

New PCR Focus Groups are born from the success of the PCR Tricuspid Focus Group



Francesco Maisano

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Francesco Maisano describes how the success of the PCR Tricuspid Focus Group has recently led to the formation of the PCR Mitral Focus Group and the PCR Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) Focus Group:

"A PCR Focus Group begins with an unmet need, identified by the community, and involves stakeholders joining together to cut through the complexity and bring clarity to a particular topic. Our 'special formula' is that the experts have been selected from a wide range of related fields to discuss the issues and then to create simplified uniform messages that can be delivered to everyone involved in caring for patients with that condition.

Formed 4 years ago, the **PCR Tricuspid Focus Group** has been hugely successful in bringing together different opinions and specialties to find consensus in a disease that was not fully understood and where clinical practice was evolving. More

than a 100 healthcare practitioners from diverse backgrounds have joined Fabien Praz and me in our mission to facilitate innovation and the development of up-to-date clinical care for patients with tricuspid valve disease. We have created webinars, run sessions at courses, led 25 referral meetings, published consensus statements and so on, all aiming towards alignment of knowledge and unifying practice. Awareness of tricuspid regurgitation has increased and our work on standardising treatment is progressing but there is still a need to support education and further innovation. To that end, I would encourage you to join our expert-led session today on patients with multivalvular disease involving the tricuspid valve.

While the **PCR Tricuspid Focus Group** stemmed from a relatively under-recognised condition and a new treatment modality, our two new PCR Focus Groups are mainly directed at well-established therapies where there is still uncertainty and debate. So why do we need a **PCR Mitral Focus Group**? We have actually seen a decrease in patients referred for mitral valve interventions, particularly among those with secondary mitral regurgitation, which may be due to the results of recent trials. While the new evidence shows that in fact more patients could benefit from mitral valve interventions, there is a need for global discussions with all

stakeholders in heart failure to bring clarity to appropriate patient selection. In addition, new mitral valve therapies are emerging, specifically valve replacement, and we will need to align knowledge and standardise practices. The directors, Philipp Lurz and Thomas Modine have brought together experts from different countries and specialties to form working groups to discuss anatomy and imaging, innovations, interventions, the patient care pathway and therapy adoption. With a similar structure and methodology as the PCR Tricuspid Focus Group, they will produce webinars, publications, course sessions and engage non-interventional communities to provide education and training with a unified voice. The group's first two EuroPCR sessions took place on Tuesday.

The other new group – the **PCR MCS Focus Group** – goes beyond the typical PCR pathway and involves a wide, heterogeneous community of acute heart failure specialists who aim to improve the outcomes of those requiring MCS. Surgeons, interventional cardiologists, intensivists, electrophysiologists, etc. have their own separate MCS meetings but a more holistic approach is required, particularly as decisions are made so quickly and there is no time for a second opinion. Led by Roberto Lorusso, Sascha Ott and Flavio Ribichini, the PCR MCS Focus Group aims to make this complex topic digestible for non-specialists in the many emergency rooms and intensive

care units dispersed throughout our healthcare systems. Working groups have been created on patient and device phenotyping, implantation and complication management, shock network/patient care, MCS evidence and outcomes, and innovation. Look out for their first educational offerings in the coming months!"

DON'T MISS

Assessment and management of patients with multivalvular disease involving the tricuspid valve

With the collaboration of the PCR Tricuspid Focus Group

Thursday, Room Maillot,
09:45 – 10:45

We offer sincere thanks to our industry partners for their valuable support:

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