

NEWSLETTER3

News from ERA-CVD



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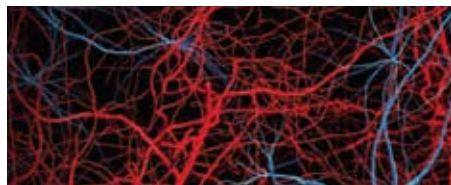


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More details at: <http://www.era-cvd.eu>

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ERA-CVD: Achievements, activities and future plans

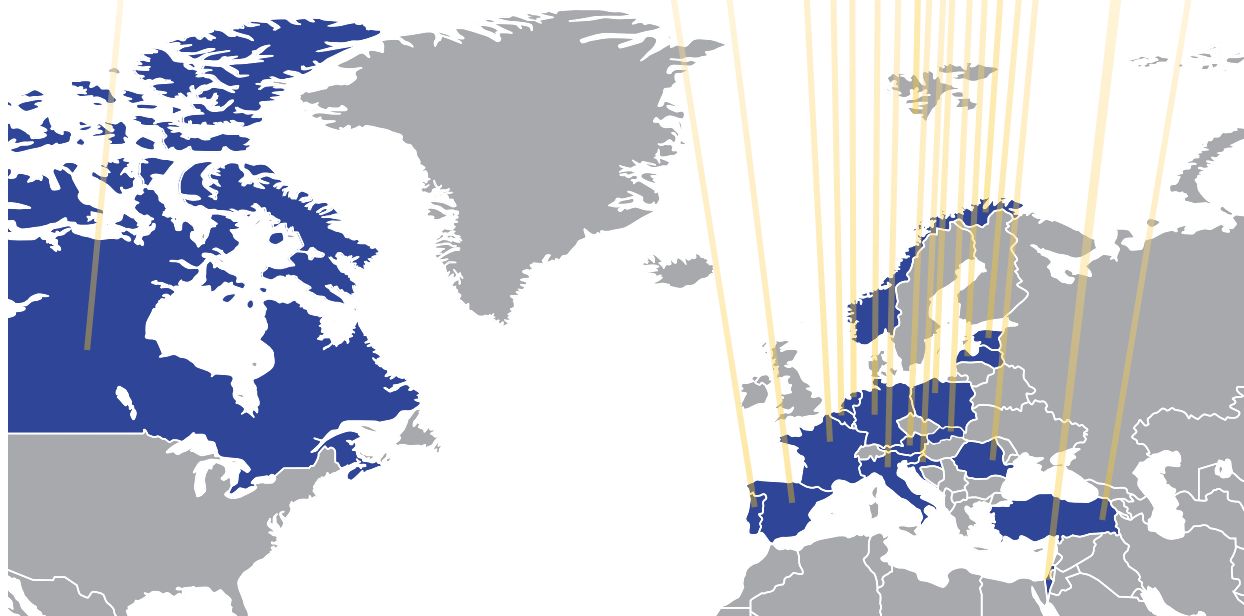
An effective coordination of research at a national and European level, increased cross-disciplinary interaction and research advancements are urgently needed to address the burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD). CVD causes each year over 1.8 million deaths in the European Union (EU) and thus accounts for 37% of all deaths.* Moreover, incidence and prevalence of CVD are significant, as currently there are more than 6 million new cases in the EU every year. With almost 49 million people living with the disease in the EU in 2015, the cost to the economies is high, around €210 billion a year.*

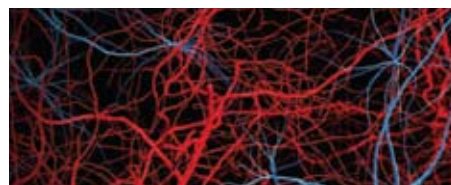
By gathering their forces and funding capacities, 24 partners from 19 countries responded to this demand through a European Research Area Network (ERA-Net) for cardiovascular diseases (ERA-CVD). The overall aim is to effectively coordinate research by supporting the alignment of existing national and regional research programmes and fostering new, and extending existing, transnational cooperation in CVD research. Thus ERA-CVD is an international platform for implementing Joint Transnational Calls (JTC) in order to fund excellent and innovative research consortia for the benefit of patients. This is the most effective joint activity to enhance cooperation between scientists working in Europe and beyond.

The first two calls have already been launched in 2016 with a focus on heart failure, and in 2017 targeting research consortia on atherosclerosis and/or plaque instability in coronary artery disease. As a result of these calls 24 research consortia with over 100 international research groups are funded with about 21.5 Million Euro for three years by the participating partners and the European Commission. Further information about these projects is present on the [ERA-CVD webpage](#) as well as the first two newsletters. Furthermore, ERA-CVD will disseminate the achievements of these funded consortia in the above mentioned platform.

A third call (JTC2018) to support early career researchers working on CVD is recently under peer-review, and a fourth (JTC2019) is in preparation and will be published on the ERA-CVD webpage in January 2019. All researchers funded by ERA-CVD will be invited to the upcoming symposium 2019 (see also page 6).

* European Cardiovascular Disease Statistics, 2017 edition, European Heart Network, February 2017





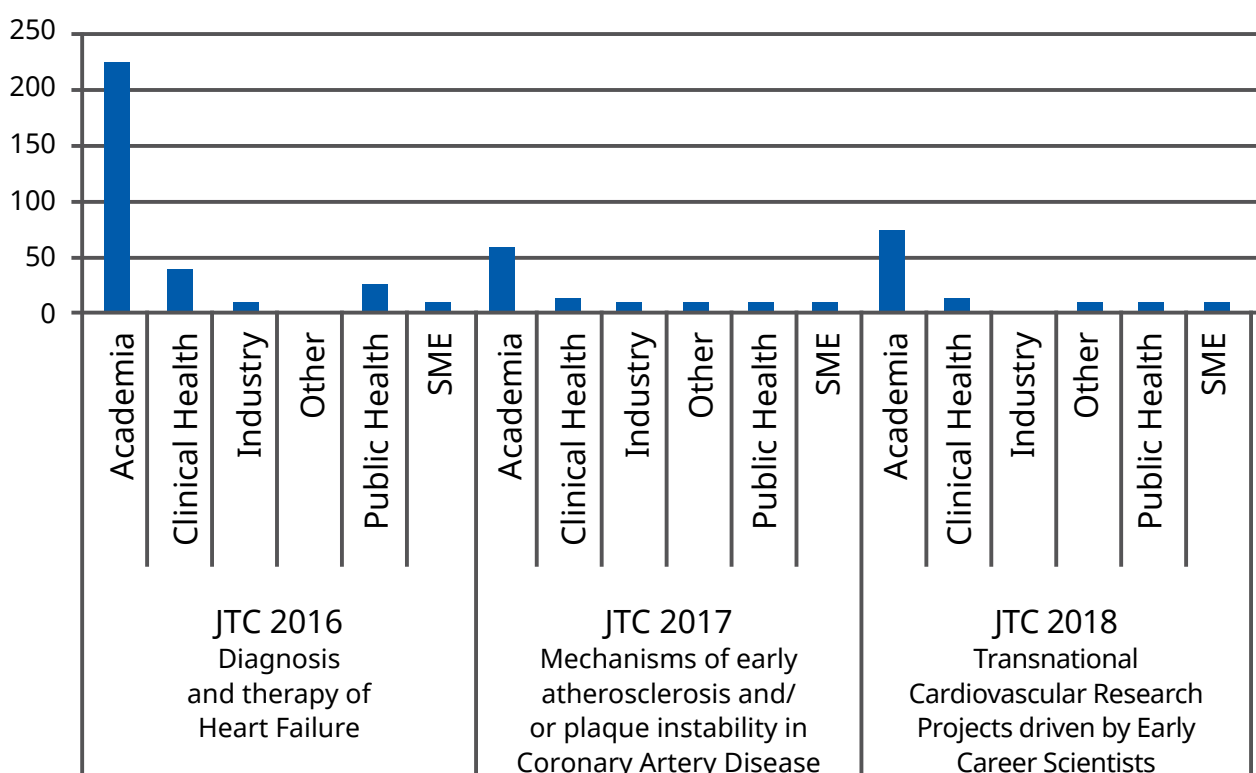
ERA-CVD Joint Transnational Call 2018 (JTC2018)

The 3rd JTC focuses on cardiovascular research consortia driven by Early Career Scientists, who already achieved their PhD. Due to this aim JTC2018 was open to all CVD related research projects. The evaluation is still ongoing for this call and the deadline for full proposals submission expired on 15th June 2018 and results are expected in October.

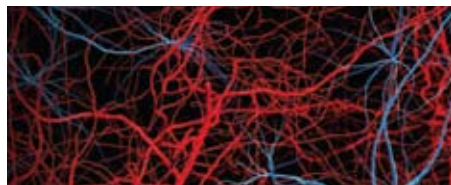
The average age of the applying researchers is around 37 years. They are employed by a wide range of institutions (see table below- researchers who applied in the first three JTC of ERA-CVD). However more than 50% are from academia, followed by 15% from clinical health and public health institutions or hospitals. Only less than 1% are employed by a Small Medium Enterprise (SME). Only few applicants indicated, that they are already experienced in setting up transnational collaborations or have established networks prior the submitted proposals in ERA-CVD JTCs.

ERA-CVD : Joint Transnational calls 2016, 2017 and 2018

Table 1: Distribution of the pre-proposal applicants according to their institutions



Overview of the applicants institutions, numbers according to the pre-proposal submission in the first three ERA-CVD Joint Transnational Calls (JTC2016, JTC2017 and JTC2018).



EPCA

Excellent Paper in Cardiovascular research Award

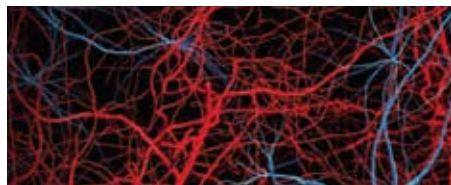


A new initiative taken by ERA-CVD is about to grant an award for an excellent paper in cardiovascular research published in 2017. The award will recognize the most remarkable and outstanding scientific publications by young researchers in the field of cardiovascular research.

The announcement was made in February 2018, the applications were evaluated by ERA-Net CVD partner organizations and a final decision was reached on June 2018. The winner, who received the highest ranking, is Dr. Shashi Kumar Gupta from Hannover Medical School, Germany.

The winning paper is "Quaking Inhibits Doxorubicin-Mediated Cardiotoxicity Through Regulation of Cardiac Circular RNA Expression. doi: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.117.311335. Circulation Research".

The award presentation will be held in Munich on August 27, under the framework of the ESC annual congress.



Strategic Research Agenda for CVD

The second workshop on the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for CVD was held in Rome, Italian Ministry of Health, on May 2018 and included plenary sessions and parallel breakout working sessions.

Among the participants were members of the ERA-CVD External Advisory Board - chaired by Professor Wiek van Gilst from University Medical Center Groningen - The Netherlands, external experts and ERA-CVD coordinators and partners.

Professor Diederick Grobbee from University Medical Center Utrecht - The Netherlands, board member of the European Society of Cardiology and President of the European Association of Preventive Cardiology gave a lecture on innovations in CVD prevention research. He insisted on the ongoing shift to include wider stakeholder environments (and methods) in order to grasp the concept of exposome - the individual exposures from conception to death, to allow for a better understanding of diseases states.

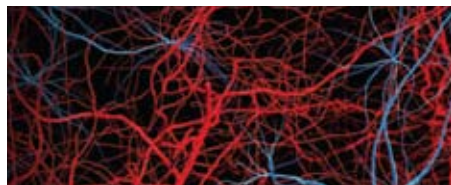
Dr Diane Gal who had just completed her PhD thesis in Professor Karin Sipido's laboratory in KU Leuven, Belgium presented her work on high throughput analyses of CVD publications over many decades. Her work revealed several emerging 'hot topics' in the field of CVD research, and a movement to increased translational research.



Interactive breakout working sessions aimed to pursue the ERA-CVD SRA development by discussing key CVD research topics. Four working groups of EAB members and experts (disease prevention, disease management, disease treatment and living with disease) defined a list of research topics providing a wide view on the cardiovascular field and current challenges.

The delivery of the ERA-CVD SRA is planned for early 2019 and is developed together with European experts and in cooperation with the European Society for Cardiology (ESC) as well as the European Heart Network (EHN), a Brussels-based alliance of heart foundations.

The outcome of each breakout session was presented to the general assembly on the following day. Overarching recommendations were also highlighted, such as the critical need for clinically relevant pre-clinical and basic research, the validation of new research methodologies and efforts on national and transnational data collection.



ERA-CVD midterm symposium ***May 2019 - Riga, Latvia***



A two-day event by invitation only, but with free registration will bring together project coordinators, investigators and young scientists all of whom take part in the funded projects of the Joint Transnational Calls 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The symposium will bring together researchers from all three JTCs with key experts in and representatives of ministries as well as funding agencies. One focus will be on scientific results obtained by funded consortia from the first two ERA-CVD JTC2016 and 2017.

The symposium will be accompanied by a special program for young scientists. An emphasis will be put on research experience of young scientists, as well as their networking opportunities. Several poster presentations of young scientists are planned.

In addition, the symposium will provide an opportunity for the official presentation of the ERA-CVD Strategic Research Agenda (see previous page).

More information will be published in the upcoming months on the ERA-CVD webpage: www.era-cvd.eu