

Tomasz J Guzik; MD PhD; FESC

MOTIVATION LETTER – APPLICATION FOR ESC COUNCILLOR

It is a privilege to apply for the position of Councillor of the European Society of Cardiology. Over the past years, through roles spanning the ESC Research & Grants Committee, ESC Publications Committee, Editorial leadership of *Cardiovascular Research*, and now as Chair of the ESC Congress Programme Committee, I have gained an in-depth understanding of both the strengths and the evolving needs of our Society. This experience has strengthened my motivation to contribute to the strategic development of the ESC as ESC Councillor and to support its mission with renewed energy and a clear forward-looking vision.

My career has been shaped by a commitment to scientific excellence, the integration of discovery science with clinical care, and the development of a cohesive European cardiovascular community. As a clinician scientist working across Poland, USA and the United Kingdom, I have witnessed first-hand the diversity of contexts in which European and global cardiology operates. This has reinforced my belief that ESC's success depends on its ability to include, support and empower all member countries ensuring that opportunities, visibility, and participation are shared equitably across Europe.

If elected Councillor, I would focus my efforts on the following key areas:

- **Strengthening the ESC's scientific and research mission, integrating basic, translational, and clinical cardiovascular science.** Building on my previous leadership in the Research & Grants Committee, I will work to expand competitive, high-quality research funding mechanisms, support early-career investigators, and develop partnerships with European funding agencies to increase research capacity without increasing costs to the Society. The ESC's ability to unite discovery and clinical practice is one of its greatest assets across Congress, journals, educational programmes, and digital platforms, ensuring that scientific innovation directly accelerates clinical progress. Only through sustained investment in global, collaborative research initiatives can the ESC continue to expand its already exceptional influence on cardiovascular science and clinical practice across the world.
- **Advancing the global standing of ESC Journals.** As Editor-in-Chief of *Cardiovascular Research* and former Chair of the ESC Publications Committee, I am committed to supporting a unified publications strategy that strengthens scientific impact, ensures editorial excellence, and promotes the unique identity and leading position of ESC journals worldwide.
- **Enhancing the inclusiveness and cohesion of ESC member societies.** Strengthening representation of Central and Eastern European countries has been a longstanding priority in my work. I will continue to promote mechanisms that support active participation of smaller societies and help build a more balanced and truly pan-European ESC community.
- **Supporting innovations for the ESC Congress.** Having led the Programme Committee, I would be able to support new leadership in development of formats, integration of AI, and further developing alignment of congress activities with broad research and scientific focus of our Society
- **Supporting ESC's advocacy mission.** My engagement with European institutions, policymakers, and scientific funders has shown how essential advocacy is for shaping the future of cardiovascular health. I will work to strengthen ESC's influence in health policy, research strategy, and public engagement.

Throughout my career, I have worked to foster collaboration, build consensus, mentor the next generation, and bring scientific communities together. I would be honoured to dedicate my experience, judgement, and commitment to the service of the ESC Board. I believe deeply in the strength and the future of the ESC and I am motivated to contribute to its continued growth, scientific excellence, and global leadership.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,

Tomasz J. Guzik, MD PhD FESC