



EHRA
European Heart
Rhythm Association



Application for the following position in the EHRA Board:

EHRA president

1. Your Identity

Title: Professor Dr. med.

Family Name: Kirchhof

First Name: Paulus

Birth Date: 31 May 1969

Institute/Organisation:

University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg

Department: Cardiology

Address: Gebäude O70, Martinstraße 52

Post Code/Zip: 20246

City: Hamburg

Country: Germany



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2. General Curriculum Vitae (300 words max)

I am Director of the Department of Cardiology at the University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg (UHZ) and hold an honorary position as Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Birmingham. I trained and practiced as a cardiologist and electrophysiologist at the University of Münster with Günter Breithardt from 1997-2011 and continued my career as Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Birmingham and as consultant cardiologist at UHB and SWBH NHS trusts from 2011-2020. In Birmingham, I helped to found the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and served as its director until 2020.

I am an active clinician, treating patients with arrhythmias and heart failure at the UHZ Hamburg on a daily basis. I use my knowledge and experience in electrophysiology and cardiology to lead the arrhythmia and heart failure programmes at the UHZ.

I enjoy working in teams. Collaborating closely with an international network of research partners and friends, I contributed to over 500 experimental and clinical papers (h index 90, listed in the Clarivate list of highly cited researchers). I am an enthusiastic teacher, speaker, and supervisor and examiner for MD and PhD students. I contribute to international guidelines, curricula, and textbooks on topics including atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathies, sudden death, and ventricular tachycardias. I received several personal prizes for research and education. More importantly, several members of my clinical and research teams won research prizes.

Professional collaboration and exchange are important for my work, e.g. in the boards of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), and of the German AFNET. For me, EHRA, its members and their togetherness, and EHRA's position within the ESC are a wonderful platform to develop EHRA into the premier global arrhythmia organisation.



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology



3. Describe previous experience(s) within EHRA, ESC or your National Cardiac Society

Having had the opportunity to contribute to the EHRA (and Cardiostim) congresses since the creation of EHRA in 2003, I was invited to work for EHRA as a member of the scientific documents committee in 2007 – 2009. I became the chair of that committee and a member of the EHRA board in 2009. In the EHRA board, I was invited to chair the EHRA scientific documents committee 2009 - 2013, to chair the EHRA international relations committee 2013 – 2015, to work for the EHRA board as EHRA coordinator for the European Heart Academy 2015 - 2017, and to chair the EHRA selection committee within the education pillar from 2017 - 2018. My time in the EHRA board taught me about the diverse nature of arrhythmia care in EHRA. I thoroughly enjoyed working together across all of Europe.

In the ESC, I was asked to help develop university courses for the European Heart Agency. One of these courses is the EHA/EHRA/Maastricht DASCAM diploma of advanced study. I contributed to ESC guidelines as task force member, reviewer, and task force chair, and was a member of the ESC Committee for Practice Guidelines. From 2016 - 2020, I had the pleasure to chair the ESC education committee. During my mandate, the committee updated the ESC curriculum for the cardiologist (led by Felix Tanner from Zurich). We also worked on an improved digital ESC education and learning platform that helped the ESC and EHRA to continue their valuable work during the Covid-19 pandemic. I am the chair of the ESC membership committee in the ESC board 2020 – 2022. In that role I coordinate the simplification of the ESC membership aiming to improve membership for ESC and EHRA.

I am an active member of the German Society of Cardiology (DGK) and of the “AG EP”, the arrhythmia association of the DGK. I represent DGK in national committees, making use of my expertise in guideline writing, education, and research. As the current chair of the Atrial Fibrillation Competence NETwork (AFNET) in Germany, I volunteer for an organisation that facilitates research in atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias. Supporting Panos Vardas and Günter Breithardt, I helped to form the EHRA – AFNET partnership that successfully concluded the EAST – AFNET 4 trial in 2020 and led to eight successful joint AFNET/EHRA consensus conferences between 2007 and 2021.

The leadership trio of the AG EP of the DGK supports my application as EHRA president.

4. Why are you motivated to join the EHRA Executive Board (150 words max)?

Better ablation technologies, new devices, new medications, advanced imaging, and genomics create opportunities to improve care for arrhythmia patients. Integrated care, improvements in data science, young arrhythmia experts, and the emerging hybrid world of science communication change our professional lives. I want to help EHRA to integrate these trends to improve care for patients with arrhythmias. My interdisciplinary pan-European board and experts in electrophysiology, device therapy, digital cardiology, genetics, genomics, and translational arrhythmia research will strengthen EHRA through education, training, position papers and guidelines, congresses, and research support. Together, we will help EHRA to communicate globally and digitally, improve EHRA congresses and courses, and to start new initiatives.

Cooperating with industry and international regulators, I will dedicate all my experience, knowledge, and my networks to help EHRA grasp these opportunities for further growth and new activities. Thereby, EHRA will develop into the premier global organisation for arrhythmia care and research.



5. How will you combine your EHRA position with your daily clinical/research workload?

I am clinically active as director of the Department of Cardiology at the University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg. Together with my co-director Stefan Blankenberg, I lead a large cardiology department in one of the largest University Heart and Vascular Centers in Germany offering the full range of cardiovascular interventions and operations. Stefan and I share the administrative leadership of the department. We are responsible for a team of approximately 100 cardiologists in training and approximately 25 “Oberärztinnen und Oberärzte”, i.e. fully trained senior cardiologists. We split clinical responsibilities by disease areas: Stefan is responsible for our coronary and structural programmes, I am responsible for the heart failure, device, and arrhythmia programmes.

As EHRA president, I will dedicate a full 1.5 days per week to EHRA, using travel and digital platforms to communicate with staff, volunteers, researchers, and the wider public. I plan to continue clinical work throughout my EHRA presidency. Local support structures and care teams are in place that will enable me to reduce my workload in the University Heart and Vascular Center by delegating roles. Should I be elected as EHRA president, I will not seek another role in the ESC board, enabling me to dedicate all my weight to the cause of EHRA and freeing up time in my schedule. I will continue research leadership roles in clinical trials and international consortia, enabling me to give visibility to EHRA. My past record of multi-tasking may assure the selection committee that I will be able to deliver a successful EHRA presidency while continuing my clinical and research work in Hamburg and volunteer roles.

I want to contribute my authority and visibility in cardiovascular medicine and research to enable EHRA to thrive, defining arrhythmia care and research across specialties and professions and throughout the world. Working with a good group of people in the EHRA board, I want to help EHRA to become the premier global organisation for arrhythmia care and research.



6. Please list your conflicts of interest

- I have multiple, synergistic relations with stake holders in cardiovascular research and medicine, including public funders, industry, and learned societies. These are all publicly disclosed in papers and in my annual ESC doi declarations. I do not consider any of them a conflict of interest for my work as a clinician, as a researcher, or as a volunteer.
- Direct personal payments (speaker fees, honoraria, advisory board fees, consultancy, investigator...)
 - None from industry.
 - I receive payments from academic institutions, e.g. speaker fees or fees for work on trial boards.
- Payments to your institution (speaker fees, honoraria, advisory board fees, consultancy, activities executed by your department for the sponsor or investigator initiated and funded by an unconditional grant from the sponsor...)
 - Several companies pay speaker, advisory board, or consultancy fees to my institution, compensating for the lost work time. Each of these is <10k Euro / year.
 - Several companies and public funders support investigator-initiated and other clinical trials and other research projects led by myself or by others in my institution, some of them providing institutional support >100k Euro / year.
 - My institution (UHZ) is active in clinical trials. Patient fees and payments are made to my institution for these activities from companies and from public funders.
- Receipts of royalties for intellectual property: none. I am listed as inventor on two patents owned by the University of Birmingham and granted in Europe. These have not been licensed.

Position of influence declaration:

- I do not have direct shareholding or direct financial interest in healthcare, media, education companies or companies in relationship (suppliers or in competition with ESC or in contradiction with ESC mission).
- I am a full time employee of the Department of Cardiology, University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg, Germany. This constitutes a position of influence in the center.
- I am a member of the current ESC board.
- I am a member of the German Cardiac Society and the speaker of the board of AFNET.
- I am lead investigator or steering committee member of several clinical trials and a member or partner of national and international research consortia.