ZURICH HEART HOUSE
LONDON HEART HOUSE

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

Master Course in Heart Failure
Sofia, Bulgaria, November 19-21, 2026

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

Under the Auspices of the Bulgarian Society of Cardiology and Zurich Heart House
Endorsed by: European Society of Cardiology and Heart Failure Association

Venue: Grand Hotel Millennium, Sofia

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	Thomas F. Lüscher, London/Zurich
10:20	Cardiovascular disease – the new epidemic in Bulgaria	Kiril Karamfilov, Sofia
10:40	What is in the new 2026 ESC HF Guidelines Updates?	Ovidiu Chioncel, Bucharest
11:00	The 2026 ESC Cardiovascular Disease and CKD	Christoph Wanner, Oxford/Würzburg
11:20	Atrial fibrillation according to the 2024 ESC Guidelines	Vassil Traykov, Sofia
11:40	*Panel discussion: Reality and future perspectives of HF care in Bulgaria*	
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	Denisa Muraru, Milan
	Cardiac MRI	Yasmin Rustamova, Baku
	CRT optimization	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	Thomas F. Lüscher, London
14:20	Assessing heart failure in clinical practice	Ovidiu Chioncel, Bucharest
14:40	Lifestyle interventions: key issues of diet and exercise	Ivan Gruev, Sofia
15:00	Echocardiography in HF: LVEF, Valves & pulmonary circulation	Denisa Muraru, Milan
15:20	Multimodality imaging in heart failure	Aju Pazhenkottil, Zurich
15:40	*Panel discussion*	

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 Sferovic, 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	*Panel discussion*	
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 an 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	*Panel discussion*	
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	*Panel discussion*	
13:15-14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00-15:15	**Case-based Interactive Learning**	
	(Breakout Sessions in three groups)	
	Advanced Echocardiography in HF	Denisa Muraru, Milan
	Cardiac MRI	Yasmin Rustamova, Baku
	CRT optimization	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	*Panel discussion*	

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	Denisa Muraru, Milan
	Cardiac MRI	Yasmin Rustamova, Baku
	CRT optimization	Vassil Velchev, Sofia
12:45-13:00	**Closing Session**	
	Wrap-up and Adjourn	
13:00	**Lunch Buffet**	

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