

## ESC Patient Forum membership – Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for considering joining our ESC Patient Forum. Below you will find some frequently asked questions and answers:

### **1. What is the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)?**

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) is an independent, non-profit medical society led by expert volunteers. We unite Member National Cardiac Societies, cardiovascular ESC sub-specialty communities, Affiliated Cardiac Societies and individual members from around the world. Our Mission is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

### **2. What are the main activities of the ESC?**

The ESC disseminates evidence-based scientific knowledge to cardiovascular professionals so they can better care for their patients. The society regularly publishes Clinical Practice Guidelines which include recommendations to help physicians weigh the benefits and risks of a particular diagnostic or therapeutic procedure in different heart conditions. These Guidelines are translated into many languages and followed by physicians in Europe and worldwide. Furthermore, the ESC organises 10 cardiology congresses each year. Among them, the ESC annual Congress, which is held every August, is the biggest event in the cardiology calendar, allowing healthcare professionals to keep up to date on the latest science while networking with their peers from around the world. Also, the ESC delivers a broad portfolio of education initiatives, such as webinars, face-to-face courses, including postgraduate programmes and certifications.

### **3. What is the ESC Patient Forum?**

The ESC has established a dedicated Patient Forum to encourage inclusion of people with experience of a cardiac condition in the work of the society. The patients' voice is critical to helping the ESC reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease through education, research and practice. Additionally, people within this Forum will have the opportunity to liaise with fellow patients and healthcare professionals sharing their experiences and supporting each other to help prevent and address the problems caused by heart disease.

#### **4. Who can join?**

To join our Forum, you should fulfil the following membership criteria:

- Have experience of cardiovascular disease as patient or caregiver.
- Be proficient in English (working language of the ESC) – good verbal and written communication skills.
- Be able to travel within the EU and/or willingness to participate in virtual meetings.
- Not represent a patient organisation/association but involved in our Forum only in your personal capacity.
- Not employed by or receiving remuneration from healthcare industry.
- Willing to make a positive contribution to ESC activities and the ESC mission to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

#### **5. What will be expected from me?**

Get actively involved! If you wish to make a real difference supporting ESC's mission to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, then this is the moment to share your lived experience as patient and to voice your thoughts, opinions and concerns. Depending on your availability and the ESC activities you will engage in, you might be invited to attend face-to-face meetings (usually between 1-3 days) such as workshops or congresses. Additionally, there will be video calls/virtual events in which you can participate remotely from your home computer as well as tasks such as co-authoring or reviewing publications and other materials produced by the ESC. There is no minimum or maximum involvement; you decide how much you want to contribute and how short or long you would like to stay a member of our Forum.

#### **6. What will the ESC provide?**

The ESC can offer you adequate training, support as well as its expert insight across the full spectrum of cardiology. In addition, ESC will organize and cover your travel expenses, meals and accommodation.

***More information about the ESC Patient Forum can be found at:***  
<https://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/What-we-do/esc-patient-engagement>

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*If you're interested in joining the Forum and/or have further questions related to the ESC Patient Forum, please get in touch with Inga Drossart, ESC Patient Engagement Officer, at: [idrossart@escardio.org](mailto:idrossart@escardio.org)*