



EACTS
European Association For Cardio-Thoracic Surgery

FRANCIS FONTAN FUND FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

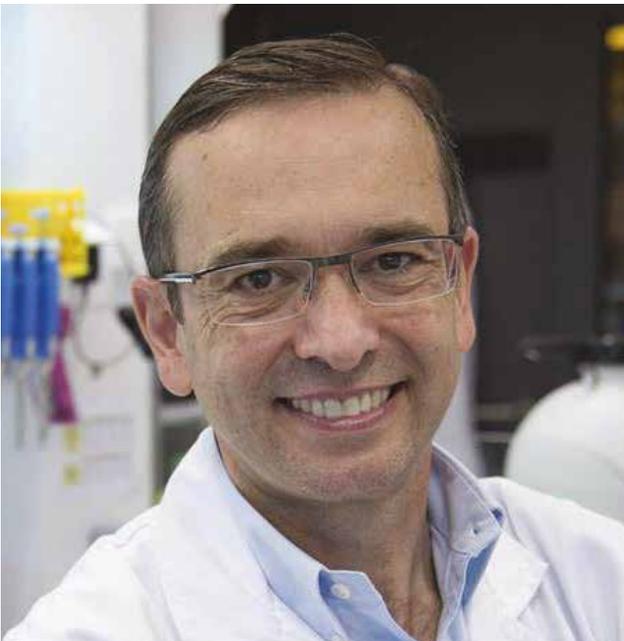


INTRODUCTION

The Francis Fontan Fund for Education supports surgical education, fosters professional development and strengthens the global cardiothoracic community through increased knowledge share.

The Fund's mission is to create a global community sharing and learning from the highest standards of cardiothoracic care.

Message from the Chairman of the Francis Fontan Fund, Professor Rafa Sadaba



Francis Fontan was a pioneering cardiac surgeon, best known for creating the revolutionary Fontan procedure. Passionate about lifelong learning, Fontan founded the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery to advance education in the field of Cardio-Thoracic and vascular interventions. The Francis Fontan Fund was created in his honour, with the intention of celebrating his dedication to lifelong learning.

The Fund currently supports several different Fellowship schemes specialising in a wide breadth of cardiothoracic techniques. These Fellowships take place in institutions from all around the world, including Europe, the USA and China, and are open to applications from all countries.

Many of our Fellowships are supported by industry donors and include specialist courses run by both EACTS and our industry partners. The Fellowships are a truly global experience, and we are so proud to be able to offer such a unique and high-quality learning experience to so many young surgeons.

It is my honour to serve as Chairman of the Francis Fontan Fund, and I have had the pleasure of witnessing nearly 50 young surgeons complete the Fellowship scheme. Our Fellows are given the tools to establish life-saving new techniques in their institution and to emerge with skills, techniques and supportive professional networks that they could not have gained in any other way. The Fund has grown to a much larger community than was ever expected, and I am excited by the opportunities that the Fund can offer to both surgeons at the earliest stages of their career and those with more experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafa Sadaba', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

THE FRANCIS FONTAN FUND FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

We offer three categories of Fellowship.

1. RESEARCH

To support surgeons who wish to engage in current research within cardiothoracic community.

MSTCVS Quality and Outcomes

This Fellowship takes place in the University of Michigan and gives Fellows the opportunity to work alongside the world-leading multidisciplinary team focused on quality improvement for adult cardiac and general thoracic surgery patients in the Michigan area.

The 16-24 week Fellowship placement, offered with a grant award of up to €30,000, provides the successful candidate an in-depth understanding of cardiothoracic surgical outcomes with one of the world's best quality improvement teams.

2. LEADERSHIP

To support surgeons who aspire to leadership roles in cardiothoracic surgery.

Atrial Fibrillation supported by AtriCure

This Fellowship takes place in eight different locations throughout Europe. Fellows are offered the chance to complete two specialist courses in atrial fibrillation, as well as four weeks of in-hospital training.

The Fellowship is offered with a grant award of €3,500 and provides candidates with an in-depth clinical understanding and surgical proficiency in treating patients with atrial fibrillation.

Aortic TEVAR supported by Terumo Aortic

This Fellowship includes four highly specialised courses and in-hospital training equipping Fellows with the knowledge and experience to help them establish or support endovascular aortic treatment programmes at their home centre.

This Fellowship offers candidates grants of up to €11,000.



3. EDUCATION

To provide early career surgeons a thorough foundation level of understanding and ability in different specialisms.

Aortic Root and Valve Repair

This Fellowship offers theoretical and practical knowledge in the surgical management of patients with aortic root dilatation and aortic regurgitation, with special interest in the sparing of the aortic valve. The Fellowship includes two specialist EACTS courses and in-hospital training. Grants of up to €5,600 are available.

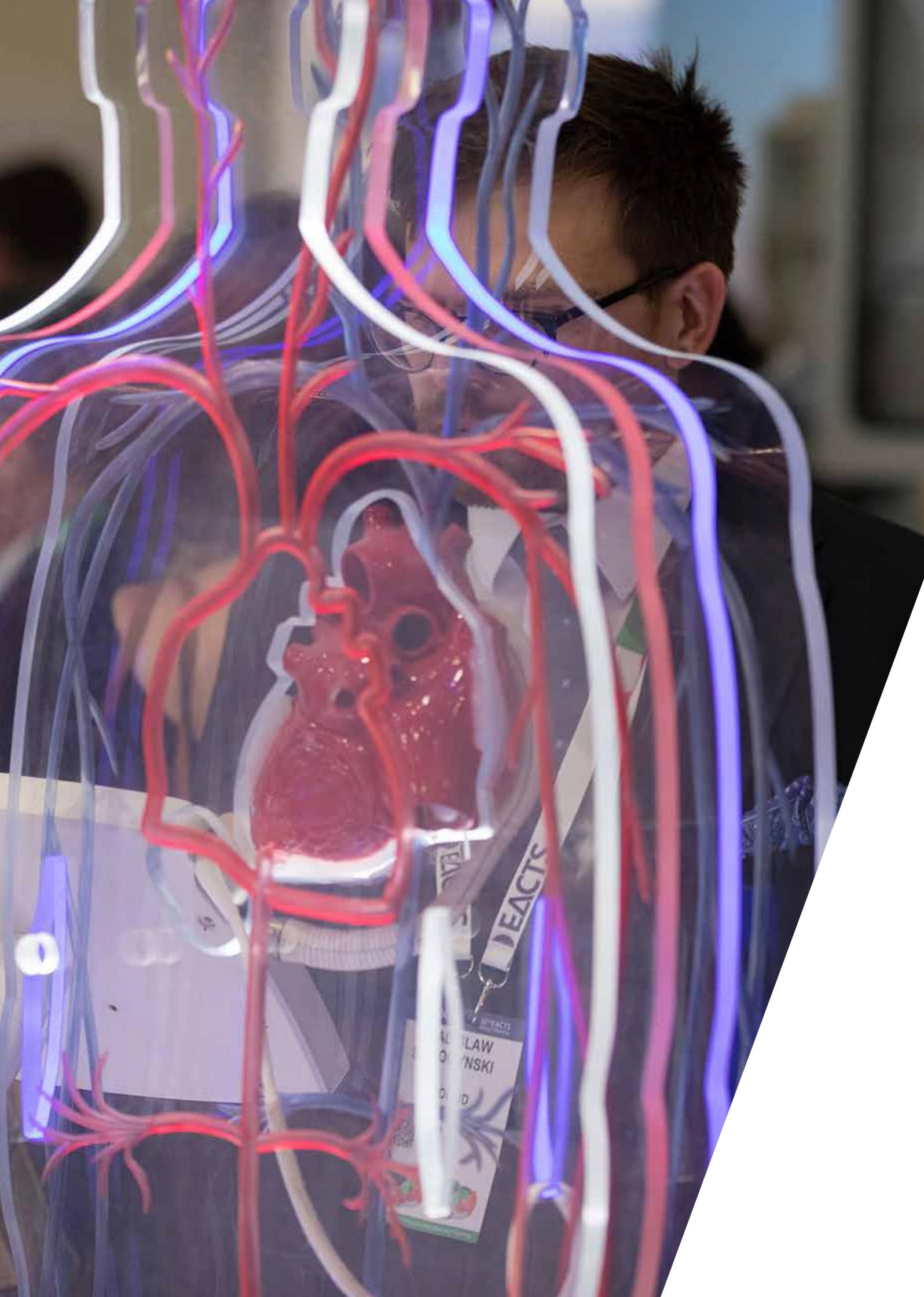
Postoperative Critical Care in Adult Cardiovascular Surgery

This Fellowship provides Fellows with a chance to gain experience in postoperative management in adult cardiovascular surgery, as well as a wide exposure to minimally invasive and other advanced techniques in cardiovascular surgery. Fellows take part in a four-month placement in the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Hospital Clinic de Barcelona (University of Barcelona) and are offered a grant payment of €8,400.

OPCAB/MICS CABG supported by Medtronic

This Fellowship provides newly graduated cardiothoracic surgeons from around the world with an educational opportunity to enhance their clinical understanding and to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge in the surgical management of patients with coronary artery disease, with special interest in off-pump and minimal invasive techniques. Fellows will have the opportunity to complete a combination of courses, in-hospital training and proctorship, and will receive a grant payment of €5,000.





SELECTION PROCESS

Francis Fontan Fund Fellowship opportunities are open throughout the year, and will be advertised on the EACTS website. To apply, applicants must provide a comprehensive and up to date CV, a letter of support from the current Head of Department/Training Director and a completed application form (available on the website).

Applications are subject to a rigorous external peer review process, led by world leading EACTS surgeons and overseen by eminent members of the Francis Fontan Fund Committee.

Francis Fontan Fund Committee

The Committee is responsible for evaluating and approving Fellowship opportunities and strategic decisions, as well as assisting in the recruitment for each Fellowship.

Chair

J. Rafael Sadaba MD PhD FRCS CTh
Department of Cardiac Surgery, Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra (Spain)

Advanced Post-operative Care

Dr Eduard Quintana
Cardiovascular Staff Surgeon at the University of Barcelona Medical School

Coronary Artery Bypass

Professor Miguel Sousa Uva
Hospital Santa Cruz, Lisbon (Portugal)

MICS Coronary Artery Bypass

Dr Piroze Davierwala
Lead Senior Consultant and Director of Coronary Bypass surgery at the Leipzig Heart Centre in Germany

Atrial Fibrillation

Dr Manuel Castella
Cardiovascular surgeon and Chief of cardiac surgery section at Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, Spain

Uniportal VATS

Dr Peter Licht
Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Southern Danish University, Odense, Denmark

Aortic Root/Valve Repair

Dr Davide Pacini
Policlinico S. Orsola-Malpighi Hospital in Bologna, Italy

Former Fellow

Dr Alina Gallo
Maggiore della Carità Hospital, Novara

Fellowship Advisor

Isabelle Brown

“This Fellowship has been one of the most formative and rewarding experiences of my career.”

Aortic Root and Valve Repair Fellow, 2019

“AtriCure is proud to support and be associated with the EACTS Francis Fontan Fellowship program. Clinician training and education in the field of atrial fibrillation is one of the fundamental activities we engage in to assist in the advancement of safe and effective therapy adoption in this difficult to treat patient population. We have had great feedback from the Fellows who have been participants in the Fellowship program in prior years and we look forward to ongoing support of this first class educational activity.”

Geoff Stevens, Vice President of AtriCure