Professor Gerhard Hindricks

I have the great pleasure to introduce Professor Gerhard Hindricks, who was nominated to the Doctor Honoris Causa title by Professor Merkely.

Professor Hindricks received his medical degree in 1989. During the following ten years he was trained in Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Electrophysiology at the University Hospital of Münster under the guidance of Prof. Günter Breithardt. In 1998 he was appointed Consultant for cardiology/electrophysiology at the Department of Cardiology of the Heart Center of Leipzig, the Head of which Prof. Gerhard Schuler was at that time. In 2002 he was appointed Co-Director of the Department of Electrophysiology at the same institution. This was where he met Prof. Hans Kottkamp who co-chaired the department and became his life-time friend. He became Professor of Cardiology in 2004. Since 2007 he has been Director of the Department of Electrophysiology at Heart Center Leipzig which is the biggest EP department in Europe; with four cathlabs, 150 employees, and the service of 15.000 patients each year. At the department 5000 electrophysiological interventions are performed each year (including 2500 ablations, 1500 cardiac implants). In 2017 he was appointed Medical Director of the institution.

Gerhard Hindricks is one of the most experienced clinical electrophysiologists in catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia, with thousands of patients operated on. His principal research interest relates to the mechanisms and treatment of cardiac arrhythmias, especially catheter ablation. He has worked in the field of catheter ablation for almost 30 years, from the beginning of the technique's development, and was a member of the team of scientists who performed the first radiofrequency catheter ablations worldwide in Münster, Germany, in the late 1980s.

In the 1990s, Professor Hindricks contributed significantly to the development of radiofrequency catheter ablation on a biophysical and clinical basis. In 1992, he was the principal investigator of the first survey on radiofrequency catheter ablation, summarizing the data of almost 5000 European patients.

His research interests also include electrical therapy of heart failure, with a particular focus on cardiac resynchronization therapies, and prevention of sudden cardiac death using medical

and non-medical treatment modalities such as catheter ablation of ventricular tachycardia. His researches have been published by the major cardiovascular journals.