

## Letter of motivation for ESC Vice President – Steffen E Petersen

I am applying for the position of Vice President of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) for 2026–2028. I am a Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at Queen Mary University of London, Consultant Cardiologist at Barts Heart Centre, and Interim Director of the British Heart Foundation Data Science Centre. I am a Fellow of the ESC and have been actively involved for over a decade. Over this period, I have contributed across domains central to the Vice President role: education, congress and event organisation, research, guidelines, scientific documents and advocacy. Within the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), I have served as President and chaired the EACVI Congress Scientific Programme Committee and the European CMR Exam Board. At ESC level, I have been a Board member (2022–2024), member of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee, and now serve on the Data Science Committee (co-leading the Public Health Research Group), the Membership Committee (Chair, Task Force Associations) and as Editor of ESC TV Today. These roles give me a strong understanding of the organisation and its constituent bodies, and experience in translating Board strategy into concrete programmes that benefit our members and patients.

My clinical and scientific work has helped shape cardiovascular imaging, population-level imaging science and the use of artificial intelligence and data science in cardiovascular medicine, working with resources such as UK Biobank. I bring extensive leadership experience in managing multidisciplinary teams and complex collaborations. I lead the Centre for Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging at Queen Mary University of London, have served on international Boards and committees (including the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance), and chair major trial steering and data safety monitoring committees. In these positions, I have been exposed to budgetary, legal and governance issues, and have worked closely with partners, funders and policy-makers – experience relevant to the responsibilities of an ESC Vice President as a liaison between the Board, ESC constituencies and external stakeholders.

Equally important are the values and behaviours I bring. Colleagues have told me I help bring people together, listen to different perspectives, and seek consensus wherever possible. When consensus cannot be reached, I communicate decisions transparently and respectfully, including to those with other views. Having lived and worked in different European settings, I am mindful of cultural, linguistic and system differences across our community and strive to create inclusive environments where people feel heard and valued.

As Vice President, I would support the President and Board in delivering the ESC strategic plan, with particular commitment to: strengthening links between ESC and its Associations, Working Groups, Councils and National Cardiac Societies; advancing the ESC's leadership in the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan including pioneering in digital health, data science and imaging; and ensuring that our educational, congress and advocacy activities remain high quality, accessible and relevant to our diverse membership. I am prepared to dedicate the time and energy required for this role and to represent the ESC with integrity and enthusiasm. I would be honoured to serve as Vice President and to continue working with colleagues across Europe and globally to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.