

Press release – 84th European Atherosclerosis Society Congress, Innsbruck, Austria
 For circulation 29th May, 2016.

**84th Annual Congress of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)
 May 29th- June 1st, Innsbruck, Austria**

EAS Congress Innsbruck Highlights: A programme to excite, inspire and inform!

This year's Congress welcomes 2,000 delegates from across five continents.

President of the EAS, Professor Alberico L. Catapano (University of Milan, Italy) overviews the Congress: *'This year's programme builds on the success of recent years and features world renowned researchers in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease research. Most notably, Nobel Laureate Professor Michael Brown discuss the genetics of cholesterol in the Key Note lecture, and 2016 Anitschkow Prize recipient Professor Peter Carmeliet will discuss endothelial cell metabolism as a novel player in atherosclerosis, in the Opening Ceremony.*

There are also insights from cutting edge research focused on genetic and epigenetic contributions to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; pathways implicated in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis; advances in imaging of the vulnerable plaque; new therapies, as well current and future therapeutic challenges. A session on the new Sixth Joint Task Force Guidelines on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice offers an ideal opportunity to discuss how these guidelines will impact clinical practice.'

Congress Chair Professor Hans Dieplinger (Innsbruck Medical University, Austria) presents his highlights of this year's Congress.

Lectures by internationally recognized leaders in their fields

- **Professor Peter Carmeliet (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)**, a world leader in research into blood vessel formation (angiogenesis), will give the 2016 Anitschkow lecture discussing the role of endothelial cell metabolism in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. He also gives a plenary lecture discussing the potential for angiogenesis and endothelial cell dysfunction as novel targets for therapy.
Sunday 29th May: Opening Ceremony, N. Anitschkow Hall, 18:00-19:45.
Tuesday 31st May: Plenary session, N. Anitschkow Hall, 10:00-10:30.
- **Nobel laureate Professor Michael Brown (University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, USA)** will discuss how genes control cholesterol in the Key Note Lecture. Starting with the discovery of the low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor, his talk will also feature ongoing research focused on understanding the complex interplay that controls the synthesis of this critical lipoprotein.
Monday 30th May: N. Anitschkow Hall, 18:40-19:40.
- **Professor Helen Hobbs (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas)** will give a plenary lecture discussing very recent work that has elucidated the

structure of the complex that forms between two sterol transporters (ABCG5 / ABCG8). This work provides a framework for understanding the effects of mutations in genes for these transporters that cause sitosterolaemia, a condition characterised by accumulation of sterols and early atherosclerosis.

Monday 30th May: N. Plenary session, N. Anitschkow Hall, 08:30-09:00.

- **Professor Erik Stroes (Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands)** will give a plenary lecture covering the latest innovations in therapeutics for atherosclerosis. In particular, increased understanding of the biology of atherosclerotic plaque has driven the development of nanotechnology for detection, diagnosis and treatment of atherosclerosis.

Wednesday 1st June: Plenary session, N. Anitschkow Hall, 09:30-10:00

New guidelines from the Sixth Joint Task Force

There will be a special session focused on the new Joint 2016 European Guidelines on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice. This is an ideal opportunity to find out what is new in these guidelines, especially for lipids.

Wednesday June 1st: W. Auerswald Hall, 11.00-12:30,

European Atherosclerosis Society Initiatives

There will be updates on ongoing EAS initiatives, including the Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Studies Collaboration (FHSC), a global initiative led by **Professor Kausik Ray (Imperial College London, UK)**, as well as ongoing EAS Consensus Panel Initiatives and the EAS Academy.

EAS Initiatives Tuesday 31st May: C. von Rokitansky Hall, 15:00-16:30.

Debate on Statin Associated Muscle Symptoms (SAMS), Monday May 30th: C. von Rokitansky Hall, 11:00-11:45

Links with other Societies

Collaborations with societies focused on the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), have the common aim of improving patient care. EAS Innsbruck showcases two joint sessions:

- *Joint Symposium with the ESC: Monday 30th May: Sex differences in cardiovascular diseases, N. Antischkow Hall, 15:00-16:30*
- *Joint ICCR-EAS Workshop: Tuesday 31st May: Management of Cardiometabolic Risk: Where do we stand? C. von Rokitansky Hall, 11:00-12:30*

Innovative research at the heart of Congress

Understanding the biology of atherosclerosis and plaque

This year Congress has focused on new research that has helped in understanding the complex biology in the vessel wall and how this contributes to the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. In addition, there is new research into imaging and how this may help in identifying the vulnerable atherosclerotic plaque.

Monday 30th May, Workshop: Novel aspects of pathogenesis in atherosclerosis, N. Antischkow Hall, 11:00-12:30

Monday 30th May, Workshop: Therapeutic and diagnostic targeting, K. Landsteiner Hall, 15:00-16:30

Monday 30th May, Late Breaking Basic Science: W. Auerswald Hall, 15:00-15:45

Lipids in obesity and diabetes

The role of lipids in clinical syndromes such as obesity and fatty liver disease, of particular relevance for an increasingly sedentary society, is discussed.

Monday 30th May, Workshop: Adipose tissue- liver axis, C. von Rokitansky Hall, 15:00-16:30

Tuesday 31st May, EBAC-accredited session: Low HDL High Triglycerides, Diabetic Dyslipidaemia, C. von Rokitansky Hall, 13:00-14:00

Novel therapeutic approaches

This EAS Congress highlights new therapeutic approaches for targeting elevated LDL cholesterol, in particular for individuals who have familial hypercholesterolaemia, an inherited condition characterised by very high LDL cholesterol levels and increased risk for early atherosclerosis and heart attacks if untreated. Those who are homozygous for the condition are at extremely high risk. Potential therapeutic innovations include gene therapy and monoclonal antibody therapy.

Monday 30th May, Workshop: Novel therapies, W. Auerswald Hall, 11:00-12:30

Tuesday 31st May, Late Breaking Clinical Science: K. Landsteiner Hall, 15:00-16:30

Wednesday 1st June, Plenary: K. Landsteiner Hall, 08:30-10:30

Lifestyle and biomarkers

Nutrition, lifestyle and new biomarkers for cardiovascular disease round off the broad spectrum of this year's Congress.

Sunday 29th May, EBAC-accredited session: Diet and prevention of cardiovascular disease, C. von Rokitansky Hall, 14:00-15:30

Monday 30th May, EBAC-accredited session: Nutraceuticals with lipid lowering: who can benefit? C. von Rokitansky Hall, 13:00-14:00

Tuesday 31st May, Workshop: Genetics in risk factor prevention and treatment, N. Anitschkow Hall, 15:00-16:30

Tuesday 31st May, Oral presentations: Imaging, biomarkers and clinical epidemiology: K. Landsteiner Hall, 17:00-18:30

Wednesday 1st June, Workshop: Biology of CVD risk, C. von Rokitansky Hall, 11:00-12:30



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Notes for editors:**About the European Atherosclerosis Society**

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. The European Atherosclerosis Society represents nearly 1,000 basic scientists and clinicians.

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 dyslipidaemia 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/>

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