The European Valve Repair Group (EVRG):

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The primary objectives of the European Valve Repair Group (EVRG) are

- to promote the professional and educational development in the field of heart valve reparative surgery
- to provide a forum for scientific presentations and discussions aiming at improving the quality of heart valve repair
- to promote the advancement of scientific knowledge and generate research projects in heart valve repair surgery
- to encourage, support and facilitate surgeons in training wishing to specialize in heart valve reparative surgery

The European Valve Repair Group (EVRG) adheres to the statements of good clinical practice and strives to seek out opportunities for humanitarian work related to its objectives.

For all other activities and educational offerings of the EVRG, please check the website: www.evrg.org

St. Jude Medical collaborates with the European Valve Repair Group (EVRG).

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European Valve Repair Group (EVRG) offers several educational workshops to enhance the knowledge and clinical skills of the cardiovascular surgeon. The courses deliver high-level interactive learning programs focusing on the do's and don'ts of valve repair in all its aspects. All courses are conducted by members of the EVRG, international experts on valve repair.

EVRG Interactive Sessions “Meet the Experts”

1. Mitral Valve Repair - I
   - Anatomy and Physiology of the Mitral Valve
   - Fundamental Repair Techniques
   - Annuloplasty
   Date: 13-14 March 2008
   Faculty: EVRG members and Dr. Giovanni La Canna (local faculty)

2. Mitral Valve Repair - II
   - Advanced Mitral Valve Repair and Chordal Replacement techniques – Tips and Tricks
   Date: 3-4 April 2008
   Faculty: EVRG members and Dr. Alessandro Castiglios (local faculty)

3. Concomitant Mitral Procedures: Tricuspid Repair and AF Surgery
   - Concomitant Approach
   - Surgical Ablation
   Date: 2-3 June 2008
   Faculty: EVRG members and Dr. Stefano Benussi (local faculty)

4. Challenging Mitral and Aortic Repairs
   - Selected Complex Cases
   Date: 2-3 October 2008
   Faculty: EVRG members and Dr. Lucia Torracca (local faculty)

Advanced Course on Heart Valve Repair
Mitral and Aortic Repair

Location: Universitätskliniken des Saarlandes, Homburg Saar, Germany
Course director: Prof. Hans-Joachim Schäfers
Date: 27-28 November 2008
Faculty: EVRG members and local faculty.
Number of participants: max. 15

A 2-day interactive course for a small group. The format of the course includes moderated live surgery of different pathologies of the aortic and mitral valve and state-of-the-art presentations and didactic lectures.

Target audience and objectives:
The Homburg course is targeted to senior cardiovascular surgeons with special interest in new technologies of mitral and aortic valve repair. The course is intended to extend the participants' knowledge of valve repair beyond the 'fundamentals'.

Sessions with limited number of participants, with a maximum of interactivity between course participants and faculty.

Mitral Valve Repair Workshop Minimal Invasive Techniques

Location: Hôpital Cardio-Vasculaire Louis Pradel, Lyon, France
Course director: Prof. Jean-François Obadia
Dates: 14-15 January 2008
17-18 March 2008
19-20 May 2008
17-18 November 2008

A 2-day interactive program around the surgical aspects of video-assisted valve surgery. Major focus of the course is on life cases in the operating theatre and a practical hands-on session on cadavers.

Target audience and objectives:
The Lyon workshops are intended for surgeons interested to specialize in the minimal invasive approach of mitral valve repair. The format of the course is designed to introduce surgeons to innovative video-assisted approaches in this complex and often challenging setting.