

Professor Paulus Kirchhof

Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine

Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences

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About

Professor Paulus Kirchhof has recently joined the University of Birmingham as Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine in the School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine. His appointment includes a position as consultant cardiologist at the Department of Cardiology, SWBH NHS Trust. He works on the understanding of novel molecular mechanisms of heart disease “from bench to bedside”. His scientific interests encompass basic science studies to identify novel molecular mechanisms of heart disease as a basis for a translational approach to cardiology. He works on translation through controlled, investigator-initiated clinical trials and the generation of guidelines.

Qualifications

- Internist (GMC-registered)
- Cardiologist (GMC-registered)
- Zusatzbezeichnung Intensivmedizin (“intensive care”, Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe)

Biography

Paulus graduated from Münster Medical School, Münster, Germany in 1997 after studying Medicine at the Universities of Heidelberg, Germany; Münster, Germany; Lille, France; and Georgetown University, Washington, USA. He received postgraduate training in Internal Medicine (Specialist Registration 2004), Cardiology (Specialist Registration 2006), and Intensive Care Medicine (“Zusatzbezeichnung Intensivmedizin”, 2011) in the Department of Cardiology and Angiology at the University of Münster. He worked there as a senior interventional cardiologist including postgraduate training in interventional cardiology until joining University of Birmingham in 2011. He still continues an appointment as researcher at University of Münster.

Paulus was a stipendiary of Cusanuswerk, Germany, and has received several prizes, including the prize for the best medical thesis from Heart Center Münster in 1998, the Woldemar-Mobitz Prize (2004) and the Bruno-Kisch Prize (2006) from the German Cardiac Society, and the Sibylle Hahne Prize for Medicine and Sciences from the University of Münster (2005).

Paulus is an active member of several research consortia and professional organisations. Among others, he sits on the steering committee of the German Atrial Fibrillation competence NETWORK (AFNET), chairs the scientific documents committee of the European Heart Rhythm Association, and has contributed to the 2010 guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology on the management of atrial fibrillation. He is an Editorial Board Member of *BMC Medicine*, *Heart Rhythm*, and *Europace*, and serves as Editorial Consultant to *The Lancet*.

Postgraduate supervision

Paulus has successfully supervised over 20 MD and PhD students in Germany. Three theses won prizes in the past, and many successful MD and PhD candidates are developing into successful clinicians, clinician-scientists, and scientists. He supervises MD and PhD students in Birmingham (details can be found on the group web page). Paulus is also Head of the Unit University Courses of the European Heart Academy, a platform to deliver courses in cardiovascular medicine leading to university degrees.

Research

Paulus has published over 200 original research in recognised journals including the *Lancet*, *Circulation*, *JACC*, *European Heart Journal*, but also the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, *Nature Methods*, and the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. He started his research career during a research year at Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA. At University of Münster his translational cardiovascular research group studies molecular mechanisms of heart disease with a special interest in sudden death and atrial arrhythmias. In parallel, he has initiated investigator-initiated controlled clinical trials to translate pathophysiological insights into new therapies for heart disease. He sits on the board of the German Kompetenznetz Vorhofflimmern and chairs the steering committees of several investigator-initiated clinical trials.

After his appointment in Birmingham, he has continued to work on deciphering the mechanisms causing atrial fibrillation and sudden death in a translational approach spanning wet lab research, analyses of clinical registries, and controlled clinical trials. The ultimate aim of Paulus is to develop tools for a personalised therapy of patients with heart diseases, especially to prevent AF and its complications, and to prevent sudden death.

His research is currently supported by several independent funding agencies, including the British Heart Foundation, the Fondation Leducq within the Transatlantic Network of Excellence “Deciphering the genomic topology of atrial fibrillation”, the European Union (FP7) through the European Network for Translational Research in Atrial Fibrillation (EUTRAF), and the German Centre for Heart Research (DZHK) through a grant to the German Kompetenznetz Vorhofflimmern, which itself is funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

His research group at University of Birmingham has been growing since 2011, so look out for job opportunities if you have an interest in the field!

Links:

- EUTRAF www.eutraf.eu (<http://www.eutraf.eu>)
- Atrial Fibrillation competence NETWORK (AFNET) www.kompetenznetz-vorhofflimmern.de (<http://www.kompetenznetz-vorhofflimmern.de>)
- European Heart Academy <http://www.escardio.org/about/european-heart-agency/academy/Pages/welcome.aspx> (<http://www.escardio.org/about/european-heart-agency/academy/Pages/welcome.aspx>)
- University of Birmingham Research Group: www.birmingham.ac.uk/heart-failure-arrhythmias (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/heart-failure-arrhythmias>)

Publications

Kotecha D, Holmes J, Krum H, Altman DG, Manzano L, Cleland JG, Lip GY, Coats AJ, Andersson B, Kirchhof P, von Lueder TG, Wedel H, Rosano G, Shibata MC, Rigby A and Flather

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Le Heuzey JY, Ammentorp B, Darius H, De Caterina R, Schilling RJ, Schmitt J, Zamorano JL and Kirchhof P (2014) **Differences among western european countries in anticoagulation management of atrial fibrillation. Data from the PREFER IN AF Registry** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Differences+among+western+european+countries+in+anticoagulation+management+of+atrial+fibrillation.+Data+from+the+PREFER+IN+AF+Registry>). *Thromb Haemost* 111(5):833-41

Grond M, Jauss M, Hamann G, Stark E, Veltkamp R, Nabavi D, Horn M, Weimar C, Kohrman M, Wachter R, Rosin L and Kirchhof P (2013) **Improved detection of silent atrial fibrillation using 72 hours Holter ECG in patients with ischemic stroke** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Improved+detection+of+silent+atrial+fibrillation+using+72+hours+Holter+ECG+in+patients+with+ischemic+stroke>). *Stroke* 44(12):3357-64

Kirchhof P, Breithardt G, Camm AJ, Crijns HJ, Kuck KH, Vardas P and Wegscheider K (2013) **Improving outcomes in patients with atrial fibrillation: Rationale and design of the Early treatment of Atrial fibrillation for Stroke prevention Trial (EAST)** ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Improving+outcomes+in+patients+with+atrial+fibrillation%3A+Rationale+and+design+of+the+Early+treatment+of+Atrial+fibrillation+for+Stroke+prevention+Trial+\(EAST\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Improving+outcomes+in+patients+with+atrial+fibrillation%3A+Rationale+and+design+of+the+Early+treatment+of+Atrial+fibrillation+for+Stroke+prevention+Trial+(EAST))). *Am Heart J* 166(3):422-8

Heidbuchel H, Verhamme P, Alings M, Antz M, Hacked W, Oldgren J, Sinnaeve P, Camm AJ and Kirchhof P (2013) **EHRA Practical Guide on the use of new oral anticoagulants in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation: executive summary** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=EHRA+Practical+Guide+on+the+use+of+new+oral+anticoagulants+in+patients+with+non-valvular+atrial+fibrillation%3A+executive+summary>). *Eur Heart J* 34(27):2094-106

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Click on this [link \(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=kirchhof+p%5BAuthor%5D\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=kirchhof+p%5BAuthor%5D) for a full list of publications.

More information about Paulus Kirchhof is found at <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/123/24/f139.full.pdf> (<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/123/24/f139.full.pdf>)

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