

Letter of Motivation

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President-Elect candidacy



Dear Colleagues

I am very pleased and honored to apply for the position of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) President-Elect for the 2024-2026 term.

Beside my institutional commitments including my investment in the ESC and in the French Society of Cardiology, I keep a clinical time weekly (outpatients' clinic, wards and electrophysiological procedures...) and I also maintain my academic activities as a teaching Professor and researcher in my University. From my perspective, it is very important to keep strong clinical and educational activities when you plan on being involved in the leadership of the ESC to have a clear vision of the aspirations of our colleagues, students and, above all, our patients.

I have been committed for many years in the French Society of Cardiology and I am currently the Past-President of the French society of Cardiology. This experience gives me a strong leadership experience in a scientific society across different fields: research, education, congresses, advocacy and management of the staff and the finances

I started my commitments in the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) first as secretary, then Congress Scientific Program Committee Chair, International Affairs Coordinator then EHRA President-Elect, President and now Past-President. This investment was a great opportunity to develop my leadership skills in a scientific association of the ESC.

My involvement in the ESC started in 2010 in the Congress Program Committee, as a participant in the arrhythmias' section and then I took the lead of this section for 4 years. This initial experience was very exciting and inspired me to become more deeply involved in the ESC. I participated in different activities within the ESC (Guidelines committee, Global Scientific Activities, Nominating Committee) and I have been member of the ESC Board for three terms, as Councilor, EHRA-President (ex-officio board member) and as Vice-President.

These different roles gave me a good knowledge and understanding of our scientific society, and it is my willingness to keep on dedicating time and energy for the ESC at the highest level. Importantly, during my various ESC experiences I met many dedicated volunteers and a wonderful ESC staff. This great human experience has convinced me to pursue my involvement in the ESC.

The ESC is a major scientific society with an impressive and unique offer for cardiologists and other healthcare professionals in terms of leading research and education, as well as broadcasting top science through its journals and congresses, and advocating for the sake of cardiovascular health in Europe and beyond. The ESC family, with around 100 000 active members worldwide, has to, in the future, keep on increasing the number of members by offering more attractive valued benefits. The ESC must play a central role in optimal management of patients with cardiovascular conditions, and contribute to improving the cardiovascular health at the population level in the European Union with an European cardiovascular health plan and must help the implementation of a cardiovascular health plan in each NCS.

Why am I applying for the President-Elect Position?

I want to actively participate in the evolution and the growth of the ESC during the next years in different topics in line with the 2023-2028 ESC strategic plan:

Our world is changing, including the profile of cardiovascular diseases and their management, but also the profile of healthcare professionals. In the near future, we will not practice cardiology as we did in the past or even now. The ESC must be agile to adapt to the environmental and societal changes.

Advocacy is for me a key point. Even if cardiovascular diseases are the first cause of death in the world, the knowledge of the public and stakeholders about cardiovascular diseases is still weak as compared to cancers for instance. Moreover, there is banalization of cardiovascular diseases, in particular their impact on mortality is really not recognized. At the level of the ESC with the European Heart Agency and in collaboration with the National Cardiac Societies we have the opportunity to influence the priorities of health providers, research regulators and funding agencies. The EU Cardiovascular Health Plan is a top priority for the ESC to lobby as well as the implementation in National Cardiac Societies We need to disseminate the best way of managing cardiovascular diseases in terms of prevention but also diagnosis as well as treatments and research. This is key to fulfilling the mission of the ESC to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases.

In my Hospital, one of my main missions is to prepare the future of my department by promoting young talented cardiologists including diversity. In the same way I promote the role and the place of young cardiologists in the French Society of Cardiology including them in all activities, especially leadership.

The Cardiologists of Tomorrow are the future of our specialty and of the ESC. We must help them to have the best medical education but also to prepare them to their future responsibilities and, to reinforce their skills for research and the use of digital tools. We have to offer them the possibility to develop their leadership skills. We also have to improve the importance of the quality of work for all cardiologists, which is a very sensitive issue in our world and especially within the young generation.

Patients are increasingly involved in the management of their diseases. The ESC has already worked hard for patients' empowerment. However, in my opinion, we have to take every opportunity of further involving even more patients at different levels of the ESC. At the EHRA, I created a new position in the Board; a Patient Coordinator specifically dedicated to working with patients on different projects such as website for patients and

a patient has been invited in the congress Program Committee. We have to offer a more prominent place to patients in all ESC activities. Supporting patients' empowerment will also be a major asset for advocacy.

We need to prepare our world for the mandatory changes of our profession related to the decrease in the number of cardiologists and the increase in elderly population often affected by cardiovascular diseases and also comorbidities. We will not continue working as we did in the past: we have to reinvent our job in particular promoting new activities, like sonographers and specialized-nurses. Artificial intelligence and big data analytics play a prominent role today in medicine and research. The ESC has an important and active role to play in these processes.

Our scientific society must be a model for our world in terms of transparency, equality, diversity and inclusivity across processes and activities. Fair and balanced gender, ethnicity and geographical representations will strengthen the ESC.

Dedicated actions to pursuits of environmental sustainability taking into account the consequences of climate change in every activity the ESC undertakes is a key mission for the organization in different areas: education, advocacy, research, congresses...

The ESC is a family with many different components which I consider a strength. During my EHRA presidency, I initiated a closer relationship between the different ESC associations with monthly discussions between the association Presidents about different topics. From these discussions, we learned a lot from each other and we very often reached consensus. As ESC Vice-President, I pursue this activity and I think that the ESC Governance will gain from a stronger link between the constituent bodies (Associations, Working Groups and Councils) and the management group in a fair and transparent governance. I want to further develop the collaboration between associations, WGs and Councils within the ESC with a fair balance of autonomy and affiliation at the ESC. More visibility and knowledge of the WGs and Councils are definitively needed.

The 57 National Cardiac Societies greatly contribute to the strength of the ESC and this collaboration between the NCS and the ESC has to be reinforced in many areas: public policy, research, education, congresses and exchanges. My long-standing commitment in the French Society of Cardiology has been helpful in perceiving and understanding the NCS' expectations. In addition, the experience has inspired me and helped in developing strategies towards strengthening the links with NCS with the objective of reinforcing the ESC and NCS.

Finally, the position of President-Elect requires energy and time. I have built during the last years a strong team in my institution, which does agree on offering me the required time to be dedicated to this mission. The management of my Hospital supports me as well. I also feel that I have the required amount of energy to fulfil this mission.

It is a great privilege and responsibility to apply for the position of President-Elect of the ESC and it would be an honor and a pleasure for me to continue working for the ESC in the future.

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