

Curriculum Vitae

Paulus Kirchhof, MD

Application for the position of Councillor

Personal Information:

Place and Date of Birth: Karlsruhe, Germany, 31 May 1969

Nationality: German



Current Position and Professional Address

Director, Department of Cardiology,
University Heart and Vascular Center Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
Martinistraße 52, 20246 Hamburg, Germany

Education and Postgraduate Training

since 2020	Director, Department of Cardiology, University Heart and Vascular Center UKE Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
2011 – 2020	Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK (full-time)
2011 – 2020	Cardiology Consultant at SWBH NHS trust and at UHB NHS trust (from 2015), Birmingham, UK
2011 – 2020	registered by the UK General Medical Council as cardiologist (currently without active license)
2011	Board Exam for Intensive Care (“Zusatzbezeichnung Intensivmedizin”, ÄKWL)
2006 – 2011	Attending physician / staff grade physician (“Oberarzt”), Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, University Hospital Münster, Germany
2006	Board Exam for Cardiology (“Schwerpunktbezeichnung Kardiologie”, ÄKWL)
2004	Board Exam for Medicine („Internist“, Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe (ÄKWL))
1997 – 2004	Training in Medicine and Cardiology at the University Hospital Münster, Germany (Director: Günter Breithardt, MD)
1997	National Board Exam in Medicine (“Sehr Gut”, within best 5% of applicants)

European Society of Cardiology Activities

2016-2024	Board member of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC, non-elected)
	Chair of the ESC education committee 2016 – 2020
	Chair of the ESC membership committee 2020 – 2022
	Chair of the ESC declarations of interest committee 2022 - 2024

2013-2016	Responsible for the University Courses in the European Heart Academy of the ESC, Brussels
2009-2018	Board member of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)
since 2003	Member of the EHRA and of HFA
since 1999	Member of the German Cardiology Society and the ESC

Participation in Other International Scientific Committees

n.a.

Editorial Boards

Editorial Board Member, European Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology

Previous roles in editorial boards of Europace, Heart Rhythm, and Heart

Leadership and Management Experience

Non-elected member in previous ESC boards from 2016 – 2024 and in previous EHRA boards from 2007 – 2018. Twenty-five years of experience in university and hospital committees in Münster, Birmingham, and Hamburg.

Director, Department of Cardiology, University Heart and Vascular Center UKE Hamburg since 2020. I share that role with Stefan Blankenberg. This allows me to dedicate sufficient time to work effectively in the ESC Board.

Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Birmingham 2018 – 2020. I was founding member and deputy director of the Institute in 2016 before becoming director in 2018 (approximately 100 research staff).

Member of the Board of the College of Medical and Dental Sciences at the University of Birmingham and of Birmingham Health Partners, the umbrella organization of Birmingham University and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

Successful management of publicly funded experimental and clinical research projects since 2000 in Münster, Birmingham and Hamburg including lead applicant in EU-funded research consortia (h2020, IHI), international investigator-initiated trials and a BHF Accelerator award. Partner and co-applicant in several EU consortia, Leducq Foundation Transatlantic Networks of Excellence and in two collaborative research centers (CRC 556 and CRC 656, both in Münster) funded the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Speaker of the Board of the Atrial Fibrillation Network (AFNET), a not-for-profit academic research organization in Germany. AFNET cooperates with ESC and EHRA since 2007 through joint AFNET/EHRA consensus conferences, joint sessions at congresses and in collaborative research projects, e.g. the EU-funded consortia CATCH ME, MAESTRIA, and AF-B-STEP.

Fellowships and Honours

Fellowships

Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (FESC) and of the European Heart Rhythm Association (FEHRA)

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh (FRCP)

Honours

2024	Silver Medal of the European Society of Cardiology
2016	Franz Loogen Prize for Cardiovascular Research, Loogen Foundation and Westdeutsches Herz- und Gefäßzentrum Essen
2006	Bruno Kisch prize, German Society of Cardiology
2005	Sibylle-Hahne price for Medicine, University of Münster

2004	Woldemar-Mobitz prize, German Society of Cardiology
2000	Dissertation prize, Heart Center Münster, Germany
1992	Member of the Cusanuswerk, alumnus since 1997

Honorary Memberships

Honorary Member of the Rumanian Society of Cardiology

Top 10 Most Relevant Publications

Over 600 papers on PubMed. h index 136 (google) or 126 (web of science) checked in November 2025. Inclusion in the Clarivate list of highly cited researchers from 2016 to 2024.

1. Fabritz L, Chua W, Cardoso VR, ..., Kirchhof P. Blood-based cardiometabolic phenotypes in atrial fibrillation and their associated risk: EAST-AFNET 4 biomolecule study. *Cardiovasc Res.* 2024; doi:10.1093/cvr/cvae067
2. Becher N, Metzner A, Toennis T, Kirchhof P, Schnabel RB. Atrial fibrillation burden: a new outcome predictor and therapeutic target. *Eur Heart J.* 2024;45(31):2824-2838. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehae373
3. Kirchhof P, Toennis T, Goette A, ... Zapf A, for the NOAH-AFNET 6 investigators. Anticoagulation with Edoxaban in Patients with Atrial High-Rate Episodes. *N Engl J Med.* 2023;389(13):1167-1179. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2303062
4. Willems S, Borof K, Brandes A, ..., Kirchhof P. Systematic, early rhythm control strategy for atrial fibrillation in patients with or without symptoms: the EAST-AFNET 4 trial *Eur Heart J* 2022;43(12):1219-1230. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehab593.
5. Kirchhof P, Camm AJ, Goette A, ..., Breithardt G, for the EAST-AFNET 4 investigators. Early Rhythm-Control Therapy in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;383(14):1305-1316. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2019422
6. Kotecha D, Bunting K, Gill S, ..., Kirchhof P. Effect of Digoxin vs Bisoprolol for Heart Rate Control in Atrial Fibrillation on Patient-Reported Quality of Life: The RATE-AF Randomized Clinical Trial *JAMA* 2020;324(24):2497-2508. doi: 10.1001/jama.2020.23138.
7. Kirchhof P, Benussi S, Kotecha D, ..., Zeppenfeld K. 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS. *Eur Heart J.* 2016;37(38):2893-2962. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehw210
8. Kirchhof P, Andresen D, Bosch R, ..., Breithardt G. Short-term versus long-term antiarrhythmic drug treatment after cardioversion of atrial fibrillation (Flec-SL): a prospective, randomised, open-label, blinded endpoint assessment trial. *Lancet.* 2012;380(9838):238-46. doi:S0140-6736(12)60570-4
9. Fabritz L, Hoogendijk MG, Scicluna BP, ..., Kirchhof P. Load-reducing therapy prevents development of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy in plakoglobin-deficient mice. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* Feb 8 2011;57(6):740-50. doi:S0735-1097(10)04715-7 [pii] 10.1016/j.jacc.2010.09.046
10. Kirchhof P, Eckardt L, Loh P, ..., Borggrefe M. Anterior-posterior versus anterior-lateral electrode positions for external cardioversion of atrial fibrillation: a randomised trial. *Lancet.* 2002;360(9342):1275-9.

Major Research Interest

Team science from genetic defects and disease mechanisms to clinical trials. Main research topics are atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathies, and sudden death. Our translational research in interdisciplinary and international cooperations involves mechanistic research efforts, definition of clinical proxies for disease mechanisms, guideline-changing clinical trials and more recently data science and AI. Our core expertise is the heart muscle and its interaction with other body systems.