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Chairman, ESC Nominating Committee
ESC Past President

Motivation Letter

For almost 30 years I have served and known the ESC, the largest and most highly recognized Cardiac Society worldwide.

What I have truly appreciated is the Spirit of the Society, based on excellence, but also friendship, personal exchange, and mutual support.

My background

I have always been involved in clinical medicine with an education in cardiological medicine. Graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Cardiology at the University of Pavia (Italy) in 1987 and 1991 respectively, in 1996 I obtained the **Phylosophy Doctor Degree at Imperial College London (UK)**.

I worked as a resident in cardiology at the Department of Internal Medicine of the University of Pavia, and subsequently at the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine of the University of **Oxford (UK)** and the Department of Cardiology of Imperial College, **London (UK)** studying the pathophysiology of arterial hypertension, dilated heart disease in decompensation, and the neuroendocrine control of the cardiovascular system.

I hold the Italian Ministry of University and Research **Full Professorship Qualification**, for the sector of Cardiovascular System Diseases. My research results (**Scopus** 2021 [<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=7005292730>]: H index 103; Total citations 104,036, Citations by 82,282 documents; **Web of Science** [<https://publons.com/researcher/1246335/massimo-francesco-piepoli>], H index 89, publications 633, 58,085 total times cited) testify to the results of my clinical research methodology and attitude towards a multidisciplinary approach. Several research projects are based on international collaborative networks and have been able to attract funds that have ensured their pursuit and realization.

From 2012, I am **Director of the Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy Unit** within the Cardiology Department of Guglielmo da Saliceto Hospital, in Piacenza. I am also Teaching Professor of Cardiology at the University Hospital, University in Parma, and at the Scuola Superiore S. Anna in Pisa, Italy. From August 2020, to July 2021, I held the position of **Director of Cardiology Department** at the Guglielmo da Saliceto Hospital, in Piacenza.

My Heart Failure Unit is the largest in my Region. It has a clear focus on treatment, and preventative aspects of heart failure patients. In the out-patient clinic my team of 4 physicians, and 3 nurse specialists cares for >5,000 patients yearly ranging from young to the

elderly. This spectrum of patients has had an impact on my research interest, which has focused on the role of exercise in the prevention and therapy, treatment of cardiovascular risk factors and cardiac disease focusing on heart failure with reduced or preserved ejection fraction.

In my country, Italy, I have been actively involved in several activities of the two major Scientific Societies, and namely the **ANMCO** (Emilia Romagna Region Section, Study Group on Heart Failure) and the **SIC** (Study Groups on Heart Failure, on Exercise Physiology, Sport Cardiology and Rehabilitation and Emilia Romagna and Marche Region Section member).

My life in the ESC

In 1994 I was awarded the **ESC** Clinical Research Grant, and in 1998 I was honoured with the Fellowship membership.

Subsequently, I have been serving as an active member of both the European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC) and of the Heart Failure Association (HFA).

In the **EAPC** I served as Chair of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Section (2010-12) and of the Science & Guidelines Committee (2012-16). I am now EAPC Gold Member. Currently, I am serving as EAPC ex officio Board member, being Editor in Chief of the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology (which, under my responsibility has reached the highest ever IF of 7.80, 18th rank of Cardiology Journals).

In the **HFA** I served as a Co-Chairman of the Organising Committee of the two Heart Failure Congresses held in Florence in 2016 and 2021 (the most successful HFA Congresses, with >6,000 and >8,000 participants, respectively), Chair of the Exercise Physiology and Training Committee (2012-2018) and of the Clinical Section (2016-2018). I have been Fellow of the HFA since the institution of this Award (2014) and ex-officio HFA Board member.

I have also directly contributed to the activities of the **ESC** acting as member of the Committees of Practice Guidelines (2012-2018), of the Congress Programme (2012-14) and now of the Publication Committee. I was honoured to Chair the 6th JTF of the 2016 European Guidelines on CVD Prevention in clinical Practice, TF member of 4 ESC Guidelines/Position papers, and Reviewer ESC Chair of two Guidelines (Myocardial Revascularisation, 2014 and Diabetes, 2019)

I am also Editorial Board Member of the most Successful ESC Family Journals: European Heart Journal and European Journal of Heart Failure.

In 2020 I was honoured to have been elected **Councillor of the ESC**, with the specific task of Credentials. Under the umbrella of the Membership committee, I coordinate a task force of 4 members in charge of revising all FESC Applications and to propose changes for FESC Requirement Criteria.

Plans and priorities

In a changing world where, beside the Covid-19 pandemic, cardiovascular diseases are still a leading cause of morbidity and death in Europe, inequalities and gaps in access to health care and treatment are increasing. Moreover, the rising aging of the population in Europe has increased the social and health care burden of specific age-related conditions such as heart failure and cerebrovascular disease. Furthermore, many cardiovascular risk factors, particularly obesity, diabetes mellitus, and sedentary habits have been increasing. We all know that only prevention is finally effective and the elimination of health risk behaviours with patient empowerment would make it possible to prevent at least 80% of cardiovascular diseases.

ESC has risen as a leader worldwide with the strength to successfully face the challenges in this changing world. Thanks to the different sub-specialist constitutional bodies - Associations, Councils, Working Groups of the ESC – that cover the full spectrum of cardiology, their initiative promotion and empowerment are an additional and essential resource.

In this regard, my plan is to pursue the ESC mission, which is ‘to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases’ by promoting initiatives such as

- **Quality of care** by promoting the development of high standards, where the ESC will promote accreditation and quality control. To this aspect, I have already been involved in the creation of the Quality and Accreditations programme of the EAPC and I am personally responsible of the Quality of Care Programme of the HFHA: I am also member of the ESC Quality of Care Section.
- Particular **emphasis on the research and quality promotion in the care of CV diseases of ageing societies**, such as heart failure -
- Cardiovascular **prevention in clinical practice**, fighting for a greater and more equal access to care
- **Independent research, education & training** for the young generations. In this regard a larger participation of **young Cardiologists** to the Initiative of the EORP should be pursued.
- **Greater promotion and support** to the initiatives of ESC's sub-specialist bodies - Associations, Councils, Working Groups – including enhanced shared decisions within the ESC
- **Greater collaboration** between cardiologists and other health care professionals,
- **Increasing links** with national and other international professional cardiovascular societies including International outreach
- Promotion and support of the **Editorial and scientific activities** of all ESC family Journals: this is particularly important for me being the Editor in Chief of one of the most successful ESC family Journals.

Piacenza, 3rd November 2021

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