

ESC 2026 Preview – Clinical and AI / ML



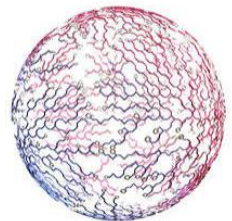
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**ESC Congress
2026**

28 Aug 2026 - 31 Aug 2026

Munich, Germany

Organised by:



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• Will ATTR-CM competition increasingly centre on when and how patients are identified and treated?

- The CARDIO-TTRansform Hot Line will present efficacy and safety data for eplontersen, with additional late-breaking analysis examining eplontersen in patients receiving stabiliser therapy. Alongside multiple sessions on ATTR-CM diagnosis, monitoring and treatment, the congress will test whether the next competitive question is becoming not only whether TTR-directed therapy works, but how earlier identification and treatment selection will shape patient management



• Will sarcomere-directed therapy expand across the HCM spectrum?

- ACACIA-HCM will evaluate aficamten in symptomatic non-obstructive HCM, five-year MAVA-LTE data will extend the evidence base for mavacamten, and CIRRUS-HCM will introduce late-breaking data for EDG-7500. Together, these presentations will test whether sarcomere modulation can develop into a broader HCM treatment strategy or whether clinical use will remain segmented by obstructive status, mechanism and maturity of evidence





- **Can factor XI/XIa inhibition establish a defined role in secondary cardiovascular prevention?**

- LIBREXIA ACS will evaluate milvexian after acute coronary syndrome, while OCEANIC-STROKE will examine asundexian alongside early dual antiplatelet therapy following non-cardioembolic stroke. The tension will be whether FXI/XIa inhibition can define clinically useful niches within existing antithrombotic pathways, particularly where the balance between recurrent ischaemic events and bleeding risk limits treatment intensity



- **Will lipid management move further upstream toward earlier and more intensive intervention?**

- AMUNDSEN will evaluate evolocumab before PCI in acute myocardial infarction, VESALIUS-CV will add outcome data in patients without prior MI or stroke, and VICTORION-CHALLENGE will compare inclisiran with bempedoic acid for LDL-C lowering. These datasets will test whether future differentiation will depend less on demonstrating additional LDL-C reduction and more on treatment timing, rapid goal attainment, persistence and the ability to address residual lipid risk earlier in the disease pathway



• Will cardiovascular inflammation become a clinically actionable therapeutic target?

- TRANQUILITY will evaluate monthly and quarterly dosing of pacibekitug, an IL-6 ligand monoclonal antibody, targeting inflammation in patients with CKD and high cardiovascular risk. The key uncertainty will be whether IL-6 targeting can generate sufficiently meaningful clinical evidence to establish inflammation as a therapeutic pathway in cardiovascular risk management



• Will heart failure strategy increasingly be defined by treatment timing and phenotype?

- DAPA ACT HF-TIMI 68 will examine in-hospital initiation of dapagliflozin, while an EMPEROR-pooled analysis will assess empagliflozin across kidney-function decline and HF hospitalisation and additional sessions will address finerenone in HFmrEF/HFpEF. The emerging question will be how early established mechanisms should enter the pathway and how treatment will be differentiated across ejection-fraction, renal-risk and acute-versus-chronic heart failure settings



Key Sessions To Watch (1/2)

Date	Session Title (short)	Type	Author / Institution	Why Watch
28 Aug 2026	CARDIO-TTTransform: eplontersen in ATTR-CM	Hot Line	Mathew Maurer / Columbia University Irving Medical Center	The full dataset will determine how AstraZeneca/Ionis' eplontersen could be positioned relative to stabilisers and competing TTR silencers
28 Aug 2026	ACACIA-HCM: aficamten in non-obstructive HCM	Hot Line	Ahmad Masri / Oregon Health & Science University	Results will test whether Cytokinetics' aficamten can expand cardiac myosin inhibition beyond obstructive HCM
29 Aug 2026	AMUNDSEN: evolocumab before PCI in acute MI	Hot Line	Gilles Montalescot / Sorbonne University	The study will test whether Amgen's evolocumab can move intensive PCSK9 inhibition directly into the acute MI/PCI pathway.
29 Aug 2026	TRANQUILITY: pacibekitug in CKD with CV risk	Hot Line	Deepak Bhatt / Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Results will test whether Novartis' IL-6 ligand antibody pacibekitug can establish inflammation as a druggable residual-risk pathway
29 Aug 2026	LIBREXIA ACS: milvexian after ACS	Hot Line	Philippe Gabriel Steg / Hôpital Bichat-Claude Bernard	The readout will be a major test of whether BMS/J&J's FXIa inhibitor milvexian can improve the efficacy-bleeding trade-off after ACS
29 Aug 2026	MAVA-LTE: five-year mavacamten outcomes	Late-Breaking Science	Anjali Owens / University of Pennsylvania	Long-term mavacamten data will provide the mature comparator context against which newer HCM approaches will be judged



Key Sessions To Watch (2/2)

Date	Session Title (short)	Type	Author / Institution	Why Watch
30 Aug 2026	DAPA ACT HF-TIMI 68: in-hospital dapagliflozin	Late-Breaking Science	Andre Small / Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School	Data will clarify whether dapagliflozin initiation during acute HF admission will support earlier treatment adoption.
31 Aug 2026	Evolocumab and fatal outcomes in VESALIUS-CV	Late-Breaking Science	Robert Giugliano / Brigham and Women's Hospital	The analysis will help define how far evolocumab can move into primary prevention among high-risk patients without previous MI or stroke
31 Aug 2026	CIRRUS-HCM: EDG-7500	Late-Breaking Science	Anjali Owens / University of Pennsylvania	Early clinical data will show whether Edgewise's EDG-7500 cardiac sarcomere modulator could develop into a credible challenger to current myosin inhibitors
31 Aug 2026	OCEANIC-STROKE: asundexian and early DAPT	Late-Breaking Science	Mukul Sharma / Population Health Research Institute	The analysis will help define where Bayer's asundexian could fit alongside antiplatelet therapy following non-cardioembolic stroke

Industry-Sponsored Sessions & Focus Areas – ESC 2026





ESC 2026– Competitive Landscape at a Glance (1/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
ATTR-CM / TTR targeting	Multiple	Alnylam; Bayer; Pfizer; BridgeBio; Intellia	CARDIO-TTTransform and wider ATTR-CM programming on screening, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment timing will keep attention on how an expanding set of TTR-directed approaches could reshape patient identification and treatment selection
HCM / sarcomere modulation	Multiple	aficamten; mavacamten; EDG-7500	ACACIA-HCM, long-term mavacamten evidence and CIRRUS-HCM will test whether sarcomere-directed treatment can expand across obstructive and non-obstructive HCM.
Factor XI/XIa inhibition	Multiple	milvexian; asundexian	LIBREXIA ACS and OCEANIC-STROKE will test whether FXI/XIa inhibition can establish defined roles across ACS and secondary stroke prevention
LDL-C and Lp(a) lowering	Multiple	evolocumab; inclisiran; bempedoic acid; lepodisiran; HRS-5346	Acute-MI, head-to-head and Lp(a)-targeted studies will shift the discussion toward earlier intervention, treatment choice and residual lipid risk



ESC 2026– Competitive Landscape at a Glance (2/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
Heart failure / cardiorenal treatment	Multiple	dapagliflozin; empagliflozin; finerenone	In-hospital initiation, kidney outcomes and HFmrEF/HFpEF-focused programming will test how established therapies can be implemented earlier and differentiated across heart-failure phenotypes
Cardiovascular inflammation	Multiple	pacibekitug / IL-6 ligand inhibition	TRANQUILITY and broader inflammation-focused sessions will test whether inflammatory biology can translate into a clinically actionable cardiovascular treatment pathway
Cardiometabolic / GLP-1RA strategy	Multiple	tirzepatide; oral and injectable GLP-1RAs	SURPASS-CVOT, SUMMIT and HFpEF-focused programming will extend the discussion of incretin-based therapy into cardiovascular outcomes and phenotype-specific care



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (1/6)



• Novo Nordisk:

- Focus Areas: **Cardiometabolic Drivers of Cardiovascular Disease & HFpEF**
- Sessions will focus on cardiovascular inflammation, **oral and injectable GLP-1RAs and adiposity-driven HFpEF**. The programme will examine how **incretin-based treatment could be integrated into cardiovascular phenotypes** where adiposity and inflammation contribute to disease management.



• MSD:

- Focus Areas: **Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension & Risk Management**
- Presentations will focus on **activin-signalling inhibition in pulmonary arterial hypertension** alongside broader cardiovascular-risk topics. The sessions will examine disease-specific pulmonary vascular treatment together with **wider cardiovascular-risk management**.



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (2/6)



• AstraZeneca:

- Focus Areas: Earlier Cardiovascular Risk Detection & Treatment Implementation
- Presentations will span uncontrolled hypertension, LDL-C management, AI-enabled ATTRv diagnosis, heart failure and cardiorenal care. The sessions will focus on earlier risk identification and treatment implementation across multiple cardiovascular and cardiorenal settings



• Bayer:

- Focus Areas: Heart Failure Phenotype-Specific Treatment Strategies
- Sessions will focus on ATTR-CM, finerenone in HFmrEF/HFpEF and soluble guanylate cyclase stimulation in HFrEF. The programme will examine how different therapeutic approaches could be integrated across heart-failure phenotypes and stages of disease.



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (3/6)

✓ • **Alnylam Pharmaceuticals:**

- Focus Areas: **ATTR-CM Diagnosis & Long-Term Management**
- Presentations will focus on ATTR-CM disease mechanisms, **diagnosis**, treatment expectations and **clinical management**. The sessions will examine how **earlier disease recognition and longitudinal assessment** could influence treatment decisions as TTR-directed management evolves

✓ • **Pfizer:**

- Focus Areas: **Earlier ATTR-CM Recognition & Patient Monitoring**
- Sessions will focus on **earlier recognition of ATTR-CM**, women with the disease, **patient monitoring** and unresolved management questions. The programme will explore how **improved identification and follow-up** could refine treatment decisions across the ATTR-CM pathway



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (4/6)



• **Boehringer Ingelheim:**

- Focus Areas: Earlier Cardiorenal Risk Detection & Treatment Initiation
- Presentations will focus on albuminuria testing, outpatient heart-failure management and earlier in-hospital treatment initiation. The sessions will examine how earlier cardiorenal risk detection and treatment initiation could be incorporated into routine clinical pathways



• **Amgen:**

- Focus Areas: Earlier Intensive Lipid Management & Residual Risk
- Sessions will focus on Lp(a), cardiometabolic risk and LDL-C management in the catheterisation-lab setting. The programme will explore whether intensive lipid management can move earlier into acute cardiovascular care while broadening attention to residual lipid risk



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (5/6)



• **Novartis:**

- Focus Areas: **Residual Cardiovascular Risk & Earlier Intervention**
- Presentations will focus on **early and sustained LDL-C goal attainment, Lp(a) risk identification** and the potential role of **Factor XI inhibition in atrial fibrillation**. The sessions will examine how **residual cardiovascular risk** could be addressed across lipid management and anticoagulation.



• **Daiichi Sankyo:**

- Focus Areas: **Oral LDL-C Lowering & Treatment Optimization**
- Sessions will focus on **bempedoic acid, oral combination strategies** and practical LDL-C management. The programme will examine **how oral lipid-lowering approaches** could help patients who remain above guideline-recommended LDL-C targets.



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions at ESC 2026 (6/6)

- **Bristol Myers Squibb:**

- Focus Areas: Obstructive HCM Recognition & Treatment Optimization
- Sessions will focus on diagnosis and real-world management of obstructive HCM. The programme will examine how improved disease recognition and clinical management could support more consistent use of targeted treatment pathways.

- **Eli Lilly:**

- Focus Areas: Cardiometabolic Outcomes & Heart Failure
- Presentations will use SURPASS-CVOT and SUMMIT to examine tirzepatide in cardiovascular and heart-failure care. The session will explore how cardiovascular outcome and heart-failure evidence could extend the role of incretin-based treatment beyond metabolic control.



New Entrants

Asset / Company	2026 Presence
Eplontersen	Hot Line: CARDIO-TTTransform in ATTR-CM; additional Late-Breaking Science analysis with stabiliser therapy
Milvexian	Hot Line: LIBREXIA ACS; additional FXIa analyses
Ticalicibart	Advances in Science: Ticalicibart monthly as add-on therapy to statins for nonfamilial hypercholesterolemia: the randomized, phase 3 TIMER trial
Asundexian	Late-Breaking Science: OCEANIC-STROKE analysis; additional FXIa analyse
Lepodisiran	Late-Breaking Science: Effect on Oxidized Phospholipids of Lepodisiran, an Extended Duration siRNA Targeting Lipoprotein(a)
HRS-5346	Late-Breaking Science: Oral HRS-5346, a novel small molecule lipoprotein(a) inhibitor, in adults at high cardiovascular risk with elevated lipoprotein(a): a phase 2, randomized, double-blind study
EDG-7500	Late-Breaking Science: CIRRUS-HCM: 12-Week Evaluation of the Safety and Efficacy of the Novel Cardiac Sarcomere Modulator EDG-7500 in Nonobstructive and Obstructive Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy



AI/ML Trends & Strategic Watchpoints at ESC 2026





AI / Digital Health Angle at ESC 2026 (1/2)

- **AI and digital-health presentations at ESC 2026 will represent a patient-identification, risk-stratification and clinical decision-support signal rather than a broad digital-health adoption theme**
- **The concentration of sessions on AI-enabled ATTRv diagnosis, preventive cardiology, lipid-lowering management and cardioembolic stroke prediction will test whether digital tools can move beyond analytical support and influence who is investigated, how risk is classified and when treatment is intensified**
- **AI activity will be strategically relevant because several sessions will connect algorithmic outputs directly with cardiovascular disease pathways. AstraZeneca's AI-enabled ATTRv session will focus on earlier disease recognition; Daiichi Sankyo's preventive cardiology session will examine AI-supported lipid management decisions; and ORFAN-MAESTRIA will evaluate AI-based detection of atrial myopathy and prediction of cardioembolic stroke from routine cardiac CT**
- **The most important signal will be whether these approaches generate sufficiently actionable outputs to alter diagnostic work-up, treatment selection or preventive intervention**



AI / Digital Health Angle at ESC 2026 (2/2)

- **Key sessions include:**

- ORFAN-MAESTRIA: AI detection of atrial myopathy and prediction of cardioembolic stroke from routine cardiac CT
- AI in preventive cardiology and lipid-lowering management
- AI-enabled early diagnosis of ATTRv
- AI-supported cardiovascular imaging and diagnostic interpretation
- AI-based cardiovascular risk prediction and patient stratification
- Digital and AI-enabled approaches supporting earlier cardiovascular disease detection

- **Sessions suggest AI and digital tools are increasingly being used to improve:**

- Earlier identification of patients who may require disease-specific cardiovascular assessment
- Risk stratification using routinely collected imaging and clinical data
- Treatment-intensification decisions in preventive cardiology and lipid management
- Prediction of cardioembolic stroke risk through AI-enabled cardiac imaging
- Clinical decision support where algorithmic outputs can be linked to a defined diagnostic or treatment pathway



What We're Watching for Post-ESC 2026

- Whether **eplontersen** in **CARDIO-TTRansform**, including the analysis in patients receiving **stabiliser therapy**, will generate sufficient **efficacy and safety evidence** to clarify **treatment positioning** in **ATTR-CM** and support a more defined approach to **treatment selection** or **combination use**
- Whether **aficamten** in **ACACIA-HCM**, **five-year mavacamten follow-up** and **early EDG-7500 data** will provide clearer differentiation across **obstructive and non-obstructive HCM** or instead add further complexity to **sarcomere-directed treatment selection**
- Whether **milvexian** in **LIBREXIA ACS** and **asundexian** in **OCEANIC-STROKE** will **demonstrate a sufficiently favourable efficacy–bleeding profile** to establish defined roles for **FXI/XIa inhibition** within existing secondary-prevention pathways
- Whether **pacibekitug** in **TRANQUILITY** will generate evidence strong enough to move **IL-6 inhibition and cardiovascular inflammation** from residual-risk biology toward a **clinically actionable therapeutic strategy** in patients with CKD and high cardiovascular risk
- Whether **evolocumab** in **AMUNDSEN** and **VESALIUS-CV**, together with the **inclisiran versus bempedoic acid VICTORION-CHALLENGE comparison**, will strengthen the case for **earlier and more intensive lipid lowering** and provide clearer differentiation around **treatment timing, goal attainment and residual lipid risk**



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e: INFO@LQVENTURES.COM

w: WWW.LQVENTURES.COM