

Questions & Answers

About the Global Alliance on Heart Failure & Healthy Aging

What is the Global Alliance on Heart Failure & Healthy Aging?

The Alliance was borne out of a series of [roundtables in the United States and Europe](#) throughout 2018. These discussions brought together more than 70 experts from diverse geographies, disciplines, and areas of expertise to reframe heart failure as an urgent priority in the context of population aging and to call for more attention and action to support early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of heart failure, particularly among older adults. Following the roundtable series, the Alliance developed a [Consensus Statement and Call to Action](#) to advance these goals.

What is the Alliance's vision?

The Alliance aims to change the conversation on heart failure so that patients, caregivers, medical professionals, policymakers, payers, and the general public recognize (1) the burden that heart failure imposes on patient quality of life, family and caregiver well-being, health systems, and healthcare budgets; (2) the vast unmet clinical need and inadequate communications relating to heart failure; and (3) the urgency of diagnosing patients as early as possible to ensure access to the best available treatments and care.

Twenty-six million people worldwide are affected by heart failure. Over 80% of those living with heart failure in Europe and in the United States are over the age of 65. In OECD countries, heart failure is the most common cause of hospitalization in older adults. We aim to change this paradigm.

How is the Alliance different from other heart failure-focused initiatives?

The Alliance adopts a multi-disciplinary approach that is key to elevate heart failure on health policy agendas. The Alliance brings together thought leaders across the cardiovascular, aging, economics, policy, and communications communities and uniquely leverages the aging lens to highlight the growing impact of heart failure and to help stamp

out the ageist misperception that it is simply a normal part of aging. A full list of Alliance Partners can be found [here](#).

The Alliance applauds other multi-stakeholder initiatives and events that highlight the imperative of addressing heart failure, for instance the creation of the [Heart Failure Charter](#), aimed at minimizing the number of heart failure hospitalizations and preventive readmissions by targeting key unmet needs across the continuum of care, and a seminar commemorating [Iron Deficiency Awareness Day](#) on November 26, 2019 in Brussels, which will highlight the prevalence of iron deficiency in heart failure patients. Other initiatives led by organizations including the American Heart Association, the World Heart Federation and the Heart Failure Policy Network, for example, are critical for driving change. All of these efforts build on and complement each other.

How is the Alliance structured?

The Alliance structure consists of (1) the Partners representing the cross-sector, cross-discipline, and cross-geography nature of the initiative; (2) the Secretariat housed within GCOA to execute upon Alliance strategies; and (3) the Governing Committee, which will work closely with the Secretariat to guide the Alliance agenda, serve as strategic advisors, lend expertise, and enhance the credibility and positioning of heart failure as we age with global influencers.

Governing Committee members include: **Holly S. Andersen, MD, FACC**, Attending Cardiologist, Associate Professor of Medicine, Director of Education & Outreach, The Ronald O. Perelman Heart Institute, The New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center; **Michele Bolles**, National Vice President of Quality and Health IT, American Heart Association; **Salvatore di Somma, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, Director of Emergency Medicine, Chairman of Postgraduate School of Emergency Medicine, Department of Medical-Surgery Sciences and Translational Medicine, University La Sapienza Rome, Sant'Andrea Hospital; President, GREAT Network Italy; **Jean-Luc Eiselé**, CEO, World Heart Federation; **Daniel E. Forman, MD, FAHA, FACC**, Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Chair, Section of Geriatric Cardiology, Divisions of Geriatrics and Cardiology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Director of Emerging Therapeutics, Aging Institute, University of Pittsburgh; Director, Cardiac Rehabilitation and GeroFit, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System; Physician Scientist, Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System; **Neil Johnson**, Non-Executive Director/Founding Member, Global Heart Hub; Chief Executive, Croí—West of Ireland Cardiac & Stroke Foundation; **Sue Koob**, CEO, Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association; and **Marc Wortmann**, former Executive Director, Alzheimer's Disease International.

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What will the Alliance accomplish?

The Alliance will elevate the public health imperative of addressing heart failure in the cardiovascular and aging fields, as well as other global influencers in the health, economics, payer, and policy worlds by spurring urgent action related to the rapid aging of society. By spotlighting this connection between aging and heart failure and the potential for decreasing hospitalization and readmissions through earlier diagnosis, ensuring access to the best available treatments, and better clinical practices and education, we can improve patients' quality of life, more effectively meet patient and caregiver needs, and better manage health systems costs.

What are the Alliance's core projects?

The Alliance has already been focused on a number of initiatives at the intersection of aging and heart failure. Before the end of 2019, the Alliance will conduct research and release reports on (1) clinical best practices across the global heart failure landscape and (2) the impact on hospitals and health systems when diagnosis is missed or delayed until an acute care situation. The Alliance is also focused on communications and convenings leading up to and during the launch of the Decade of Healthy Ageing during the World Health Assembly in May 2020.