

## **Mike Morrissey – Motivation Statement for the ESC CRT Nucleus election**

This Nucleus election is taking place in a new era for cardiovascular health in Europe and for ESC, thanks to the EU Safe Hearts Plan. After many years of our community advocating for this initiative, the Plan was announced last December, and it is now in its implementation phase.

For this reason, I believe that it would be relevant for one of the representatives of the ESC CRT Nucleus to be a Policy representative of industry. I lead European Public Policy for MSD in Brussels and played a role within EFPIA and directly with the EU Commission in the shaping of the Safe Hearts Plan. I'm now engaged in the next steps on a European and national basis, working closely with Medical Affairs and Policy colleagues across Europe. I regularly engage with leading policy-makers and politicians at the EU, including MEPs, Commissioners and EU officials.

I was very fortunate to work for ESC at the European Heart House in Sophia Antipolis, France as their first Chief Operating Officer from 2016-2019. Among my responsibilities then were the organization of the ESC Congress, as well as staff leadership of the ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils. I worked closely with colleagues leading Scientific Affairs and Industry Relations, as well as volunteer leaders who are still at ESC today and believe it is the organisation that can ensure that the delivery of the Safe Hearts Plan is a success for patients and citizens across Europe.

I left ESC to become the Chief Executive of the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) from 2019-2024, during the launch of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and participated in the consultation process and implementation of the Plan. As a result, I have first-hand experience of the hurdles that can appear during these EU Plans, which could be helpful for the ESC CRT to consider during this crucial phase. During this period, I was elected President of the European Society of Association Executives (ESAE) from 2021-2024, representing members from different trade and professional associations across business sectors. Similarly, if elected to the CRT Nucleus, I would be available to represent the views and interests of all members.

At MSD, in addition to leading our work on cardiovascular health at the EU level, I have responsibility for all public policy issues – including the impact of the Most Favored Nation policy in the US and co-ordination of all policies within EFPIA. The challenges we face for ongoing patient access to innovative medicines and clinical trials are very significant and will require industry collaboration with medical societies, patient groups, national governments and healthcare systems to ensure that we are seen as a strategic partner, rather than a vendor. The contribution our industry makes to the health, security and economy of Europe can not be overestimated and through partnership we will be able to navigate the future of cardiovascular health together.

It would be an honour to serve as a member of the ESC CRT Nucleus working alongside ESC Board members and fellow industry partners. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call before you vote, please reach out to me: [mike.morrissey@msd.com](mailto:mike.morrissey@msd.com) Thank you.

**Mike Morrissey, Associate Vice President, European Public Policy, MSD**