

Letter of Motivation – Application for the ESC Nominating Committee (DGK Nominee)

I am honoured to be nominated by the German Cardiac Society (DGK) as a candidate for the ESC Nominating Committee. As nominee of one of the largest and most active National Cardiac Societies in Europe, I accept this nomination with a clear sense of responsibility: the selection of future ESC leaders will shape the scientific direction, credibility, and cohesion of our Society for years to come.

My motivation to serve rests on three principles:

1. Leadership selection must reflect scientific excellence, integrity, and European balance.

Through my long-standing engagement in the ESC, I have gained deep insight into how leadership choices influence strategy, guideline development, and the visibility of emerging areas such as cardiomyopathies, myocarditis, heart failure, and digital diagnostics. My involvement in ESC consensus and position papers, as well as editorial work for major cardiovascular journals, has given me a broad overview of the scientific landscape and of the qualities required from those who guide the Society.

2. Independence and experience are essential for this role.

My clinical and translational work at Charité/BIH, where I lead multidisciplinary platforms in cardiomyopathy and heart failure, has been closely linked to mentoring early-career colleagues and coordinating cross-disciplinary collaborations. This has taught me to evaluate candidates not only by academic output, but also by integrity, teamwork, and their ability to contribute constructively to the ESC community. I would bring an unbiased, Europe-minded perspective, committed to transparent decision-making and to representing the diversity of cardiovascular subspecialties.

3. Representation and renewal must be intentional.

In recent years, I have organised and co-led high-profile international meetings under the ESC umbrella, including major Working Group activities and upcoming events such as the 2026 Berlin meeting, bringing together experts from across Europe and beyond. These experiences have reinforced how important it is that ESC leadership reflects geographical diversity, generational renewal, and a balance between clinical and translational expertise.

My own work has recently been recognised through the **HFA Philip A. Poole-Wilson Lecture in 2024** and the forthcoming **Prof. Brutsaert Lecture at the ESC/HFA Winter Meeting on Translational Heart Failure**. These honours underline not only my scientific contribution in heart failure and myocardial disease, but also my long-standing commitment to the ESC and its mission. They demonstrate my readiness to contribute at a level where leadership identification and strategic continuity are crucial.

If elected to the Nominating Committee, I would approach the task with independence, fairness, and a strong commitment to the long-term excellence of the ESC. It would be a privilege to support the Committee in identifying leaders who combine scientific depth, integrity, and a genuinely European vision.

Respectfully submitted,

Carsten Tschöpe