

# ETHICS SECTION

## 2025 REPORT

### RESEARCH

***ESICM Consensus Statement on Human-Centred Partnership in ICU, led by Jos Latour, Margo van Mol, Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz, Jozef Kesecioglu***

The aim of the proposed project is to develop a consensus statement on human-centred partnership in ICU. The scope of the consensus statement will include (but is not limited to): Person-Centred Care; Communication and Transparency; Emotional Well-being; Equality, Diversity, Inclusion; ICU Environment; Technology and Innovation. Work is already underway, and publication date is within 2026.

***EoL care and treatment limitation decisions in ICU, led by Victoria Metaxa & Spyros Mentzelopoulos***: Part of the Horizon grant: Enhancing palliative care in ICU (EPIC).

The study aims to obtain detailed information about European ICU clinicians' awareness of palliative care in ICU and to explore the legal framework which underpins end-of-life decisions for adult patients unable to participate in decision-making. Completed survey with >500 participants; in the analysis phase with publication date within 2026.

***Palliative care provision for patients with haematological malignancies, led by Victoria Metaxa***

The study aims to describe the number and type of invasive interventions delivered to patients with cancer in the ICU, within 24 hours of their death; the type of palliative care interventions delivered to patients with cancer in the ICU, within 24 hours of their death; and evaluate the involvement of a specialist palliative care team with the above patients. The study will close at the end of 2025 and publication date is within 2026.

***Residents and Fellows in ICU ETH Survey: ReFInES Study, led by Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz & Jos Latour***

The objective of this survey is to explore the perceptions of European residents and fellows in Intensive Care Medicine of ethical challenges in their current and future practice; to define how ethical dilemmas are addressed during their training; and to identify what can be improved in their training. The study paused in 2025 but is expected to resume in 2026.

## PUBLICATIONS IN INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE JOURNAL

- Assessing palliative care practices in intensive care units and interpreting them using the lens of appropriate care concepts. An umbrella review. Salins N et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1438–1458
- Long-term effects of flexible visitation in the intensive care unit on family members' mental health: 12-month results from a randomized clinical trial. Barreto de Souza JM et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1614–1621
- European Society of Intensive Care Medicine guidelines on end of life and palliative care in the intensive care unit. Kecesioglu J et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1740–1766
- Coaching doctors to improve ethical decision-making in adult hospitalized patients potentially receiving excessive treatment. The CODE stepped-wedge cluster randomized controlled trial. Benoit DD et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1635–1646
- “It’s all about setting the stage.” The nurse facilitator trial: perceived outcomes and implementation issues. A qualitative study among ICU clinicians and nurse facilitators. Renet A et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1657–1667
- Implementing palliative care in the intensive care unit: a systematic review and mapping of knowledge to the implementation research logic model. Meddick-Dyson SA et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2024) 50:1778–1790
- Discussing expected long-term quality of life in the ICU: effect on experiences and outcomes of patients, family, and clinicians—a randomized clinical trial. Prter LL et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2025) 51:478–489
- Supporting the bereaved child in the adult ICU: a narrative review. Rowland A et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2025) 51:570–581
- What measures have been used to explore the outcomes of family members of critically ill patients: a scoping review. Brown C et al. *Intensive Care Med* (2025) 51:1641–1650

Several editorials and contributions to the Toolbox series were also made.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Clinical Ethics and End-of-Life Care: directed by Carole Boulanger and Andrej Michalsen. <https://www.esicm.org/education/courses-2/end-of-life-care/>

### Webinar in May 2025

#### Human Factors in ICU

The webinar explored the core non-technical skills essential to human factors, including decision-making, communication, teamwork, stress management, empathy, and resilience.

Key Learning Objectives:

Understand how the brain functions under pressure in critical care environments

Explore key human factors affecting the care of critically ill patients

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## Topics & Speakers

- 1) Human factors integration – Peter ISHERWOOD  
University Hospitals Dorset - NHS Foundation Trust (UK)
- 2) Human factors when caring for the critically ill patient – Flavio NACUL  
University Hospital, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (BR)

## Moderators

Heather BAID - University of Brighton, Brighton (UK)  
Valentina DELLA TORRE – St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London (UK)

## Quizzes and Podcasts in 2024

Family visiting in ICU: <https://www.esicm.org/esicm-talk-kids-visitations-in-icu/>

Quiz: <https://www.esicm.org/quiz-1-eth/>  
<https://www.esicm.org/quiz-2-eth/>

## Education – Academy

The ETH section currently has 6 ACE (8% of total) courses under its auspices.

In 2024-25, the section achieved the following:

- Continued the successful collaborations with other sections for LIVES25
- Continued publishing in the Toolbox of the ICM journal
- Shot the first 2 short videos (1') during LIVES25 (bitesize teaching)

## LIVES2025

ETH section's representation at LIVES2025:

The section collaborated successfully with the following section: Data Sciences, Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals, Health Services Research & Outcome, Neuro, Trauma and Emergency Medicine.

## ETH SECTION BOARD FROM OCTOBER 2025

| Position                                                  | First name | Last name         | City       | Country        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Chair                                                     | Victoria   | Metaxa            | London     | United Kingdom |
| Research Committee Representative                         | Nikolaos   | Efstathiou        | Birmingham | United Kingdom |
| Academy Sub Committee                                     | Diogo      | da Costa Oliveira | Vila Real  | Portugal       |
| Social Media and Digital Content Committee Representative | Annachiara | Marra             | Napoli     | Italy          |