



International Society of Electrocardiology Young Community[☆]

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The history of the International Society of Electrocardiology (ISE) originates in 1959, with the First International Symposium on Vectorcardiography held in Wrocław, Poland, that year [1]. From October 21 to 24, the local medical school in Wrocław hosted 42 contributors from 13 European countries, as well as visitors from the United States and Mexico. The meeting was held under a neutral name as a Symposium on Theory, Technique, and Clinical Application of Vectorcardiography because there was no certainty about the future of this idea [2]. Considering the political realities of that time and the iron curtain becoming a frequent obstacle for international participation, organizing an annual meeting for the interdisciplinary study of the cardiac electric field was considered more of an optimistic dream than a reality. The Wrocław Symposium was successful and it commenced an annual tradition of gathering scientists involved in electrocardiology worldwide [3]. The annual meeting was known as the International Colloquium Vectorcardiographicum, which soon expanded to encompass topics other than vectorcardiography. In 1973, at the 14th Colloquium Vectorcardiographicum, the title of the congress was changed to the International Congress on Electrocardiology (ICE) [4]. The group further evolved with the formation of the International Council on Electrocardiology in 1983. Finally, at the 1993 meeting in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, the attendees accepted the constitution to establish the ISE, which has operated ever since (Fig. 1) [5]. Despite the significant historical barriers in scientific communication between the East and the West, the continuity of the Society has been maintained by virtue of the scientists dedicated to the study of electrocardiology.

The electrocardiogram (ECG) remains one of the most economic and frequently used diagnostic tools in all of medicine and, plays an important role in the diagnosis, management, and risk stratification of cardiac arrhythmias. The emergence of more sophisticated imaging techniques has enabled a wide variety of modalities to be available, but the ECG has proven to be a cornerstone diagnostic tool for several cardiovascular conditions and important and relevant to patient care [6]. It is hoped that the younger generation of physicians and trainees will step forward to maintain the enthusiasm for the field and continue the international development of the Society that has prided itself on bringing individuals together from all over the globe. To meet these demands, the ISE has introduced a new initiative – the ISE Young Community – which will seek

to foster cooperation and communication between young trainees and early career professionals interested in ECG education. This initiative will be coordinated by a nucleus of 12 members from a variety of backgrounds and destinations including North America, South America, Asia, and Europe.

In this editorial, we would like to highlight why a Young Community is needed, what to expect from it, and what the future holds. Furthermore, we will introduce the nucleus members.

ISE Young Community: unmet needs and objectives

The young generation of trainees and early career professionals find themselves in a rapidly evolving environment with increasing demands for training, education, and scientific exchange at national and international levels. At the same time, there are fewer opportunities for young trainees to interact and collaborate more closely, especially for those who train in less developed countries, and those who do not have formal systems for supporting younger trainees. Furthermore, there is no central platform for the exchange of ideas regarding ECG education and research, career management, and other routine difficulties that are faced by young trainees and researchers. With this in mind, the ISE Young Community has been formed to provide a global network for young trainees and professionals interested in advancing a career in electrocardiology and gaining scientific exposure. The main objectives are to provide an effective networking avenue that will foster cooperation and communication between young trainees worldwide, to provide a platform for exchange of research ideas and collaborations of special interest to young trainees, to promote scientific education in the field, to develop activities and educational programs for young trainees, and to actively involve young trainees in the activities of the ISE. It is hoped that this initiative will unite young, determined individuals and provide them with the right tools and platforms necessary to facilitate the personal and professional development of their careers and keep them scientifically and clinically up-to-date in this subspecialty.

ISE Young Community: nucleus members

The ISE Young Community will be coordinated by a nucleus group of 12 members, from 4 continents, who will be responsible for organizing activities that align with the needs of the young trainees (Fig. 2). The personal biographies of the nucleus members are highlighted in the Supplementary Appendix. The role of the nucleus members will be to act as advocates and respond to the evolving needs of the young trainees, contribute to the creation of new initiatives, stimulate participation in the community, and promote the specialty to medical and postgraduate students. The peer-to-peer interaction is one way to

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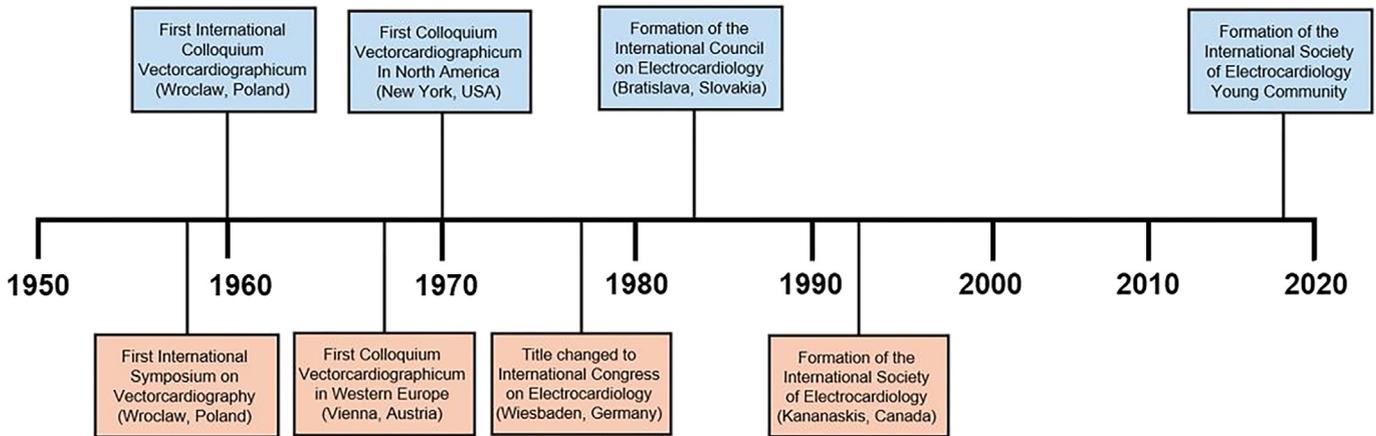


Fig. 1. A timeline of the significant events during the evolution of the International Society of Electrocardiology.

cultivate the energy and enthusiasm in the community and to ensure that the ISE continues to grow.

ISE Young Community: proposed activities

One of the main responsibilities of the group will be to establish regular meetings at the annual ICE conferences, with a focus on research and continuing medical education. As the ISE Young Community spreads to a wider network, scientific workshops and presentations will be organized and led by young trainees. This experience will directly involve young trainees, who express interest in pursuing leadership roles, in the activities of the ISE and facilitate their academic growth.

In the spirit of this initiative, the ISE leadership has dedicated the "Bayés ECG Award" to annually recognize a young investigator for their research contributions and overall publication portfolio in electrocardiology. This will promote scholarly activity of young

investigators and provide them with an international stage to present their ongoing research activities.

Social media will be incorporated into the broader profile of the Community. Several multimedia communication methods will be leveraged to amplify the reach of the audience and to promote "on-the-go" learning [7,8]. The #ISE_YC social media campaign has taken off as a means of promoting the initiative, advertising its activities, and engaging with fellow Community members. As this framework for interaction gains momentum, the ISE Young Community will seek to promote educational exchange between trainees and senior mentors through Live chats, enhance online group discussions between trainees, and promote tutorials on relevant topics that improve clinical practice.

ISE Young Community: who can join?

Prospective members can be early career physicians, allied health professionals, residents, medical and undergraduate students under

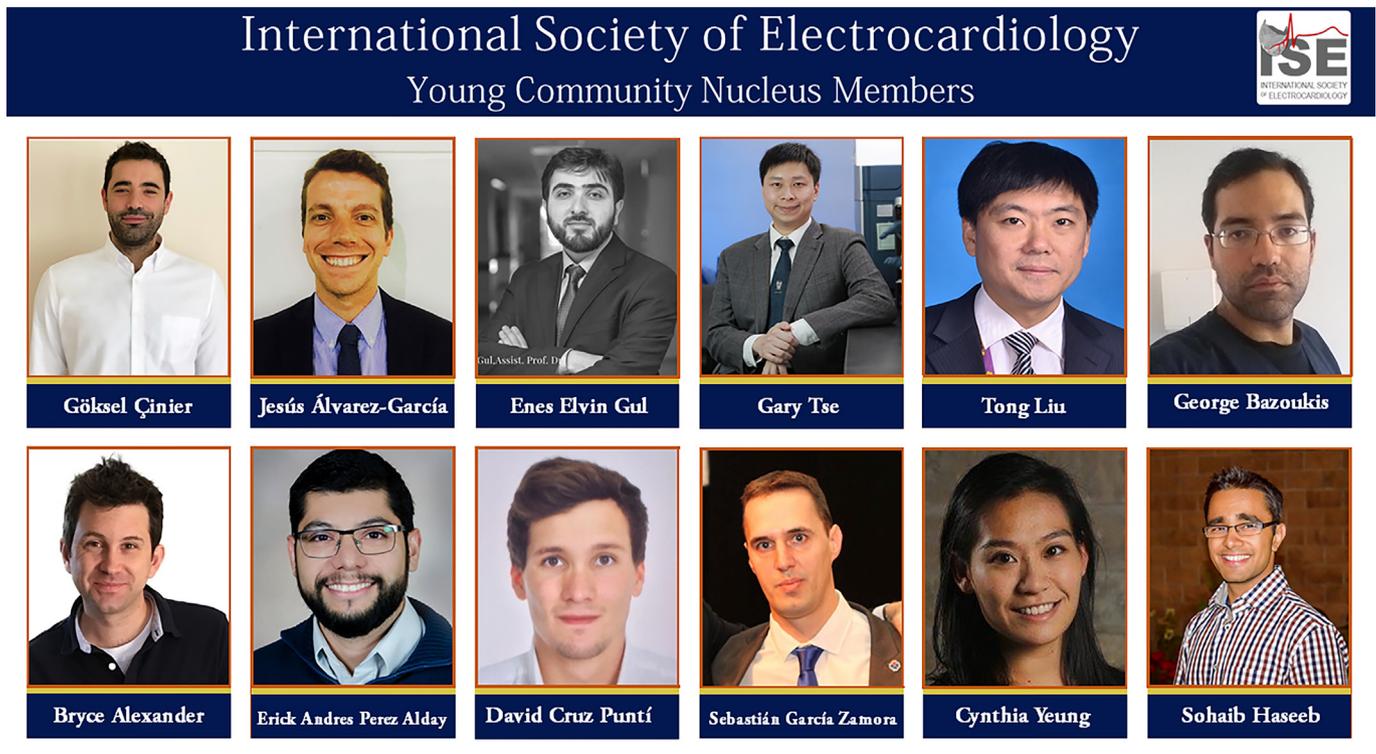


Fig. 2. International Society of Electrocardiology Young Community nucleus members.

the age of 40 who are members of the ISE and exhibit a strong scientific and clinical interest towards electrocardiology. The ISE website (www.electrocardiology.org) will serve as the central hub for the Young Community and more information about the group, such as membership forms, point of contacts, awards, future publications, and special meetings will be posted on this platform as well as advertised on social media through the #ISE_YC hashtag.

ISE Young Community: the future

The ISE Young Community is designed to be a place for cooperation and leadership among young trainees interested in the electrocardiology subspecialty. As this initiative is consolidated in the future years, we hope to extend its presence in the local and international circles. Although it is difficult to predict the future of any endeavor, we are hopeful that the creativity and enthusiasm of our young generation, paired with the support and advice of our leaders, will steer this platform towards a bright future.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelectrocard.2019.03.001>.

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