

Lighting Up the Rhythm: Dr. Nicholas Tullo Is Transforming Cardiology Education with Heart, Humor, and Vision

by Matt Emma

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Individuals who have mastered a complex field and then devote themselves to helping others master it too, are incredibly remarkable. They're also magnetic, especially when they do it with joy and creativity. Dr. Nicholas Tullo is one of those people. Medicine isn't known for its ease or its approachability. Hence, as a cardiac electrophysiologist by training and an educator by calling, he made it his mission to turn electrocardiography into a subject that healthcare professionals can actually enjoy learning and truly master. Through his education platform, [ECG Academy](#),[®] he's helping thousands of students, nurses, and physicians "look at ECGs in a whole new light."

Dr. Tullo's journey into cardiology began in a public library in the Bronx. As a curious teenager, he was intrigued by the word "fibrillation" after hearing it on a medical show. He rushed to his local library, flipped open a medical dictionary, and found himself captivated by the world of heart rhythm disorders. That fascination would become a lifelong pursuit.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Biological Science, he pursued medicine. His clinical training included a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease. Dr. Tullo later pursued subspecialty training in electrophysiology. From the beginning, his focus was on the electrical system of the heart, the heart rhythm, its disorders, and its life-saving technologies.



Nicholas Tullo, MD, FACC, FHRS

Dr. Tullo later founded the Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacemaker Service at a regional medical center in Paterson, New Jersey. He also taught extensively as an associate professor and helped train generations of medical students, residents, and fellows. Beginning in 2003 he spent three years practicing EP in Chattanooga,

TN, but eventually returned to New Jersey to join Consultants In Cardiology in West Orange.

In 2009, Dr. Tullo founded the New Jersey Center for Fainting to address syncope and autonomic disorders like postural tachycardia syndrome (POTS) and orthostatic hypotension. He has led several clinical research projects, received recognition for excellence in teaching and patient care, and continues to serve as an advisor to national and international organizations focused on heart rhythm disorders and dysautonomia.



But it's in education where Dr. Tullo's legacy truly expands. The cardiac electrophysiologist stands out for his intuitive grasp of rhythm, something he attributes in part to being a lifelong musician. Recognizing the parallel between music and cardiology, he says: "Rhythm, intuition, and pattern recognition are essential in both." Just as a musician hears nuances in tempo and tone, Dr. Tullo sees patterns in ECG tracings that others often miss. This natural synergy between art and science laid the foundation for his future as both a healer and a teacher.

Frustrated by the limited reach and repetition of live lectures, Dr. Tullo experimented with video production two decades ago. Long before digital learning became the norm, he was in his basement, editing footage with help from his father-in-law, a retired advertising executive and video director. He wanted to make his teachings scalable, engaging, and available to a broader audience. When YouTube was still in its infancy, Dr. Tullo uploaded a few videos on ECG interpretation and was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response. The demand

was evident, and Dr. Tullo responded with the ECG Academy.®

He recognizes that too often, ECG interpretation is taught through rote memorization, using overly dense textbooks or posters with rhythm patterns but little context. Dr. Tullo knew from experience that this approach simply didn't work. "Trying to learn ECGs from a book is like trying to learn a foreign language without ever hearing it spoken," he says. "You need someone who can teach you not just the patterns, but the meaning behind them."

Hence, that's what he built. With his decades of clinical experience and his unmistakable voice as a teacher, Dr. Tullo created an online learning system that demystifies electrocardiography. His teaching style is rigorous and lively. He brings humor, storytelling, and clarity to each lesson, delivering lectures with the energy of a stand-up comedian, making even the most complex concepts feel digestible.

ECG Academy® has since grown, becoming a partner in medical education. It's structured to meet learners where they are, whether beginner or advanced, and provides more than just videos. For instance, its weekly "ChalkTalks," six-minute video coaching sessions, help learners to sharpen their skills with real-world examples and expert commentary. Meanwhile, in the monthly "Live ECG Masterclasses," one can ask live questions for real-time learning feedback. The result is a system that empowers healthcare professionals to become confident ECG interpreters.

In the future, Dr. Tullo hopes to expand ECG Academy's reach even further, potentially serving as an educational consultant to hospitals and training programs after he eventually retires from clinical medicine. For now, however, he continues to lead a dual life as both a practicing electrophysiologist and a dynamic educator. He does so with humor, precision, and a deep reverence for the rhythm, both musical and cardiac, that has guided his career from the start.

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