The Academy educational platform of the EAS, our journal **Atherosclerosis**, and the 2011 Joint ESC/EAS Guidelines are a clear example of this commitment.'* – EAS President, Professor Alberico L. Catapano

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### **Notes for editors:**

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#### **About the European Atherosclerosis Society**

The European Atherosclerosis Society represents nearly 1,000 basic scientists and clinicians. The mission of the EAS is to advance and exchange knowledge concerning the causes, natural history, treatment and prevention of atherosclerotic disease.

Atherosclerosis is the process by which fatty deposits or plaques build up in blood vessels, eventually leading to heart attacks, strokes, intermittent claudication, and other diseases caused by chronically or acutely reduced blood flow. Already cardiovascular disease is the major cause of death and disability in Europe. As populations grow older, and as type 2 diabetes and obesity continue to escalate, atherosclerosis will become an increasingly important concern.

The Society's main activities are focused on four main areas:

- The dissemination of up-to-date knowledge of the pathophysiology underlying atherogenic dyslipidemia and premature atherosclerosis
- The prevention, diagnosis and treatment of atherosclerotic vascular disease in non-diabetic and diabetic subjects
- The promotion of cutting-edge basic and clinical research in the field of atherosclerosis and related metabolic diseases such as Metabolic Syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes

- The support, promotion, and organization of scientific Congresses and Workshops both within and outside Europe on topics related to atherosclerosis in its widest sense. These include:

- Lipid, lipoprotein and cholesterol metabolism
- Vascular biology
- Mechanisms underlying atherosclerosis and clinical cardiovascular events, particularly myocardial infarction
- Cerebro- and peripheral vascular disease
- Genetics of atherosclerotic vascular diseases
- Plaque imaging modalities
- Pharmacotherapy of lipid disorders
- Prevention of atherosclerotic vascular disease

For further information refer to <http://www.eas-society.org/home.aspx>.

For information about **Atherosclerosis**, the journal of the EAS:

<http://www.atherosclerosis-journal.com/>

### **About the European Consensus Panel**

The EAS Consensus Panel is comprised of internationally renowned experts in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, and is co-chaired by Professor John Chapman (INSERM U939, Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital, Paris, France) and Professor Henry Ginsberg (Columbia University, New York, USA). The Panel was first convened in November 2009 to consider the evidence for non-LDL lipids as risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Subsequent Consensus Panels have focused on familial hypercholesterolaemia, hypertriglyceridaemia, and the role of foods supplemented with plant sterols/stanols in dyslipidaemia management and cardiovascular disease prevention.

#### *Recent publications:*

Hegele RA, Ginsberg HN, Chapman MJ, Nordestgaard BG, Kuivenhoven JA, Averna M, Borén J, Bruckert E, Catapano AL, Descamps OS, Hovingh GK, Humphries SE, Kovanen PT, Masana L, Pajukanta P, Parhofer KG, Raal FJ, Ray KK, Santos RD, Stalenhoef AF, Stroes E, Taskinen MR, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Watts GF, Wiklund O; on behalf of the European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. The polygenic nature of hypertriglyceridaemia: implications for definition, diagnosis, and management. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2013 Dec 23. pii: S2213-8587(13)70191-8. doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(13)70191-8. PUBMED link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24731657>

Nordestgaard BG, Chapman MJ, Humphries SE, Ginsberg HN, Masana L, Descamps OS, Wiklund O, Hegele RA, Raal FJ, Defesche JC, Wiegman A, Santos RD, Watts GF, Parhofer KG, Hovingh GK, Kovanen PT, Boileau C, Averna M, Borén J, Bruckert E, Catapano AL, Kuivenhoven JA, Pajukanta P, Ray K, Stalenhoef AF, Stroes E, Taskinen MR, Tybjærg-Hansen

A; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Eur Heart J 2013;34:3478-90a.

PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23956253>

Gylling H, Plat J, Turley S, Ginsberg HN, Ellegård L, Jessup W, Jones PJ, Lütjohann D, Maerz W, Masana L, Silbernagel G, Staels B, Borén J, Catapano AL, De Backer G, Deanfield J, Descamps OS, Kovanen PT, Riccardi G, Tokgözoğlu L, Chapman MJ; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel on Phytosterols. Plant sterols and plant stanols in the management of dyslipidaemia and prevention of cardiovascular disease. Atherosclerosis 2014;232:346-60.

PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24468148>

Chapman MJ, Ginsberg HN, Amarenco P, Andreotti F, Borén J, Catapano AL, Descamps OS, Fisher E, Kovanen PT, Kuivenhoven JA, Lesnik P, Masana L, Nordestgaard BG, Ray KK, Reiner Z, Taskinen MR, Tokgözoğlu L, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Watts GF; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Triglyceride-rich lipoproteins and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol in patients at high risk of cardiovascular disease: evidence and guidance for management. Eur Heart J 2011;32:1345-61. PUBMED link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21531743>

Nordestgaard BG, Chapman MJ, Ray K, Borén J, Andreotti F, Watts GF, Ginsberg H, Amarenco P, Catapano A, Descamps OS, Fisher E, Kovanen PT, Kuivenhoven JA, Lesnik P, Masana L, Reiner Z, Taskinen MR, Tokgözoğlu L, Tybjærg-Hansen A; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Lipoprotein(a) as a cardiovascular risk factor: current status. Eur Heart J 2010;31:2844-53. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20965889>

#### **Joint ESC/EAS Guidelines:**

Catapano AL, Reiner Z, De Backer G, Graham I, Taskinen MR, Wiklund O, Agewall S, Alegria E, Chapman M, Durrington P, Erdine S, Halcox J, Hobbs R, Kjekshus J, Filardi PP, Riccardi G, Storey RF, Wood D; European Society of Cardiology (ESC); European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS). ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias. The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS). Atherosclerosis 2011;217:3-46. PUBMED Link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21882396>

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