

14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Prof Tomasz J Guzik MD, PhD, FRCP, FACP**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

***A letter of motivation outlining how I may contribute to the ESC as a Board Member***

Prof Barbara Casadei  
ESC Immediate Past President  
Chair of Nominating Committee  
of the ESC

Dear Prof Casadei,  
Dear Committee,

Thank you for considering my application for nomination for the position of Councillor of the Board of the ESC. As required, the nomination has been provided by the British Cardiac Society, Polish Cardiac Society, Council of Basic Cardiovascular Science, and Council on Hypertension. I have also received additional support from the Romanian Cardiac Society.

It is an honour, as during the past 4 years, as an ex-officio member of the Board of the ESC, I had an opportunity to observe many important and exciting initiatives of the Society.

I believe I fulfil the essential criteria for the position of Councilor as outlined in the *profiling of board positions*:

1. I am currently a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology in good standing.
2. As evident from my involvement in work for cardiovascular journals, conferences and funding bodies, I have developed respect as a clinician-scientist in the field of cardiovascular medicine.
3. My work for the ESC Publications Committee and previous contributions to leading Research and Grants Committee attest to my good communication skills and the ability to engender consensus and manage conflicts.
4. Since 2008, I have led the Department of Internal Medicine at the Jagiellonian University. Since 2013 I have served as Regius Chair of Physiology and Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Glasgow, one of the important leadership positions at the University. I also lead the Editorial office of one of the key ESC Journals- Cardiovascular Research.
5. I served as President of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine (4000 members; 4 years) and Polish Society for Atherosclerosis. I am also currently the President of the Council of Trustees of the Foundation for Polish Science, Poland's most prestigious science funder. My roles within the ESC included chairing the Publications Committee and the Research and Grants Committee.
6. I am fluent in the use of the English language, written as well as spoken.

7. I am a competent team leader at the level of my research group and Department, which significantly contribute to scientific literature and teaching students. My work with the Cardiovascular Research team has led to a substantial increase in visibility and profile of the Journal, with its Impact Factor increasing to 10.3.
8. I regularly communicate and cooperate with staff and business leaders outside the medical field in my current roles. This includes politicians in both Poland, UK as well as on the level of the EU. I have been involved in numerous advocacy activities of the ESC, including meetings with the EU Commissioner for Science and Innovation and DOG Health.
9. As I have lived and worked in several different countries, I am very open-minded, respectful of the democratic process, and sensitive to international, cultural, religious and ethnic differences.

Through my interdisciplinary (basic, translational, and clinical experience) and international (Poland and UK) background, I would like to further contribute to the European Society of Cardiology. Thanks to this, I can identify myself and better understand the diversity of stakeholders within the ESC as a critical element of success.

Main selected areas, which I believe I could further contribute to the ESC include:

1. Develop Research Pillar of Strategic Plan of ESC development
2. Work to integrate basic science activities of the ESC with the clinical curriculum
3. Develop publication strategies and visibility of ESC Journals
4. Further development of the involvement of National Societies in ESC activities
5. Contribute to development of new formats within the ESC Congress
6. Support and develop advocacy activities of the ESC

Ad.1. Having worked as Chair of the Research and Grants Committee, I can appreciate that ESC aims to support research and clinical training excellence and manage innovation through investment in the young ESC community. This not only serves the main aims of the ESC but through supporting the training of young cardiologists ensures high standards in their future careers, helps to develop trans-European networks of interactions and hopefully makes these members and Departments closely linked to the ESC for the future.

I want to continue my engagement in this area to help develop new ways of supporting members via fellowships and grants to support research exchanges between ESC countries and Constituent bodies. It would be imperative to achieve increased involvement of the ESC Constituent bodies in the ESC Grants process. I would like to continue intensive work to establish COFUND mechanisms with national science funders. The Committee has initiated discussions with some of the key founders of CV research in Europe, including the EU Commission. As an experienced European investigator, I would like to work towards ESC, being a successful partner and a coordinator of EU funded international and interdisciplinary projects in cardiology. This would result in increased research and training spending without additional cost to the ESC.

Ad 2. ESC is the hub for cardiology knowledge dissemination Worldwide. The great success of increased integration of translational science in the ESC indicates that both Congress and other ESC activities can further integration of scientific and clinical aspects of Cardiology. The main motto of the Cardiovascular Research Journal under my leadership is "Scientific Discovery Driving Clinical Delivery."

Ad 3. As a current chair of the ESC Publications Committee and Editor in Chief of one of the top ESC Journals - *Cardiovascular Research*, I would like to develop the position of ESC Journals further worldwide. I am being involved in developing a new publications strategy and would be very interested in contributing to its implementation. CVR and EHJ belong to the most recognized Journals in cardiovascular sciences worldwide and are the European Society of Cardiology's most essential assets, supporting the overall mission of the Society. My application is an expression of interest in getting highly involved in further developing ESC Journals and further improving their visibility and already very high position. Through my work so far, I have a good understanding of the thought leaders and have built relationships to get insight and support as needed for activities of the ESC Board.

Ad 4. As a member of the British Cardiac Society and the Polish Cardiac Society, also working in the US for large parts of my professional life, I understand different priorities and needs related to Cardiology in different areas of the world represented within the ESC. I firmly believe that this diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the ESC and can be developed and built upon further. I would like to work towards increasing the involvement of East and Central European Countries in ESC activities while further consolidating the strengths of Southern and Western Europe.

Ad 5. ESC Congress has uniquely evolved during the past difficult and challenging years. The new opening of the World is a unique opportunity to create new formats that will attract more participants to the congress. This can include initiatives such as "hyde-park type sessions" aimed on discussion of most recently published controversial findings. Second key example is to provide some basic/translational context to key clinical problems in integrated sessions in which communicative basic researchers would briefly introduce the problem to clinicians.

Ad.6. My work for the ESC and the CVR Journal has shown to me how important advocacy is for ensuring societal impact of our work. I have experience in interacting with key stakeholders – patients, politicians, business as well as academics. Our experiences of COVID-19 have shown how much can be achieved when these entities work together.

In summary, I can build and develop professional relationships, as indicated throughout my professional life. My strategic thinking ability has been developed and supported by leadership roles and involvement with several International and National Societies. At the same time, I have good attention to detail and the right balance between delegation and the ability to work hard/do it yourself. I believe that such balance is essential for productive and fruitful work for the Board of the ESC. I am very motivated to devote part of my time to the successful development of ESC as part of the ESC Board.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Tomasz J. Guzik, FESC