

Position Statement

The Pan-African Association of Structural and Coronary Interventions (PASCI); History, Mission, Organizational Structure and Core Activities for 2026-2027

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1. Introduction

Africa has seen a rapid increase in cardiovascular disease, especially ischaemic heart disease, over the last few decades and hence an increasing need for coronary and structural interventions. Significant disparities within the continent and with the world at large exist in terms of access to catheter-based therapies, related to lack of trained professionals, availability of catheterisation laboratories, devices and cost of procedures. Hence the need for a unified continental body that promotes education, collaboration, research and advocacy in this field.



Figure 1: PASCAR current member- and collaborating countries.

The Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) is an organisation of physicians from across Africa involved in prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. It had its beginnings in 1981 in Badagry, Nigeria and currently has 33 national cardiac societies as members and 21 collaborating countries, covering all 54 African countries (Fig. 1). Its primary goals are to promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases in Africa, promote the education and training of medical and allied health professionals in cardiology in Africa, educate the public in Africa on cardiovascular health and to promote research in all aspects of cardiovascular

disease in Africa. PASCAR has established several task forces, including the Interventional Cardiology Task Force, which was subsequently renamed as the Pan-African Association of Structural and Coronary Interventions (PASCI) and continues to operate within PASCAR.

The aim of this position statement is to describe the history, organisational structure, mission, core activities, prior achievements and future vision of PASCI. This statement was written by the current chair of the interventional task force, current executive committee members, President of PASCAR and past chairpersons of the task force.

2. History

The Interventional Task Force was established in 2014 at the PASCAR Annual General Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. It was formalised as an association and renamed to PASCI in 2020, adopting its own distinctive logo (Fig. 2). The chairperson of the interventional task force is also referred to as the president of PASCI. Past chairpersons and their terms are listed below:

- Harun Otieno (Kenya), 2014–2017
- Awad Mohamed (Sudan), 2018–2021
- Mohamed Jeilan (Kenya), 2022–2025



Figure 2: A- Pan-African Association of Structural and Coronary Interventions (PASCI) logo. B- Pan-African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR) logo

3. Mission

PASCI, a task force of PASCAR, is committed to advancing interventional cardiology across Africa in alignment with PASCAR's vision of improving cardiovascular health on the continent. PASCI strives to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, promote excellence, and expand equitable access to high-quality cardiovascular interventions through the following five strategic pillars:

- 1. Unite African Interventional Cardiologists** by fostering a collaborative network that promotes professional engagement, knowledge exchange, and regional partnerships as well as forging ties with international interventional societies.
- 2. Promote Excellence in Coronary and Structural Heart Interventions** by advancing evidence-based practice, high standards of clinical care, and continuous professional development.
- 3. Facilitate Education, Training, and Mentorship** through structured educational programmes, hands-on workshops, mentorship initiatives, and opportunities for skills development.
- 4. Foster Research and Innovation** by encouraging collaborative research and promoting innovation that

addresses the unique cardiovascular needs of African populations.

- 5. Advocate for Equitable Access to Cardiovascular Care** by working to reduce disparities in access to interventional cardiovascular services, technologies, and expertise across Africa.

4. Organizational Structure and Governance

PASCI is the interventional task force under the umbrella of PASCAR and abides by the constitution and by-laws of PASCAR. The chairperson reports to the General Secretary and the President of PASCAR, and all activities and reports must be approved by the Governing Council of PASCAR. The chairperson is elected biennially by the General Assembly of PASCAR, while the PASCI executive committee is selected by the chairperson in consultation with regional Vice-Presidents of PASCAR for the five regions (North, West, Central, East and South).

Extra members may be elected for their expertise or special representation and to ensure balanced representation from nations across all major linguistic groups, specifically including English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese.

The current Executive Committee members for 2025–2027 are:

- Ahmed Suliman (Sudan), Chairperson
- Mohamed Jeilan (Kenya), Immediate Past President
- Khuzeima Khanbhai (Tanzania), East Africa Representative
- Mohamed Aymen Ben Abdessalem (Tunisia), North Africa Representative
- Emmanuel Auchu Edeaf (Nigeria), West Africa Representative
- Mouliom Aboubakar Sidick (Cameroon), Central Africa Representative
- Jens Hitzeroth (South Africa), Southern Africa Representative
- Roberto Dos Santos (Angola)
- Abdoul Kane (Senegal)
- Yasser Sadek (Egypt)

Interventional cardiologists, fellows in training, allied professionals, and international collaborators are encouraged to engage with and participate in PASCI activities and initiatives.

5. Core Activities for 2026-2027

Activities for the 2026–2027 term are focused around the five strategic pillars of PASCI's mission.

5.1 Education and Professional Development

Education remains the cornerstone of PASCI's mission. Recognising the significant disparities in access to interventional cardiology services across Africa, as well as the logistical and financial challenges associated with travel within the continent and to international scientific meetings, PASCI is committed to expanding educational opportunities through a combination of high-quality virtual programmes and strategically organised in-person meetings. This blended approach aims to enhance knowledge exchange, strengthen procedural skills, foster collaboration, and ensure that cardiovascular professionals across Africa have equitable access to continuing education and professional development.

5.1.1 Webinars

Three webinar series are planned for 2026-2027

1. **Basic interventional cardiology series:** This will cover the basic principles and techniques in coronary and peripheral interventions designed for fellows in training and early-career cardiologists.
2. **Chronic Total Occlusion (CTO) series:** This will complement the basic series, focusing on patient selection, different CTO techniques and equipment with consideration for limited-resource settings.
3. **TAVI in Africa series:** TAVI is now performed routinely in several African countries. This webinar series will discuss technical aspects as well as logistical challenges and solutions for expanding the procedure on the continent.

5.1.2 Scientific Meetings and Workshops

PASCI advances its educational and scientific mission through strategic partnerships and dedicated scientific sessions rather than by hosting a stand-alone annual congress. As a task force of PASCAR, PASCI organises focused workshops, symposia, and scientific sessions during the annual PASCAR Congress, providing a platform for education, skills development, scientific exchange, and networking among interventional cardiologists across Africa.

Beyond the PASCAR Congress, PASCI actively collaborates with major regional and international meetings that promote excellence in interventional cardiology on the continent. PASCI is an official partner and endorsing organisation of two flagship annual African conferences — AfricaSTEMI Live and the Pan-African Course of Interventional Cardiology (PAFCIC) — both of which serve as key platforms for education, hands-on training, presentation of research, and professional collaboration.

PASCI also works closely with national interventional cardiology societies and international organisations to support educational initiatives throughout Africa. These partnerships include collaboration with internationally recognised meetings such as SASCI-AfricaPCR and TCT-Africa, helping to bring world-class expertise, contemporary evidence, and advanced procedural training closer to African healthcare professionals.

By leveraging established scientific meetings and fostering strategic collaborations, PASCI maximises educational opportunities, strengthens professional networks, and promotes the sustainable development of interventional cardiology across the continent.

5.2 Research and Scientific Advancement

Research is a fundamental pillar of PASCI's mission to advance interventional cardiology across Africa. PASCI is committed to fostering collaborative research, generating high-quality African data, supporting multicentre studies, and promoting the publication and dissemination of scientific evidence that informs clinical practice and healthcare policy throughout the continent.

5.2.1 Registries

Recognising the critical need for robust African data, PASCI has undertaken its first continental survey of interventional cardiology services. This landmark initiative will provide comprehensive information from more than 37 African countries, including the availability of cardiac catheterisation laboratories, the interventional cardiology workforce, the spectrum of procedures performed, and access to essential cardiovascular medications.

This survey represents an important milestone in establishing a continent-wide research network and will serve as the foundation for future collaborative registries. The findings are expected to be published towards the end of 2026.

Building on this initiative, PASCI plans to establish dedicated continental registries in percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and structural heart disease interventions, with the goal of monitoring clinical practice, evaluating outcomes, identifying gaps in care, and supporting quality improvement and research across Africa.

5.2.2 Position Statements

PASCI recognises the importance of providing evidence-based guidance that addresses the unique challenges and realities of cardiovascular care in Africa. PASCI is therefore committed to developing authoritative position statements that integrate the best available scientific evidence with the practical considerations of healthcare delivery across the continent.

The publication of this inaugural position statement marks the beginning of an ongoing programme to produce consensus documents that will guide clinical practice, support training, inform policy, and promote the delivery of high-quality, context-appropriate interventional cardiovascular care throughout Africa.

5.3 Training and Capacity Building

Developing a skilled interventional cardiology workforce is a central priority for PASCI. Structured training programmes in interventional cardiology remain unavailable or underdeveloped in most African countries, resulting in significant disparities in expertise and access to advanced cardiovascular care across the continent.

To address this gap, PASCI has embarked on an ambitious initiative to develop a continental blueprint outlining the minimum standards and requirements for training and certification in coronary interventions. This framework will provide a common foundation for countries seeking to establish or strengthen national training programmes while promoting harmonisation of educational standards across Africa.

A unified training platform will also facilitate regional collaboration by enabling fellows from countries without established or adequately resourced training programmes to complete all or part of their training in accredited, high-volume interventional cardiology centres within Africa. Through this initiative, PASCI aims to build local capacity, promote excellence in procedural training, and create a sustainable network of well-trained interventional cardiologists capable of meeting the growing cardiovascular needs of the continent.

6. Future vision

PASCI will serve as the formal representative body for interventional cardiologists across Africa, providing scientific guidance, setting standards for practice, and accrediting centres and practitioners. It will serve as an advocacy voice to reduce disparities in interventional cardiology care within the continent and between Africa and the rest of the world, and to be recognised as a peer organisation among international interventional cardiology societies.