CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
EUROPEAN HEART JOURNAL
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A WARM WELCOME

FROM PROFESSOR BARBARA CASADEI, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

The Mission of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease by advancing prevention, diagnosis and management of diseases of the heart and blood vessels and improving the scientific understanding of the cardiovascular system.

Critical to this mission is our ability to disseminate the latest evidence through the ESC’s scholarly publications and journals.

The European Heart Journal (EHJ) has been the ESC’s flagship publication for a number of years. Together with the ESC as a whole, the EHJ has increased its membership and impact over time. More recently, through the extraordinary leadership of the current Editor in Chief (EiC) and his Team, the EHJ has become the highest ranked cardiology journal in the world. After 10 years at the helm of the EHJ, Professor Thomas Luescher is stepping down from the EiC position, leaving the ESC with the challenging task of finding an equally impactful and imaginative individual to lead the Journal.

Your interest in this position is much valued by the Society – we share your focus on excellence, your dedication to improving public health and patient care, and your pursuit of scientific discovery and reliable evidence. We also hope you will be able to engage our membership, embrace the ESC’s commitment to equity and diversity, and inspire the younger generation of cardiologists to be our next leaders.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara Casadei
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) is a not-for-profit medical organisation, supporting more than 95,000 healthcare professionals drawn from its 56 member National Cardiac Societies and its 28 subspecialty communities. In addition, the ESC has forged strong collaborative relationships with 45 Affiliated Cardiac Societies, making its global network second to none.

The ESC’s mission is to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease, which remains the world’s leading cause of death. It is at the forefront of the development and dissemination of best practices in cardiovascular medicine. The ESC, with its vast array of scientific and educational activities, has earned an international reputation as an innovator and thought leader in cardiology.

The ESC was founded by 14 European National Cardiac Societies in 1950. Today, the ESC includes:

The ESC covers the full spectrum of cardiology through its 28 subspecialty communities: six Associations, 15 Working Groups and seven Councils. This gives it a unique perspective on all areas of cardiovascular science. Through these networks, the ESC has its finger on the pulse of cardiovascular medicine.

The ESC acts in the interests of patients by providing cardiologists with the support and tools they need to deliver the best possible care. This not only means saving lives but ensuring a good quality of life for the growing number of people living with cardiovascular disease.

The ESC does this by:

- disseminating evidence-based, scientific knowledge through 15 scientific journals, numerous textbooks and the world’s leading cardiovascular congress;
- harmonising standards of care through its internationally respected ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines;
- shaping heart health policy and regulation by fostering partnerships and providing scientific expertise and independent data; and
- providing a wealth of ESC scientific content, easily accessible on the ESC website, used by some 370,000 visitors each month.

The ESC is a European organisation committed to reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease.
The ESC organises 10 cardiology congresses each year across the main subspecialty areas. Its award-winning flagship event, ESC Congress, is the largest and most influential cardiovascular assembly in the world, attracting more than 30,000 participants from more than 150 different countries each year. It is the pivotal event in the cardiology calendar, allowing healthcare professionals to keep up-to-date on the latest science, while networking with their peers from different countries.

The ESC delivers a broad portfolio of independent education initiatives. It is leading a revolution in medical education by producing impactful, needs-driven programmes, analysing cardiology trends and surveying healthcare professionals on what they believe is preventing or promoting best patient outcomes. ESC Education includes online learning (e.g. webinars, online courses with MCQs, clinical case portals) and face-to-face courses, including postgraduate programmes and certification.

To support its mission in the coming years, the ESC is focusing on five key areas:
EUROPEAN HEART JOURNAL

The *European Heart Journal* (*EHJ*), is one of the European Society of Cardiology’s (ESC) most important assets. A well-respected brand for both readers and authors, it is vital that *EHJ* maintains its current success and maintains its standing in the field in today’s increasingly competitive publishing environment. As for all publications within the ESC Journal Family, *EHJ* must support the overall mission of the Society to ‘reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease’ by impacting on research innovation and future clinical practice (with the ultimate aim of improving cardiovascular health and patient outcomes). While access to research outputs becomes more open, financial performance remains a measure of success and the EHJ an important revenue source for the ESC.

*EHJ*’s Editor-in-Chief (EiC) reports to the ESC Board and is responsible to the President of the Society. It is important to note that the ESC supports the principles of editorial independence as upheld in the guidelines produced by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([http://www.icmje.org/](http://www.icmje.org/)). The ESC retains the right to appoint and dismiss the EiC (according to a formal agreement between the two parties) and to make business decisions, with which the EiC will be involved to the fullest possible extent.

Oxford University Press (OUP) began publishing the *EHJ* in 2004 and will publish the journal until at least 31 December 2020.
THE POSITION

ROLE OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- Working with the ESC and publisher to develop and implement a strategic plan for *EHJ*, to ensure it meets agreed short- and long-term goals
- Appointing a team of Deputy, Associate, Consulting and Liaising Editors and an International Editorial Board with clear responsibilities and roles
- Ensuring fast, efficient, fair, and transparent peer review
- Maintenance of the high standards for which *EHJ* is known
- Commissioning key articles (e.g., editorials and reviews)
- Stimulating submission of high quality data from clinical trials and other key research
- Promoting the Journal to peers e.g., through attendance at key conferences
- Supporting efforts to grow the Journal’s circulation
- Working with the publisher’s special sales department to highlight accepted articles with reprint potential and/or to approve any proposed adverts
- Working with the press officer, social media supervisor, social media editor and authors to highlight accepted articles of particular interest for dissemination via mainstream media, social media and other communication channels
- Ensuring that the Journal adheres to good publishing practice including, for example, excellent management of disclosure and/or potential conflicts of interest
- Joining the ESC Publications Committee and assisting in the development of an overall strategy for the family of ESC journals

Within these responsibilities, consideration is given to maintaining and/or improving the Journal’s Impact Factor. *EHJ*’s Impact Factor has risen considerably in recent years and now stands at 23.425 (2017); this ranks the Journal first of 126 titles in the Clarivate Journal Citation Reports under the category of ‘Cardiac & Cardiovascular Systems’. *EHJ* is the sixth ranked medical title (within the categories of ‘Cardiac & Cardiovascular Systems’, ‘Medicine General & Internal’, ‘Medicine Research/Experimental’) behind only *NEJM, Lancet, JAMA, Nature Medicine* and the *BMJ*. However, other metrics are now becoming increasingly important when establishing a title’s value, so ensuring that usage and engagement remain high is critical in maintaining the *EHJ*’s influence.

The financial contribution of *EHJ* to the ESC requires that editorial policies that may have financial implications must always be discussed with both the ESC Board and the publisher prior to implementation.
EDITORIAL SUPPORT

**EHJ** is now supported by an editorial office based at distance from the incumbent editor’s institute. Similarly, other ESC Journal Family titles are successfully supported using a Virtual Editorial Office eg administration of the online submission system is remote from the EiC’s office. Strategically, such services are the preferred model of support for **EHJ** in the future, since they provide instant administrative back-up, stability and reduce institutional requirements. The EiC may also wish to have locally-based editorial assistants; if this were the case, a rationale and detailed role description of the editorial assistants should be included with the application.

WORKLOAD

Approximately 3,200 manuscripts were processed by **EHJ** in 2017. Actual demands on the EiC’s time will depend on the proposed editorial team and the individual responsibilities of the Associate/Consulting Editors. The EiC will decide their own editorial management policy but may expect to be in regular contact with the Journal’s wider editorial team via teleconferencing / videoconferencing and rely on support from the ESC Publications Department, plus the staff at OUP (editorial, production and special sales departments in particular). The role of the **EHJ** EiC implies strong links with the wider ESC Journal Family, especially as a system of manuscript transfer exists for high quality papers that cannot be published within the **EHJ** but are best suited to our sub-specialty titles.

The ESC and publisher provide financial editorial support.
THE PERSON

The successful candidate will be highly regarded in the field of cardiovascular medicine not only within Europe, but also worldwide, especially in territories important for the Journal’s future, including the Americas and Asia.

He or she will have a substantial track-record in cardiology, extensive experience as an author, reviewer and editor/associate editor. They will also be recognised for the ability to lead a team and build successful working relationships with all those involved in the publishing process within ESC and with other world-leading journals.

A highly visible, enthusiastic researcher who is a widely-published author in top tier journals would make an ideal candidate, reflecting the dual role of the EHJ in advancing both the science and practice of cardiology by providing practical information to improve outcomes (eg ESC Guidelines) while also acting as a vehicle for researchers to share data that push the boundaries of cardiovascular knowledge.

The successful candidate must also be a Member of the ESC.
HOW TO APPLY

Initial queries should be made, in confidence, by contacting Natalie Derry at Witt/Kieffer International.

Natalie Derry  
T: +44 7408 851 596  
E: natalied@wittkiefferinternational.com

Candidates should include within their application:

- Curriculum Vitae and reference to relevant past experience
- Proof and details of support from their institution
- Estimation of time they can devote to EHJ
- Evaluation of current EHJ features and contents in both its print and online formats
- A detailed vision for the future of EHJ under their editorship (including a plan of how they intend to run the journal for presentation at an eventual interview stage)
- Specific plans for the strengthening of the Journal’s reputation and impact
- Their thoughts on the relationship between EHJ and the ESC Journal Family
- An outline of their ideal editorial office administration for supporting the Journal, together with comments on structure of the wider editorial team (including Deputy Editors, Associate Editors, Consulting Editors, Liaising Editors and the International Editorial Board, plus roles for these functions)

Candidates may also wish to express their thoughts on ethics; disclosure of interests; Open Access / Open Science; strategies for ensuring robustness and reproducibility of research discoveries; the role of industry in medical journals; electronic supplementary content; technological advances and/or other crucial topics in the publishing arena.

A desire to embrace the technological advances now available to the publishing industry is expected.