

## **LETTER OF MOTIVATION from Professor Heikki Huikuri, Finland for the Councillor position in the Board of European Society of Cardiology**

I, Heikki Huikuri, forward this letter to express my sincere interest in the Councillor position of the Board of the European Society of Cardiology. I am highly motivated to advance the purposes of the ESC and to work in the benefit of the colleagues in the member countries. I have served the ESC in several ways so I am fully aware of the responsibilities I am engaging to.

### **My personal contribution in achieving the goals of the ESC / My contribution to ESC**

#### **Insight**

ESC is a combination of a wide spectrum of different kind, sized and activity level of societies. My contribution bases on my vast experience and knowledge of different bodies of the ESC as well as on long experience in efforts of harmonizing and promoting the education and training of European cardiologists via the cardiology section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). My term as a past President of the UEMS cardiology section will end in 2011 and I would be interested to give my input on the ESC activities in the near future. My previous experience gives me insight on many levels and realities of the activities of the ESC member countries and colleagues and on importance of having a strong link between the ESC, national societies, Associations, Working Groups, and the EU bodies related to promoting the cardiology as a medical specialty.

I have years of experience in the area of professional societies both at the national and international level. This has given me an excellent insight on the different issues and themes that the societies are dealing, and how the international level can support the national societies and colleagues in efforts to promote cardiology as a profession. It is important to understand and recognize the differences between the ESC member states and use them as a strengthening factor in decision making.

#### **Development of education and training in cardiology**

I have a strong and active background particularly in the development of education and training in cardiology, both at the national and European level. During my 12 year period in the Board of my national society I had a major/leading role in increasing the number of positions of trainees in cardiology in Finland. At the national level, I have received a Maud Kuistila Prize in -2005 for a Highly Merited Trainer of Young Investigators and in 2010 Pentti Halonen Award of the Finnish Cardiac Society for Distinguished Cardiologists (Prize is awarded as a recognition of significant work as a clinical cardiologist, innovator of cardiology, and as a merited trainer of young cardiologists and trainees in cardiology). I have had the pleasure of giving my input to scientific programs being a Chairman of several Programme Committees.

At the European level I have had a significant role in different ESC activities as well as the activities of the UEMS cardiology section. I have been working in the UESM cardiology section for 12 years, as a Member, Secretary, President, and Past President of the Steering Committee. The goals of the UEMS cardiology section have been in harmonization of the cardiology training in Europe, where the free mobility of cardiologist has been possible based

on the treaty of Rome. At the early phase, I was personally involved in the development and applying the Logbook for training of Cardiology in Europe. During my presidency of the UEMS cardiology section, the minimal requirements of cardiology training have been up-dated and the collaboration between the UEMS cardiology section and the European Board of the Specialists of Cardiology (EBSC) has been strong, e.g. in the development of Core Curriculum and Syllabus of Cardiology. During my term, the section has put more emphasis also on continuous medical training and re-certification of cardiologist. Now, UEMS cardiology section has been legally separated from the ESC and after my personal input and initiative, together with the president and past president of the ESC, a new Foundation of the UEMS cardiology section has been founded. After this, the relation between these two bodies has improved aimed to generate and promote together the standards of general cardiology training as well as standards for subspecialty training. In addition to the UEMS activities, I am familiar and I have comprehensive understanding of the policies of the ESC having been a Member of the Lectures and Award Committee, a Member of the Nominating Committee of the Board of the ESC (2006-2008) as well as the Member of the Accreditation Committee of Subspecialty in Electrophysiology in the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA). Currently, I have the privilege of being a member of the European Guidelines Committee of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases.

Even though I have been involved in the development of the education and training for a long period of time, I still wish to be an innovator for new and advantageous ways of promoting cardiology as a profession in Europe.

### **Promotion of research**

In addition to the improvement of the cardiology education and training, I have a passion for science. I have an excellent perception on the subject as I have experience in being a director of a multinational research group, chairman of a trial steering committees, and supervisor of 23 PhD theses of young cardiologists. I have the honor of serving several scientific journal editorial boards, including Editor-in-Chief for the Frontiers in Clinical and Translational Physiology. I have published more than 300 original articles at high level peer-review general and cardiology journals as well as several editorials and review articles. My scientific background gives me an excellent insight for the promotion of research in the field of cardiology.

### **Willingness**

I am willing to take the responsibility, invest my free time and contribute my experiences and skills to meet the goals of the ESC in co-operation with other relevant parties.

With best personal regards



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