

Holger Thiele, MD, FESC – Motivation to run for ESC Councillor position:

I am highly convinced, that we have huge advantages by having the ESC as the strong umbrella organization of the National Societies of Cardiology in the European and Mediterranean countries, the ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils.

I am member of the German Society of Cardiology (DGK) and therefore also member of the ESC since 1999. I have held various positions within the DGK for many years including being president of the German society from 2023 to 2025. As the past president I am currently still a member of the board of directors.

In my presidency of the DGK I have been the main driver to build the German National Heart Alliance (NHA) bringing together all cardiovascular German societies including the German patient organization (Deutsche Herzstiftung) and the German Heart Research Center (DZHK). The NHA is working on building a national cardiovascular health plan in close collaboration with the German Health Ministry and also the ESC. I am currently the German ambassador for the ESC Cardiopolicy group working on the EU cardiovascular health plan.

Among the multiple activities within the DGK and ESC, I would like to continue to work for a strong ESC scientifically, academically and politically in Europe.

During the last decade I have gained experience and deep insights with many aspects of ESC including many meetings with the board of directors of the ESC. I am therefore highly motivated to run for a Councillor position to support the newly elected president and the board of the ESC in the leadership in next years.

I herewith express my strong willingness to devote the required time, energy, and leadership capacity to the Councillor role.

I have a strong belief in **transparent governance, collegial collaboration, and service to the ESC community.**

My vision and major future strategic challenges for the ESC:

- **EU Cardiovascular Health Plan:** Help in the future development and implementation in all ESC countries.
- **Cardiovascular Research Funding:** Support in funding acquisition and increasing cardiovascular health research budget within the EU.
- **Research + Innovation:** Advocate for stronger pan-European research infrastructures. Encourage engagement in large-scale ESC registries, clinical trials, and real-world data initiatives.
- **ESC strategy:** Support in implementation but also start to prepare a new one within the next term 2026-2028.
- **Healthcare Policy & Patient Outcomes:** Strengthen ESC influence in European health policy. Encourage evidence-based public health approaches and collaborative advocacy efforts.
- **Digitalization:** AI is disrupting many of ESCs core products. Support in digital transformation, innovation, and data-driven medicine in cardiology.
- **Associations, WG's and Councils:** Advocacy in avoiding fragmentation of the ESC and nudge these entities to stronger collaboration.
- **Guidelines:** Support in evolution of the high quality and possible faster update in a fast digitalized environment.
- **ESC Congress + association congresses:** Backbone of the ESC and its associations. Support in program development and promotion to secure the ESC annual congress as the largest congress in the world.
- **Expanding ESC with affiliate societies:** ESC needs continued collaboration with **affiliate societies** in US, Asia, South America and Africa to expand visibility and the ESC business.
- **Diversity, Equity + Inclusion:** Promote inclusive policies representing geography, gender, career stage, and clinical backgrounds. Support initiatives for early-career cardiologists and underrepresented groups.