



Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I take on the challenge of being candidate for EHRA presidency.

EHRA has steadily grown from its conception in 2004 and has undoubtedly become the most relevant heart rhythm association in Europe and one of the leading professional societies worldwide. With its 3500 paying members we belong to one of the strongest associations within the ESC, the world's leading cardiological society. Structured within the ESC's model of five pillars (Advocacy, Education, Congress, Membership and Research) EHRA plays a crucial role in providing state of the art education, scientific documents, certification, interaction with national cardiac societies, fellowship programs, organization of independent research, transparent collaboration between health care providers and industry. Our mission is "to improve the quality of life of the population by reducing the impact of cardiac rhythm disturbances and reduce sudden cardiac death". For any such activity it is of crucial importance to maintain a high level of excellence and to keep it centered around the needs of its valued members so that their voice is heard and respected. You are the key to success!

My activities for EHRA date back to 2011. In addition to the attached CV let me briefly cite some formative experiences:

Starting with the *Web-Committee* from 2011-2015 I was involved in digital communication right from the beginning and in creating a patient website for AF. Having co-chaired the *Scientific Program Committee* from 2015-2018 I have gathered a lot of valuable experience within the association, particularly in the scientific preparation of the Annual EHRA Congresses (Nice in 2016, Vienna in 2017 and Barcelona in 2018). This enormously promoted my organisational skills in how to organize such a big event with thousands of colleagues from Europe and around the world and thus strengthened my international network.

Having served as *Treasurer* from 2018-2020 in the Executive Board (the democratic elected "backbone" of our association) provided deep insights into the opportunities, challenges and needs of an association that is tied to a larger society, the ESC. In addition, challenges due to the changed environment for sponsoring events by industry (Medtech regulations) fostered my knowledge regarding financial affairs and how to cooperate with both the ESC and the industry partners to organize various grants and thus support young peers and colleagues specifically from low income countries in Europe.

I am currently serving as the *International Affairs Coordinator* where I stay in tight and

continuous collaboration with respective international Sister Societies (e.g. HRS in the United States, APHRS in the Asian-Pacific area and LAHRS in Latin America). In addition, being also the *Chair of the Membership Pillar* I stay in close contact with the chairs of the Young EP and the National Cardiac Societies Committee within EHRA.

All in all, I have been heavily involved with EHRA in recent years and I know very well how this association works internally. Even more important, I have met many colleagues, worked with them, learned from them, enjoyed life together and became friends. I have contributed my part and on the other hand I have been given the chance to know fantastic people from many geographies, all with the differences, but at the end, all with similar expectations and concerns in life.

What are my strategic goals as the future EHRA president?

EHRA is a big **family** of independent educators, creative and integer scientists and empathic clinicians. I am an **integrative** and **inclusive** personality, I simply like people and can bring them together! We need you all!

Serving as the President-Elect and future EHRA president would allow me to:

- 1) Foster **unity** within EHRA/ESC, within Europe and across the world. Societies that belong to EHRA-ESC represent a universe of cultures, countries and diverse needs. Being united in its diversity will make EHRA stronger. Even more, I would continuously fight for **equality** between sex, age, socio-economic differences and patients' implications. My specific attention would be directed to leverage **female** participation, include specifically the **young** generation and integrate the less privileged or **underserved** countries and
- 2) Ensure that the 5 pillars (**Advocacy, Education, Congress, Membership and Research**) uphold EHRA for the next years. This is a huge task that can only be managed with the active participation of many highly motivated colleagues, in particular the EHRA Board .
- 3) Further enhance **digital technology** to create new opportunities of education and research and to quickly adapt in a pandemic situation

Let me add some personal aspects to my application:

Becoming a physician was the best decision in my life. Making patients feel better still gives me a lot of satisfaction, I simply love to talk with patients, feel their joys, sorrows , hopes and offer my personal skills and knowledge to improve their situation. I am still involved in patient visits, device implantations and I perform ablation procedures on a daily basis in the largest and one of the most respected EP centers in Austria (700 ablations and 500 device implants projected for 2022). Medicine is a fascinating mixture of knowledge, skills and experience. Even more: it is a constant source of inspiration: Never stop learning, never stop adapting in such a rapidly changing environment!

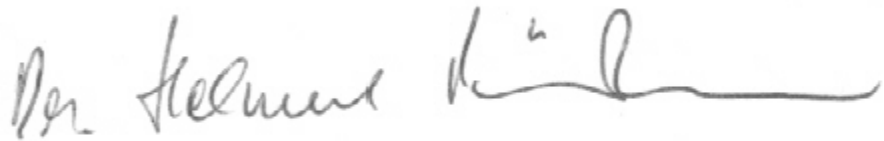
I am deeply thankful for the broad respect and friendship I receive from colleagues and peers all over the world. And I have learned over the years of my medical education and practice that team work is a key to success. Responding to feedbacks, taking criticism and suggestions seriously will enable us to build new opportunities with enthusiasm and perseverance.

My contribution to the EHRA Executive Board and my future Presidency 2024-2026 will

be guided by these insights. In case of being elected , I would commit all my capacities for this duty and justify the trust I was granted. At this point in my career, I feel that I am up to this task by now.

Away from medicine, I spend as much time as possible with my family, I am married since 1990 and we have 3 now adult kids. I am fond of sport (biking and hiking) with a history of competitive athleticism (running) in my youth. I love music, I am a singer, guitar player and the president of a choir.

Why not becoming the **President** of a big orchestra, which is **EHRA**?!
I count on your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Helmut H. H." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Linz, 01-Dec-2021