

A milestone in the history of PCR leadership

A carefully planned transition will come into effect in January 2026. Discover how the Board has chosen to restructure as it continues to nurture PCR's worldwide growth.

The origin of the PCR Family dates back to 1989. At that time, interventional cardiology was still a very new discipline and the extent of today's advancements would have seemed like science fiction to most onlookers. Accompanied by his trusted colleague Jean Fajadet, also from Clinique Pasteur, the **pioneering Professor Jean Marco** launched the field's first international Course in the English language, gathering a few dozen participants in Toulouse. With it, he lay the educational foundations of a patient-focused Course built "By and For" practitioners.

Constant growth and global expansion

In 1990, a meaningful partnership that still thrives today was set up with the professional conference organiser, Europa Group. Each year, the annual Course increased steadily in size, greatly appreciated for its core values and practical, case-based curriculum. And in 2001, just 12 years after its launch, the Course moved to Paris as EuroPCR. In 2007, it became the official Course of the newly established European Association for Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI).

Jean Marco set up an official PCR Board and smoothed the way for PCR publications including *EuroIntervention*, the PCR-EAPCI Textbook and later *AsiaIntervention*, as well as an increasingly important digital presence – PCRonline. From 2010 there was rapid global expansion to satisfy the need for postgraduate education adapted to local practice. AICT-AsiaPCR, PCR London Valves, GulfPCR-GIM, SASCI-AfricaPCR, PCR-CIT China Chengdu Valves and PCR Tokyo Valves were all established within the space of seven years. PCR Seminars and PCR Webinars began to take place all year long, while the one-day PCR Innovators Day and EAPCI-PCR Fellows Course were organised to coincide with EuroPCR.

In 2015, Jean Marco stepped aside as PCR Chairman, passing his role on to **William Wijns**, with **Jean Fajadet** as Co-Chairman. The PCR Family continued to grow and enhance its offering with PCR Focus Groups, PCR Simulation-based Learning, an Advanced Course on Transseptal Puncture, Alfieri's Boot Camp and PCR Imaging Valves Madrid. By the end of 2025, two new Courses will further amplify worldwide outreach: PCR Rio Valves in Brazil and PCR Gulf Valves in Dubai.



Nicolas Dumonteil, Martine Gilard, Jean Fajadet, William Wijns, Bernard Prendergast and Emanuele Barbato

A meticulously prepared transition

Each new addition expands PCR's scope and, in response, the Board has been carefully planning its future for some time now. The aim? To ensure a smooth transition that preserves existing strengths, maintaining PCR's core values and enabling continuing successful development. William and Jean have chosen to relinquish their roles as PCR Chairmen and EuroPCR Course Directors at the end of 2025 – roles which they have served with unwavering dedication, vision and efficacy. They will both remain esteemed members of the Board, joining Jean Marco as Honorary Chairmen.

The legacy continues with Bernard Prendergast

William and Jean drew up a comprehensive list of essential professional and personal criteria for a future PCR Chairperson.

Bernard Prendergast, long-standing PCR London Valves Course Director and PCR Co-Chairman since 2023, soon became the obvious choice. In their words, he is "the right person, in the right place, at the right moment" and they are delighted he has accepted the position. He knows and adheres to PCR's core values, has an active clinical practice and is widely recognised by his peers as a respected and independent practitioner. When asked if he had any advice for his successor, William was quick to decline: "Ahaha, nice try: that would be inappropriate on my behalf. One thing is for sure: Jean and I will remain

available to continue to serve this wonderful community in any way required, upon the request of Bernard and his Leadership Team."

Essential support from a new Leadership Team

Given the rapid escalation of activities, restructuring also requires a larger Leadership Team. Bernard has chosen **Emanuele Barbato**, **Nicolas Dumonteil** and **Martine Gilard** as Co-Chairs to accompany him in his new role. "They all have deep roots within PCR, huge clinical experience across the breadth of coronary, valve and structural intervention, and an in-depth understanding of the education, innovation, research and political landscape facing PCR in 2026 and beyond," he notes.

Other Board Members will provide strategic oversight and will work with the Course Directors and Leaders of individual Courses and activities for further support. "We will work closely to deliver the broad, ambitious and wide-ranging PCR portfolio to the current and next generation of cardiovascular specialists," says Bernard.

The interventional community can rest assured that the new PCR Leadership Team will preserve the inspiring educational legacy of Jean Marco – for the ultimate benefit of patient care worldwide. In doing so, they look forward to maintaining the same high level of trust, collaboration and sense of belonging that has always been nurtured by William Wijns and Jean Fajadet.

Bernard Prendergast: "William Wijns and Jean Fajadet have done a phenomenal job in harnessing the original educational philosophy created by Jean Marco over 30 years ago and translating it to the modern era through constant re-evaluation, evolution and progress. Even more impressively, they have expanded the PCR brand into a global educational programme that still retains the concept of a close-knit community dedicated to the care of patients."

It will be my privilege to work with the entire PCR Board in building upon their legacy to deliver world-class, practically orientated medical education, foster innovation, cement international ties and continually emphasise the central role of the patients we serve."



Scan here to access the "PCR = People" booklet where you will find the names and faces of colleagues who fulfil key roles across the multitude of PCR initiatives.