



# HEART TO HEART

Identifying the problem early is a vital component in the battle against heart conditions

**+** **Familial Hypercholesterolaemia, (FH)** is a genetic disease which results in high LDL-cholesterol, and can often lead to premature cardiovascular disease. It is estimated around two million people in Europe carry FH.

FH is present from early childhood, but symptoms will often go unnoticed for 30 or 40 years, until the patient's heart problems become apparent. If untreated, 50% of men and women with FH will suffer a heart attack before they reach the ages of 50 and 55 years old, respectively.

FH can be treated if detected early enough, but the problem is that very few countries in Europe systematically test for the disease. It is important to note that the disease is hereditary, with a child of someone with FH having a 50% chance of

inheriting the illness. If a member of a family is diagnosed, a systematic search of their relatives can identify those with FH.

Medication can help bring many patients' cholesterol down to normal levels, and can help them achieve a normal life expectancy if diagnosed early enough, yet in most European countries less than 10% of patients suffering from FH are treated.

The European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), is raising awareness of FH, with the goal of achieving earlier identification and treatment of the disease. The tools are there to be used, the costs are low relative to the number of lives saved, and the potential health benefits are huge.

[eas-society.org/fhsc](http://eas-society.org/fhsc)



# VOICE OF THE CHILDREN

For the last five years SIOPE has been partnering with MEPs to raise awareness of child cancer

**+** **Despite the progress** made in recent years, cancer remains a threat to the lives of children. The European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) is leading the battle against this disease, with the goal of increasing the cure rate of European children and adolescents with cancer.

The Brussels-based organisation seeks to influence EU policies and legislation, in order to advance the seven medical and scientific goals of SIOPE's European Cancer Plan for Children and Adolescents. The plan's overarching objective is to attain equal access to quality research and care across the continent.

Since 2011, SIOPE has been partnering with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to raise awareness, organising events focusing on issues such as the EU Data Protection Regulation, the EU Paediatric Medicine Regulation and many others.

SIOPE's next event is on 7 September 2016, at the European Parliament. Supported by MEPs Against Cancer, the event addresses the need to speed up innovation in paediatric treatments.

### The SIOPE Strategic Plan

1. Introduce innovative treatments into standard care.
2. Use precision cancer medicine to help guide therapeutic decisions.
3. Increase knowledge of tumour biology and speed up translation to clinical care.
4. Ensure equal access to standard care and research across Europe.
5. Address the specific needs of teenagers and young adults.
6. Improve the quality of life of childhood cancer survivors.
7. Understand the causes of paediatric cancers.

[siope.eu](http://siope.eu)

