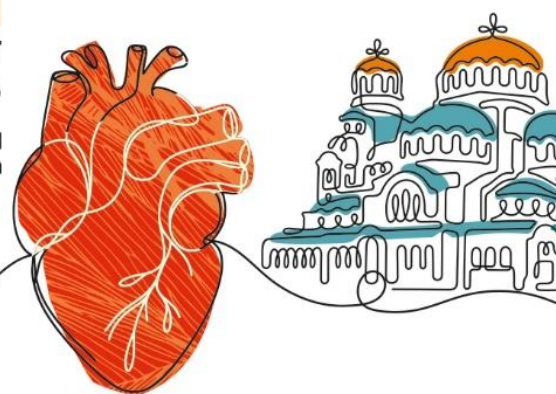


MASTER COURSE IN HEART FAILURE

 **Sofia**
BULGARIA

19 – 21
November
2026

Grand Hotel
Millennium



ZURICH
HEART HOUSE
LONDON
HEART HOUSE

Royal Brompton and
Harefield hospitals
NHS
Guy's and St Thomas'
NHS Foundation Trust

Event endorsed by



ESC
European Society
of Cardiology

HFA
Heart Failure
Association

Directors:

Vassil Traykov, Sofia / Mariya Tokmakova, Plovdiv
Thomas F. Lüscher, MD, FRCP, FESC, London

Day 1, November 19th, 2026

10:00-12:00 Opening Session: Heart Failure: From Cinderella to Center Stage

Chair: Thomas F. Lüscher, London/Zurich, Mariya Tokmakova, Plovdiv and Vassil Traykov, Sofia

10:00 Welcome by Course Directors

Thomas F. Lüscher, London/Zurich
Mariya Tokmakova, Plovdiv Vassil
Traykov, Sofia

10:10 Learning outcomes

10:20 Cardiovascular disease – the new epidemic in Bulgaria

10:40 What is in the new 2026 ESC HF Guidelines Updates?

11:00 The 2026 ESC Cardiovascular Disease and CKD

11:20 Atrial fibrillation according to the 2024 ESC Guidelines

11:40 *Panel discussion: Reality and future perspectives of HF care in Bulgaria*

Thomas F. Lüscher, London/Zurich

Kiril Karamfilov, Sofia

Ovidiu Chioncel, Bucharest

Christoph Wanner, Oxford/Würzburg

Vassil Traykov, Sofia

12:00-12:45 Lunch Break

12:45-14:00 Case-based Interactive Learning – Imaging of HF

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

Advanced Echocardiography in HF

Cardiac MRI

CRT optimization

Denisa Muraru, Milan

Yasmin Rustamova, Baku

Cecilia Linde, Stockholm

14:00-16:00 Session 2: Assessing and Diagnosing Heart Failure

Chairs: Yoto Yotov, Varna, Cecilia.Linde, Stockholm

14:00 The spectrum of HF and what it means for practice

14:20 Assessing heart failure in clinical practice

14:40 Lifestyle interventions: key issues of diet and exercise

15:00 Echocardiography in HF: LVEF, Valves & pulmonary circulation

15:20 Multimodality imaging in heart failure

15:40 *Panel discussion*

Thomas F. Lüscher, London

Ovidiu Chioncel, Bucharest

Ivan Gruev, Sofia

Denisa Muraru, Milan

Aju Pazhenkottil, Zurich

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:30 Session 3: Comorbidities

Chairs: Petar Seferovic, Belgrade, Asen Goudev, Sofia

16:30	Diabetes and heart failure: effects of SGLT-2i	Petar Seferovic, Belgrade
16:50	Atrial fibrillation: Cause, consequence and cure of heart failure	Vassil Traykov, Sofia
17:10	CKD and cardiovascular risk	Mariya Tokmakova, Plovdiv
17:30	Frailty and HF	Konstantin Gospodinov, Pleven
17:50	<i>Panel discussion</i>	

18:15 Welcome Reception, Get Together

Day 2, November 20th, 2026

09:00-10:45 Session 4: Pharmacotherapy

Chairs: Ivan Gruev, Sofia

09:00	Obesity and HF: effects of GLP-1 agonists	Gianluigi Savarese, Stockholm
09:20	Starting drugs in HF: which ones, how fast and in what order?	Thomas F. Lüscher, London
09:40	Five secret tips in the successful treatment of heart failure	Petar Seferovic, Belgrade
10:00	Contemporary Management of Heart Failure with HFpEF	Assen Goudev, Sofia
10:20	Revival of old drugs in HF: Digitalis and Diuretics	Udo Bavendiek, Hannover
10:40	<i>Panel discussion</i>	

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Session 5: Devices

Chairs: Vassil Velchev, Sofia, Kiril Karamfilov, Sofia

11:30	Remote monitoring and digital health	Stephan Rosenkranz, Cologne
11:50	Patient selection for CRT	Cecilia Linde, Stockholm
12:10	Patient selection for ICD	Vassil Traykov, Sofia
12:30	Revascularisation in heart failure	Valery Gelev, Sofia
12:50	<i>Panel discussion</i>	

13:15-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:15 Case-based Interactive Learning

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

Advanced Echocardiography in HF

Cardiac MRI

CRT optimization

Denisa Muraru, Milan
Yasmin Rustamova, Baku
Cecilia Linde, Stockholm

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:30 Session 6: Acute and Advanced Heart Failure

Chairs: Ovidiu Chioncel, Bucharest Ivo Petrov, Sofia

15:45	Advanced HF: definition and management	Marija Polovina, Belgrade
16:05	Managing acute HF	Yoto Yotov, Varna
16:25	LVADs as bridge to transplant or destination therapy	Felix Schönrath, Berlin
16:45	Heart transplantation: indications, timing and patient follow-up	Felix Schönrath, Berlin
17:05	<i>Panel discussion</i>	

Day 3, November 21st, 2026

09:00-11:00 Session 7: Cardiomyopathies and Valvular Heart disease

Chair: Valery Gelev, Sofia, Mariana Gospodinova, Sofia

09:00	What do the 2025 ESC Guidelines on Valvular heart disease say?	Fabien Praz, Bern
09:20	When is the right time for SAVR or TAVR?	Ivo Petrov, Sofia
09:40	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: clinical predictors and outcome	Perry Elliott, London
10:00	Cardiac amyloidosis	Mariya Tokmakova, Plovdiv
10:20	Panel discussion	

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Case-based Interactive Learning

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

Advanced Echocardiography in HF

Cardiac MRI

CRT optimization

Denisa Muraru, Milan

Yasmin Rustamova, Baku

Vassil Velchev, Sofia

12:45-13:00 Closing Session

Wrap-up and Adjourn

13:00 Lunch Buffet

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