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Heart Valve Specialist Core Syllabus of the ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease

A Heart Valve Specialist Core Syllabus is an essential premise for homogenous education across the disciplines and specialties involved in the care of patients with heart valve disease. Homogeneous education is the foundation for standardized diagnosis and management. The Specialist Core Syllabus developed by the ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease is a basis for homogenous education and standardized patient care across Europe. The ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease represents a multidisciplinary forum for the Heart Valve Team and aims to encourage education, training, and research in heart valve disease.

The Heart Valve Specialist Core Syllabus describes the fundamental knowledge base required for correct practice and as background for comprehensive training of heart valve disease clinicians, imagers, interventionists, and surgeons. For the efficient working of the Heart Valve Team, a degree of interdisciplinary education is necessary, so all members of this team should have basic knowledge relative to all the included disciplines. All members of the Heart Valve Team should have an understanding of heart valve disease aetiology, mechanisms of the disease, natural history, clinical features, clinical and imaging-based diagnosis, transcatheter and surgical treatment options, guidelines, recommendations, the evidence, and gaps in evidence.

The Core Syllabus provides a framework for individual learning and also for the development of educational material and educational events. An example of education material that follows the Core Syllabus, is the recently published book, 'Heart Valve Disease, State-of-the-Art', the authors and editors are mainly Nucleus members of the ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease. An example of an education event that provides an opportunity to acquire knowledge adhering to the Core Syllabus is the EuroValve Congress, the annual European Congress for Cardiac Surgeon, cardiologists, sonographers, and trainees. Furthermore, special sessions on heart valve disease at the

European Society of Cardiology Annual Congress cover topics described in the Core Syllabus of the ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease. Other congresses and meetings, for example, PCR London Valves, the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting and EuroEcho Imaging, will be encouraged to design sessions dedicated to the Core Syllabus, in collaboration with the Nucleus of the ESC Council on Valvular Heart Disease.

Describing knowledge requirements and providing the framework for structured education, the Core Syllabus provides a platform for accreditation in heart valve disease for education programmes, individuals, and Heart Valve Teams and Centres of Excellence. The ESC Council in Valvular Heart Disease plans to provide accreditation opportunities as an incentive and motivation for self-improvement and also to document the recognition of quality in heart valve disease care.

The Core Syllabus is available at the ESC website: <https://www.escardio.org/static-file/Escardio/Subspecialty/Councils/Valvular%20Heart%20Disease/Heart%20Valve%20Specialist%20Core%20Syllabus.pdf>.

Conflict of interest: none declared.

