

Press release 1 – Glasgow, 20th March 2015

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83rd Annual Congress of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) March 21-25, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

EAS Congress Glasgow: Prestigious, inclusive and state-of-the-art...

This year's Congress welcomes delegates from 77 countries across five continents.

President of the EAS, Professor Alberico L. Catapano (University of Milan, Italy) overviews the Congress: *'Delegates can look forward to an exciting programme of innovative, cutting edge research. This year the focus is on what is novel in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease research. The programme covers novel biomarkers, advances in imaging of the unstable plaque, genes and genetic contributions to coronary heart disease, as well as new treatment paradigms and therapeutic approaches to cardiovascular disease prevention.'*

Working with the host British Atherosclerosis Society, **Congress Chair, Professor Chris Packard, Research Director NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, UK**, explains how the programme highlights important recent developments in translational and clinical research. These include innovative means of lipid regulation; investigation of agents targeted towards vascular wall repair and stabilisation of the atheromatous plaque; and exciting new regenerative medicine approaches.

'Given our focus on the future for cardiovascular disease prevention, the EAS has decided to specifically promote the talents of our young researchers across Europe. For the first time, the EAS Congress features new sessions at the end of each day of excellent presentations by young researchers, and offers for those starting out on their international careers superb networking opportunities. And where better for this to take place than Glasgow, a city which epitomises the perfect combination of tradition mixed with a vibrant and innovative modern twist.' - Professor Chris Packard CBE, EAS Glasgow Congress Chair.

The Young Investigator Communications feature on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March, at 17:00-18:30.

Welcome from Glasgow!

Councillor Gordon Matheson, Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, said: 'We're delighted to welcome the Congress of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) to Glasgow this weekend. With more than 1,500 heart disease

experts traveling from 77 countries to attend the conference, the local economy is expected to benefit from an economic boost in the region of £2.4million.

'Ambassadors like the University of Glasgow's Professor Chris Packard highlight the strength of the Glasgow offering; and our Conference Ambassador Programme continues to generate a third of conference business in the city. We are rapidly becoming a hub for medical conferences thanks to our world class universities producing world leading research and our significant on-going investment in infrastructure. It is no surprise that meetings organisers continue to give us a resounding vote of confidence by choosing Glasgow as their host city.'

Kerry Watson, from VisitScotland's Business Tourism team, said: 'Scotland has a rich history in science and medicine so we are delighted to help bring this important conference to Glasgow through the VisitScotland Conference Bid Fund. A conference on this scale could potentially generate nearly £2.5 million for the economy, underlining the importance of business events to Scotland.'

The EAS Congress gratefully acknowledges the support of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau (GCMB) and VisitScotland.

EAS Glasgow Highlights

EAS Focuses on Familial Hypercholesterolaemia, Inherited High Cholesterol

EAS Glasgow marks the launch of the EAS Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) Studies Collaboration (FHSC). This global initiative led by **Professor Kausik Ray (Imperial College London, UK)** aims to empower the medical and global community so as to improve the diagnosis and treatment of this common inherited dyslipidaemia. With few exceptions, 99% of patients with FH worldwide are not identified. Even when diagnosed, management is usually suboptimal.

The key session on the FHSC initiative is European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC) accredited. **[Sunday March 22: 10:00-11:45]**

For the first time, the Congress also brings together FH patient advocacy groups from around the world to discuss lessons to be learned to improve FH care.

[Invitation only session, Saturday 21 March: 17:30-21:30].

More EAS Initiatives

Updates on all EAS Initiatives will be discussed in a session on **Tuesday March 24: 15:00-16:30**. These include:

- **EAS Consensus Panel Initiatives:** The most recent is the EAS Consensus Panel Statement on Statin-Associated Muscle Symptoms: Impact on Statin Therapy, recently published in *The European Heart Journal*.¹ The EAS Consensus Panel has produced highly cited position papers on lipoprotein(a), triglyceride-rich lipoproteins and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; FH, including homozygous FH; hypertriglyceridaemia; and phytosterol-supplemented foods in dyslipidaemia management and cardiovascular disease prevention.

The EAS is also launching a new Consensus Panel initiative with the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine focused on topical issues in laboratory testing and reporting in the management of dyslipidaemia and cardiovascular disease prevention.

- **EAS Academy:** The Society's on-line educational resource, with webcasts, podcasts, technical videos and learning tools, guidelines, consensus papers, and other educational resources. Full access to the EAS Academy is one of the key benefits of Society membership. For further information: <http://www.eas-society.org/eas-academy.aspx>

The Anitschkow Lecture: Highlight of Opening Ceremony

This year the **Anitschkow Prize** recipient is **Professor Aldons 'Jake' Lusis**, Departments of Medicine, Cardiology, Human Genetics, Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), California, USA. Professor Lusis has been a leader in the field of atherosclerosis research for many years. He has published over 500 papers, is an editor for several major journals, and is an active faculty member at UCLA, where he teaches and heads a leading research laboratory. His achievements include:

- Studies in developmental genetics (1975-1978)
- Investigation of the regulation of hematopoiesis (1979-1986)
- Development of the mouse as a model system for studies of lipoprotein metabolism (1981-1989)
- Molecular cloning of genes for plasma lipid metabolism (1983-1990)
- Mapping genes for lipid metabolism (1983-1990)
- Molecular genetic studies to help elucidate inflammatory aspects in atherosclerosis (1990-present)
- The use of systems genetics to better understand pathways and interactions in complex traits. With his co-workers, he was among the first to map the genetics of gene expression (expression quantitative trait loci, or eQTL) and to model biologic networks with such data (2003-present)

- Development of the Hybrid Mouse Diversity Panel (HMDP), a new tool for systems analysis of complex traits. The HMDP consists of about 100 common and recombinant inbred strains which have been entirely sequenced or densely genotyped. The HMDP provides improved mapping resolution compared with classical linkage analysis and is ideal for examining gene-by-environment interactions.

'Professor Lusis has been at the forefront in development of systems analysis of complex genetic traits related to cardiometabolic disease, very much within the focus of EAS Glasgow.' – EAS President, Professor Alberico L. Catapano

For further information: <http://www.eas-society.org/copy-of-anitschkow-prize-winner-2015---jake-lusis.aspx>.

The Anitschkow lecture given by Professor Lusis will be a highlight of the Opening Ceremony of EAS Glasgow, **Sunday, March 22, 18:00-20:00**.

Plenary Sessions: Highlighting Innovation

- This year's Congress **Plenary Sessions**, an important feature of EAS Congresses, clearly reflect the 'Novel' theme, with discussion of
 - New insights into the vascular wall, including advances in imaging aimed at detecting the vulnerable plaque. **[Monday, March 23: 08:30-10:30]**
 - New insights into the regulation of lipid and lipoprotein metabolism. **[Tuesday, March 24: 08:30-10:30]**
 - Future challenges and opportunities in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease: Do we need to target prevention earlier, and if so, what are the dietary recommendations for cardiovascular disease prevention? **[Wednesday 25 March: 08:30-10:30]**

Late Breaking Sessions: Latest Developments in Atherosclerosis and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

There will be two Late Breaking Sessions.

- **Late Breaking Session I** highlights clinical data, focusing on biomarkers, cardiovascular risk estimation, novel benefits of statin therapy, as well as new data with the PCSK9 monoclonal antibody alirocumab in high cardiovascular risk patients. The session also discusses the forthcoming EAS Consensus Panel paper on paediatric FH. **[Monday March 23: 15:00-16:30]**
- **Late Breaking Session II** highlights new basic and translational research on atherosclerosis, including novel biomarkers of atherosclerosis and molecular imaging. **[Tuesday 24 March: 15:00-16:30]**

EBAC accredited Symposia: What's New in Lipid-Lowering and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

- **Hypolipidaemic therapy: past, present and future:** This symposium discusses current and future strategies in lipid-lowering therapy. [Sunday March 22: 12:00-13:30]
- **New aspects of imaging, lipoproteins and lipid targets in cardiovascular disease prevention:** This symposium discusses advances in imaging to detect the silent, vulnerable plaque, and reviews lipid and lipoprotein biomarkers. [Sunday March 22, 2015: 14:00-15:30]

Advanced Clinical Seminars and Workshops Continue the Focus on Innovation

Monday 23 March, 2015

- Advanced Clinical Seminar: Novel strategies in lipid lowering and anti-atherosclerosis interventions. [11:00-11:45]
- Workshop: Micronutrients and vitamins in population CVD health. [15:00-16:30]

Tuesday 24 March, 2015

- Workshop: CVD prediction and novel biomarkers. [11:00-12:30]
- Workshop: FH and severe hyperlipidemias. [15:00-16:30]

Wednesday 25 March, 2015

- Workshop: Lp(a) and novel lipid targets. [11:00-12:30]
- Advanced Clinical Seminar: New metrics and modelling for CVD risk. [11:45-12:30]

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 Glasgow showcases two joint sessions:

- **Joint Symposium with the ESC: Guidelines for Dyslipidaemias, Present and Future**

This session discusses the challenges for future dyslipidaemia guidelines, covering risk estimation, and the place of novel biomarkers and nutraceuticals.

[Monday 23 March, 15:00-16:30]

- **Joint ICCR-EAS Workshop Changing lifestyle patterns: Challenge for cardiovascular disease prevention.**

This session discusses new insights into lifestyle in cardiovascular disease prevention, including the importance of physical fitness and diet

[Tuesday 24 March, 11:00-12:30]

EAS: The Next 5 Years

Looking to the future underpins the EAS initiatives. *‘Top-level education in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease provided by the Society, both in the EAS Academy and in Advanced Seminars, discusses cutting edge developments in basic and clinical research. The Society’s Journal **Atherosclerosis**, the EAS Consensus Panel and ongoing revision of dyslipidaemia guidelines all clearly reflect that EAS is looking to the future.’*

– EAS President, Professor Alberico L. Catapano

Contact:

EAS Press Officer

Dr. Robert Cramb

+44 121 371 5962/+44 7973186206

Email: Rob.Cramb@uhb.nhs.uk

EAS Administration Executive

Dr. Carmel Hayes

+46 31 724 27 95 / +46768 61 00 51

Email: office@eas-society.org

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/>

About the European Consensus Panel

The EAS Consensus Panel is comprised of internationally renowned experts in atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, and is co-chaired by Professor John Chapman (INSERM U939, Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital, Paris, France) and Professor Henry Ginsberg (Columbia University, New York, USA). The Panel was first convened in November 2009 to consider the evidence for non-LDL lipids as risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Subsequent Consensus Panels have focused on familial hypercholesterolaemia, homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, hypertriglyceridaemia, and the role of foods supplemented with plant sterols/stanols in dyslipidaemia management and cardiovascular disease prevention. The latest of the EAS Consensus Panel Statements focuses on statin-associated muscle symptoms.

Recent publications:

1. Stroes ES, Thompson PD, Corsini A, Vladutiu GD, Raal FJ, Ray KK, Roden M, Stein E, Tokgözoğlu L, Nordestgaard BG, Bruckert E, De Backer G, Krauss RM, Laufs U, Santos RD, Hegele RA, Hovingh GK, Leiter LA, Mach F, März W, Newman CB, Wiklund O, Jacobson TA, Catapano AL, Chapman MJ, Ginsberg HN; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Statin-associated muscle symptoms: impact on statin therapy-European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel Statement on Assessment, Aetiology and Management. *Eur Heart J* 2015 Feb 18. pii: ehv043. PUBMED link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25694464>

Cuchel M, Bruckert E, Ginsberg HN, Raal FJ, Santos RD, Hegele RA, Kuivenhoven JA, Nordestgaard BG, Descamps OS, Steinhagen-Thiessen E, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Watts GF, Averna M, Boileau C, Borén J, Catapano AL, Defesche JC, Hovingh GK, Humphries SE, Kovanen PT, Masana L, Pajukanta P, Parhofer KG, Ray KK, Stalenhoef AF, Stroes E, Taskinen MR, Wiegman A, Wiklund O, Chapman MJ; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel on Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia: new insights and guidance for clinicians to improve detection and clinical management. A position paper from the Consensus Panel on Familial Hypercholesterolaemia of the European Atherosclerosis Society. *Eur Heart J* 2014;35:2146-57. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25053660>

Hegele RA, Ginsberg HN, Chapman MJ, Nordestgaard BG, Kuivenhoven JA, Averna M, Borén J, Bruckert E, Catapano AL, Descamps OS, Hovingh GK, Humphries SE, Kovanen PT, Masana L, Pajukanta P, Parhofer KG, Raal FJ, Ray KK, Santos RD, Stalenhoef AF, Stroes E, Taskinen MR, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Watts GF, Wiklund O; on behalf of the European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. The polygenic nature of hypertriglyceridaemia: implications for definition, diagnosis, and management. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol* 2014;2:655-66.. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24731657>

Nordestgaard BG, Chapman MJ, Humphries SE, Ginsberg HN, Masana L, Descamps OS, Wiklund O, Hegele RA, Raal FJ, Defesche JC, Wiegman A, Santos RD, Watts GF, Parhofer KG, Hovingh GK, Kovanen PT, Boileau C, Averna M, Borén J, Bruckert E, Catapano AL, Kuivenhoven JA, Pajukanta P, Ray K, Stalenhoef AF, Stroes E, Taskinen MR, Tybjærg-Hansen A; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. *Eur Heart J* 2013;34:3478-90a. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23956253>

Gylling H, Plat J, Turley S, Ginsberg HN, Ellegård L, Jessup W, Jones PJ, Lütjohann D, Maerz W, Masana L, Silbernagel G, Staels B, Borén J, Catapano AL, De Backer G, Deanfield J, Descamps OS, Kovanen PT, Riccardi G, Tokgözoğlu L, Chapman MJ; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel on Phytosterols. Plant sterols and plant stanols in the management of dyslipidaemia and prevention of cardiovascular disease. *Atherosclerosis* 2014;232:346-60. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24468148>

Chapman MJ, Ginsberg HN, Amarenco P, Andreotti F, Borén J, Catapano AL, Descamps OS, Fisher E, Kovanen PT, Kuivenhoven JA, Lesnik P, Masana L, Nordestgaard BG, Ray KK, Reiner Z, Taskinen MR, Tokgözoğlu L, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Watts GF; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Triglyceride-rich lipoproteins and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol in patients at high risk of cardiovascular disease: evidence and guidance for management. *Eur Heart J* 2011;32:1345-61. PUBMED link: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21531743>

Nordestgaard BG, Chapman MJ, Ray K, Borén J, Andreotti F, Watts GF, Ginsberg H, Amarenco P, Catapano A, Descamps OS, Fisher E, Kovanen PT, Kuivenhoven JA, Lesnik P,

Masana L, Reiner Z, Taskinen MR, Tokgözoğlu L, Tybjaerg-Hansen A; European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Lipoprotein(a) as a cardiovascular risk factor: current status. Eur Heart J 2010;31:2844-53. PUBMED link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20965889>

Joint ESC/EAS Guidelines:

Catapano AL, Reiner Z, De Backer G, Graham I, Taskinen MR, Wiklund O, Agewall S, Alegria E, Chapman M, Durrington P, Erdine S, Halcox J, Hobbs R, Kjekshus J, Filardi PP, Riccardi G, Storey RF, Wood D; European Society of Cardiology (ESC); European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS). ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias. The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS). Atherosclerosis 2011;217:3-46. PUBMED Link:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21882396>

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