

Ethics section ESICM

Minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2022

Attendants

Christiane Hartog, Diederik van Dijk, Jos Latour, Julie Benbenishty, Rik Gerritsen, Spyros Mentzelopoulos, Margo van Mol, Victoria Metaxa, Hanne Irene Jensen, Jozef Kesecioglu, Carole Boulanger, Theresa Jacques, Emilio Rrodriguez, Stefan Schaller, Laszlo Zubek, Raffael Riegel, Dominik Hoechter, Shelly Ashkenazy, Nicolas Stylianides, Paulo Maia, Annette Robertsen, Pal Klepstad, Nicolaos Efstathiou, Andrej Michalsen, Linda DeStefano, Barbara Tamowicz, Adam Mikztacki, Kristina Diridis, Anna Seidlein (online)

Minutes

The minutes of last year's section meeting on 4 October 2021 (Zoom) are approved.

Handover and welcome by Jos Latour, the new chair of the section

Last year, professor Jos Latour from University of Plymouth (UK) has been elected as the chair-elect of the Ethics Section. Jos is writing history, as he is the first nurse chairing a section of the ESICM. Christiane Hartog now hands over, and Jos is given a warm hand of applause. Jos thanks Christiane Hartog for her excellent work in the last two years, as chair of our section.

Newly appointed representatives from the Ethics section

Julie Benbenishty has been appointed in the clinical training committee.

The clinical training committee is very active group, with monthly meetings. Julie mentions that our section organizes a very successful annual masterclass on end of life care. Julie asks whether we would like to organise other masterclasses or trainings as well, or contribute with ethical input to existing masterclasses of the ESICM, for example on ECMO Andrej Michalsen suggests to offer an *advanced* masterclass of end of life care. Kristina Diridis mentions that the university of Warwickshire offers a very good online ethics course.

Victoria Metaxa has been appointed in the e-learning committee.

Victoria thanks everyone who contributed to the update of the 12 ACE modules on ethical topics, and especially Andrej Michalsen who did a lot of work. Victoria (and Andrej) feel that the whole package of 12 modules could already be improved again.

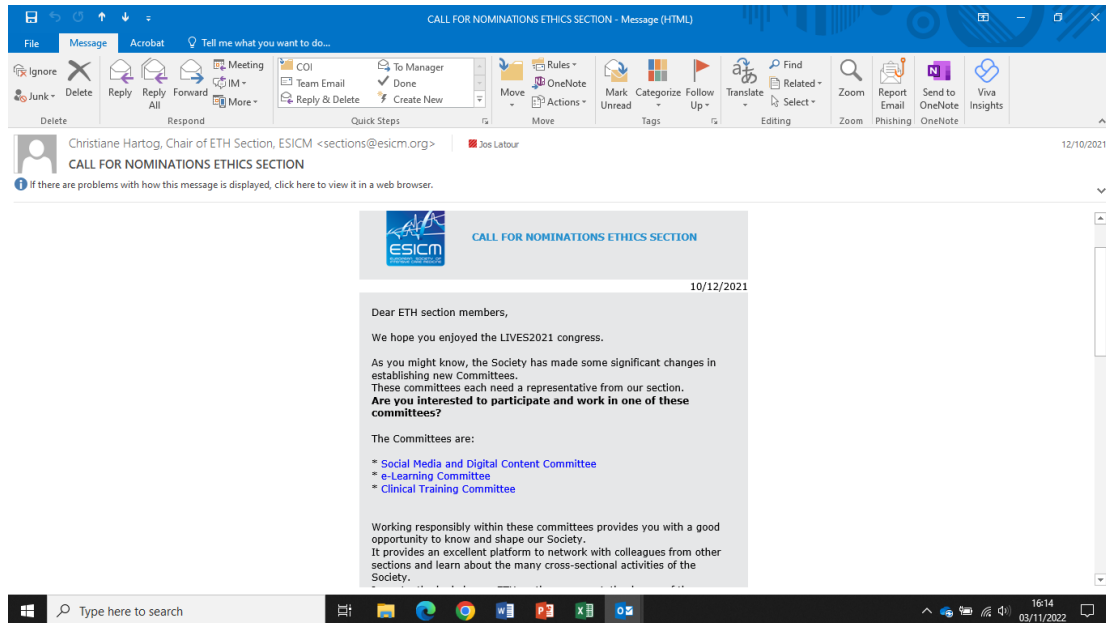
There are also two new ideas:

- ➔ One of them is to translate some highlights, or most important components of these modules in other languages than English.
- ➔ The other idea is to make an inventory of the legal frameworks across Europe for end of life decisions
 - To do so, Christiane Hartog suggests to make a set of questions, that can be answered by representatives / members of the various countries
 - Julie Benbenishty suggests asking for strengths and weaknesses of each system as well.
 - Kristina Diridis asks whether we should also include religious, cultural, ethical aspects. This might be too much, and make the project less solid.

Anna Seidlein has been appointed in the social media and digital content committee.

Anna asks for content, such as new publications on ethical topics. Not only from members of the section, but also important publications and research projects from outside our own group.

Andrej asks how the three representatives were appointed. Was the procedure transparent? Christiane Hartog and Jos Latour explained that an 'expression of interest' email was sent to all ETH members on 21 October 2021. (post-meeting, below is the email)



Procedures of the ESICM have recently been changed. Every section will now be led by a chair, for a period of two years. During the second year, the chair will be assisted by the chair-elect. There will be no more deputy chairs anymore. The deputy used to be the representative for the research committee. So, we will now have to find a new representative for the research committee as well.

Members of the ethics section are therefore invited to put their name forward, as candidate for member of the research committee.

Section activities

Ethicus 2 study – Lead Charlie Sprung

Christiane Hartog shows 6 new publications, based on the ethicus 2 study. At least two other papers are in preparation.

Ethical practice score EPS – Lead Spyrys Mentzelopoulos

Spyrys Mentzelopoulos presents his progress on the EPICUS study, which is also based on the ethicus 2 study. Spyrys has developed a Ethical Practice Score (EPS), to evaluate quality of end-of-life care. High EPS scores (which depend on variables such as region and age) are associated with increased treatment limitation frequency and less failed CPR. Possibly, EPS does predict EOL practice, or good-quality EOL care.

Systematic Review - Improve Palliative Care in the ICU – Lead Victoria Metaxa

This systematic review, comparing the number and types of palliative care (PC) interventions in ICU, and their impact on outcomes, has now been published in ICM. Interventions were diverse and outcome measures were heterogeneous. More than 80% studies came from North America. Victoria Metaxa indicates, that a next step could be searching for 'common ground' in PC across different regions. This could make more clear that a basic form of PC is part of the ICU work. From that would follow, that PC should be formally included in the intensivist training.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00134-021-06544-6>

INACTIC study – Lead Jos Latour

Jos Latour gives an update of the International Nursing Advanced Competency-based Training for Intensive Care. The aim of the INACTIC study is to develop a set of detailed competencies required of an advanced level intensive care nurse. The European Commission (EC) is interested, because of a strong decline in nursing workforce across Europe. The EC had advised to interview ICU nurses who have left their work, but thus far, without funding such a study.

<https://www.esicm.org/education/inactic/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964339722000428?via%3Dihub>

End of life Masterclass 2022

This 2-day masterclass has been given three times now. It has received very positive feedback, and ESICM has decided that it will be continued on an annual basis. The 3rd edition was given in May 2022, by Carole Boulanger and Andrej Michalsen. The 4th edition will be in May 2023, again directed by Andrej and Carole. Christiane Hartog thanks Andrej for his work.

<https://www.esicm.org/education/courses-2/end-of-life-care/>

Future activities

Guidelines

Jozef Kesecioglu explains that ICM likes to develop and publish guidelines. It's good service to intensivists, and it boosts citations for the journal ICM. The procedure to develop new ESICM (-endorsed) guidelines is not completely clear yet. Transparent procedures are now being developed. Several new guidelines are in preparation. Christiane Hartog mentions that she is surprised to be informed last Sunday about publication of a new guideline on ethics and palliative care, and not earlier. Kristina Diridis suggests to include patient- and family representatives in guideline working groups. Spyros Mentzelopoulos asks how members for guideline working groups are selected. Jozef: domain chairs; people who have the merits; people who deliver.

Upcoming Masterclasses

See above.

European Ethical Training in cooperation with NEXT

We already have the e-learnings, masterclasses, and sessions during the annual meeting. But should we provide additional ethical training for young intensivists and residents, in cooperation with NEXT? NEXT has 2500 members. An idea is to develop a module of basic ethical training that can be used for trainees. Jos Latour will work with Emilio Rodriguez Rui on a survey among young intensivists to explore the ethical training needs. A similar study has been performed by Jos among European Pediatric residents and fellows:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00431-021-04231-8>

Other ideas

- Jos suggests to develop an inventory of people with an ethics background or interest, including their research interests. Resources are very different across institutions, and it may help to get expert support. Victoria Metaxa indicates that ethical perspectives, and thus also advice, depend on the region where you are.
- Jos suggests to organise 2-monthly ZOOM meetings for the members of the ethics section. This idea is welcomed by the members, and most would prefer evenings. The aim of these meetings are to share new ideas, to collaborate in/with projects, and to support any colleague who is in need of support (from wellbeing to research support)

Next year's conference in Milano (21-25 October 2023. SAVE THE DATE)

LIVES 2023 will be in Milan, Italy. The Ethics section has been invited to fill a number of sessions again.

A call for suggestions has been emailed to all ETH members and the deadline was 31 October. Jos received a lot of fantastic proposals.

Any other suggestions, please email jos.latour@plymouth.ac.uk.

See you next year!