

## Minutes of the meeting of the section on Health Services Research and Outcome

during the 31<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Intensive Care Medicine and Emergency  
Medicine, Brussels, March 2011

Date and Time: Tuesday 22/03/2011, 14:00 - 15:50  
Location: Room 204  
Brussels Congress Center The Square

Attendents: Patrick Ferdinande, Bertrand Guidet, Rui Moreno, Michael  
Pinsky, Yên-Lan Nguyen, Ken Hillman, Kees Polderman, Didier  
Ledoux, Affesa Bekelle, Andreas Valentin

The meeting followed the announced agenda and was chaired by Andreas Valentin  
who substituted Maurizia Capuzzo.

### 1. Report of the section chair

In September 2010 the number of members of the section was 800 (voting and  
non-voting members). This represents a considerable increase from October  
2007 (543 members) until now.

During a review day of the ESICM division of scientific affairs the activities of the  
HSRO section were ranked very high and even highest with respect to research  
activities.

The congress committee has decided to publish three sections' newsletters during  
yearly with the aims:

- to inform the members on the section's activities
- to foster their participation in the section's activities
- to give them the opportunity to review their sections affiliations

### 2. Section program for the 2011 ESCIM congress in Berlin

The following sessions proposed by the HSRO section will take place:

Thematic Session	Safety in the ICU: Do we have a problem?
State of the Art Session	The patient bouncing back to ICU
Thematic Session	Intensivist: The reference physician for the hospital
Clinical Challenges Session	How I manage intra-hospital transport of the critically ill patient
Continuing Professional Development Session	Basic requirements for ICU
Thematic Session	The impact of cost containment on ICU management
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### 3. Proposal for an HSRO study by Yên-Lan Nguyen & Bertrand Guidet

Yên-Lan Nguyen presented a proposal for the following study: “Organizational and managerial patterns of ICUs – an European survey”.

The aim of this study is to describe the organization and managerial patterns across European ICUs and also to determine whether there is a relationship between ICU volume (number of annual admissions) and organizational and managerial patterns. The working hypothesis is, that there is a large variation of ICU organization and management within and across countries. A second hypothesis is, that high volume ICUs are more likely to share organizational and managerial patterns that are associated with improved outcome. The method used will be an electronic survey. An application for ECCRN endorsement is planned.

The proposal was discussed extensively and the participants of the section meeting agreed that the section will support this project.

### 4. Reports of the sections working groups

- WG on Quality Improvement

Andreas Valentin reported the Current status of the paper “Recommendations for basic requirements for Intensive Care Units – structural and organisational aspects”. The paper was submitted to the journal “Intensive Care Medicine” in November 2010 and was subject to extensive reviews with the recent request of a second resubmission. The resubmission will be performed as soon as possible.

The WG on Quality Improvement has decided during the meeting in Brussels to prepare a study on the issue of the safety of intra hospital transport of critically ill patients. Intra hospital transports of ICU patients have been shown to constitute a weak point in patient safety (see e.g. Benoit Fanara et al., Critical Care 2010). The planned study will aim to investigate variances in the organization and environmental factors of such transports, as well as the frequency of critical incidents (SEE 3) during intra hospital transports. This topic will fit very nicely in the prior work of the WG on patient safety. A detailed plan will be discussed during the WG meeting in Berlin (October 2011).

- WG on Health Economics

Didier Ledoux reported on the progress of the planning of the ELOISE study (European Length of ICU Stay Evaluation). The study aims are: to assess whether the patients admitted to ICUs with availability of IMCU have lower hospital mortality than those admitted to the ICU without availability of IMCU. To compare ICU (LOIS) and hospital (LOHS) lengths of stay of patients admitted to ICUs with or without availability of IMCU. The LOIS will be used as a surrogate of ICU costs.

The study was discussed extensively and the study protocol will be changed accordingly. Didier Ledoux will prepare a final version with the aim to test this version in a pilot phase in some selected ICUs. An application for ECCRN endorsement is in preparation.

### 5. Other issues

Ken Hillman suggested to think about a project on the topic “the changing nature of critical illness”. This would refer to a changing characteristic of critically ill patients from the young with a potentially reversible single organ disease to the aged with chronic disease, multiple comorbidities, and a often relatively minor acute presenting problem. The topic could be explored by conferences and

research organized by the HSRO section.

The suggestion was received with great interest and will be discussed further in detail in Berlin 2011.

The next meeting of the HSRO section will take place during the annual ESCIM congress in Berlin, October 2011. The exact time and location of the meeting will be communicated as soon as available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Valentin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andreas Valentin