

European Society of Cardiology
Prof. Stephan Achenbach
Past-President
Chair of the Nominating Committee 2022-2024
2035, Route des Colles
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Bern, 21 November 2023

Motivation letter – ESC Elections 2024

Dear Prof Achenbach
Dear members of the election panel

With this letter of intent, I wish to submit my application for the position as **Secretary/Treasurer** for the upcoming ESC election 2024.

Currently, I serve as Chairman and Professor at the Department of Cardiology, Bern University Hospital, which represents the largest tertiary care facility in Cardiovascular Medicine in Switzerland. In this capacity, I have the responsibility for the entire cardiology service including the subspecialties prevention, cardiac imaging, electrophysiology, heart failure, and percutaneous treatment of coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, stroke prevention and pulmonary embolism. The Department of Cardiology is part of the Cardiovascular Center Bern that comprises the Departments of Cardiac Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Angiology, which shares a common administrative lead and has strong interdisciplinary collaborations. As clinician-scientist my principal research interests focus on clinical trials for the evaluation of intracoronary devices and drugs for the treatment of coronary artery disease, antithrombotic therapy for patients requiring cardiac device implantation, and research related to minimal-invasive heart valve treatment including transcatheter aortic, mitral and tricuspid valve interventions.

During the past decade, I have had the opportunity to serve in various roles within the ESC that have enabled me to appreciate the mission, professionalism, structure, diversity and culture of the society. In 2013, I had the privilege to chair a Task Force proposing a revision of the EU medical device advisory document on the evaluation of coronary stents. The output of this Task Force resulted in recommendations on the future evaluation of coronary artery stents and bioresorbable scaffolds that have been published as executive summary in the European Heart Journal. During the period 2014-2016, I had the opportunity to serve as President of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Medicine (EAPCI). During this tenure, the EAPCI fellow's review course, the EAPCI scientific documents committee and the Valve-for-Life initiative were established. In 2016, ESC President Jeroen Bax appointed me Chairman of the ESC Clinical Practice Guideline Committee, a position that

was renewed by ESC President Barbara Casadei in 2018 for a second term. In this position, I had been tasked to oversee the lifecycle of numerous ESC guideline documents, introduce term limits for Task Force chairs and members, update the DOI policy for TF chairs and members, initiate the participation of patients in the guideline development process and revise the guideline content in close collaboration with the ESC Textbook on Cardiovascular Medicine. In 2020, ESC President Stephan Achenbach appointed me to chair the ESC Clinical Program Committee with the responsibility to prepare and execute the 2021 ESC Digital Congress and to lead the preparation of the in-person and on-line 2022 ESC Congress in Barcelona after the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2022, I was elected Vice-President of the ESC responsible for Working Groups and Councils as well as the organization of the CRT roundtable dedicated to the topic of Medical Devices. Throughout this experience within the ESC, I had the opportunity to interact across various subspecialties, associations, working groups, councils and the ESC journal family.

In view of the familiarity with budgetary rules and institutional regulations within one of the largest medical departments at my home institution, it will be a privilege to assume fiscal and governance responsibilities in the role as Secretary/Treasurer of the ESC. Moreover, my knowledge of various ESC entities including my previous leadership role as President of EAPCI will facilitate interaction with ESC staff and further build on the strengths of the society.

It would be a privilege to serve the ESC in the role as **Secretary/Treasurer** to further advance the development of our society and support the ESC Board in the implementation of its strategic plan.

I will be at your disposal in case of remaining questions

Sincerely

Prof. Stephan Windecker