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Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging: The European Experience

The European experience in advanced cardiovascular imaging has closely paralleled the American experience. Many professional organizations have been developed in the field and have played an important role in the development, standardization, proper application, and critical evaluation of established and newer modalities of cardiovascular imaging. Many of these organizations have affiliated local members in individual European countries.

European Society of Cardiac Radiology

<http://www.escr.org/>

Founded in 1999, the European Society of Cardiac Radiology is a young member of the European Society of Radiology (ESR). The society's mission is to unify all modalities of cardiac imaging and their application to the entire spectrum of cardiovascular diseases. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, the society offers several fellowships in advanced cardiac imaging, an annual scientific meeting, and an official journal titled *International Journal of Cardiovascular Imaging* (formerly *Cardiac Imaging*). Members of the society have access to the Electronic Presentation Online System, a permanent online database of scientific and educational presentations. Members also have access to EURORAD, a large peer-reviewed teaching database of radiology through the ESR.

European Society for the Promotion of Picture Archiving and Communication Systems in Medicine

<http://www.europacs.org/>

This association aims to address the issue of optimally embedding medical images into electronic health records in order to promote exchange of information clinically and for research purposes. This is of interest to those who are involved in the development and use of digital systems for the acquisition, storage, transport, processing, display, and reproduction of medical pictures (PACS) and related health care informatics technologies. Although founded in Leiden, Holland, the society is now headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The society hosts an annual scientific meeting. The website offers multiple links to related daily news summaries, societies, journals, teaching archives, and image-viewing software.

European Association of Echocardiography

<http://www.escardio.org/communities/EAE/Pages/welcome.aspx/>

The European Association of Echocardiography is one of the first European Society of Cardiology (ESC) associations and was officially launched in December 2003. The association was created from the now dissolved ESC Working Group on Echocardiography. The society offers several fellowship training grants to members interested in advanced training in echocardiography. The website offers a comprehensive list of key references in various aspects of echocardiography (Key Reference Library), webcasts of presentations at its official annual scientific meeting (EuroECHO), downloadable presentations in PDF format, and a collection of guidelines and position statements. The society publishes the *European Journal of Echocardiography*.

European Council of Nuclear Cardiology

<http://www.ecnc-nuclearcardiology.org/>

The European Council of Nuclear Cardiology was founded in December 2002 through the collaborative efforts of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine Cardiovascular Committee and the

European Society of Cardiology Working Group on Nuclear Cardiology. The council initiated the Certification Examination in Nuclear Cardiology in association with the (American) Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology. An annual scientific meeting is held by the council (International Congress on Nuclear Cardiology). The website offers access to key guidelines and position statements. Although the council does not have an official journal, some of its publications appear in the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*, the official journal of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine.

European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology

<http://www.esmrmmb.org/>

The European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology (ESMRMB) developed out of the European Workshop on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (currently known as the European Magnetic Resonance Forum Foundation) in 1984. An annual scientific meeting is held by the society (ESMRMB Congress), and the society sponsors many other educational activities in the form of lectures, seminars, and hands-on training sessions. The society now publishes a newsletter that contains information about its scientific and educational activities throughout Europe.

European Society for Molecular Imaging

<http://www.e-smi.eu/>

The European Society for Molecular Imaging was created in July 2005 by a combination of research centers, universities, and industrial companies. The aim was stated to be promotion of research and practice of molecular imaging for benefits in health care, science, and technology in Europe. The society is a participant in the annual World Molecular Imaging Congress, along with the Society for Molecular Imaging, Academy of Molecular Imaging, Federation of Asian Societies of Molecular Imaging, International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, Radiological Society of North America, Society of Nuclear Medicine, and European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research. It also sponsors many educational courses in molecular imaging and holds a summer course on cardiovascular applications of molecular imaging in collaboration with the European Research Networks (European Molecular Imaging Laboratories and Diagnostic Molecular Imaging).