



E David Bennett
FRCP



The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine proudly awards this citation of Honorary Membership to Professor David Bennett for his major contributions to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and to the specialty worldwide.

In 1974 he became the first Director of the Intensive Care Unit at St George's Hospital, London, and a leading light in the development of British critical care. His many achievements include major involvements in research, in organization, in education, teaching and mentoring, and in the promotion of critical care as a specialty in its own right.

David qualified from the Middlesex Hospital, London in 1963 and, other than a year spent as a Fulbright Scholar in the pulmonary physiology lab at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, he has worked in leading hospitals within the London area. He was a British Heart Foundation Research Fellow at the National Heart Hospital, a Medical Research Council Senior Registrar at Charing Cross Hospital and then Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and, in 1997, Professor at St George's Hospital Medical School. After formally retiring in 2007 he has maintained research interests as a Visiting Professor at King's College London.

His research contributions have mainly focused around the circulation, in particular, monitoring, perioperative haemodynamic optimization and sepsis. His first research paper was published as a student in 1961 so he can claim a half-century of research and still counting. He was instrumental in the development of the oesophageal Doppler haemodynamic monitor and in promulgating the Shoemaker concept of perioperative optimization with several notable publications, including a landmark paper published in JAMA in 1993. He has passionately lectured and cajoled on this topic, battling against ignorance and complacency. Patients have had no finer advocate.

As an organizer and facilitator, David has sat on numerous local, national and international committees, including the ESICM Executive Council between 1994-2000. He organized the Society's 1996 Congress in Glasgow, sat on its Scientific Committee between 1995-2002 and also chaired the Cardiovascular Dynamics Group. For over 10 years he has co-organized a successful intensive care summer school in an idyllic setting on an island off the coast of Croatia.

He has been an active participant in teaching and education, being Editor-in-Chief of 'Clinical Intensive Care' for 14 years, sitting on various editorial boards and peer reviewing for a host of journals. He has been an excellent mentor and higher degree supervisor – our current President, Andy Webb and myself are just three of the people who have cause to be truly grateful to David for his sagacity and inspiration.

Finally, what about David the person? As we say in English parlance, he's a 'jolly good egg' - decent, loyal, ever-amiable, fully supportive and always encouraging. His style is discussive rather than didactic, inclusive rather than dictatorial. He loves debate, and his ward rounds were joyous occasions of drinking good coffee and talking diagnosis, physiology, research, and evidence. These he oversaw with a benevolent though far-seeing eye. His shining enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge have shaped and inspired all those who come into contact with him.

ESICM recognizes the importance of Prof Bennett's contributions and are delighted to acknowledge this great intensivist and person. I personally am privileged and honoured to present him with this ESICM citation of Honorary Membership and am especially proud to be one of his many friends.

Mervyn Singer