

CASSA Symposium 2026

28 February 2026
The Capital on the Park, Sandton



Prof. Alan Bulava (MD, PhD)
Chief of the I. Department of Internal Medicine - Cardiology
University Hospital Olomouc®, Czech Republic

Prof. Alan Bulava was born in 1974. He graduated from the Medical Faculty of Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, in 1998, and from the Law Faculty at the same university in 1999. In 2017, he was appointed Professor of Internal Medicine by the President of the Czech Republic. From 2007 to 2025, Prof. Bulava served as Chief Physician of the Department of Arrhythmology and Cardiac Pacing at the Cardiology Department, České Budějovice Hospital. Since September 2025, he has been Chief of the I.

Department of Internal Medicine – Cardiology at University Hospital Olomouc.

Prof. Bulava is dedicated to the continuous education of medical students and nurses at Palacký University in Olomouc and at the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. Since 2020, he has also served as Deputy Director for Science, Research, and Education at České Budějovice Hospital.

His main professional interests include electrophysiology and catheter ablations of complex arrhythmias, heart failure, and cardiac implantable devices, with a special focus on cardiac resynchronization therapy and conduction system pacing.

He has delivered over 400 lectures at Czech and international cardiology congresses, workshops, and professional forums, and has authored or co-authored more than 140 articles in peer-reviewed cardiology journals.



Prof. Brigitte Osswald (MD, PhD)
Head of Electrophysiological Surgical Program
Cardiovascular Center Niederrhein, Johanniter Hospital Duisburg,
Germany

Prof. Brigitte Osswald went to medical school at the University of Heidelberg until 1993, worked as Pre-resident in the Departments of Gastroenterology of the University of Heidelberg and in the Medical Department of the Salem Medical Centre Heidelberg until 1994. She followed her surgical interest and went to the University of Heidelberg to the Department of General Surgery for two years and changed to the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the

University of Heidelberg in 1995 until 2007. From 2007 until 2010, Prof Osswald worked as a senior physician at the Department for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Essen where she obtained her PhD in Cardiac Surgery. From 2010 through 2012, she held the position of a senior physician at the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the NRW Heart and Diabetes Centre at Bad Oeynhausen. From 1999 through 2012, she was involved as a leading representative of

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rhythm-related surgery in multiple teaching projects for physicians and perfusionists and, over the years, kept the leadership of the Electrophysiological Working Group of the German Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons where she is still active. Her primary current efforts are the start of Germany's nationwide certification process for implanting surgeons and cardiologists as well as a common perspective on lead extraction and implantation procedures in close cooperation with the rhythmological working group of the German Society of Cardiology. From January 2013 until March 2019, Prof Osswald was in a leading position of the Electrophysiological Surgery Unit at the Department of

Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Düsseldorf where her special interests are all kinds of cardiac device and lead-related procedures in adults and children. From April 2019 until March 2021, she has been leading the electrophysiological surgical program at the Duisburg Heart Center and since April 2021, she is part of the Team of the Medical Clinic I (Cardiology) in leading position for the electrophysiological surgical program. Worldwide proctorships for lead extraction and many visits of colleagues from all over the world (including via Erasmus programs) indicate her degree of specialization and expertise. At present, her number of complex lead-related procedures is about 150 per year with a steep increase. Her total number of electrophysiological surgical procedures is about 20,000 including about 3,500 complex lead extraction procedures. She is involved in the development of new products and product improvement as a member of expert panels. The current scientific interest covers the field of imaging of leads and surrounding tissue. She is the editor of a certificate-related compendium of cardiac electrical devices and introduced a close cooperation to the forensic department of the University of Düsseldorf in terms of a more specific evaluation of potential lead and/or device-related complications. Another interest is her engagement as an expert in several court trials concerning treatment and complication management in patients with cardiac electrical devices.



Dr. Ijeoma A. Ekeruo
Cardiac Electrophysiologist
Arrhythmia Care Center, Houston, Texas

Dr. Ijeoma is an accomplished clinical electrophysiologist and a passionate philanthropist whose work extends far beyond clinical practice. She has dedicated significant effort to improving access to cardiac care for women—particularly Black women—and has generously provided free electrophysiology services in Nigeria and other underserved regions of Africa.

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Prof. Andrea Sarkozy, MD, PhD, FESC, FEHRA
Professor of Cardiology, Free University of Brussels Director, Ventricular Arrhythmia & Sudden Death Unit, HRMC, UZ Brussel

Prof. Andrea Sarkozy graduated in 1995 from Semmelweis Medical University (Budapest), followed by specialization in internal medicine and cardiology. She completed a clinical electrophysiology fellowship at St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto. From 2007 to 2013, she led the Clinical Electrophysiology Program at UZ Brussel, where she also obtained her PhD on Brugada syndrome under Prof. Pedro Brugada. She subsequently directed the EP program at UZ Antwerp (2013–2022), before returning to UZ Brussel in 2023 as Director of the Ventricular Arrhythmia and Sudden Death Unit of the Heart Rhythm Management Centre. A Fellow of EHRA (since 2017) and ESC (since 2024), she served on the EHRA board (2014–2017), was EHRA webinar director (2017–2020 and since 2024), and scientific program co-chair of the EHRA congress (2022–2024). An internationally recognized expert in interventional electrophysiology, Prof. Sarkozy has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications, co-authored major international guidelines, and serves as principal investigator in multiple multicenter trials. She is also a regular reviewer for leading journals in cardiology and electrophysiology.



Dr. Nadica Trajkovska
Specialist in Internal Medicine, 2nd year of specialist training in Cardiology,
Clinic for Electrophysiology/Rhythmology

Board-certified Internal Medicine specialist and ECG enthusiast currently undertaking a fellowship in Electrophysiology, with a focus on invasive EP procedures and advanced arrhythmia management.