



ECHSA

EUROPEAN CONGENITAL HEART SURGEONS ASSOCIATION

Dear Members,

It is with immense gratitude that I accept to be appointed President of the European Congenital Heart Surgeons Association (ECHSA). It is a privilege to serve ECHSA in such critical times, with the great responsibility that comes with this role. For this, I want to thank all of you for the trust you place in me.

There is no doubt that the next few years of my presidency will present an intriguing challenge. After so many glorious decades, our Association has reached a moment in which its role must be not only confirmed but reassured within the Institutions that belong to it. Many different aspects of our Association are now well-established tools used by its members. I am certainly thinking of the numerous and prestigious articles published with data from our renowned Database. But I must also mention the important number of patients and operations included in our records which allows surgeons throughout Europe to have a clear idea of the morbidity and mortality related to each congenital heart disease.

Furthermore, through continuous collaboration with non-European companies, ECHSA has continued to present itself as a European reference for international meetings. Indeed, the success of the combined ECHSA-Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society (CHSS) meetings has led to a collaboration that allowed the organization of the first joint ECHS-CHSS-WSPCHS in 2024 with the participation of other distinguished societies (Association for European Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology-AEPC, African Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, Asian Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica and Società Italiana di Cardiologia Pediatrica e delle Cardiopatie Congenite). This will be a tremendous opportunity to bring together plenty of people involved in our field and nurture other potential future collaborations. Global dynamics require us to integrate as much as possible all the associations and societies that have been formed over the years to make common and shared objectives and guidelines for the years to come.

Nonetheless, I must admit that I probably never expected to be named President at a relatively early stage in my career. I suppose that my dedication to the Association and its goals may have something to do with my nomination. In fact, I strongly believe that we need to attract new and young members that could fuel the future of our society. During my tenure, I will seek to keep its members engaged with continuous activities and implement the educational training of our young colleagues which is becoming an increasingly important issue in recent years. International Lectures and Journal Clubs, hands-on courses and online interviews to senior members are just some examples of what can be offered to place the Association at the center of the training curriculum of each Institution.

In conclusion, I am confident that the coming years will offer me the opportunity to keep the name of our Association at the top. This tenure will be an outstanding experience to lead international activities to the highest level and once again establish the key role of ECHSA across Europe and worldwide.

I thank you all in advance for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Vladimiro Vida