

Christian Hassager – Motivation to run for an ESC Vice-President position:

I am very convinced, that we all gain a lot by having the ESC as a strong mother-organization of the National Societies of Cardiology in the European and Mediterranean countries and of the Associations, Working Groups and Councils of the ESC. And I would like to continue to work for a strong ESC – both scientifically and politically in Europe. There is, however, a delicate balance between ESC on one site and the sovereignty of the associations, councils and working groups on the other site that needs continued focus. I know this balance from both sides now because I have previously been president of an ESC association, and I have been an ESC board member for the last 3 years.

I started my engagement in ESC during my membership in EuroEcho/ESCVI more than 20 years ago as head of an Echolab at a university hospital in Copenhagen. I served as local host for the EuroEcho meeting in Copenhagen in 2010. My career changed toward intensive cardiac care and I have therefore been an active member of ESCs Association for Acute CardioVascular Care (ACVC) during the last decade and ACVC President from 2020-2022. I am now past-president of ACVC and counsellor in the ESC board, where I am chairing the membership committee and also active in the budget committee as well as the new governance Task Force. I have hereby gained experience with many aspects of ESC and learned how leadership in the ESC is very important for carrying out our mission and goals of our Society. I am therefore very motivated to continue in the ESC Board as Vice-President to fulfil this task in the future.

I have also been active on a national level with organisational work in societies dealing with cardiology and gained a large experience from this. I have been board member of the Danish Society of Cardiology for a total of 8 years. I have chaired our WG on Echocardiography as well as our WG on acute cardiac care. I served as President of the Danish Society of Cardiology from 2010-2012, chair of the Danish Resuscitation Council from 2019-2021, and I am currently Chair of a large patient organisation: The Danish Heart Foundation.

I work as professor and consultant at Copenhagen University Hospital Rigshospitalet.

Vision and major future strategic challenges that I see for the ESC:

- I participated in creating the new **ESC strategy** – fantastic process - we must make it alive now
- We must be openminded and discuss how we can improve our governance structure. And we need **more transparency**. Now. Everywhere. This regards both economic dispositions and how decisions are made.
- We should improve further the relation between the **ESC and the National Societies** - perhaps by identifying promising young leaders together with National Societies and give them concrete roles in ESC. We may engage the associations more in this task.
- **Associations, WG's and Councils** needs more focus and acknowledgement as the scientific and clinical engines in our society. We must be careful to avoid fragmentation of our Society. The balance between general cardiology and specialised cardiology is an important aspect we must discuss further. A better dialog between all constituent bodies of ESC is needed.

- The **Guidelines** are one of our backbones in ESC. We must keep their high quality, but I think there is room for more collaborations with the Associations here. Furthermore, we must be careful to keep them relevant in the future. We may need more often updates due to faster changing scientific surroundings, and we should also focus on stating not only what is optimal, but also what we consider as a value based must everywhere, to stay relevant for all our member states.
- Regarding **education** and **certification**, we must work for a closer contact to EU and the national regulators. We should continue our outstanding educational services and be at the forefront regarding new digital educational possibilities.
- **Digitalisation** is everywhere now, and AI will probably disrupt most of ESCs core products. We therefore must follow this development closely and invest in a digital core facility. We should also invest in collaboration with new potential stakeholders in the digital industry.
- the **ESC Congress** and **the association congresses** are very important for our Society and the economical surplus from these are instrumental for other ESC projects. We are always in a learning phase regarding how we should build our meetings in the future. We could experiment somewhat with our association congresses and keep the ESC congress more traditional until new ideas prove useful. Perhaps joint meetings between different associations; perhaps new ways of presenting knowledge.
- ESC needs continued collaboration with our **affiliate societies** in US, Asia, South America and Africa. We must keep a clear and open policy here.
- Finally, we need to further develop our membership models. Our business plan will go through turbulent times and much focus is needed here to secure us in the long run. Collaboration with industry is key, but a more balanced economy with a larger fraction coming from members will strengthen us politically too.

If I am elected as a Vice-President of the ESC, I will try to keep the focus on the above issues.