

USER REPORT | ON THE ROAD
WITH THE EP-TRACER PORTABLE

EVERYTHING IS IN THE SIGNAL

Prof. Josep Brugada in humanitarian missions abroad



EP-TRACER Portable

Since 2013, when Professor Josep Brugada gave up his managerial role as Medical Director at the Hospital Barcelona in favor of his humanitarian operations in Africa as an electrophysiologist, he has been on-site regularly to help the people with his knowledge and skills.

Prof. Brugada travels about three times a year to the Egyptian Aswan and two times a year to Maputo in Mozambique to perform procedures. At the Aswan

Heart Centre the treatment is free of charge thanks to numerous donors. As one would expect, the number of people who are looking for help from the centre is correspondingly high, many coming from far away, for example Sudan and Ethiopia to seek treatment.

Small logistical and human challenges

The equipment of the Aswan Heart Centre is generally good, but there is a lack of specialist medical personnel,

specifically in electrophysiology. Josep Brugada thus uses his regular visits not only for the treatment of patients with arrhythmias: “The continuity of my visits to Aswan is important to lead the local team to independence” he says.

Despite the good equipment, the journey there every time is a small logistical challenge, as special materials must be brought from Barcelona. It is critical and an advantage if the equipment required is as small as possible and easy to handle. “The EP-TRACER Portable fits into a small travel bag and can be carried as hand luggage – a big advantage for our work”, states the Professor.

Help for many – thanks to simple and effective handling

Brugada describes his missions in Aswan as strictly coordinated. He arrives on Friday, conducts treatments from Saturday morning until Monday evening and returns on Tuesday, in order to use as few of his team’s vacation days as possible. “This works only if the equipment can be set-up and used without delay” says Prof. Brugada. The EP-TRACER Portable is operational in a few minutes. Then everything must be fast: “Every day we treat an average of 12 to 15 child and adult patients”.

Josep Brugada stresses that the treatment of the sick is his main objective, but the on-site training of doctors contributes significantly to the sustain-



Help, also for the smallest



Prof. Brugada and Dr. Mohamed Elmaghawry, the electrophysiologist at Aswan Heart Centre



Prof. Brugada and Prof. Magdi Yacoub, the founder of the Magdi Yacoub Foundation the Aswan Heart Centre belongs to

“The incredible quality of the signal from the EP-TRACER helps me, quickly and efficiently to deal with even the most complex cases!”

Prof. Josep Brugada

able improvement of the overall situation. They learn while Brugada performs the procedure.

The advantage of the EP-TRACER Portable, explains Prof. Brugada, is primarily that it allows the user to control the system and carry out the procedure at the same time. “Most comparable systems require two people for effective operation. Because of the fully-inte-



With a nurse (also patient) in Aswan

grated stimulator, the EP-TRACER is the only system that can be operated by a single person – using only one keyboard.”

Manage the chaos through speed

Things look a little different with the humanitarian missions of the team in Mozambique. Brugada travels to Maputo each time with a nurse and a volunteer. The journey is much more cumbersome and complicated and the local situation differs considerably from the situation in Aswan.

Prof. Brugada describes his campaigns in the two heart centres in which he practices, sometimes one day after the other, as very different situations. While the facilities in the Heart Foundation Centre, an old military hospital, are good, the situation at the public hospital can be chaotic and aimless.



With Melanie, the very first patient treated in Mozambique

“As no preparation is possible, also because some patients are travelling from the northern regions of the country, 2,500 km away, there are often chaotic scenes, which you only can counter through speed in the diagnosis and treatment” he reports. Working under constant time pressure, the team manages to treat 15 to 20 patients per day. With the EP-TRACER Portable, the treatment of arrhythmias can be carried out swiftly.

her condition, she showed her bare neck and Brugada saw the obvious signs of a serious incessant tachycardia; her carotid artery pulsed extremely visible and incessant.

After Melanie’s treatment, during which Prof. Brugada ablated three accessory pathways, he met her the next day happily walking around the hospital. When asked how she was doing, she

Prof. Josep Brugada controlling the EP-TRACER during a procedure



“All the information is in the signal” says Brugada

“The incredible quality of the signal from the EP-TRACER helps me, quickly and efficiently to deal with even the most complex cases!” Through this the likelihood of successful treatment increases dramatically. This is especially important when treating patients in multiple centres as repetition of treatment is not feasible.

Melanie

After being asked about his most memorable case in these three years, Josep Brugada tells the story of his first patient in Mozambique. He met Melanie, then a 12 year old girl, during his first mission at Maputo Heart Centre. Enquiring after

“The EP-TRACER Portable fits into a small travel bag and can be carried as hand luggage.”

Prof. Josep Brugada

merely bared her neck and Brugada is still deeply moved when he describes: “I was so richly rewarded and was so happy that I no longer saw a visible pulse. Melanie was again a normal girl”.

Brugada’s summary at the end:

“Without the EP-TRACER Portable I could never carry out these missions.”



Logistical challenge: a full-fledged EP-lab on the loading area of a pick-up

“Most comparable systems require two people for effective operation. Because of the fully-integrated stimulator, the EP-TRACER is the only system that can be operated by a single person – using only one keyboard.”

Prof. Josep Brugada



A heart patient in Maputo after successful treatment together with a local nurse and Mariona, the nurse that participates in all missions

→ BIO



**Prof. Josep Brugada
Terradellas, MD, PhD, FESC**

Cardiologist, Specialist in Biology and Sport Medicine, MBA Management in Health Services. Medical Director of Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, head of the Arrhythmia Section of the Pediatric Hospital Sant Joan de Déu and Past President of the European Heart Rhythm Association.

So far, he has published more than 300 original papers in the most relevant international journals. Prof. Brugada held also the post of Deputy Editor of the European Journal of Cardiology. He is member of several scientific societies and is Professor of Medicine at the University of Barcelona since 1998. Regarding the field of research, he discovered, treated and found the genetic cause (along with his brother Pedro and Ramon) of a rare syndrome causing Sudden Death, which is known in the scientific literature as “Brugada Syndrome”.

More information on
www.schwarzercardiotek.com

**schwarzer
cardiotek**
SMART. PRECISE. RELIABLE.