



*The Intensive Connection*

## **Ethics section ESICM**

Minutes of the meeting on 1 October 2019 in Berlin

### **Attendants**

Rik Gerritsen, Christiane Hartog, Diederik van Dijk, Andrej Michalsen, Jos Latour, Julie Ben Benishty, Monika Kerckhoffs, Flavio Nacul, Valentina della Torre, Stella Navarro, Henning Uden, Laszko Zubek, Kushik Bhoromic, Hanne Irene Jensen, Paulo Maia, Bara Ricou, Spyros Mentzelopoulos, Margo van Mol, Barbara Tamourice, Geoff Dobb, Annette Robertsen, Nikos Efstathion, Kai Tisgjar, Dominique Benoit, Miranda Ackerman, Victoria Metaxa, Gunnar Thorensen, Piotr Szwarski, Adam Mikstaki, Segun Olusanya,

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous section meeting are approved.

### **New chair and deputy chair**

Rik Gerritsen says goodbye as chair of the Ethics section and hands over to Christiane Hartog. Diederik van Dijk is installed as the new deputy chair. There are special thanks to Rik from the previous chair, Andrej Michalsen.

### **Euro Q2 study**

Hanna Jensen and Rik Gerritsen give an update of Euro Q2. There is an updated version of the questionnaire about satisfaction of family members of ICU patients, which is currently being tested in Denmark and the Netherlands. The European study that had been completed may soon lead to a manuscript.

### **Eticus 2 study**

Christiane gives an update of Ethicus 2. The main paper will be presented during the hot topics session on 2 October and will be published in JAMA. A second paper ("the world wide paper") is currently in preparation. Up to 15 other papers could be written, with different lead authors. Ethicus 2 is also a source of many abstracts at several conferences. Please make sure that you send any spin off manuscripts to Charlie Sprung for approval.

### **Systematic review**

Victoria Metaxa gives an update of her ESICM systematic review about the number and type of palliative care interventions in ICUs. One of the objectives is to identify research priorities in palliative care in the ICU. The literature search and selection have been completed, leaving 56 studies for data extraction. A first draft of the manuscript is expected in May 2020.

### **ECLS Survey**

Victoria Metaxa also presents an idea about an international survey about withdrawal from ECLS. Several ethical issues around stopping ECLS could be investigated, using two or three "vignettes" as a starting point. The suggestion is made to do more than one survey to evaluate other ethical issues around ECLS, such as starting ECLS without scientific evidence to support this. As someone said: "The beast (ECLS) is out", consuming tremendous resources, without evidence to support this. Several suggestions to improve the study are being made during the meeting. If you have further suggestions, please send them to [Victoria.metaxa@nhs.uk](mailto:Victoria.metaxa@nhs.uk).



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### **The big theme**

Andrej Michalsen gives an update of "the big theme". The ethics section wanted to contribute to the ICU world with a "big theme". This has now resulted in a systematic review plus recommendations about interprofessional shared decision making in the ICU, published in Crit Care Medicine.

### **Number of members of the Ethics Section**

Andrej also mentions that the ethics section has grown to more than 700 voting members. We are not a small section anymore!

### **Masterclass**

On 9 and 10 December 2019, there will be an ESICM masterclass about end of life and organ donation, for the first time, in Brussels. It is organised by Andrej Michalsen and Rik Gerritsen. There are already 28 participants. More information is at the ESICM website.

### **Working group "non-technical skills"**

Flavio Nacul and Valentina della Torre want to start a new ESICM working group "Non technical skills", and give a presentation about "the human factor in ICU". Their objective is to integrate this topic in several ways in the ESICM programme, amongst others in courses. The executive committee does not want more working groups, however. Several comments addressed the need for more clarification, including starting with a systematic or scoping review on the topic. One suggestion was to also include the Continuing Professional Education.

### **Defining ethics in the ICU**

Christiane gives her view on the future of the Ethics section. The last consensus statement about ethics in the ICU was published in 2004. Christiane sees the need to make an update to define ethics in the ICU based on a current systematic review of the literature. Section members have already worked or are currently working on several important topics such as interprofessional decision-making, ethical climate, palliative care interventions. Further topics could include triage and admission, , avoiding excessive care, and communication with families.

### **Contribution of the Ethics section to the annual conference**

This year we have a lot of visibility during the conference, amongst others through several joint sessions with other sections. We have two "own" sessions, about basic ethics and ethics in research. It makes sense to aim for many joint sessions because ethics are usually part of other aspects of ICU care.

**Suggestions for presentations or themes for Lives 2020 are welcome before 31 October. Please mail your ideas to [christiane.hartog@mailbox.org](mailto:christiane.hartog@mailbox.org). Think about cooperation with other sections!**