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Country: **Belgium**

Titel of the project: **THE SMAF project : A National training campaign for general practioners**

## Project details

### **johan vijgen**

Award amount: €100,000

A National training campaign for general practioners by experts from the Belgian Heart Rhythm Association (BeHRA). Screening and Managing patients with Atrial Fibrillation (SMAF) according to ESC guidelines in daily practice gives each general practitioner the potential to prevent one Atrial Fibrillation-linked stroke per year. 1,000 general practitioners will be trained.

By training general practitioners throughout the country, the Belgian Heart Rhythm Association (BeHRA), a working group of the Belgian Cardiology Society that unites the country's cardiologists-rhythmologists, aims to emphasise the importance of screening and adequately treating Atrial Fibrillation and thus help prevent the risk of stroke. To this end, BeHRA will base this training approach on the new 2010 guidelines presented in August at the annual conference of the European Society of Cardiology. 50 training sessions will be held throughout Belgium. BeHRA experts, working in collaboration with Belgian general practitioner associations, will train 1,000 general practitioners in the detection and management of Atrial Fibrillation. A pre- and post-campaign questionnaire will help track progress. The training campaign will be conducted in three phases. Phase 1: Evaluation of the level of knowledge of general practitioners - A ten-question evaluation grid will be sent to the general practitioners who are members of associations of general practioners in Belgium. - Every general practitioner who returns a completed questionnaire will be invited to take part in a training session led by a BeHRA expert. Phase 2: Training campaign - Doctors who complete the questionnaire will be invited to a local conference, during which a BeHRA expert will offer them thorough, practical training in how to screen for Atrial Fibrillation and provide the best treatment in order to prevent the risk of stroke. The training kit will be developed by taking into consideration the results of the evaluation. - The objective is to organise 50 training sessions throughout the country. This will require BeHRA to work closely with Belgian GP associations, which have the necessary infrastructure for continued training of general practitioners. A BeHRA expert will provide practical, interactive training at each conference, with the number of participants limited to 20 per session. Phase 3: Evaluation of the training campaign After the training session, the initial questionnaire will be sent out again to general practitioners in order to measure the progress of results. Doctors will be given an incentive to send back the questionnaire.

## **Audience**

### **Type**

- Healthcare professionals

### **Location**

Belgium, Europe