



ESC News

ESC Membership Global Award 2025: Chinese Society of Cardiology

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The year 2025 stands as a landmark moment for Chinese cardiovascular medicine in the global arena. At the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress held in Madrid, the Chinese Society of Cardiology (CSC), a branch of the Chinese Medical Association, was honoured with the ESC Membership Global Award (Figure 1). This accolade, presented to CSC's past chairperson, Prof. Yaling Han, by ESC President-Elect Prof. Cecilia Marianne Linde, transcends a simple honour. It signifies a profound recognition of China's rapidly evolving role—from a diligent participant to an influential contributor—within the international cardiovascular community.

The award and its significance

The ESC Membership Global Award is a competitive honour that acknowledges a national society's outstanding contributions to the ESC's mission, validating its successful model of 'Integrating with the World and Contributing to the World'.

In 2024, the CSC facilitated the addition of 582 new ESC members from mainland China, positioning one of the nations among the top contributors globally to the ESC's membership growth. It reflects a strategic push by the CSC to empower Chinese cardiologists with direct access to the ESC's resources—including its groundbreaking clinical guidelines, cutting-edge educational platforms, and international academic conference.

Beyond the award: a showcase of active participation

Looking back at ESC Congress 2023, Prof. Yaling Han presented the OPT-BIRISK study in the Hot Line session. This study specifically addressed the clinical dilemma of managing patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS) who are at both high ischaemic and high bleeding risk—a group she innovatively defined as

bi-risk patients.¹ It demonstrated that for bi-risk ACS patients who had completed 9–12 months of standard dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT), switching to clopidogrel monotherapy was superior to continuing extended DAPT with effectively lowering both bleeding and ischaemic events.² This research received positive feedback from international experts.³

Now looking at the scenario of this year, there were over 700 presentations, posters, and invited lectures from China at ESC Congress 2025, covering topics from precision interventional therapies for complex coronary disease to artificial intelligence-driven risk prediction models for cardiovascular diseases. Meanwhile, four Chinese researchers were awarded the ESC Young Investigator Award (YIA) at ESC Congress 2025, a programme designed to identify and nurture the world's most promising early-career scientists.

Building bridges: the strategy of going global

The CSC's official English-language journal, *Cardiology Discovery* (CD), recently indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). More than just a publication, CD is a curated channel for global dialogue. It systematically introduces significant Chinese clinical studies and discoveries to an international audience while also bringing global advances for Chinese practice. As Prof. Han, the editor-in-chief of CD, emphasized, possessing such a platform is fundamental to importing knowledge and exporting China's original clinical wisdom.

In addition, the CSC has actively fostered deep, institutional-level partnerships with the ESC and other major global societies. These collaborations manifest in jointly organized symposiums and in collaborations to conduct clinical trials. For instance, Chinese cardiologists and world-famous international cardiologists served as co-principal investigators in conducting the clinical research, e.g. BRIGHT, BRIGHT-4, IVUS-ACS, and ULTIMATE-

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Figure 1 Chinese Society of Cardiology was honoured with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Membership Global Award at ESC congress 2025

DAPT studies, which have been published in the top journals.⁴⁻⁷ Especially, the BRIGHT study, enrolling patients with acute myocardial infarction, and BRIGHT-4 study, enrolling patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction, introduced an innovative strategy of post-percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) high-dose infusion of bivalirudin,^{4,5} which mitigated the increased acute stent thrombosis risk previously associated with this agent and significantly reduced bleeding.⁸ The above studies made important contributions to the improvement of the evidence level of international guidelines regarding the use of bivalirudin during PCI for patients with ACS, such as 2023 ESC ACS Guidelines (recommendation grade from IIb to IIa)⁹ and 2025 ACC/AHA/ACEP/NAEMSP/SCAI ACS Guidelines (recommendation grade from IIb to I).¹⁰

The ESC Membership Global Award 2025 is far more than a trophy for the CSC. It acknowledges the progress the CSC has made in fostering constructive engagement between its members and the global community, supporting the generation of scientifically rigorous research, and contributing to international knowledge exchange. Looking ahead, China's cardiovascular community will continue to focus on strengthening member participation, advancing quality research, supporting clinical practice innovation, and facilitating scholarly communication.

Declarations

Disclosure of Interest

Nothing to declare.

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