

## **Christian Hassager – Motivation to run for an ESC councillor position:**

I am convinced that we all gain a lot by having the ESC as the mother-organization of the National Societies of Cardiology in the European and Mediterranean countries and of the Associations, Working Groups and Councils of the ESC. And I would like to continue to work for a strong ESC – both scientifically and politically in Europe. This is a delicate balance against the sovereignty of the associations and working groups that may need even more focus.

I started my engagement in ESC during my membership in EuroEcho/ESCVI 20 years ago as head of an Echolab at a university hospital in Copenhagen. I served as local host for the EuroEcho meeting in Copenhagen in 2010. My career changed toward intensive cardiac care and I have therefore been an active member of ESCs Association for Acute CardioVascular Care (ACVC) during the last decade. I am now president of ACVC. I have hereby gained experience with many aspects of ESC and learned how leadership in the ESC is very important for carrying out our mission and goals of our Society. I am therefore very motivated to join the ESC Board as a councillor to fulfil this task in the future.

I have also been active on a national level with organisational work in societies dealing with cardiology and gained a large experience from this. I have been board member of the Danish Society of Cardiology for a total of 8 years. I have chaired our WG on Echocardiography as well as our WG on acute cardiac care. I served as President of the Danish Society of Cardiology from 2010-2012, chair of the Danish Resuscitation Council from 2019-2021, and I am currently Chair of a large patient organisation: The Danish Heart Foundation.

I work as professor and consultant at Copenhagen University Hospital Rigshospitalet.

## **Vision and major future strategic challenges that I see for the ESC:**

- we should improve further the relation between the **ESC and the National Societies** - perhaps by identifying promising young leaders together with National Societies and give them concrete roles in ESC.
- **Associations, WG's and Councils** may need more focus and acknowledgement as the scientific and clinical engine in our society. We must be careful to avoid fragmentation of our Society.
- The **Guidelines** are one of our backbones in ESC. We must keep their high quality, but I think there is room for more collaborations with Associations, WG's and Councils here.
- Regarding **education** and **certification**, we must work for a closer contact to EU and the national regulators. We should continue our outstanding webinar services.
- the **ESC Congress** and **the association congresses** are very important for our Society and the economical surplus from these are instrumental for other ESC projects. We are in a learning phase right now regarding how we should build our hybrid meetings in the future. This will be one of our most important decisions the next 2 years.
- ESC needs continued collaboration with our **affiliate societies** in US, Asia, South America and Africa. We must keep a clear and open policy here.
- Finally, we need to further develop our membership models. Our business plan will go through turbulent times and much focus is needed here. I do not have the answer here, but I would very much like to take active part in these discussions.

If I am elected as a councillor of the ESC I will try to keep the focus on the above issues.