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Madrid, 6th December 2025

Application for the Position of Councillor of the European Society of Cardiology

With this letter, I respectfully submit my candidacy for the position of Councillor of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

Having dedicated two decades to serving the ESC ecosystem—culminating in my recent tenure as **EHRA President (2022–2024)**—I feel the time is right to bring this accumulated experience to the ESC Board. My goal is simple: to foster a Society that is united in its mission yet deeply respectful of the diverse realities of its National Societies and Associations.

My journey has been defined by a passion for **integration and strategic mapping**. As EHRA President, I was proud to fuel and serve as senior author of the **2025 ESC/EHRA Atlas of Heart Rhythm Disorders**. This project was a massive collaborative effort involving 51 National Cardiac Societies to map the real-world disparities in arrhythmia care. This experience reinforced my conviction that the ESC cannot simply issue guidelines; we must also provide the "maps" to help countries navigate their specific healthcare constraints. As Councillor, I will use this experience to drive initiatives that are practically implementable across our diverse geography.

Parallel to this, I am committed to bridging the gap between sub-specialty science and general clinical practice. I have always believed in setting universal standards, from driving the **2024 update of the EHRA Core Curriculum** to leading the recent **EHRA Practical Compendium on Antiarrhythmic Drugs**. By modernizing the classification of medical therapies, I aimed to provide a tool that is as useful to the general clinical cardiologist as it is to the specialist. Currently, serving as **Executive Editor of Europace** allows me to further ensure that our scientific output remains rigorous yet accessible. I intend to bring this dual focus—educational rigor and broad clinical relevance—to the ESC Board.

I am a firm believer in the **"One ESC" vision**—where strong sub-specialty Associations contribute to, rather than compete with, the main Society. My track record proves that I can lead a sub-specialty to record growth (EHRA membership exceeded 4,500 during my mandate) while remaining deeply integrated within the ESC family.

Finally, those who know me know that I view this service not as a title, but as a commitment. Balancing high-level clinical work, research, and society duties requires a supportive environment; I am lucky to have a family—my wife and four children—who keep me grounded. I still love football, though these days I have traded playing for watching the European Championships. However, the passion remains the same, as does the joy of playfully debating the results with my colleagues from across Europe. These moments remind me that beneath our professional titles, we are a community of friends.

I am eager to work side by side with you to keep improving our Society for the benefit of our patients and our profession.